Our Mission: conserving birds and their habitats

Our Vision: healthy, native bird populations sustained in healthy, native ecosystems
One Acre, One Child, One Partnership at a Time

In 2013, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory celebrated its 25th anniversary. It was a big year. We realized a 500,000-acre milestone for conserved and enhanced wildlife habitat on private lands, offered eight weeks of camps and advanced bird population monitoring across the West, among other successes. At RMBO, we are accomplishing our mission of bird and habitat conservation one acre, one child and one partnership at a time. We envision a planet where everyone is contributing to a healthy world and together we are improving native bird populations, the land and the lives of people.

Thank you for investing in our mission. With your support, RMBO has increased its funding to tackle the greatest needs for our birds. You are helping us conserve dwindling grasslands at home and abroad, make critical discoveries for species of conservation concern, get citizens involved in science that leads to conservation, and provide life-changing experiences for children where they learn to love and appreciate birds, nature, other people and – most importantly – themselves.

In 2013, RMBO set an ambitious fundraising goal of $250,000 to complement our 25th anniversary. Thanks to you – and one amazing man, Jim Duggan, who committed his legacy to RMBO – we achieved this goal during our Quarter Century Campaign, which ended in February of 2014.

As you read this annual report, celebrate the tremendous strides we are making for bird conservation with us. The next 25 years offer many challenges, but our staff, board, volunteers and supporters are up to the task. Conservation is a way of life for us. Thank you for your continued support.

Tammy VerCauteren
Executive Director

Migrate with Us

What makes it so enjoyable to be a part of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory?

It feels wonderful when we do something meaningful now that has a big impact in the future. As RMBO progresses each year, we widen our scope and achieve greater accomplishments. Perhaps more importantly, we collaborate to get results. We and our partners work together with public and private landowners and managers. When we help a rancher make the land more productive and valuable, everybody feels good about it, and the birds benefit along with the rancher.

Your contributions have enabled us to help people conserve lands for birds far beyond what was imaginable at my first board meeting in 2007. Your support allows us to extend south to Mexico into our thrashers’ and sparrows’ wintering grounds and to work cooperatively with partners nationally and internationally. Habitat loss is the biggest factor impacting bird conservation. With your support, we will continue to enhance more acres. I’m even more excited about our plans for 2014.

After 25 years of progress, does the name “Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory” reflect what we do? When we talk to folks, many of them first think of an observatory being a place to look at something – like stars. While we do have lofty aims, we direct them more to the land and its creatures than to the heavens. To describe our work more completely, our name will be migrating and “observatory” will be history. Our mission, however, will remain the same.

Take flight with us; we look forward to migrating together with you.

Larry and Tammy celebrate RMBO’s 25th anniversary in March of 2013 at the Old Stone House.

Larry Modesitt
Chairman of the Board

In Memoriam: Jim Duggan

In November of 2013, RMBO and the local birding community lost an extraordinary friend, Jim Duggan. We will miss his smile, passion for birds, handyman skills and friendship. Jim bequeathed a major gift to RMBO in 2014, allowing us to establish an endowment. We are deeply grateful to Jim for his commitment to and belief in our efforts. We will miss Jim dearly, but his legacy will impact people’s lives – and the birds themselves – for generations to come. Thank you, Jim, from all of us.
Using Technology to Track Migration

Tanagers and Ospreys in the Rockies

In the summer of 2012, RMBO biologists deployed geolocators on 10 Western Tanagers in Rocky Mountain National Park to discover important stopover sites, migration routes and wintering grounds for this local population. To find this out, however, they needed to get the tiny devices back – not an easy task. In 2013, they headed back to the same sites in the park where they first captured the tanagers. With a little luck on their side, they spotted four of the tanagers and recaptured two birds with their geolocators. The data revealed the Western Tanagers stopped in west Texas and southeastern New Mexico for a month to molt, taking advantage of the monsoon season and burst in insects and vegetation it brought, before heading south to winter in southern Mexico and northern Guatemala. See map to right.

Expanding the program southward in 2013 resulted in species observed for the first time during IMBCR surveys, including Elegant Trogon, Five-striped Sparrow, Magnificent Hummingbird, Botteri’s Sparrow and Flame-colored Tanager (pictured above).

Monitoring Birds on the Breeding Grounds
IMBCR Program

Every year in late spring, biologists and technicians fan out across the western U.S. to survey birds on their breeding grounds under the Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) program. The program, coordinated by RMBO, is one of the largest of its kind in North America, stretching across 13 states from Arizona’s deserts to Montana’s mountain peaks. In 2013, RMBO and its partners at the Avian Science Center, Intermountain Bird Observatory and Wyoming Natural Diversity Database conducted 1,370 IMBCR surveys, detecting 184,246 individual birds of 338 species. Data gathered through the program help scientists identify trends in bird populations and inform land managers about birds.

