



June 2021 "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 2020-2021

Terry Harper, President

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Education, open

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Grant Frost, Field Trips, Bird Compiler

Mark Gorges, Newsletter, Habitat Hero

Art Anderson, Important Bird Areas

Wanda Manley, Member at Large

Elaine Grings, Social Media

Barb Gorges, Programs, Publicity

Lorie Chesnut, Hospitality, Website

Jordyn Sorrow, Student Advisory Member

The CHPAS Flyer is published on line monthly as a benefit of chapter membership. Submissions are welcome. The current issue is available online at www.CheyenneAudubon.wordpress.com.

Contact Us at cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com

Please become a CHPAS member (Have you renewed your membership for 2020-2021?)

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 5, 8 a.m. – Wyoming Hereford Ranch

The Foothills Audubon club from Colorado will be visiting the Wyoming Hereford Ranch. We have been invited to join them and show them around.

June 12, 7 a.m. – Field Trip to Sybille Canyon

We will leave from the parking lot next to the Children's Village at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens at 7 a.m. Plan to caravan; carpooling will be at the discretion of each driver. We will head north on I-25 and west on WY-34, about 88 miles to Sybille Canyon and the Tom Thorn/Beth Williams Wildlife Habitat Management Area.



Yellow-breasted Chat, one of the summer birds we might see on the field trip, by Mark Gorges

In this foothills habitat we will be looking for a variety of nesting birds from raptors to hummingbirds to warblers. There will be some hiking on uneven ground.

We hope that everyone participating will have had their Covid vaccine; wear your mask if you feel more comfortable with it. Bring water, clothes for changing weather, and a lunch or snacks. We expect to be finished by 1 or 2 p.m. and back to town by about 3 p.m., but you can leave whenever you need to.

Please contact Grant Frost at 307-343-2024 if you plan to join us, so that we have a list of those expected and can let you know if the plans change for any reason such as bad weather.

June 22, 7p.m.– Virtual Board Meeting

Contact Terry Harper, cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com, if you would like to participate in helping to plan chapter activities.

June 25, 7 a.m.– Country Club Bird Survey

Contact Chuck Seniawski to take part or to be on his email notice list: 307-638-6519 or chuckski@aol.com. The count will start in the County Clubhouse's main parking lot.

July 23-25 – Wyoming Bioblitz 2021 at the Brinton Museum, Big Horn, WY

For information about participating, activities, camping, etc. go to: <https://thebrintonmuseum.org/event/wyoming-bioblitz-2021/>.

The event is free. Learn more at <http://rockies.audubon.org/bioblitz>.

July 30-August 2 – Virtual Wyoming BioBlitz 2021

This will be an online event. Record your wildlife sightings from anywhere in Wyoming. For further information go to: <https://rockies.audubon.org/events/virtual-wyoming-bioblitz-2021>.

Chapter News

Chapter President's message



Dear CHPAS Members and Friends,

Hi Folks! The LCCD wetland project east of town was awarded the NAS grant of \$3000 and along with our \$500 grant, folks have been busy planting 1300 plants! The planting on Dry Creek included:

Woolly and Nebraska Sedge

Hardstem and Smallfruit Bulrush

Cardinal and Blue Lobelia

Blue Vervain

Spotted Joe Pyeweed

Monarda

New England Aster

Maximilian Sunflowers were planted a few days earlier.



Some of the plants-photo by Lorie Chesnut

Thanks to Lorie Chesnut for her commitment to the grant writing and follow through with project details. Grant requirements for this project include a website accounting of the project and educational materials so watch for a change in our website in the next few months.

Also, kudos to the 7 folks that helped with the Greenway clean up on 22 May!

Finally, the Board signed on to a letter supporting the confirmation of Tracy Stone-Manning as the next director of the Bureau of Land Management. She is a Westerner, an avid outdoorswoman, and a consensus builder, and has spent her career advocating for the wise stewardship of our nation's public lands and waters. She served as the associate vice president of National Wildlife Federation the past 4 years and prior to that as the chief of staff for then Montana Governor Steve Bullock. We look forward to her leadership in restoring our public lands and waters.

