



# June 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 Wayne Chesnut, President	Kurt Warmbier, Conservation	Barb Gorges, Programs & Publicity
Grant Frost, Vice President	Sarah Grace Delgado, Education	Kirk Miller, Social Media
Kirk Miller, Secretary	Grant Frost, Field Trips & Bird Compiler	Wanda Manley, Habitat Hero Conference
Chuck Seniawski, Treasurer	Mark Gorges, Habitat Hero Garden	Lorie Wayne Chesnut, Website
	Vicki Herren, Important Bird Areas	Pete Arnold, At-Large Member

Note: Two (2) positions are currently open: Historian & Advocacy

**The CHPAS Flyer** is published online monthly. Submissions are welcome.  
The current issue is available online at [www.CheyenneAudubon.org](http://www.CheyenneAudubon.org).

**Contact Us** at [cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com](mailto: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/>

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## Calendar

### June 6, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm: Lions Park Pollinator Patch Planting

We will be planting on **Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.**  
Please join us if you can help.

The location is the new "Place for Pollinators" interpretive sign on the southeast side of the lake (near the new Pickleball Courts). We will be creating a small "meadow" where none currently exists. Bring garden gloves and a small hand shovel if you have them.

We hope to expand this area in future years, bringing more color and plant diversity to the park. The next time you are in Lions Park, check out the new sign and the future Pollinator Patch semi-circle around it.

Please let us know if you would like to help us with our Pollinator Patch by contacting CHPAS by email at [cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com). *The birds, bees, and bugs thank you!*



*Pollinator Patch site in Lions Park*

## June 20, 8:00 a.m. – Field Trip to Pine Bluffs

We will leave Children’s Village (Botanic Gardens, 710 S. Lions Park Drive, Cheyenne) at 8:00 a.m. Carpooling should be available. We will arrive at the Pine Bluffs Rest Area about 8:50 a.m. There, we will meet up with members and friends from eastern Laramie County and hike into the Bluffs area at about 9:00 a.m. We will also view the new Motus Tracking System and Grant will explain more about how the system works.

Please make sure to bring water, sunscreen, and any snacks you might enjoy. Those who drive themselves will be able to leave at any time. We expect to return to Cheyenne at about 1:00 p.m.

The hiking level will be easy on the Boardwalk but moderate after we begin to ascend into the Bluffs area due to a change in elevation.

Let Grant Frost know (1-307-343-2024) that you are coming so that if plans change, we can let you know.



*A View from the Bluffs.  
Photo by Lorie Chesnut*

## June 23, 6:00 p.m. - Monthly Board Meeting

Contact us, [cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## June 26, 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](mailto:chuckski@aol.com). The count will start in the Country Club’s clubhouse’s main parking lot. These counts are free and open to everyone, but please let Chuck know you are coming.

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## Chapter News

### Chapter President’s message

**Greetings to all Birders!** May was a wonderful month for birding with viewers enjoying a wide variety of species at our many parks and birding locations around the CHPAS three-county area. We completed bird surveys in Goshen, Platte, and Laramie County and included our lists at the end of this document.

As the migration slows down and birds settle into their summer home, our volunteer Board begins planning for next year’s speakers and field trips. In August, we will send our annual renewal membership too. Our schedule doesn’t slow down but a slight summer lull gives us an opportunity to catch up on a myriad of activities.

Remember if you have questions about birds that you see in your yard or on a trip, feel free to send us an email (and photo if possible) to [cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com). We will do our best to help you identify your new feathered friend. Bird On!

*Lorie Wayne Chesnut*, Chapter President



*Rose-breasted Grosbeak.  
Photo by Lorie Chesnut*

## 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. We have several positions open on the board and always need volunteers. Just email us at [cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com) and let us know of your interest.

## Other Chapter Activities:

### Goshen, Laramie, and Platte County Big Day Results

This spring, our volunteers and members ventured near and far to complete Big Day counts. Listings of all species observed are available at the end of this document. In total, 42 species were identified in Goshen County, 134 species in Laramie County, and 101 species in Platte County.

*Be sure to read the article written by Barb Gorges about the 2026 Laramie County birding results and experience.*

In 2025, there were 114 bird species seen in Goshen County, 143 species in Laramie County, and 82 species in Platte County. The number of bird species observed on a given day depends on the number of volunteers out birding. We would love to have more participation in every one of our counties! We welcome everyone, no matter your level of experience!

### Bluebird Nest Boxes at the Arboretum

*Report by Lorie Chesnut for Kirk Miller*

As of May 28<sup>th</sup>, all 16 nest boxes have been visited eight times by surveyors.

There are 7 active nests, one with American Tree Swallows and the rest with Mountain Bluebirds. We currently have a total of 26 eggs and 10 young. No birds have fledged yet.