To enhance bird populations, conservation actions must be applied when and where birds need them most. Many species, however, don’t stay put. Birds migrate, usually thousands of miles a year, so Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory scientists migrate with them. RMBO scientists work on the breeding grounds in the warmer months and wintering grounds in the cooler ones and use cutting-edge technology to identify migration routes and stopover sites. Through scientific monitoring and research, RMBO is informing conservation and advancing knowledge across the annual life cycle of birds.

Also in 2013, RMBO and the National Park Service outfitted two Ospreys near Rocky Mountain National Park with satellite tracking units. The park is interested in learning where its breeding birds migrate and winter to inform conservation and education. Above, Mike Britten with the National Park Service releases Rainbow; the other bird is named Shadow. Track their migration at www.RMBO.org.
Looking Ahead

→ In 2014, RMBO will develop and test a study design for monitoring the Mexican Spotted Owl on national forests in Arizona and New Mexico. The long-term plan is to develop methodology that will be used to monitor the population status of this federally threatened species.

→ RMBO recently completed a year of collecting bird and vegetation data in the pine-oak and cloud forests of western Mexico. The data will be used to help Mexico’s National Forest Commission, CONAFOR, better integrate birds into forest management and guide its innovative payment for ecosystem services program on private lands.

→ RMBO’s Jason Beason, Kim Potter with the U.S. Forest Service, biologist Carolyn Gunn and partners will continue research on Black Swifts in 2014, including deploying more geolocators on swifts outside Colorado, recovering swifts outfitted with geolocators in northern Idaho last summer and furthering a diet study and DNA analysis project.

Mapping the Connection of Birds Across Borders
Western Tanager Migration Route

The map below shows the migration path, stopover sites and winter range of two Western Tanagers created from geolocator data. RMBO biologists outfitted the tanagers with geolocators in the summer of 2012 and recaptured the birds with their geolocators in the summer of 2013. See story to left.

Studying Survival on the Wintering Grounds
Sparrows in Northern Mexico

In March of 2013, RMBO completed its first season studying winter survival and habitat use of Baird’s and Grasshopper Sparrows in the grasslands of Chihuahua, Mexico. Both of these species have experienced serious declines over the past five decades and are sensitive to habitat degradation. RMBO is filling in knowledge gaps about these sparrows on their wintering grounds to aid in the annual life cycle conservation of grassland birds. A total of 103 sparrows were captured and radio-tagged during the four-month study. Only 19 of those birds survived during a winter marked by little food, low cover and harsh conditions; eight additional sparrows likely survived but could not be confirmed. This study continues in 2014, with expansion to Durango, Mexico.

Only 19 of 103 sparrows survived the winter. This Grasshopper Sparrow was one of the survivors, making it through the entire study season. Its transmitter was attached in November, replaced twice and finally removed in March.
Connecting with Nature: Homeschool Programs

RMBO’s homeschool programs take students and their families through the conservation continuum, from observing and studying birds and nature to taking action through service learning. In 2013, along with lessons on migration, nests, prairies, raptors and more, students helped restore the prairie around RMBO’s Environmental Learning Center by removing invasive, non-native plants. Educator Emily Snode said the enthusiasm for homeschool programs was “amazing” last year. All programs were full.

Inspiring Youth: Summer Camps

In 2013, RMBO launched Taking Flight, a weeklong overnight camp for 12- to 14-year-olds in the Rockies. Campers enjoyed hiking, canoeing, rock climbing, making new friends and learning about the major life zones and ecosystems of the Colorado mountains. Every morning, they started the day birding in each ecosystem and even enjoyed a night up late to search for owls. On the final evening, one camper said, “I gained an appreciation for all the little things in nature and their giant impact on the world around us.”

Taking Flight kicked off the 2013 camp season. In total, RMBO’s summer camps gave 90 children the chance to gain a deeper appreciation for Colorado’s unique wildlife and habitats.

Engaging New Audiences: Outreach in Mexico

RMBO welcomed members of the local Mennonite community in Chihuahua, Mexico, into the field in 2013 to learn about the birds in their backyard. With a large presence in the area, this community was an important one to engage, so the day in the field was very exciting. They visited with RMBO biologists and helped release birds back into the wild after chatting with a reporter from “High Country News,” who wrote about the experience in the Sept. 2 issue of the news magazine (www.hcn.org/issues/45.15).

“We’re applying our model of using the power of birds to raise awareness for conservation and inspire environmental stewardship in Mexico,” said Arvind Panjabi, RMBO’s International Director.

