



Cheyenne-High Plains
Audubon Society

October 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 2025-2026

Lorie Chesnut, President

Grant Frost, Vice president

Kirk Miller, Secretary

Chuck Seniawski, Treasurer

Kurt Warmbier, Conservation

Sarah Grace Delgado, Education

Historian, Open

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

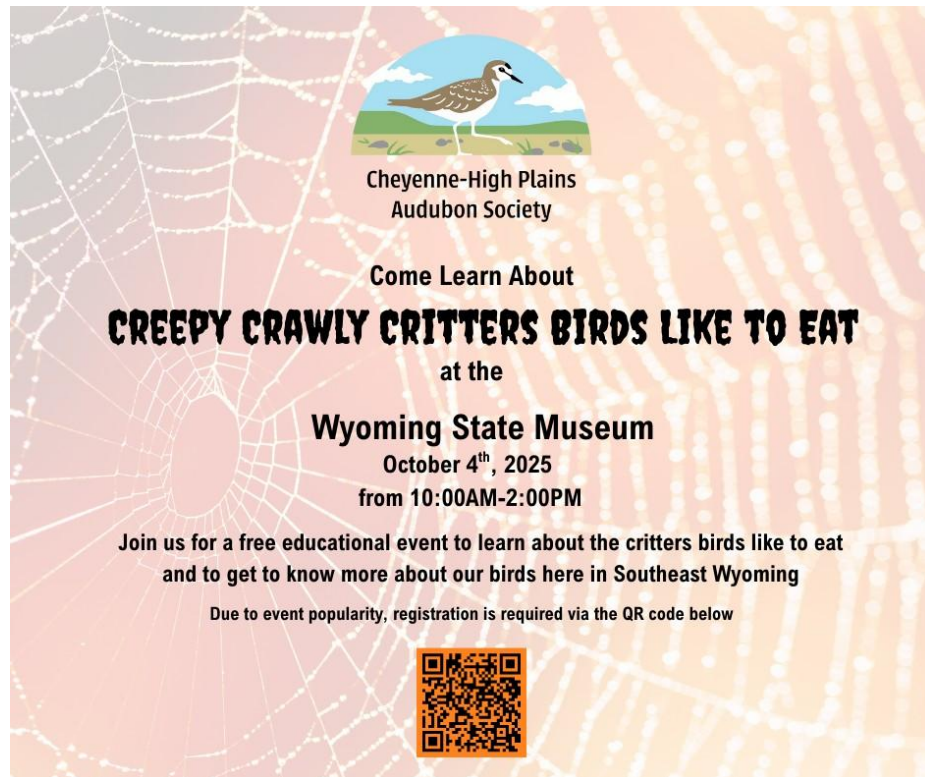
Subscribe, post and/or read about interesting sightings on this Facebook public group site:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/403337446664409/>

Calendar

October 4, 10:00 a.m. – Wyoming State Museum Program

2301 Central Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82001



You can also register at: <https://m51o94sr2i2.typeform.com/to/WAfdasF6?typeform>

October 11 – October Big Day

Like Global Big Day, October Big Day is an opportunity to unite around our shared love of birds. Last October, nearly three quarters of a million people joined in this worldwide celebration.

Wherever you are on 11 October, take a few minutes to enjoy birds and share what you find on eBird. Participate from anywhere, even from home! By taking part in October Big Day you're also celebrating [Global Bird Weekend](#) and [World Migratory Bird Day](#). Be a part of the global team and help set a new record for October birding.

Get more information on how to participate at: <https://ebird.org/news/october-big-day-2025>

October 18, 10:00 a.m. – Field Trip: Meet the Signs at Lions Park

This is a free event open to the public. Everyone, no matter what your birding skills, is invited.

We will meet at the Lions Park parking lot between the Children's Village at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens and the picnic shelter.

From there we will walk down to the beach, stopping at the first sign for an introduction to the new signs. Three signs were developed and purchased by the chapter and installed by the City of Cheyenne.

We will hike around the lake, about a mile, birding as we go. The other two signs will be our stopping/discussion points as we complete our bird walk.

We should see a variety of resident and migrating birds including any fall warblers that are still around. 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 to the parking lot by noon.

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.

