

# June 2025 "Flyer" Cheyenne - High Plains Audubon Society

Chartered by the National Audubon Society since 1974

Serving southeastern Wyoming Audubon members

**Mission Statement:** The Cheyenne-High Plains Audubon Society promotes the conservation and appreciation of birds and wildlife through education, science, advocacy, and habitat stewardship in Southeast Wyoming.

**Vision Statement:** The Cheyenne-High Plains Audubon Society envisions a community where birds, wildlife, and their habitats are valued, protected, and enjoyed by the general public.

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Board

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Board



Board Members: Front row: Chuck, Barb, Kurt, Wanda, Lorie. 2nd row: Sarah, Mark. Back row: Grant, Kirk, Vicki, Dennis

**The CHPAS Flyer** is published online monthly. Submissions are welcome. The current issue is available online at <a href="https://www.CheyenneAudubon.org">www.CheyenneAudubon.org</a>.

Contact Us at cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com

Join our Facebook Group, Cheyenne-High Plains Audubon Society Group

### Please become a CHPAS member

Send \$12 plus any optional donation and your name, email address and mailing address to Cheyenne-High Plains Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2502, Cheyenne, WY 82003.

All chapter memberships expire Sept. 1. Any membership dues sent in after May 1 will pertain to the remainder of the current membership year and the following year.

### Join the National Audubon Society

Send \$20 to Cheyenne - High Plains Audubon Society to join the National Audubon Society and you will receive NAS membership and NAS will return the \$20 to CHPAS.

#### "Wyoming Bird" chat group

Subscribe, post and/or read about interesting sightings on this Facebook public group site: https://www.facebook.com/groups/403337446664409/

# Calendar

### June 21, 7:00 a.m. - Field Trip: Blair-Wallis for a Big Sit

We will leave from the Lions Park parking lot between the Children's Village at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens and the picnic shelter and drive to the Blair Picnic Site. This is about a 40-mile drive west of Cheyenne in the Pole Mountain area of the Medicine Bow National Forest.

Once we arrive, we will sit and see and hear what birds are in the area; we will also be observing and documenting bird behavior. Bring a lawn chair; it will be more

comfortable than the ground. We should see a variety of birds, including hummingbirds, and may see the Peregrine Falcon that nests in the area.

Bring lunch or a snack; bring water and dress for variable weather. Everyone, no matter what your birding skills, is invited. Bring binoculars if you have them. The more eyes we have, the more birds we will see. We should be back in town before 1:00 p.m.



Broad-tailed Hummingbird: Photo by Mark Goraes

If you are interested in going, contact Grant Frost, 307-343-2024, so that he has a list of those expected, and he can let you know if the plans change for any reason like bad weather.

### June 24, 6:00 p.m. – Monthly Board Meeting

Contact us, <a href="mailto:cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com">cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com</a>, if you would like to attend and participate in helping to plan chapter activities, or if you are interested in volunteering in some of our activities. This meeting will be held at the Laramie County Library in the Sunflower Room.

### June 27, 7:00 a.m. - Country Club Bird Survey

Contact Chuck Seniawski to be on his email notice list: 307-638-6519 or <a href="mailto:chuckski@aol.com">chuckski@aol.com</a>. The count will start in the Country Club's clubhouse's main parking lot. These outings are free and open to everyone, but please let Chuck know you are coming

# **Chapter News**

### **Chapter President's message**

We all have those moments of insight when we learn new things or are reminded of things we already knew. I had one of those on our Cheyenne Big Day on May 17.

We had our traditional group tour around Lion's Park in the morning. We had a fairly low number of species for this day. We then went to Wyoming Hereford Ranch and later to the Experimental Research Station west of the air base.

Later that day I was going through the eBird lists that had been submitted, and I noticed that three vireo species and a black-chinned/ruby-throated hummingbird (they weren't able to determine which it was) had been seen in Lion's Park later in the day. This list

was from a pair of birders that came from Colorado. Luckily, they described which part of the park they had gone to. It was at the extreme northwest corner of the park where there was a large cluster of flowering shrubs and trees.

