



Cheyenne-High Plains
Audubon Society

January 2026 "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

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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

January 17, 9:00 a.m. – Field Trip: Raptor Alley, Nunn, CO

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

We will meet at the Lions Park parking lot between the Children's Village at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens and the picnic shelter. We will leave the park at 9:00 a.m. and drive to Nunn, CO, about 38 miles and 40 minutes south of Cheyenne. There we will meet at Soaring V Fuels, at the southwest corner of Weld County Road 100 and the South Greeley Highway. From there we will drive county roads looking for raptors.

We should see Red-tailed, Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks among others including Bald Eagles and a variety of smaller birds.

Bring lunch or snacks and water. Be sure to dress for variable weather. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes if you have them. The more eyes we have, the more birds we will see.

We should be back in Cheyenne no later than 4 p.m., but if you drive, you can leave whenever you need to.

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. Please let him know if you will need a ride from Cheyenne and back.

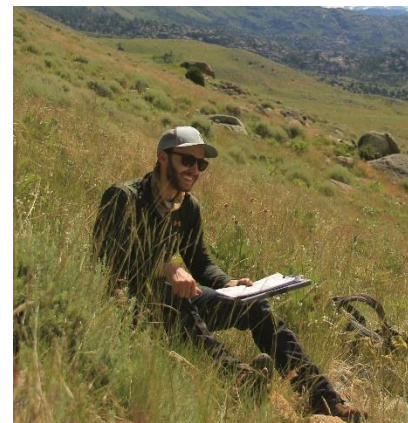


Rough-legged Hawk: by Mark Gorges

January 20, 6:00 p.m. – Program: “Using Rejuvra to Manage Invasive Annual Grasses (Cheatgrass): Key Characteristics, Best Practices, and Encouraging Ecological Outcomes,” in the Cottonwood Room of the Laramie County Library, 2200 Pioneer Ave, Cheyenne.

Rejuvra is a highly-effective pre-emergent herbicide for managing invasive annual grasses in rangelands and natural areas. This presentation will highlight key herbicide characteristics, introduce essential best practices for implementation, and review recent research demonstrating the ecological benefits associated with effective annual grass management.

Jake Courkamp is a range scientist working in the Restoration Ecology Lab at Colorado State University. His research and outreach activities focus on evaluating, refining, and advancing weed management practices, along with measuring the ecological outcomes associated with effective weed and invasive plant control.



Jake in the field

January 27, 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 Windflower Room

January 30, 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

While the Front Range area is currently experiencing unusually warm weather, we all know that colder temperatures are not far away.

At our home, we feed whole shelled peanuts to a neighborhood group of Blue Jays.

With three or four members (depending on the day), this noisy band swoops down on our feeders every morning with gusto, scattering little birds like House Finches and Dark-eyed Juncos when they arrive. We limit how much we feed these raucous corvids but we love watching them and their daily antics which include bathing in our birdbaths. And they add so much color to our feeders.

Blue Jays were one of the species identified during our Christmas Bird Count in Cheyenne, held on Saturday, December 20th. Fortunately, the wind was tolerable that day as our group of birders spread around the community to identify as many species of birds as possible. You will find a report by Grant Frost about the Cheyenne CBC results in this issue.

We also have wonderful speakers coming up for our spring programs. I would like to thank Barb Gorges for her work in identifying and scheduling topics of importance to us all.

Our January speaker will be talking about Rejuvra, which is a herbicide designed to control cheatgrass. As you know, cheatgrass is an annual non-native grass, maturing early in the spring and competing with other more desirable grasses for moisture and nutrients. Cheatgrass dies off in mid-summer, creating the perfect environment for grass fires throughout our region. This is a battle that we are trying to win – but the opponent is tough and persistent.

Join us for this talk and all of our presentations during spring 2026. And thank you for your support of the Cheyenne-High Plains Audubon Society.

