



The

Valley Harrier

Newsletter of the
Arkansas Valley
Audubon Society
(Colorado)

Volume XXXVIII Issue 1

February 2012



Bill Schmoker

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Eagle Days, February 3-5. (See page 3).

High Plains Snow Goose Festival in and around
Lamar, Colorado, February 23-26.
(See ad on page 2.)

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

Have you ever found a baby bird and wondered what to do with it?

Have you ever taken an injured animal to a wildlife rehabilitator and wondered what happens there?

Nancy Kelly, aka The Bird Lady of Pueblo, from Second Chance Wildlife Rehab* in Pueblo, will answer those questions and more on **Thursday, February 9, 7 P.M. at the Rawlings Library, INFOZONE, Pueblo, CO.**

Nancy Kelly is the Executive Director for Second Chance Wildlife Rehab in Pueblo, CO. She has been a licensed rehabilitator for 20 years specializing in all birds (other than raptors) and small mammals. Nancy has been studying passerine bird species for over 25 years.

***All programs are free and open to the public.
We look forward to seeing you there!***



"Golden Eagle" -- © John Deaux 2007



**FEBRUARY 23-26, 2012
LAMAR, COLORADO**

**Special Guest: Ted Floyd
Editor, Birding Magazine from
American Birding Association**

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UPCOMING AVAS FIELD TRIPS

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNTS: The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds, to create a real time snapshot of where birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It's free, fun and easy – and it helps birds.

Saturday, February 18, Join AVAS on our local, organized participation in this 13th annual event. Mark Yaeger leads a count in **Pueblo City Park** (our backyard), 8 am – 11 am. Meet at the Duck Pond near the Headquarters Building. Participation is open to all ages and skill levels and is free. You

may contact Mark at 719-543-2724 or radeaux@hotmail.com.

Monday, February 20, 9:00am, meet in front of NRCP's Riverfront Building, **The Nature and Raptor Center** has planned a family event to participate in the **GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**. There is a \$3.00 charge for parking, and no charge for NRCP members. For complete details, advance registration or to volunteer call 719-549-2414 or 549-2458.



Saturday, February 25, 4TH Saturday Birdwalk, The Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo, 9–11 AM: Join an AVAS member for a leisurely stroll along the river trail. This is an excellent outing for families, and beginning birders are especially encouraged to attend. **Birding is free, but there is a \$3.00 parking fee (Become a member of the Center and avoid this charge!). Questions? Contact the Nature Center at (719) 549-2414.**

Visit www.socobirds.org For more information regarding AVAS trips and events, and for fun, informative, family-oriented activities check out www.natureandraptor.org

AVAS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

In the past couple of months the following people have become paid new members of the National and/or Arkansas Valley Audubon Societies. We extend the red carpet to:

- Alamosa:** Cranes & Crows Store
- Buena Vista:** Peter Kitzman
- Cañon City:** Kay Hawkley, Arlene Langworthy, Dave Luscomb
- Crestone:** Ammi Kohn, Baca Grande Library
- La Junta:** Kathy Davis, Wally & Mary Erickson
- La Veta:** Joan Hanley
- Monte Vista:** Lloyd Cargill
- Pueblo:** Shelley Bieker, Doris Olson, Lenore Abbate, Pat Altstadt, Betty Truelove, Marty Ardel, Jan McGee, Barbara Wood
- Pueblo West:** Helen Tucker, Quentin Springer
- Rye:** Rebecca Deakin
- Salida:** Laura Crisman, Jenny Price, Elizabeth Golson
- Trinidad:** Donna Pachorek, James Hainlen
- Walsenburg:** Helen Grosskopf
- Westcliffe:** Lisa Kaufman

Also a very special thank you to the 59 people who have paid to renew their Audubon membership!

Get the Valley Harrier Online
 It costs AVAS more than \$275.00 to print and mail our newsletter each month it is issued. You can help us keep our Chapter's expenses under control by choosing to receive the *Valley Harrier* online instead of a printed copy. To do so, notify Leon Bright, our Membership Chair, at urraca2@comcast.net, and he can put you on our list.