I spent parts of two days trying to determine which hummingbird it was. I had to enlist

the help of my friend, Mark, with his super camera. I took some pictures which were inconclusive, but he took several hundred. As we looked through them, I was getting discouraged because we still weren't seeing what we needed to. Then finally, on one picture, we saw the evidence we needed – the line of purple feathers at the bottom of the black feathers in the Black-chinned hummingbird. The problem with the color seen in a hummingbird gorget is that it depends on reflectance of sunlight, and if you can't get the right angle, it just looks black.

The lesson I learned was to not do things in the same way each time. Routine can be good and is necessary for structured surveys, but by going to different places, or at different times of day, we may see



Black-chinned Hummingbird at Lions Park: Photo by Grant Frost

something new or different than others will. I have learned that lesson before on a number of occasions, but it's great to get a reminder.

Grant CHPAS President

### Other Chapter Board Activities:

### Our New Chapter Logo

Did you notice the new chapter logo at the top of the newsletter? Thanks to Chris Hoffmeister, Western Sky Design, here in Cheyenne. She's also a birder. Our logo bird is the Mountain Plover, a bird that requires well-grazed, nearly bare prairie for its nest on the ground.

### April 12 - Birding 101 Class

By Kirk Miller

Shelly Araas, Lorie Chesnut, and Kirk Miller provided a one-hour Introduction to Birding program at the Laramie County Library. Thirty-three attendees heard about how to prepare for an outing, birding etiquette, simple observations to get started, and various tools and other resources. The program wrapped up using flash cards to talk about local birds, a short discussion on binoculars, and questions from attendees.

#### Comments:

- Pleasantly surprised at the good turnout; attendees had a range of birding experience. A few attendees indicated their intent to attend Saturday's outing.
- Kim Storey had the room setup complete with comm cable and adapters galore, copies of a handout, beverage service, and guidebooks from the stacks. Excellent venue, as always. Thank you, Kim!

### May 20 - Chris Madson Talk Update

We had about 40 people attend Chris Madson's talk "Up From The Grass". The presentation was professionally filmed and will be stored at the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center. We also plan to have a copy available through the chapter website in the near future.

### Volunteer with the Chapter

CHPAS welcomes anyone who cares about birds and their environment to join us in volunteer activities; we have many ongoing projects. Just email us at <a href="mailto:cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com">cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com</a> and let us know of your interest.

### **Education and Conservation**

### **Chapter Grants**

For information on our chapter education and conservation grants, see our chapter website at: www.cheyenneaudubon.org.

### **Habitat Hero**



Our Habitat Hero committee has been meeting, and the agenda for the next Habitat Hero workshop on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, is coming together nicely.

Our main speakers will be Kevin Philip Williams and Michael Guidi who are coauthors of "Shrouded in Light: Naturalistic Planting Inspired by Wild Shrublands", Stephen Hornbeck, the propagator for High Plains Environmental Center in Loveland, Colorado, and Isaiah Smith, horticulture & operations supervisor for the Chevenne Botanic Gardens.

We plan on having a lot of hands-on activities. Watch for further details in the coming months and save that date for the workshop.

## **Bird News**

### **News from Audubon Rockies**

Check out the Audubon Rockies News for up-to-date information on conservation issues in our part of the West such as "What Do Hummingbirds Really Eat in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming".

For the latest update go to: <a href="https://www.audubon.org/rockies/news">https://www.audubon.org/rockies/news</a>

### Bird Populations Are Declining Widely. How Are They Doing Near You?

From: Cornell Lab eNews, May 25, 2025

Across the U.S., the total number of birds has been dropping for 50 years. But new research shows that for many species there are pockets where trends are positive. Thanks to analyses at a finer scale than ever before, we can glimpse a silver lining that points the way toward more effective conservation measures. Learn what the trends mean for some of your favorite species like Great Blue Heron and Red-tailed Hawk at https://science.ebird.org/en/status-and-trends/trends-maps.

# **Birding Together: Uplifting Results from Global Big Day 2025**By Team eBird

What happens when people from every continent unite for birds? Global Big Day 2025 demonstrated the power of collective action. This inspiring celebration of birds and the communities who care about them soared to new heights. With millions of bird enthusiasts joining forces, global Big Day is officially more than a day—it's a movement.