Yours, Terry Harper, CHPAS President

Cheyenne - High Plains Audubon Society logo, Mountain Plover, drawn by Michelle LaGory.

Advocacy Network

Environmental Issues Update

By Terry Harper, CHPAS President

Bright lights as well as untreated glass in buildings lead to bird collisions and death. A bipartisan piece of legislation "The Bird-Safe Building Act" would require new buildings to incorporate designs and materials that would lessen bird collisions and injury. Send a message to Congress asking for their support at <https://act.audubon.org/a/bird-safe-buildings-act>

Education and Conservation

Bird related classes at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens in June – 1p.m.

Tuesday, June 15: Beginning Bird Watching – Learn about the birds you would be likely to see in Lions Park at that time, and you will go out to look for them.

Tuesday, June 22: All About Bird Conservation – Learn about why birds are important and what we can personally do to help them.

Tuesday, June 29: Bird Feeders – Bring a clean, empty soda bottle and build a bird feeder. Learn what type of bird seed is best to attract birds to our yards.

All three classes will be at the Children's Village starting at 1 p.m. and will last about an hour. Barb Gorges from our Audubon chapter and Jessica Friis from the Children's Village will be conducting the classes. Some of the materials for the classes were donated to CBG by our chapter. These classes are free and open to the public. Primarily suited for children, these classes are open to all ages.

Chapter Grants

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

Habitat Hero



Work on our HH demonstration gardens

At the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens our HH volunteers planted a lot of itty-bitty seedlings including Tickseed and Gaillardia. They also helped plant 30 bigger potted plants, mostly Penstemon, Gaillardia, Rudbeckia, Ratibida and Monarda. And this year, we will consider Salsify to be a weed, even if people eat it when we pull it out.

At BOPU there are many self-seeded seedlings, including a lot of the Hyssop with the lime-green leaves. And to think we just spent money on a couple more plants of similar coloring, Hyssop 'Blue Fortune.' The invasive plant Kochia continues to tumble into the BOPU garden each year; this year's crop of Kochia seedlings will require a lot of weeding.

The allium (purple) and the flax (blue) are currently blooming (in the picture) as well as a few late pasqueflowers. The big pink Oriental poppies are going to be up next, along with the alpine daisies.



Photo by Barb Gorges

Our volunteers also helped with extra watering at both gardens to give the seedlings and new plants a little help in getting started.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the work.

Science at our HH gardens

Audubon Rockies has started working on a plan to gather information on the use of certified HH gardens by animals, especially insects and birds. They hope to document the importance of these gardens to native pollinators and other native species.

There will be more information on this as plans are developed over the next year.

Bird News

May 8 – International Migratory Bird Day at the Wyoming Hereford Ranch

A number of our chapter members got together with a group of the Laramie Audubon chapter members for their field trip to the ranch, 21 people all together. The following 80 species were sighted that day.

Canada Goose
Blue-winged Teal

Cinnamon Teal
Northern Shoveler

Gadwall
Mallard

Green-winged Teal
 Redhead
 Lesser Scaup
 Bufflehead
 Ruddy Duck
 Western Grebe
 Eurasian Collared-Dove
 Mourning Dove
 American Avocet
 Killdeer
 Wilson's Phalarope
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Franklin's Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 California Gull
 Double-crested Cormorant
 American White Pelican
 Great Blue Heron
 Black-crowned Night-Heron
 Turkey Vulture
 Cooper's Hawk
 Swainson's Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Ferruginous Hawk
 Great-horned Owl

Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 American Kestrel
 Least Flycatcher
 Say's Phoebe
 Western Kingbird
 Eastern Kingbird
 American Crow
 Common Raven
 Mountain Chickadee
 Horned Lark
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow
 Tree Swallow
 Violet-green Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 House Wren
 European Starling
 Northern Mockingbird
 Swainson's Thrush
 American Robin

