



Cheyenne-High Plains
Audubon Society

July 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.*

Officers and Committee Chairs 2024-2025

Lorie Chesnut, President

Grant Frost, Vice president

Kirk Miller, Secretary

Chuck Seniawski, Treasurer

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Sarah Grace Delgado, Education

Donna Kassel, Historian

Grant Frost, Field Trips, Bird Compiler

Mark Gorges, Newsletter, Habitat Hero

Vicki Herren, Important Bird Areas

Kirk Miller, Social Media,

Barb Gorges, Programs, Publicity

Lorie Chesnut, Website

Advocacy, Open

Wanda Manley, Past president

Pete Arnold, Audubon Rockies Board

The CHPAS Flyer is published online monthly. Submissions are welcome. The current issue is available online at www.CheyenneAudubon.org.

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

July 19, 9:00 a.m. – Field Trip: The North Glendo Wildlife Management Area

This is a free event open to the public. Everyone, no matter what your birding skills, is invited. Carpooling should be available, but let Grant know when you call him (see below).

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 Glendo. This is about a 100-mile drive north of Cheyenne on I-25.

We should see a variety of birds in a wide array of habitats

Bring lunch or a snack; bring water and dress for variable weather. Bring binoculars if you have them. The more eyes we have, the more birds we will see. We should be back in town before 5:00 p.m.

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.

July 22, 6:00 p.m. – Monthly Board Meeting

Contact us, cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com, 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 Sage Room.

July 25, 7:00 a.m. – Country Club Bird Survey

Contact Chuck Seniawski to be on his email notice list: 307-638-6519 or chuckski@aol.com. 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

This will be my last president's message, as Lorie Chesnut will be taking over now. Good or bad, I will still be the field trip organizer and will take on my new role as vice-president.

I've enjoyed doing these messages, although Mark Gorges will say I was often late with them for the newsletter. Our chapter continues to have great support from our members, with activities throughout the year, programs to inform, and we financially support those in our area with projects that might benefit birds.

One such project, bluebird nesting boxes out at the Experimental Station and Arboretum on the west side of Cheyenne, was completed last year. There are 16 boxes in all, and the first two years we had tree swallows and house wrens nest in them. But this year the intended birds made their appearance.

There were two pairs of mountain bluebirds that had a total of 9 young, and the big surprise was the pairing of a male Eastern bluebird with a female mountain bluebird that has fledged 5 young. This is cool and in and of itself, but is also of interest for researchers. It's exciting to have the results of our grant program so immediately produce results and have it so accessible. And bluebirds can have multiple broods, so they may not be done yet.

Birds connect us, both our little chapter, and people throughout our hemisphere and the world. That's why we are together in this and will continue to be. Looking forward to seeing you out there while trying to support the chapter in a new role.

Grant
CHPAS Past-President

Other Chapter Board Activities:

Did you know that the chapter adopted a section of the Cheyenne Greenway in 1992?

Compiled by Mark Gorges

Here is a summary of the chapter's involvement with plantings in our adopted Greenway segment from our chapter newsletters starting in 1994. Not mentioned was summer hand watering after plantings and the once or twice a year trash clean up days.

- From May 1994 CHPAS Newsletter: "Two years ago, toured Greenway and selected the lower Dry Creek section by Highway 30. The county is now ready to help with planting. Our committee met twice in April with County Engineer Bert McCauley and county tree expert Jim Arnold. The chapter agreed to spend up to \$1,000 on planting trees and shrubs useful to wildlife."

- May 17, 1994: Dry Creek tree planting, mulching and trash pickup with Cub Scouts from Bain and Lebhart. Scouts and Audubon provided hot dogs and drinks.

- November 1994 CHPAS Newsletter: On October 24, chapter's Dry Creek Habitat Project Committee met with county engineer, Greenway project Coordinator, staff from county grounds maintenance, and Laramie County Conservation District to discuss future development in our section of greenway.

- April 25, 1995: We have 210 tree and shrub whips to plant. Cub Scouts provide lunch.

- June 1, 1996: Clean up and check trees.

- May 3, 1997: Planting (including swamp white oak, red-twig dogwoods, elderberry and American plum) and cleanup. Hot dogs and drinks.

- September, 1997 newsletter: May planting big success; due to good summer rains, trees needed watering only a few times. Of the 19 trees and 60 shrubs planted, 18 trees and 50 shrubs are thriving.