This year's Global Big Day reaffirmed the profound connections between people, birds, and nature, while setting new benchmarks for global collaboration. On May 10, 2025, 1.8 million birders worldwide participated in this 24-hour collective birding event organized by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, contributing nearly 173,000 checklists from 204 countries and documenting an all-time high of 7,931 bird species. These accomplishments underscore the extraordinary impact of this annual event and the vital role of collective efforts in advancing science and bird conservation.

Global Big Day by the numbers

• 1.7 million people identified birds with Merlin Bird ID—the most ever in one day

- 172,600 eBird checklists submitted
- 68,940 eBirders from 204 countries—more countries than ever before
- 7,931 species reported—breaking the previous record set on October Big Day 2024
- 82,550 photos of birds shared with the Macaulay Library
- 4,820 bird audio recordings shared with the Macaulay Library

For the full article from Cornell Lab of Ornithology, go to: https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-2025-results.

In Wyoming there were 211 species reported by 178 birders. In Laramie County there were 97 species reported by 18 birders.

### May 10 - Platte and Goshen Counties International Migratory Bird Day By Grant Frost

You may have seen the movie, "The Big Year", about individuals trying to see as many species as they can in one calendar year in the US. The Chevenne - High Plains Audubon Society chapter attempted something similar, but for just one day, and with a group of people in Platte and Goshen counties.

On May 10, 2025, nine people attempted to visit as many of the "hotspots" (places with the potential for a lot of birds) in the two counties as possible for a "Big Day". That's a lot of country to cover, and it's tiring, but fun. Birds seen in between the hot spots also count.

May 10 also coincides with the peak of migration in the spring. There were plenty of birds to be seen, but the impacts of the dry conditions were evident. Places such as Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area and many of the ephemeral ponds are mostly dry, whereas in the past they could provide a bonanza of waterfowl and marsh birds. However, at the Springer/Bump Sullivan Wildlife Habitat Management Area, the low water provided large areas of mud and shoreline, and there was a huge number of shorebirds and "peeps", which are the tiny little sandpipers that can be so difficult to identify.

For Goshen County, there were 114 species seen. For Platte County, 82 species were observed. Platte County has some areas that we didn't get to cover well because of the low number of observers there. It has some habitats that could really provide some rare species. As with any survey, not all species were seen either, so next year there will be more opportunities and challenges.

### **Goshen County Big Day list:**

Mallard

Snow Goose Wild Turkey Wilson's Phalarope Ring-necked Pheasant Canada Goose Willet Cackling goose Rock pigeon Baird's Sandpiper

Wood duck Eurasian Collared-Dove Semipalmated Sandpiper Blue-winged Teal Mourning Dove Franklin's Gull

Cinnamon Teal American Coot Ring-billed Gull Green-winged Teal Sandhill Crane Eared Grebe Redhead Black-necked Stilt Western Grebe

Northern Shoveler American Avocet **Double-crested Cormorant** 

Osprev

Great Blue Heron Gadwall Killdeer American Wigeon Spotted Sandpiper Turkey Vulture Lesser Yellowlegs

Northern Harrier Northern Pintail Stilt Sandpiper

Lesser Scaup Least Sandpiper Bald eagle Common merganser White-faced Ibis Ferruginous hawk Bufflehead Semipalmated Plover Swainson's Hawk Ruddy Duck Marbled Godwit Red-tailed Hawk

Sharp-tailed grouse Long-billed Dowitcher American Kestrel Belted kingfisher Great Horned Owl Burrowing Owl

Red-headed woodpecker

Northern Flicker Hairy woodpecker

Yellow-bellied/Red-naped

sapsucker

Western Kingbird Eastern Kingbird Eastern phoebe Olive-sided flycatcher

Say's phoebe Loggerhead shrike Black-billed magpie Common Raven American crow Blue Jay

Blue Jay Horned Lark Tree Swallow

Violet-green Swallow

Cliff Swallow Barn Swallow Bank swallow Red-breasted nuthatch

Brown creeper

Ruby-crowned Kinglet Northern House Wren

Marsh Wren
European Starling
Brown Thrasher
Townsend's solitaire
Swainson's thrush
American Robin
House Sparrow
House Finch
American Goldfinch