House Sparrow
 House Finch
 Cassin's Finch
 Pine Siskin
 American Goldfinch
 McCown's Longspur
 Chipping Sparrow
 Brewer's Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lincoln Sparrow
 Green-tailed Towhee
 Western Meadowlark
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Common Grackle
 Great-tailed Grackle
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 Northern Waterthrush
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Yellow Warbler

May 14 – Book Signing with Nathan Pieplow – Wyoming Hereford Ranch

Thanks go to the Hales for the use of the Horse Barn, especially since it was a stormy evening.

Our guest speaker, Nathan Pieplow, spoke to us about his book **“Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Western North America”**. Nathan was able to demonstrate using the free “Song Sleuth” app on a phone, how to record a bird song and have the bird identified or search for a similar spectrogram of the song in his book.

The audience of 18 asked numerous questions which lead to very interesting discussions.



Barb introducing Nathan in the barn-photo by Mark Gorges

May 15 – The Annual Cheyenne Big Day Bird Count

By Mark Gorges

Compiled from eBird checklists, approximately extending from Wyoming Hereford Reservoir #2, down to Valley Reservoir and to the Research Station,.

136 Species
 Snow Goose
 Canada Goose
 Wood Duck
 Blue-winged Teal
 Cinnamon Teal

Northern Shoveler
 Gadwall
 Mallard
 Northern Pintail
 Green-winged Teal
 Redhead
 Lesser Scaup

Bufflehead
 Ruddy Duck
 Pied-billed Grebe
 Horned Grebe
 Eared Grebe
 Western Grebe
 Rock Pigeon

Eurasian Collared-Dove
 Mourning Dove
 American Coot
 Black-necked Stilt
 American Avocet
 Semipalmated Plover
 Killdeer
 Marbled Godwit
 Least Sandpiper
 Long-billed Dowitcher
 Wilson's Phalarope
 Red-necked Phalarope
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Willet
 Ring-billed Gull
 California Gull
 Double-crested Cormorant
 American White Pelican
 Great Blue Heron
 Black-crowned Night-Heron
 White-faced Ibis
 Turkey Vulture
 Northern Harrier
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Swainson's Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Great-horned Owl
 Burrowing Owl
 Belted Kingfisher
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 American Kestrel
 Peregrine Falcon
 Western Wood-Pewee
 Willow Flycatcher
 Least Flycatcher
 Gray Flycatcher
 Dusky Flycatcher
 Say's Phoebe
 Cassin's Kingbird

Western Kingbird
 Eastern Kingbird
 Plumbeous Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Loggerhead Shrike
 Blue Jay
 Black-billed Magpie
 American Crow
 Common Raven
 Mountain Chickadee
 Horned Lark
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow
 Tree Swallow
 Violet-green Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Rock Wren
 House Wren
 European Starling
 Gray Catbird
 Brown Thrasher
 Northern Mockingbird
 Townsend's Solitaire
 Veery
 Swainson's Thrush
 Hermit Thrush
 American Robin
 House Sparrow
 House Finch
 Pine Siskin
 Lesser Goldfinch
 American Goldfinch
 Chipping Sparrow
 Clay-colored Sparrow
 Brewer's Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 White-crowned 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
 Common Yellowthroat
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Virginia's Warbler
 MacGillivray's Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Townsend's Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 Western Tanager
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Black-headed Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Lazuli Bunting
 Indigo Bunting



Chestnut-sided Warbler by Mark Gorges

May 28 – Cheyenne Country Club survey results

By Chuck Seniawski

6:54 AM - 9:16 AM

Protocol: Traveling

3.3 mile(s)

Checklist Comments: 47 degrees. Clear, light breeze. Grant Frost, Jerry Johnson, Ray Milczewski, Chuck Seniawski, Pete Sokolosky.