October 18, 10:00 a.m. – Creepy Crawly Critters Birds Like to Eat and Beginner's Family Bird Walk (same time as the field trip above)

Join us at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Children's Village classroom on October 18th from 10:00am-12:00pm for a free introduction to birding followed by a walk around Lion's Park. Please register using the QR code or link below by October 10th and receive a free Creepy Crawly Critters coloring book and goodies for the kids! (Limit 30 participants)


Cheyenne-High Plains
Audubon Society
Presents

CREEPY CRAWLY CRITTERS BIRDS LIKE TO EAT

and beginner's bird walk for families

Join us at the Cheyenne Botanic gardens children's
village classroom on October 18th at 10:00am-
12:00pm for a **free** introduction to birding followed
by a walk around Lion's Park.

Please register here by **October 10th** and receive a
free Creepy Crawly Critters coloring book and
goodies for the kids! (Limit 30 participants)



For more information, please contact
cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com

Or go to: <https://forms.gle/hrpPhpqWyMcpz9z36>



Bichos espeluznantes que a los pájaros les gusta comer

Únase a nosotros en el aula de la aldea infantil de los jardines botánicos de Cheyenne el 18 de octubre de 10:00 a. m. a 12:00 p. m. para una introducción gratuita a la observación de aves seguida de una caminata por Lion's Park.

¡Regístrese por el código QR o el enlace antes del 10 de octubre y reciba gratis un libro para colorear de criaturas espeluznantes y obsequios para los niños! (límite de 30 participantes)

Or go to: <https://forms.gle/hrpPhpqWyMcpz9z36>

October 21, 6:30 p.m. – Program: The bird photographer's life

This is a free event open to the public. Everyone is invited to the Cottonwood Room, Laramie County Library, 2200 Pioneer Ave.

Rob Palmer of Colorado will give us a peek into his life as a bird photographer, beginning at age 12 with a Polaroid, through his study of birds, especially raptors, and his jump into fulltime bird photography which has resulted in photos in Audubon Magazine, Nature's Best, National Wildlife, and BBC Wildlife and other publications. He

offers guided photography tours and lessons, and prints of his photos, <https://www.falconphotos.com/>.

We will have a no-host dinner with the speaker at 2 Doors Down, 118 E 17th St, Cheyenne, WY 82001 at 4:45 p.m.

Please let Barb Gorges know if you are planning to join us for dinner so that we can reserve enough room at the restaurant. Text or email Barb at 307-287-4952 or bgorges4@msn.com.



Sony A9III, one type of camera Rob uses

October 28, 6:00 p.m. – Monthly Board Meeting

Contact us, cheyenneaadubon@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.

October 31, 8:00 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

What a lovely fall season we have had. In our garden, the brilliant yellow Showy Goldenrod continues to bloom next to purple New England Aster, providing a lovely Color palette to herald the coming of winter.

Our young Mississippi Kite is still being closely followed by many of you. During September, we've seen him flying further from his favorite tree as he strengthens his wings and hunting skills, preparing for migration south. He continues to cry to be fed but his parents are encouraging him to become more independent. What a treat it has been to follow his progress! Rumor has it that a future article may be in the works in the Wyoming Game and Fish magazine Wyoming Wildlife about "Junior", as we fondly call him. We wish this young bird and his parents well as they prepare to migrate south.

Are you interested in knowing about rare bird sightings in Laramie County? Sign up for eBird's Rare Bird Alerts at <https://ebird.org/alerts>. Information about special sightings will be sent to your email once daily. Many of us have been following "Junior's" story through reports submitted by our friends in the area.

Our membership drive and Lions Park Sign Project is well underway. As of Monday, September 22nd, one hundred twenty-seven (127) members have renewed and over \$ 3,600.00 in donations have been made. We are nearly at our goal of \$ 5,000.00. We appreciate every gift we receive – thanks to you all!

Lorie Wayne Chesnut, Chapter President

Other Chapter Board Activities:

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.

September 21: Greenway Cleanup

We had 8 people help with the cleanup on Dry Creek after a delay of a week because of the weather. Two pictures from the cleanup; photos by Laurie Chesnut.



Education and Conservation

Chapter Grants

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

Habitat Hero



Cheyenne Habitat Hero

If you want information on how to get the Habitat Hero Garden designation for your yard, go to:

<https://cheyennegardengossip.wordpress.com/2025/07/28/habitat-hero-tour-aug-16-2025/>.

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.