*Mountain Bluebird by Kirk Miller*

## Habitat Hero



### Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Update by Barb Gorges

After about a decade of de facto chairmanship of the Cheyenne Habitat Hero Committee, Mark Gorges asked to step down this spring. Wanda Manley is heading up the planning for next year's annual educational event.

At the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Habitat Hero Demonstration Garden, as of May 28, blooming flowers include many columbines, Rocky Mountain penstemon, the first gaillardia (blanketflower), and an enormous bunch of

Penstemon eatonii, or firecracker penstemon, which seems to be a gift from the crevice garden across the sidewalk. In exchange, there are a couple of Rocky Mountain penstemons in the crevice garden.

It looks like showy milkweed is even more widely spread this year, the garden's ninth growing season. We are going to thin it out, with thinnings going to the pollinator garden Vicki Herren is planting June 6, by the Lions Park pollinators sign which was put up last year along the walk at the south end of the lake.

Removing milkweed will give us room for some other great native plants available from the High Plains Environmental Center's nursery in Loveland, Colorado. Usually, you place an order online at [Suburbitat.org](http://Suburbitat.org) and pick it up two days later, but this season



*Firecracker Penstemon - Penstemon eatonii. Photo by Barb Gorges.*

they will also have open nursery hours every other Friday morning, with the next one June 5, 9 a.m. - noon.

The High Plains Arboretum will have its tree and shrub sale June 6, 10 a.m. to noon, but at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens (there's construction going on at the Arboretum). Many of the selections are native to our area, or from Plant Select (native-based) or developed at the Arboretum when it was the High Plains Horticultural Station from the 1920s to 1970s. All offerings are considered to be well adapted to Cheyenne.

## **SAVE THE DATE! 2027 Habitat Hero Workshop, February 13, 2027**

We are working with the Laramie County Conservation District to set up and coordinate the 2027 workshop at Laramie County Community College. Mark your calendar and look forward to more updates in the coming months.

## **Education and Conservation**

### **Chapter Grants**

We have grants for teachers, students, libraries, and other groups who may be working in our 3-county area. Grants are reviewed on a rolling deadline and can be up to \$ 500. Apply today!

For information on our chapter education and conservation grants, see our chapter website at: <https://cheyenneaudubon.org/chpas-conservation-education-grants/>.

## **Bird News**

### **2026 Cheyenne Big Day Bird Count low on shorebirds, high on warblers.**

By Barb Gorges

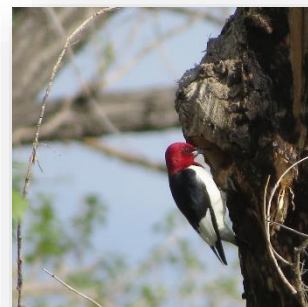
The 67th Cheyenne Big Day Bird Count held May 16 had the nicest possible weather, sunny, little wind and a high of 74 degrees, bringing 134 species of birds out to be seen by about 22 observers.

There were 12 kinds of warblers seen, a very nice number including some eastern warblers like Tennessee, blackpoll, black-and-white and mourning warblers. A crew from Colorado, attracted by the Wyoming Hereford Ranch's reputation for migrant birds, recorded the Tennessee, while the blackpoll was seen by Cheyenne – High Plains Audubon Society member Chuck Seniawski.

Count compiler Grant Frost said, "Warblers seemed to be the biggest news of the day for Cheyenne with a number of rarities, but the lack of shorebirds was notable." The problem was the lack of shore—around reservoirs. It seems with the dry winter we had, reservoir regulators are hanging onto water, keeping them full, flooding the shore, as was the case at our birdiest, Wyoming Hereford Ranch Reservoir 1.

We had seven species of shorebirds, but they were species that range more widely than the gravelly shores of reservoirs, like killdeer who nest on the prairie and phalaropes famous for spinning on the water's surface while looking for food. Or the strangest "shorebird," the Wilson's snipe, another grassland bird, with a mating display that takes males up in a huge arc, air passing over their tail feathers to make a winnowing sound.

In 2022 we had 12 shorebird species, including five kinds of sandpipers. This year our only one was the spotted sandpiper.



*Red-headed Woodpecker.*  
Photo by Mark Gorges

Perusing the list of names, you'll note three species have more descriptive names this year, due to decisions to split some well-known species into two or more populations:

**Northern yellow warbler** – the migratory species we know, versus the non-migratory mangrove yellow warbler of the Caribbean and other southern destinations.

**Western warbling vireo** – as compared to the eastern. To be separate species means they don't mate (although you might find infertile hybrids).

**Northern house wren** –Found from Canada to southern South America, now it is split into northern and southern, and five Caribbean endemic house wren species. (*continued*)

Two birders I hadn't met before joined us for the group birding at Lions Park. One, arriving after our 8 a.m. start time, found us by using her binoculars to look for a group of binocular toting people, assuming that would be us. She showed good knowledge of birder "plumage."