American Goldfind Song Sparrow Vesper Sparrow Lark Bunting

Green-tailed towhee Grasshopper Sparrow Chipping Sparrow Lark Sparrow

White-crowned Sparrow

Spotted Towhee

Yellow-headed Blackbird Western Meadowlark Bobolink
Bullock's Oriole
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Brewer's blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Great-tailed grackle
Common Grackle
Yellow-breasted chat
Yellow Warbler

Yellow-rumped Warbler Common Yellowthroat Black-headed grosbeak



Wilson's phalaropes are a common shorebird that are known for spinning rapidly in the water to stir up food. They are polyandrous, where the female is the most colorful, courts the males, and leaves them to take care of the nest and young. Photo by Grant Frost

### **Platte County Big Day list:**

Canada goose Wood duck Blue-winged teal Northern shoveler

Redhead Mallard

Green-winged teal Common merganser

Bufflehead Ruddy duck Wild turkey

Ring-necked pheasant

Rock pigeon

Eurasian collared-dove

Mourning dove

Killdeer

Wilson's phalarope Lesser yellowlegs

Semipalmated sandpiper

Spotted sandpiper California gull Ring-billed gull Pied-billed grebe Eared grebe Western grebe Great blue heron Turkey vulture Osprey

Bald eagle Golden eagle Swainson's hawk Red-tailed hawk Great horned owl

Hairy woodpecker Northern flicker American kestrel Prairie falcon Western kingbird Eastern kingbird Say's phoebe Loggerhead shrike

Blue iav

Black-billed magpie American crow Common raven Steller's jay Black-capped chickadee

Horned lark
Barn swallow
Cliff swallow

Northern rough-winged

Swallow Tree swallow Rock wren

Northern house wren
European starling
Brown thrasher
Swainson's thrush
Mountain bluebird
American robin
House sparrow
House finch
Pine siskin
Lesser goldfinch
American goldfinch
Chipping sparrow
Dark-eyed junco
Lark sparrow
Song sparrow

White-crowned sparrow
Lark bunting
Spotted towhee
Western meadowlark
Orchard oriole
Bullock's oriole
Red-winged blackbird
Brown-headed cowbird
Brewer's blackbird
Common grackle
Great-tailed grackle

Yellow warbler Yellow-rumped warbler Black-headed grosbeak



The Eastern phoebe is an uncommon flycatcher in Wyoming. They prefer to nest under bridges or similar structures. This bird is gathering nesting material. Photo by Kirk Miller

### May 17 - Annual Cheyenne Big Day Count

By Grant Frost

The Cheyenne Big Day is all about counting as many species of birds as we can in one calendar day. The Cheyenne – High Plains Audubon Society organizes this each year on the third Saturday of May during the peak of spring bird migration.

On May 17, we had one group of people starting at Lion's Park for those that are newer to birding, and other people started on their own in various places like the Wyoming Hereford Ranch, FE Warren Air Force Base, or even at their own house near feeders. New for this year, we also started including bird lists submitted from any place in Laramie County to get a better idea of what is out there, from Pine Bluffs to Curt Gowdy State Park.

Despite the dry conditions we have experienced right around Cheyenne this year, we seemed to have the perfect combination of migrating birds that have stopped here and birders covering the area. People encountered 143 species on May 17. Among them were 10 species of warblers, 14 species of sparrows, and 18 species of shorebirds and sandpipers. Wyoming Hereford Ranch Reservoir #1 was not full this year because of irrigation needs, and it had attracted the birds that like to forage at the edge of or in shallow water in larger than normal numbers.

But, identifying birds is the key, and we had some very experienced people helping out from Laramie, and two folks from Colorado also were here. I learned an important lesson from these two. They went to Lions Park separately from the morning group, and went to a different part of the park than we normally do. There they found three different vireo species and a black-chinned hummingbird. Do something different, go to new places and see new things. All the different groups stopping by Reservoir #1 also were able to pick out the different species of sandpipers, which can be very difficult to do.

As with any survey, we didn't see everything. We saw a bobolink both the day before and after, and a peregrine falcon was seen for the first time the day after.