35 species

Canada Goose 11	Turkey Vulture 2	American Robin 10
Blue-winged Teal 3	Osprey 1	Cedar Waxwing 3
Gadwall 2	Cooper's Hawk 1	House Sparrow 3
Mallard 8	Bald Eagle 1 Adult	House Finch 6
Ring-necked Duck 2	Northern Flicker 9	American Goldfinch 11
Western Grebe 2	Western Wood-Pewee 3	Chipping Sparrow 1
Eurasian Collared-Dove 1	Black-billed Magpie 19	Red-winged Blackbird 9
Mourning Dove 2	American Crow 15	Common Grackle 4
Killdeer 2	Mountain Chickadee 1	Great-tailed Grackle 2
Spotted Sandpiper 2	Red-breasted Nuthatch 4	Common Yellowthroat 4
California Gull 1	European Starling 2	Yellow Warbler 2
American White Pelican 1	Swainson's Thrush 3	

View this checklist online at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S89153766>

2021 Big Day brings in birds and birders

By Barb Gorges

It's a chicken or the egg conundrum. Which comes first, lots of birds or lots of birders?

It's true that the more birders there are out looking, the more birds are seen. But the way to get more birders out to look for them is for there to be more bird reports coming in. That piques interest and more birders go out looking instead of doing mundane household chores.

Mark, my husband, was out nearly every morning the first two weeks in May to one of several of his favorite hotspots: Wyoming Hereford Ranch, Lions Park (both are Wyoming Important Bird Areas), Laramie County Community College (the pond areas) or F.E. Warren Air Force Base (ponds there too).

When he came home, he'd give me a report on what interesting migrants he'd seen and show me photos he'd taken before adding them to the checklists of birds he'd seen and entered through the eBird.org phone app. He'd tell me too, who else he'd met, mostly birding friends, but sometimes visitors.

In the evening he liked to check eBird to see what sightings local birders had entered for the day. And he'd check birdcast.info to see if birds were going to be making a strong migratory push through our area overnight—and coming to earth here to rest and refuel in the morning.

Every year, for 60-plus years, the Cheyenne – High Plains Audubon Society designates a date for its Big Day Bird Count and hopes to hit the biggest migratory push. It's usually the third Saturday in May. Sometimes we've had icy storms and wonder if we should pick a later date. Sometimes eBird reports show that there just isn't a peak to the migration. We wonder too if climate change means we should move it up a week.

This year we had a good lead-up that encouraged more people to be out on our Big Day, May 15. We had a couple of sharper than average birders joining us too, Nathan Pieplow, author of the "Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Western North America," and his friend, Will Anderson.

Nathan signed books the evening before. It was going to be an outdoor event but thank goodness the Hales family lent us one of the WHR barns as backup since a good gully washer blew in.

Saturday morning was chilly and foggy, but the birds and birders were out. We weren't all in one big group, but we would get the scoop on cool birds from each other when we met up.

The next day, Mark started compiling the list of birds, looking at checklists on eBird for sightings in the Cheyenne vicinity.

At least 30 people submitted, or were included on, 74 checklists. I submitted a couple just for our bird feeders when we took a break at home.

It was one of the best Big Days in Cheyenne in a while: 136 species. And the warbler count was very good: 12 species.

Sunday, there were still a lot of migratory birds in town including 50 pine siskins under our thistle feeder for an hour.

But the show was over by Monday—both out in the field and at our now deserted feeder.

This year, migration seems to have peaked on the Saturday we picked, making it like Christmas in May.

(See the bird list above starting on page 5)

Barb Gorges invites readers to share their bird sightings and stories. Email bgorges4@msn.com, call 307-634-0463 or search <http://cheyennebirdbanter.wordpress.com>. She is the author of "Cheyenne Birds by the Month," available through outlets listed at www.YuccaRoadPress.com.



Early morning fog at Lions Park obscured the views of birds. Photo by Barb Gorges

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