- Spring 1998: Thanks to a donation from the National Tree Trust, 40 junipers and ponderosa pines were planted on the southern slope of the adopted section.

- May 22, 2004: Thanks to Vicki Herren's coordination with Cheyenne Urban Forestry and the Laramie County Conservation District, three large ponderosa pines, five Rocky Mountain Juniper and 12 shrubs including chokecherry and serviceberry were planted in pre-dug holes with a picnic courtesy of Safeway. Visible just north of Highway 30.

- Jan 2005: Program, The Director of Cheyenne's Environmental Management Weed and Pest Control Department, Bob Lee, gave a talk on Goats and Other Ways to Fight Weeds, including on the greenway.

- May 14, 2005: Vicki coordinated planting 3 Ponderosa Pines and numerous shrubs, provided by LCCD with holes dug in advance by the city at the Van Buren Ave. site. Lunch was provided.

- May 6, 2006: Bill Gerhart coordinated. We may have used some weed barrier. Ten large Boxelder were planted, provided by LCCD with holes dug in advance by the city at the Van Buren Ave. site. Lunch was provided.

- May 12, 2007: Tree planting cancelled. We did not get the grant to buy the trees and found out too late to make other arrangements.

- May 2025: Still going strong after 33 years with the latest clean-up day.

Chapter Board Concerned About Goats on the Greenway

The chapter is looking into the “weed control” goats stripping bark from the trees in the Greenway floodplain. That may be why some of the trees that the Chapter planted over the years are no longer there.

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 cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com 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



We are keeping an eye on the milkweed plants that are trying to overrun the Habitat Hero Garden at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens. We will be cutting flower heads before they spread their seeds, but hopefully the plants will provide some monarch butterfly habitat and food for other pollinators this summer.

That garden also has a problem with voles that are eating our bulbs and feeding on plant roots. We are looking for a non-toxic way to control them.

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



*Swallowtail butterfly on milkweed,
July 1st: Photo by Mark Gorges*

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: <https://www.audubon.org/rockies/news>

June 21 – Field Trip: The Blair-Wallis Big Sit

Six people participated in the Big Sit. Grant had set up a humming bird feeder two days before; it paid off for our bird count. After sitting in the shade for about an hour, we hiked up a trail through the aspen and rocks to see what else we could find.

Medicine Bow National Forest--Blair Picnic Site, Albany Co., Wyoming, US

7:54 AM - 10:19 AM

Protocol: Traveling

0.506 mile(s)

27 species (+1 other taxa)

Broad-tailed Hummingbird 3
 Great Blue Heron 1
 Turkey Vulture 3
 Red-tailed Hawk 1
 Red-naped Sapsucker 1
 Northern Flicker 1
 large falcon sp. 1
 Dusky Flycatcher 1
 Western Flycatcher 1
 Common Raven 2
 Tree Swallow 4
 Violet-green Swallow 9
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1
 White-breasted Nuthatch 1
 Brown Creeper 1
 Northern House Wren 1
 American Robin 3
 Cassin's Finch 1
 Pine Siskin 1
 American Goldfinch 2
 Dark-eyed Junco 1
 Song Sparrow 1
 Lincoln's Sparrow 1
 Spotted Towhee 1
 Red-winged Blackbird 4
 Common Yellowthroat 1
 Yellow Warbler 1
 Yellow-rumped Warbler 1



*Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Blair:
 Photo by Mark Gorges*

View this checklist online at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S253080133>

June 27 – Cheyenne Country Club Survey Results

Cheyenne Country Club, Laramie Co, Wyoming, US

Jun 27, 2025 6:52 AM - 8:46 AM

Protocol: Traveling

3.18 mile(s)

Checklist Comments: 59 degrees, sunny, calm. Bill Gerhart, Jerry Johnson, Sue Lowry, Chuck Seniawski and Pete Sokolosky. The feature of the day was sighting 3 pair of Black-crowned Night Heron.
 25 species

Canada Goose 30 Count includes 10 goslings.
 Mallard 6
 Mourning Dove 3
 American Coot 1
 California Gull 12
 Pied-billed Grebe 1
 Double-crested Cormorant 1
 Black-crowned Night Heron 6
 Great Blue Heron 1
 Red-tailed Hawk 1
 Northern Flicker 7
 Western Wood-Pewee 3
 Black-billed Magpie 19
 American Crow 12



*Yellow-headed Blackbird: Photo by Chuck
 Seniawski*

Mountain Chickadee 1
Cliff Swallow 1
European Starling 12
American Robin 4
House Sparrow 2
House Finch 1
Song Sparrow 2
Yellow-headed Blackbird 5
Red-winged Blackbird 44
Brown-headed Cowbird 1
Common Grackle 10

View this checklist online at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S254567934>



This eastern phoebe nested under the eaves of a house in Tompkins County, New York, this summer, working around the humans. Photo by Mark Gorges.