### Cheyenne Big Day 2025 species list:

Canada goose Green-winged teal
Blue-winged teal Canvasback
Cinnamon teal Ring-necked duck
Northern shoveler Lesser scaup
Gadwall Common merganser
American wigeon Ruddy duck

Mallard Rock pigeon

Northern pintail Eurasian collared-dove

Mourning dove Chimney swift

Black-chinned hummingbird Broad-tailed hummingbird

American coot

American avocet

Killdeer

Long-billed dowitcher

Wilson's snipe Wilson's phalarope Red-necked phalarope Spotted sandpiper Solitary sandpiper Lesser yellowlegs

Willet

Stilt sandpiper Least sandpiper Western sandpiper Semipalmated sandpiper

Franklin's gull Ring-billed gull California gull Pied-billed grebe Eared grebe

Western arebe

Double-crested cormorant

White-faced ibis

Black-crowned night heron

Snowy egret Great blue heron Western cattle egret American white pelican

Turkey vulture

Osprey

Sharp-shinned hawk Cooper's hawk Northern harrier Bald eagle

Broad-winged hawk Swainson's hawk Red-tailed hawk Great horned owl Belted kingfisher

Red-headed woodpecker Downy woodpecker

Northern flicker American kestrel

Merlin

Prairie falcon

Western wood-peewee

Least flycatcher Dusky flycatcher

Say's phoebe

Cassin's kingbird Western kingbird Eastern kingbird Cassin's vireo Warbling vireo Red-eyed vireo Blue iav

Black-billed magpie American crow Common raven

Black-capped chickadee Mountain chickadee

Horned lark Bank swallow Tree swallow

Northern rough-winged

swallow Barn swallow Cliff swallow

Ruby-crowned kinglet White-breasted nuthatch Red-breasted nuthatch Blue-gray gnatcatcher

Rock wren

Northern house wren European starling Grav catbird Brown thrasher Swainson's thrush Hermit thrush American robin Cedar waxwing House sparrow American pipit House finch Pine siskin Lesser goldfinch American goldfinch Thick-billed longspur Chipping sparrow Clay-colored sparrow

Dark-eyed junco White-crowned sparrow

Brewer's sparrow

Lark sparrow

Harris's sparrow Vesper sparrow Savannah sparrow Song sparrow Lincoln's sparrow Green-tailed towhee Spotted towhee Yellow-headed blackbird

Western meadowlark Orchard oriole

Bullock's oriole

Red-winged blackbird Brown-headed cowbird Brewer's blackbird Common grackle Great-tailed grackle Northern waterthrush Orange-crowned warbler MacGillivray's warbler Common yellowthroat Northern parula Yellow warbler

Yellow-rumped warbler Wilson's warbler Magnolia warbler Virginia's warbler Western tanager Rose-breasted grosbeak

Black-headed grosbeak

Lazuli bunting

Additional birds seen in Laramie County: Common poorwill Stellar's jay Ferruginous hawk



Great horned owls are always popular to see – if they can be located. At this time of year, they have almost completed nesting, and the juveniles can be full-sized. but they still have some juvenile feathers. This owl is an adult. Photo by Mark Gorges

### May 30 – Cheyenne Country Club Survey Results

7:00 AM - 8:56 AM Protocol: Traveling

3.0 mile(s)

Checklist Comments: 50 degrees. Sunny, light breeze. A perfect morning. Bill Gerhart, Mark Gorges,

Jerry Johnson, Chuck Seniawski, Kurt Warmbier and Roy West.

27 species

Canada Goose 7 Includes 3 goslings

Mallard 1

Eurasian Collared-Dove 6

American Coot 1

Killdeer 1

California Gull 8

Pied-billed Grebe 2

Western Grebe 1

Double-crested Cormorant 3

Black-crowned Night Heron 1

American White Pelican 5

Northern Flicker 6

Western Wood-Pewee 1

Black-billed Magpie 10

American Crow 6

Red-breasted Nuthatch 2

European Starling 6

Swainson's Thrush 1

American Robin 8

House Sparrow 2

House Finch 9

Song Sparrow 1

Yellow-headed Blackbird 5

Red-winged Blackbird 34

Common Grackle 9

Great-tailed Grackle 3

Yellow Warbler 1



American White Pelicans: Photo by Mark Gorges

View this checklist online at <a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S244756301">https://ebird.org/checklist/S244756301</a>

### Take wildlife protection into your own hands: take your cat for a walk By Barb Gorges

Maybe you, too, have been writing to Wyoming's Congressional delegation, asking them to preserve protections for birds and other wildlife and all you get back, if anything, is a friendly form letter sort of related to your specific concern. Maybe aides put a tally mark in their pro-wildlife column.