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

Virtual Event: Audubon Rockies After Dark Bird Trivia

Join the Audubon Rockies crew for some spooky bird trivia on Thursday, October 16, at 7 pm! Come prepared to have your bird knowledge put to the test, or plan to have fun learning about our feathered friends! Register here or go to: <https://www.mobilize.us/audubon->

[rockies/event/832189/?date=2025-09-18T06%3A00%3A00.000Z&is_virtual=true&org_ids=39230&utm_campaign=after dark 25 26&utm_medium=email-chapter newsletter 2509&utm_source=rockies](https://www.mobilize.us/audubon-rockies/event/832189/?date=2025-09-18T06%3A00%3A00.000Z&is_virtual=true&org_ids=39230&utm_campaign=after%20dark%2025%2026&utm_medium=email-chapter%20newsletter%202509&utm_source=rockies)

Virtual Event: Naturalist Chat, A Bird Q&A

Also returning this month is Naturalist Chat, A Bird Q&A, where our community science coordinator and bird expert, Zach Hutchinson, will answer your questions live on Zoom, Thursday, October 16, 12 to 1 pm. Whether you are curious about feeding birds, their behaviors, population changes, or need help with an ID, we have got you covered! Sign up here or go to:

[https://www.mobilize.us/audubon-rockies/event/832208/?date=2025-09-18T06%3A00%3A00.000Z&is_virtual=true&org_ids=39230&utm_campaign=after dark 25 26&utm_medium=email-chapter newsletter 2509&utm_source=rockies](https://www.mobilize.us/audubon-rockies/event/832208/?date=2025-09-18T06%3A00%3A00.000Z&is_virtual=true&org_ids=39230&utm_campaign=after%20dark%2025%2026&utm_medium=email-chapter%20newsletter%202509&utm_source=rockies)

The Rosy-Finch Winter Project: Saving the Brown-capped Rosy-Finch

Help Save The Brown-capped Rosy-Finch



REPORT SIGHTINGS



What to know

- One of North America's rarest, fastest-declining finches
- Major data gap - we know very little about them!

Participate in The Rosy-Finch Winter Project, a citizen science project designed to help save the Brown-capped Rosy-Finch.

Learn More!



Image by Bryan Calk Cornell Lab of Ornithology | Macaulay Library

Help save the Colorado-native Brown-capped Rosy-Finch with The Rosy-Finch Winter Project. Join in observing these resilient creatures in their natural habitat. Learn about their behavior, migration patterns, and how you can contribute to their conservation.

Any Rosy-Finch sightings are accepted, regardless of time, season, location, or any other factors. Although we accept all submissions, sightings during the Winter months (October - March) and sightings of Brown-capped Rosy-Finches feeding are preferred.

For additional information, go to: <https://coloradobirdresearch.wixsite.com/the-rosy-finch-winter-project>

September 20 – Field Trip:

Wyoming Hereford Ranch, Laramie, Wyoming, US

Sep 20, 2025 9:19 AM - 11:56 AM

23 Participants

Protocol: Traveling

0.961 mile(s)

Checklist Comments: Cheyenne High Plains Audubon Field trip

26 species (+1 other taxa)

Mallard 10

Eurasian Collared-Dove 3

Great Blue Heron 2

Cooper's Hawk 1

Red-tailed Hawk 3

Great Horned Owl 1

Belted Kingfisher 1

Northern Flicker 6

Prairie Falcon 1

Empidonax sp. 5

Blue Jay 2

Red-breasted Nuthatch 3

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 6

Northern House Wren 1

Townsend's Solitaire 1

American Robin 5

House Finch 3

American Goldfinch 2

Chipping Sparrow 3

Clay-colored Sparrow 1

Lark Sparrow 2

White-crowned Sparrow 11

Song Sparrow 2

Spotted Towhee 1

Red-winged Blackbird 20

Yellow-rumped Warbler 3

Wilson's Warbler 8



The two Great Blue Herons on the field trip. Photo by Mark Gorges

View this checklist online at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S274506904>

September 26 – Cheyenne Country Club Survey Results

7:58 AM - 10:30 AM

Protocol: Traveling

3.03 mile(s)

Checklist Comments: 55 degrees. Light breeze. Clear skies. Grant Frost, Bill Gerhart, Mark Gorges, Jerry Johnson and Chuck Seniawski
26 species

Canada Goose 20
Mallard 2
Redhead 1
American Coot 1
Double-crested Cormorant 1
Downy Woodpecker 1
Northern Flicker 9
Blue Jay 1
Black-billed Magpie 7
American Crow 4
Mountain Chickadee 7
White-breasted Nuthatch 2
Red-breasted Nuthatch 9
European Starling 3
American Robin 3
House Finch 6
Pine Siskin 2
Chipping Sparrow 1
Dark-eyed Junco 1
White-crowned Sparrow 2
Vesper Sparrow 1
Song Sparrow 2
Lincoln's Sparrow 1
Red-winged Blackbird 12
Common Grackle 4
Yellow-rumped Warbler 11