Lorie Wayne Chesnut, Chapter President

Other Chapter Board Activities:

Programs Committee Positions available

We are looking for people to join the Programs committee. Barb Gorges, current chair, is planning to step down as chair. She would be happy to work with anyone interested in volunteering for the committee.

The program committee solicits ideas for speakers and topics from members for seven programs per year. There is also a 30-year record of past programs for inspiration. A committee member reserves library meeting rooms exactly 90 days in advance; schedules speakers; gets each speaker's photo, bio, and topic information to newsletter editor; arranges no-host dinners for



Blue Jay: Photo by Lorie Chesnut

speakers—speakers are our dinner guests; helps speakers set up before the program (tech help is available from library staff) and pack up before 7:45 p.m.

Volunteer with the Chapter

CHPAS welcomes anyone who cares about birds and their environments 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



2026 Habitat Hero Workshop, February 7th

Laramie County Community College, 1400 East College Drive, Clay Pathfinder Building, Rooms 108/109

Agenda

7:45 a.m. Doors open

8:30 a.m. – Welcome and housekeeping information

8:40 – Kevin Philip Williams and Michael Guidi- "Shrouded in Light: Naturalistic Planting Inspired by Wild Shrublands."

Shrublands exist all around us, thriving in almost any environmental condition, from the desiccating sunshine of the endless sagebrush steppe to the deep, private shade of moist forests. These diverse and inspiring ecosystems serve as perfect models for our gardens.

Beyond their inherent beauty, they provide nurturing habitats, demonstrate resilience in the face of a changing climate, and offer a challenge to conventional garden-making through their intense aesthetics and obscured intentions.

Join the authors of "Shrouded in Light: Naturalistic Planting Inspired by Wild Shrublands" (Filbert Press, 2024) as they invite you to work, live and play with shrubs. Explore a glorious spectrum of wild shrublands and discover the philosophies and design strategies behind translating these magnificent plant communities into your home garden.

Kevin and Michael are Managers of Horticulture for Denver Botanic Gardens.

10:00 – Break

10:15 – Stephen Hornbeck, Native Plant Nursery Manager at High Plains Environmental Center (HPEC), Loveland, CO. – "Gardener's Ecology: Building your own biological community".

Stephen will give us an "ecology for gardeners" crash course to examine our garden spaces for their best potential. We will discuss assessing a site, garden for microclimates, reliable plant selections, and how the ecologically designed planting becomes that stunning planting on the block.

11:30 – LUNCH - Included in registration

1:00 p.m. – Isaiah Smith, Horticulture & Operations Supervisor at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens – Garden Design Exercise

Each participant should bring a sketch, map or picture of their landscape or garden area. The exercise will involve moving cutouts representing various plant types (we will provide those) on your sketch as Isaiah talks about different aspects of garden design.

When done take a picture of your sketch or paste the cutouts on it. You will use those to work one-on-one with Isaiah after the break.

2:30 – Break

2:45 – 4:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions:

- Your specific garden design – Isaiah Smith
- Winter Sowing – Michelle Bohanan

- How to transplant winter sown seedlings – Michelle’s helper
- Audubon Rockies – Amanda Martinez
- Cheyenne Audubon’s & the City’s plans for pollinator plants in Lions Park – Vicki Herren

Registration for the one-day workshop is \$25, which includes lunch. Registration opened December 1st; only 100 seats are available. To register. Go to:

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/cheyenne50th/2026-habitat-hero-workshop-cheyenne> .

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. Articles include: “2025 Conservation Ranching Bird Monitoring Results in the Rockies” and “Solving Migration Mysteries, One Motus Station at a Time”.

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

Many robins show up for Cheyenne Christmas Bird Count

By Grant Frost, Cheyenne CBC count compiler

The Cheyenne Christmas Bird Count, organized by the Cheyenne-High Plains Audubon Society, took place on December 20, 2025. Bird observations came from 22 different people that either walked, drove, or watched their bird feeders. Walkers spent 11.5 hours and covered 14.4 miles, drivers drove for 6.7 hours and covered 134 miles, and those with bird feeders spent 20.8 hours watching.