Here and there: the sounds of early birds depend on bugginess

By Barb Gorges

Tompkins County in New York State is arguably the best birded county in North America. Cornell University, with its Cornell Lab of Ornithology located there in Ithaca, has produced numerous ornithologists and other bird-centric scientists over the last 110 years.

Mark and I spent the last week in June there, visiting two of our granddaughters who live out in the countryside. The backyard is a wide deck surrounded by rough lawn edging the deciduous forest with a (usually) small creek trickling through.

Every morning the girls get to spend a few minutes contemplating the big picture through the sliding glass doors. This time of year it includes a breeding pair of eastern phoebes with a nest of three young tucked up under the roof overhang. Ruby-throated hummingbirds come regularly all day long to the feeder put up just for them, four tubes of sugar water (1 part regular white sugar to 4 parts water, boiled, no red dye) suction-cupped to the glass. Other birds can be seen passing through the clearing if you pay attention.

What we couldn't see were the many bird species finding their breakfast, insects, in the thick vegetation. Summer is a daunting time to take a hike there. Often, there are high temperatures with high humidity and it all means lots of disease-carrying ticks and other insects that bite. So, I put on my permethrin-infused clothes I use for hiking the woods around here and went out birding early in the mornings with Mark and our son, Bryan.

We walked the mile-long stretch of road in front of Bryan's house, listening more than watching. The bushy, buggy, shrubby landscape comes almost right up to the road, backed by towering trees behind which simmers a large swampy area on one side and a couple plowed fields nearly to the pavement on the other side of the road.

It's noisy at 6 a.m., the remnants of the "dawn chorus," when the birds wake up and re-establish their territories by singing their trademark songs. Finally, I hear the songs the ornithologists have spelled out in the field guides, like "TEACHer TEACHer TEACHer" (ovenbird) and "drink-your-tea" (eastern towhee) and "peter peter peter" (tufted titmouse) but all on top of each other.

It's no wonder the Lab invented Merlin, an app for smart phones that hears the songs and reduces them to a list of bird species accompanied by spectrographs of their songs. Mark and I went out on our own one morning and Merlin listed 31 species—few visible.

The last morning I walked with Bryan, I threw in the towel, so to speak, and left my binoculars at the house. Maybe the birds felt sorry for me because an eastern bluebird finally sat on a branch close to the road where I could imagine the blue color—it was too early for good lighting and they aren't as bright as mountain bluebirds. A male cardinal perched on a powerline parallel to the road where I could see him as clearly as hear him.

My first morning home again, walking the dog around our east Cheyenne neighborhood at 6 a.m., I listened. There was traffic noise and train noise. It seemed like the only birds I could hear were the ubiquitous house sparrows. They adapt so well to this mix of lawn, trees, shrubs, concrete and asphalt. I also noted a few robins, crows, collared-doves and starlings. I know there are a few other species hiding because some 80-plus species have shown up in our yard over the years.

The difference in the number of birds heard between Tompkins and Laramie counties is more a difference in climate. There's much more precipitation and vegetation and insects back east, thus more birds.

What my typical residential neighborhood (ranch-style houses on 75 to 100-foot-wide lots) needs are the big cottonwoods and shrubby willows along creeks, acres of grasslands, acres of sagebrush, or the scrubby forest west of town. But we can't all live in the country. Besides, once in the country, new landowners tend to quash the local vegetation and lose the wildlife, some species of which I admit are incompatible with human dwelling.

That's why I'm glad there are public lands, at both the state and national levels, where wildlife can be wild and I can go see them there, as can anyone else from anywhere in the world.

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.

Cheyenne – High Plains Audubon Society P. O. Box 2502, Cheyenne, WY 82003