Another woman, up from Colorado for the day while her partner had other obligations in our city, was checking out birds at Lions Park and also identified us. We welcomed her into our flock—the more eyes we have, the more we see. Hope you can join us next year.

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



## 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>

**Wyoming BioBlitz, June 26-28** in beautiful Bridger-Teton National Forest. This is an amazing opportunity for families, educators, students, and all nature lovers to learn about plants and wildlife and help scientists survey them.

- ◆ Register & Learn more here: <https://act.audubon.org/a/wyoming-bioblitz-2026>
- ◆ **Deadline to Register is June 8<sup>th</sup>!**
- ◆ Dates: **June 26-28** (near Pinedale, WY)

**Historic Global Big Day 2026: The Biggest Birding Day Ever!** Cornell University's eBird reports that Saturday, May 9, 2026 will go down in history as the biggest Global Big Day yet, with more than 8,000 bird species in one day.

- ◆ 2.1 million people identified birds with Merlin Bird ID
- ◆ 22.2 million Merlin Sound detections were recorded
- ◆ 8,023 species reported
- ◆ 4,127,929 bird observations
- ◆ 197,640 eBird checklists were submitted
- ◆ 80,245 eBirders from 203 countries

On the following pages, read about the bird species identified in southeastern Wyoming on two "Big Count" days, May 9, 2026 (Platte & Goshen Counties) and May 16, 2026 (Cheyenne).

Interested in learning more? [Global Big Day Results](#)

**Field Trip Reports:** Bird species are listed in ornithological order and in American Ornithological Society name format. Counts are in chronological order.

**May 9, 2026 Platte County Big Day Bird Count (101 species)**

Canada Goose	Red-tailed Hawk	American Goldfinch
Wood Duck	Great-horned Owl	Chipping Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Burrowing Owl	Lark Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Belted Kingfisher	Lark Bunting
Gadwall	Downy Woodpecker	White-crowned Sparrow
American Wigeon	Northern Flicker	Vesper Sparrow
Mallard	American Kestrel	Song Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Prairie Falcon	Spotted Towhee
Redhead	Gray Flycatcher	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Ring-necked Duck	Eastern Phoebe	Western Meadowlark
Lesser Scaup	Say's Phoebe	Bullock's Oriole
Bufflehead	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Red-winged Blackbird
Common Merganser	Western Kingbird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Ruddy Duck	Eastern Kingbird	Brewer's Blackbird
Wild Turkey	Loggerhead Shrike	Common Grackle
Ring-necked Pheasant	Blue Jay	Orange-crowned Warbler
Rock Pigeon	Black-billed Magpie	Common Yellowthroat
Eurasian collared Dove	Common Raven	Northern Yellow Warbler
Mourning Dove	Black-capped Chickadee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Common Poorwill	Horned Lark	Western Tanager
American Coot	Bank Swallow	Black-headed Grosbeak
Sandhill Crane	Tree Swallow	
Killdeer	Violet-green Swallow	
Semipalmated Plover	Northern rough-winged Swallow	
Wilson's Phalarope	Barn Swallow	
Spotted Sandpiper	Cliff Swallow	
Franklin's Gull	Red-breasted Nuthatch	
Ring-billed Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	
Forster's Tern	Rock Wren	
Eared Grebe	Northern House Wren	
Western Grebe	European Starling	
Double-crested Cormorant	Gray Catbird	
White-faced Ibis	Brown Thrasher	
Great blue Heron	Mountain Bluebird	
American white Pelican	Swainson's Thrush	
Turkey Vulture	American Robin	
Osprey	Cedar Waxwing	
Bald Eagle	House Sparrow	
Broad-winged Hawk	House Finch	
Swainson's Hawk	Red Crossbill	



*Yellow-rumped Warbler.*  
Photo by Grant Frost

**May 9, 2026 Goshen County Big Day Bird Count (42 species)**

Wood Duck	Western Kingbird	American Goldfinch
Wild Turkey	Loggerhead Shrike	Chipping Sparrow
Rock Pigeon	Blue Jay	Lark Sparrow
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Black-billed Magpie	Lark Bunting
Mourning Dove	Horned Lark	White-crowned Sparrow
Killdeer	Barn Swallow	Spotted Towhee
Bald Eagle	Cliff Swallow	Yellow-breasted Chat
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Northern House Wren	Western Meadowlark
Red-tailed Hawk	European Starling	Bullock's Oriole
Great-horned Owl	Brown Thrasher	Red-winged Blackbird
Burrowing Owl	Veery	Brewer's Blackbird
Northern Flicker	American Robin	Common Grackle
American Kestrel	House Sparrow	Northern Cardinal
Say's Phoebe	House Finch	Black-headed Grosbeak

**May 16, 2026 Cheyenne Big Day Bird Count (134 species)**

The count area, the same as the Cheyenne Christmas Bird Count, is a 15 mile diameter circle centered on the State Capitol Building.