AVAS LEADERSHIP

AVAS officers and Board members for 2011. All phone numbers are in area code 719, except for Ben D'Andrea.
 President: **Lura Zimmerman 543-9508**
 Vice Pres.: **Marilyn McBirney 948-4622**
 Secretary: **Peg Rooney 372-3415**
 Treasurer: **Mark Yaeger 543-2724**
 Board Members—at-large: **Nancy Kelly 543-1946**
 Programs: **Marilyn McBirney 948-4622**
 Conservation: **SeEtta Moss 275-8874, (cell) 429-3821**
 Education: **Bill McGurn 547-2245, 252-0928 (cell)**
 Field Trips: **Brandon Percival 547-3722**
 Membership: **Leon Bright 561-1108, (cell) 242-7394**
 Newsletter: **Harry Rurup 547-0406, (cell) 214-3693**
 Publicity: **John Gallagher 251-1698**
 Representative to Audubon of CO: **SeEtta Moss 275-8874, 429-3821 (cell)**
 Web site: **Ben D'Andrea (303) 987-1066**

The *Harrier* is published monthly except for June, July, August and December by the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society, P.O. Box 522, Pueblo, CO 81002. Subscription is free to members of AVAS.

ANNUAL EAGLE DAYS, PUEBLO RESERVOIR

The annual Eagle Days is scheduled from Friday, February 3, 2012 through Sunday, February 5. Programs begin Friday night at 6:30 P.M. at the Lake Pueblo Park Headquarters, and will continue there and at various Pueblo locations until 4:30 P.M. Sunday.

This is an opportunity to see eagles, raptors and other birds close-up. Also, we will attempt to locate Bald Eagles in their outdoors locations around the reservoir, and view them with spotting scopes. Various sponsors will have tables set up at the Headquarters building. Bring the family. For more detailed information about the schedule and activities, go to www.eagleday.org or call 719.561.5300.

JOIN OR RENEW WITH AVAS

Help fund AVAS by paying your Audubon dues *through your Chapter.*

- New member \$20 National Audubon and AVAS (AVAS receives \$20)
- Renewing member \$35 National Audubon and AVAS (AVAS receives \$15)
- AVAS membership *only* \$15

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

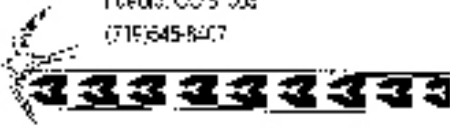
Email: _____

- I prefer to receive the *Harrier* online. Please notify me.

Please make checks payable to **Arkansas Valley Audubon Society.**

Mail this form and your check to:
 Leon Bright, 636 Henry Ave.,
 Pueblo, CO 81005
 (Phone: 719-561-1108,
 email: urraca2@comcast.net)

Thank you!

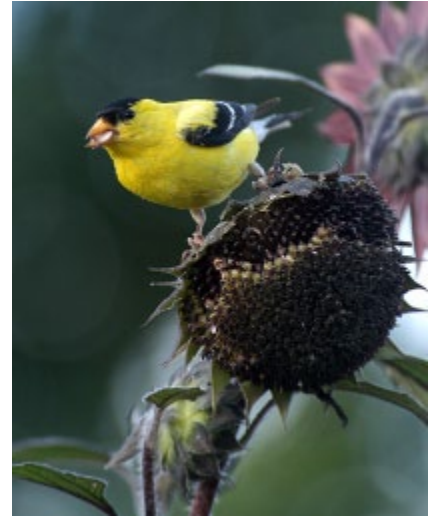
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Winter Bird Feeding Tips

Winter's a great time to start feeding birds. Here are ten simple tips for winter bird feeding.

1. Put out feeders- In order to attract birds in the first place, you need to put out some food. A couple of good-sized feeders will get you started.
2. Provide seed mixes- Most birds are attracted to black oil sunflower seeds, peanuts, niger (thistle) and a seed mix with millet.
3. Offer suet and other fatty foods- Birds burn more calories in the winter just to stay warm. Suet is a popular high-energy fatty food; so is peanut butter.
4. Keep feeders full-Winter birds need calories for cold days and even colder nights. They'll visit frequently for those snacks.
5. Be consistent- Birds come to consider your feeder as a "food patch" where the food you provide can mean survival on freezing nights.
6. Provide water- Put out a shallow pan of water near your feeders. Birds can eat snow, but they will enjoy and appreciate a good-old fashioned drink of water.
7. Stamp down snow below feeders- Ground-feeding birds, such as juncos, doves, sparrows, can more easily eat the seed that drops from the feeders if there's not deep snow.
8. Keep feeders clean- Clean your feeders with some hot water and dry thoroughly a few times during the season.
9. Hang feeders where they can be safe from cats- Cats and other predators make sneak attacks, so keep your feeders ten feet (10') away from shrubs, brush and wood piles. This will give birds time to react and get away from the predator.
10. Store seeds in a cool, dry place- Seed can last for months when stored appropriately.

Birds are fascinating creatures and fun to watch. Enjoy!
Source: Kevin Coyle of the National Wildlife Federation.