This is the local portion of a much larger Christmas Bird Count effort, that goes on from December 14 thru January 5 each year. What started 126 years ago in the eastern U.S. is now an international effort, with counts taking place as far south as Paraguay, west in the western Pacific island of Saipan, and north in Kugluktuk in northern Canada.

These counts are an effort to count all the species and the number of each species in a 24-hour period within a 7.5-mile radius circle. The Cheyenne count is centered on the Capitol building. Those people that are exceptionally dedicated can go out at night and listen for various owls, and conditions in other places allow for birding by boat or other means.

Conditions this year were mild, with a high temperature of 48 degrees, moderate winds and no precipitation. Past counts have often taken place in much worse conditions, and we caught a break this year with a sustained high wind event petering out the day before the count. Forty-two different species were seen on December 20, and two other species were seen during the count week, the three days before and after the 20th. The most numerous bird, which is often the case, was Canada goose.

The interesting thing about these counts is the difference between years, even with similar conditions. For example, last year with open water due to mild weather leading up to the day, a family of four trumpeter swans graced Cheyenne into December, but this year the surprise was a double-crested cormorant on the lakes at FE Warren AFB. Another unusual species was a single wild turkey seen down by Wyoming Hereford Ranch Reservoir #1.

While normally associated with springtime, American robins can and do stay around here as long as they can find food. There were zero seen in 2024, but they had a large presence in 2025,



A few participants from the count: Photo by Mark Gorges

with a total of 67 robins seen throughout different locations. Red-winged blackbirds were also present.

Cackling Goose 177
Canada Goose 935
Northern Shoveler 20
Gadwall 7
American Wigeon 1
Mallard 287
Green-winged Teal 69
Redhead 3
Common Goldeneye 8
Common Merganser 6
Wild Turkey 1
Rock Pigeon 783
Eurasian Collared-dove 91
Mourning Dove 1
Common Nighthawk 1
Double-crested Cormorant 1
Red-tailed Hawk 7
Ferruginous Hawk 3
Great-horned Owl 4
Downy Woodpecker 7
Northern Flicker 31
American Kestrel 6
Merlin 1
Prairie Falcon 1
Blue Jay 7
Black-billed Magpie 44
American Crow 127
Common Raven 10
Mountain Chickadee 18
Horned Lark 14
White-breasted Nuthatch 4
Red-breasted Nuthatch 17
Brown Creeper 1
European Starling 401
Townsend's Solitaire 13
American Robin 67
House Sparrow 63
House Finch 83
American Tree Sparrow 29
Dark-eyed Junco 69
Song Sparrow 8
Red-winged Blackbird 21
American Goldfinch (Count Week)
Golden-crowned Kinglet (Count Week)



Ferruginous Hawk from the count: Photo by Mark Gorges



Song Sparrow from the count: Photo by Mark Gorges

December 26 – Cheyenne Country Club Survey Results

7:59 AM - 10:10 AM

Protocol: Traveling

3.0 mile(s)

Checklist Comments: 45 degrees. Stiff breeze from the west. No snow cover. Grant Frost, Vicki Herren and Barbara and Chuck Seniawski.

17 species

Cackling Goose 24

Canada Goose 46

Mallard 58

Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 5

Eurasian Collared-Dove 2

Red-tailed Hawk 1

Downy Woodpecker 1

Northern Flicker 2

Black-billed Magpie 8

American Crow 5

Mountain Chickadee 10

White-breasted Nuthatch 2

Red-breasted Nuthatch 8

Brown Creeper 3

European Starling 31

House Finch 2

Dark-eyed Junco 5



White-breasted Nuthatch at the Country Club: Photo by Chuck Seniawski

View this checklist online at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S290441103>

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