Canada Goose	Red-necked Phalarope	Northern Flicker
Wood Duck	Spotted Sandpiper	American Kestrel
Blue-winged Teal	Franklin's Gull	Merlin
Cinnamon Teal	Ring-billed Gull	Peregrine Falcon
Northern Shoveler	California Gull	Western Wood-Pewee
Gadwall	Pied-billed Grebe	Least Flycatcher
American Wigeon	Eared Grebe	Dusky Flycatcher
Mallard	Western Grebe	Western Flycatcher
Green-winged Teal	Double-crested Cormorant	Say's Phoebe
Redhead	White-faced Ibis	Cassin's Kingbird
Lesser Scaup	Black-crowned Night Heron	Western Kingbird
Red-breasted Merganser	Great Blue Heron	Eastern Kingbird
Ruddy Duck	American White Pelican	Western Warbling Vireo
Rock Pigeon	Turkey Vulture	Plumbeous Vireo
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Osprey	Red-eyed Vireo
Mourning Dove	Cooper's Hawk	Blue Jay
Common Nighthawk	Bald Eagle	Black-billed Magpie
Chimney Swift	Swainson's Hawk	American Crow
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Red-tailed Hawk	Common Raven
American Coot	Ferruginous Hawk	Mountain Chickadee
American Avocet	Great Horned Owl	Horned Lark
Killdeer	Belted Kingfisher	Bank Swallow
Long-billed Dowitcher	Red-naped Sapsucker	Tree Swallow
Wilson's Snipe	Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Wilson's Phalarope	Downy Woodpecker	Barn Swallow

**May 16, 2026 Cheyenne Big Day Bird Count (134 species) *continued***

Cliff Swallow	Thick-billed Longspur	Common Grackle
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Chipping Sparrow	Great-tailed Grackle
White-breasted Nuthatch	Clay-colored Sparrow	Ovenbird
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Brewer's Sparrow	Northern Waterthrush
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Lark Sparrow	Black-and-white Warbler
Rock Wren	Lark Bunting	Tennessee Warbler
Northern House Wren	White-crowned Sparrow	Orange-crowned Warbler
Marsh Wren	Vesper Sparrow	MacGillivray's Warbler
European Starling	Savannah Sparrow	Mourning Warbler
Gray Catbird	Song Sparrow	Common Yellowthroat
Brown Thrasher	Lincoln's Sparrow	American Redstart
Mountain Bluebird	Yellow-breasted Chat	Northern Yellow Warbler
Veery	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Blackpoll Warbler
Swainson's Thrush	Bobolink	Yellow-rumped Warbler
American Robin	Western Meadowlark	Wilson's Warbler
Cedar Waxwing	Orchard Oriole	Western Tanager
House Sparrow	Bullock's Oriole	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
House Finch	Red-winged Blackbird	Black-headed Grosbeak
Lesser Goldfinch	Brown-headed Cowbird	Lazuli Bunting
American Goldfinch	Brewer's Blackbird	

**May 29, 2026 Cheyenne Country Club (36 species)**

Protocol: Traveling. 3.28 miles. "Picture perfect day. 57 degrees. Overcast, opening up to partly cloudy. Barely a whisper of breeze." Attending: Grant Frost, Bill Gebhart, Vicki Herren & Chuck Seniawski.

Canada Goose – 42 (27 adults, 15 goslings)	Mountain Chickadee 1	Common Yellowthroat 2
Mallard - 2	Red-breasted Nuthatch 2	Northern Yellow Warbler 1
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 1	Marsh Wren 1	Yellow-rumped Warbler 1
Eurasian Collared-Dove 5	European Starling 7	
Mourning Dove 2	Swainson's Thrush 1	
Spotted Sandpiper 1	American Robin 18	
California Gull 1	House Sparrow 13	
Western Grebe 1	House Finch 7	
Black-crowned Night Heron 4	Red Crossbill 2	
Great Blue Heron 4	American Goldfinch 2	
American White Pelican 11	Song Sparrow 5	
*Red-tailed Hawk 3	Yellow-headed Blackbird 2	
Northern Flicker 5	Red-winged Blackbird 50	
Western Wood-Pewee 3	Brown-headed Cowbird 1	
Blue Jay 1	Common Grackle 7	
Black-billed Magpie 6	Great-tailed Grackle 6 (4 males, 2 females)	
American Crow 4		



*Red-tailed Hawk.*  
Photo by Chuck Seniawski.

\*One adult & two nestlings. Fantastic look at the adult as it swooped down at eye level in full sun within 100 feet (or less) of observers, landing to get a drink from a small pool of water. Seemingly oblivious to the on-lookers.