*Double-crested Cormorant & Yellow Perch at the Country Club: Photo by Mark Gorges
(The bird pounded the fish on the water's surface about 4 times before swallowing it.)*

View this checklist online at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S275614845>



Mark Gorges applies Feather Friendly Window Collision Tape to a window birds fly into frequently. The tape is removed, leaving square dots behind. Birds don't see glass as a solid. They see the reflection of trees and sky as the real thing and slam into windows. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated in 2017 that collisions with glass killed an average of 600 million birds per year in the U.S., the next biggest human-caused reason for bird fatalities after habitat loss (estimate not available) and cats (3 billion birds per year). Photo by Barb Gorges.

Window reflections cause bird confusion, deaths, but sticky dots can warn them off

By Barb Gorges

Thunk.

That's the sound that tells me berries are ripe enough for robins.

We have four mountain ash trees, full of orange berries this year.

Facing the mountain ash trees, we have a 40-inch high, nine-foot-long combination of windows including a four-foot-wide expanse of glass in the middle flanked by two 2-foot-wide windows that open.

It's the center one the birds hit, the one that doesn't open and has no screen they can bounce off. The berries are between 12 and 20 feet from the window, just far enough the birds get up enough steam to sometimes knock themselves out.

Our center window is just clean enough that it produces a reflection perfect enough that birds think there are more berries in that direction. But it's been a problem even without berries.

Plus, from a certain angle, the birds might instead see another window opposite the big one and think they can fly through to that nice backyard bird habitat we've been working on.

I attended a recent webinar put on by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, "It's Clear: Glass Kills." In studies of bird deaths from window collisions, here are statistics:

- 44 percent are from low-rise buildings, 3 stories and under,
- 56 percent from mid-rise, 4-11 stories tall
- 1 percent from high rises, 12+ stories. See StopBirdCollisions.org.

For people with bird feeders outside a window, the safest distance from feeder to window is within 3 feet, or more than 30 feet.

Many of us are familiar with the McCormick Building in Chicago, on the shore of Lake Michigan, in line with a major bird migration route, sheathed in glass, that has killed as many as 1,000 birds in one night. But even more birds are killed by collisions with windows in leafy residential areas.

We don't always see the dead bird under the window. Sometimes they can fly away but later succumb to injuries or cats.

What is a conscientious homeowner to do? Easy, obstruct the birds' view of the window.

If you put anything at all on a window, be sure it's on the outside of the glass—otherwise it will be obscured by the reflection of sky and vegetation.

However, our songbirds think they can slip through any gaps over 2 inches wide. My brother-in-law and sister have a floor-to-ceiling picture window they protect by hanging lengths of parachute cord every two inches.

A couple years ago, my husband Mark helped Grant Frost install the Feather Friendly product, sticky dots, on the outside of Grant's office window, which overlooks the natural area behind the Game and Fish's Cheyenne office. So, we decided to try it too.

Feather Friendly Window Collision Tape comes several ways. We bought a roll of quarter-inch-wide tape with quarter-inch white squares spaced 2 inches apart—white works best for windows, black for free-standing glass, something like bus shelters. For large, commercial projects, like McCormick Place, it comes in sheets, where it cut deaths by 90 percent.

The package also came with two paper tape measures to tape to your window, one on either side (or top and bottom like we did) so that you can get the strips of tape straight.

We also had to remember that we weren't putting the strips on 2-inch centers but leaving 2 inches between. For the first strip, the left edge of the tape lined up with the 2-inch mark, the second strip's left edge lined up with 4.25 inches, third – 6.5 inches, etc.

Read the application tips. You need the right air temperature, and you need to leave the tape on for 20-30 minutes so you can pull the tape off and the square dots will stay in place. But first follow the directions for making the window spotless.

Our window was easy to access with a step stool set up on the concrete walk underneath. If your windows are trickier, try hiring a window-washing company.

What does it look like from inside? The dots appear dark, so they are not noticeable if you are looking at a dark green tree through the window.

I expect, and hope, that over time, this window treatment won't be much different from looking through a screen. Certainly, it will be better than finding dead birds. It's not just robins. For one hour September 14, the trees also hosted western tanagers, cedar waxwings, blue jays, a Townsend's solitaire and an unusual migrant, a blue-headed vireo.

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

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