Bill Schmoker



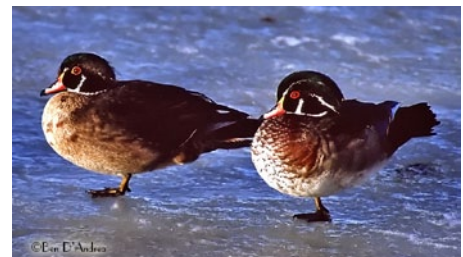
Bill Schmoker



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Pueblo Reservoir Christmas Count

The 36th Christmas Count at Pueblo Reservoir turned out to be the 2nd highest species count for the circle and once again was the high count for Colorado. At 128 species birders almost tied the Colorado and count circle record of 129 set a few years back.

Numbers of birds were down, particularly juniper berry eating birds such as bluebirds. Counters noted a lack of juniper berries this year and it probably can be attributed to the ongoing drought in Southern Colorado. However birders in Pueblo West found all three species of bluebirds in one yard.

High numbers were noted for Canada Geese at 3737 and one birder found other species of geese with them (Greater White-fronted, Snow and Ross's Goose) to add to the species total.

Late in the day David Silverman spotted a Peregrine Falcon over City Park. Perhaps it was looking for a goose dinner.

Other special sightings included Surf and White-winged Scoter, 16 Bald Eagles, a Northern Goshawk, Sora, Glaucous Gull, Pygmy Nuthatch, Northern Mockingbird, Common Yellowthroat, Seven Rusty Blackbirds and a Cassin's Finch.

Brandon Percival found a hybrid White-crowned/Harris Sparrow, but it cannot be entered in the database because there is no such previous sighting in the database. He took excellent photos of the bird.

A Northern Cardinal was found the day after the count near the river in heavy brush. It was likely missed on count day by several birders in the area.

"The pathless world of wild nature is a surpassing school and those who have lived through her can be tough and funny teachers. Out here one is in constant engagement with countless plants and animals. To be well educated is to have learned the songs, proverbs, stories, sayings, myths (and technologies) that come with this experiencing of the nonhuman members of the local ecological community."

—Gary Snyder

BOOK REVIEW

THE QUIET WORLD, SAVING ALASKA'S WILDERNESS KINGDOM, 1879-1960

by Douglas Brinkley

During the presidency of Andrew Johnson, Secretary of State William Seward negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million, less than 2 cents an acre. Wholesale exploitation of resources soon began.

Salmon canneries sprang up all along the coasts where rivers entered the sea. The abundance of sea mammals such as seals and walrus was soon threatened by senseless waste and slaughter. "Sportsmen" used the animals for target practice, and just left the animals to die and rot.

Vast old growth forests were being cut down without regard for the beauty that was being destroyed. The native Alaskans were losing their traditional fishing and hunting grounds.

Opposed to this commercial destruction, were a number of naturalists and outdoors loving men and women. Their individual stories form the heart of the book. Beginning with stories of John Muir and his obsessive studies of glaciers and their properties, the book devotes chapters to many others such as husband and wife Olaus and Mardy Murie. He studied caribou, and she assisted him with his research. Following his death, she continued to campaign for the preservation of Alaska's wilderness until she died at the very old age of 101.

The artist Rockwell Kent painted and published illustrated books of his Alaskan life. Aldo Leopold, a famous naturalist and Gary Snyder, a writer, poet and scholar of Eastern religions contributed to the push for setting aside wilderness and roadless areas.

President Theodore Roosevelt, during his terms was forceful in administering the setting aside of Alaskan Wilderness areas. Unfortunately, subsequent administrations tended to cater to the oil and timber industries. The conflict between the exploiters and the conservationists continued with the conservationists eventually winning hard fought gains. Ironically, as much as Roosevelt was fascinated by hearing and reading about Alaska, he never made a trip to Alaska.

Inspired by the stories of these conservation leaders, I checked into books which they have authored, and am finding some very interesting continued reading.

Harry Rurup



OUR MISSION:

AVAS exists to promote the conservation of nature through education, political action and field activities. Our focus is on birds, other wildlife, and their habitat in Southern Colorado.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Friday-Sunday, February 3-5, Eagle Days at Pueblo Reservoir and other locations. (See p.3)

Saturday, February 18, Great Backyard Bird Counts, City Park, Pueblo (see p. 2)

Monday, February 20, GBBC, Nature Center (see p. 2)

Saturday, February 25, 4TH Saturday Birdwalk, The Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo, 9–11 AM. (see p.2)

MARCH CALENDAR

Saturday, March 24, Nature Center, Pueblo, 4th Saturday Birdwalk (see p.2)

For any last minute updates, visit AVAS online at www.socobirds.org



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“Cattail” Bird in Winter