Meanwhile, all the federal agencies addressing wildlife and habitat concerns, including the Environmental Protection Agency, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Geological Survey, are being disabled.

But there are actions you can take that will make a difference for birds.

Take a cat outdoors. I know, you've heard me over the years talk about the American Bird Conservancy's program, Cats Indoors. I don't mean "let your cat outdoors," but keeping a cat indoors when it's nice out seems heartless, and ABC agrees. You can take a cat out to a catio (more about that later) or take them for a walk.

I've tried various poorly designed harnesses but there is now a plethora of easy-to-use designs. I found a cloth one that closes quickly with two large Velcro patches, one at the neck and one around the belly, the Kitty Holster Cat Harness.

Mark and I have two cats that have a short tolerance for being pet before they lash out, but they let me put the harnesses on and take them off without bloodshed.

Lark and Lewis are brother and sister, from a litter found seven years ago along Crow Creek by the mother of a friend. We'd been without a cat and these kittens were adorable, maybe some Maine Coon, with the classic tabby "M" on their foreheads. Lewis is now 15 pounds and Lark 10, but her hair is longer and bushier.

My friend took the other three kittens, keeping them indoors so all five kittens were saved from a life of murder and mayhem—the life of a loose cat that catches and kills birds and small mammals even when it isn't hungry. Domestic cats are the number one source of human-caused bird mortality, killing 2.4 billion birds per year in the U.S., according to ABC.

According to Jonathan Losos in his book, "Cat's Meow: How Cats Evolved from the Savanna to Your Sofa," who spoke on an Environment for the Americas webinar last month, domestic cats have not lost the drive they inherited from their wildcat ancestors to kill prey. And it's easy for them to go feral.

Cats are also the top carrier of rabies said Grant Sizemore, from ABC. Free-roaming cats also spread toxoplasmosis, a serious disease for people as well as



Lewis allows his harness to be put on without much fuss because it means he gets to take a walk outside. Photo by Barb Gorges

wildlife. Trap, neuter, vaccinate and release programs are not adequate for stopping the carnage. "It's time to treat cats like we treat dogs," he said, meaning they shouldn't be allowed to roam loose anymore.

Mark and I had our friend Dave enclose our covered patio with pet-resistant screening so that we could picnic without yellow jackets and the cats could spend nice days out there, watching the nearby birdfeeder. A true catio allows the cats to let themselves in and out (only if you've opened the cat door), but ours doesn't so we carry them in and out. Lewis, especially, will stand by the back door and give me a look. He'll even obligingly leap onto the kitchen table to make it easier to pick him up.

The introduction to the cloth harnesses went well, but then we got a puppy and next thing, I realized this spring it's been more than two years since I had either cat out on the leash for a stroll around the backyard. As soon as I pulled out the harnesses. Lewis leapt onto the table and let me wrap him up in the larger one. I opened the back door, and he jumped down and strolled out with me on the other end of the leash.

It is relaxing following a cat around. The goldfinches were soon assured and back at the birdfeeder. I had time to look for bees in the garden.

The third webinar speaker was Albert (and his cat, Mia) who has the website OutdoorBengal.com, "Take Your Cat Outdoors--Travel, Hike and Go on Adventures with Your Cat" (Mia is a Bengal.). He thinks every cat is trainable and he has many training tips.

It's still important to nag our Congressional delegation as often as possible about safeguarding wildlife and habitat—Wyomingites across the political spectrum are concerned—so be sure to write or call:

Representative Harriet Hageman, hageman.house.gov; Senator Cynthia Lummis, lummis.senate.gov; and Senator John Barrasso, barrasso.senate.gov.

Barb Gorges is the author of "Cheyenne Birds by the Month," www.YuccaRoadPress.com. Her previous columns are at http://cheyennebirdbanter.wordpress.com. Contact her at bgorges4@msn.com.