Empowering People to Be Part of the Solution

Last year, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory connected with 26,603 people through education and outreach. One of those people was Francis Commercon. A high school senior, Francis has volunteered at RMBO’s bird banding stations since he was a grade-schooler. He also participates in HawkWatch. With college on the horizon, Francis plans to pursue a career in biology thanks, in part, to these experiences with RMBO that have spurred his passion for nature and science. Francis is one of the many people RMBO is empowering to be part of the solution for conservation.

A farmer releases a Grasshopper Sparrow with the help of biologist Erin Strasser at a research site in Chihuahua, Mexico.

Taking Flight campers and staff pose before a wall of snow off Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park.

A student digs up an invasive weed from the prairie around RMBO’s Environmental Learning Center. RMBO’s homescool programs engage the entire family while addressing important education standards and incorporating service learning.
Banding Birds

RMBO and its partners operated two banding stations in the spring in Colorado and seven in the fall in Colorado and Nebraska in 2013. In addition, RMBO operated banding stations for Northern Saw-whet Owls in Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. The stations served as outdoor classrooms for studying bird migration and anatomy and enhancing the public’s appreciation of birds.

The highlights to the right show what RMBO is learning about migration routes and how birds connect us. Last year was an unusual one along the Front Range of Colorado with flooding, and our banding stations captured the waters’ impact on migrating birds.

2013 Highlights

In the spring, a Broad-tailed Hummingbird first banded in the fall of 2010 near Fort Davis, Texas, was recovered at the Chatfield State Park station in Colorado. Also in the spring, a Yellow-rumped Warbler first banded in the fall of 2012 in Mackenzie, British Columbia, was recovered at the Chico Basin Ranch station in Colorado.

Eleven Northern Saw-whet Owls were recovered at stations in the Dakotas in the fall. One of the owls had first been banded in 2010 about 1,300 miles east on the shores of Lake Ontario.

In the fall, records were set for number of birds banded with 1,696 individual birds at Chico Basin Ranch in Colorado and 433 individual birds at Chadron State Park in Nebraska. In addition, the first Dusky Flycatcher ever banded in Nebraska was caught at Chadron State Park in the fall.

New Fort Collins Station

RMBO partnered with the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery to bring a bird banding station to Fort Collins, Colorado, in the fall. Despite flooding in the area delaying its opening, the station operated for several weeks a grouse’s flight from the RMBO office. Students and visitors stopped by the station, located on the west side of the museum, to see wild birds in the hand and learn about migration. The station is scheduled to be open again in the spring and fall of 2014.

Looking Ahead

→ RMBO will continue to offer a therapeutic program at assisted living facilities in the Denver area in 2014. Called Bird Tales, the program brings the healing qualities of nature to people with dementia by encouraging them to connect with birds through sight, sound and touch.

→ Next year, RMBO and its partners will offer gardening workshops for educators and backyard gardeners in Nebraska. Topics include pollinators and native plants.

→ RMBO is developing a technology-focused curriculum to teach students not only about birds, but the technology used to track and map bird migration.

“Thank you for what you do for the birds, for us humans who love to watch and listen to them, and especially for the way you are investing in the future through educating children.”

Grandparent of Christmas Bird Count for Kids participant
Some of the best habitat for birds lies on private lands. That’s why, back in 1996, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory initiated its private lands program, forging relationships with landowners and creating simple, common sense tools to foster stewardship on working lands. Today, it continues this program in the U.S. and has exported its successful model to Chihuahua, Mexico, where ranchlands and associated grassland habitat are disappearing at an alarming rate. From Gillette, Wyoming, to Chihuahua, Mexico, RMBO is starting the conversation for conservation with private landowners.

**Working at a Local Level**
RMBO collaborates with partners in the U.S. and abroad to place private lands wildlife biologists (PLWB) in communities across the Rockies, Great Plains and northern Mexico. These individuals work with landowners, land managers and resource professionals to build trust and foster proactive, voluntary conservation efforts that benefit people, birds, other wildlife and the land. In 2013, RMBO added a second PLWB in Chihuahua City, Mexico, to increase capacity in an area of need for wintering grassland birds.

**Falcon Conservation**
Last year, one of the few remaining Aplomado Falcons nesting in the Valles Centrales region of Mexico drowned in a water storage tank. To prevent this tragedy from repeating itself, and to protect other birds and wildlife from the same fate, RMBO worked with ranchers to place wildlife escape ladders in uncovered tanks around known Aplomado Falcon nesting and foraging areas. Also, RMBO biologists installed nest platforms for falcons on ranches to offset the decline of soaptree yuccas, this species’ preferred nesting habitat.

**Loss of a Leader**
In 2013, RMBO and the conservation community of southeastern Colorado lost a dear friend and partner. Rod Johnson worked with RMBO, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and others in his community of Eads to rehabilitate Kiowa Creek Natural Area, a haven for birds, other wildlife and people. Rod embodied the spirit of stewardship toward the land and community that drives RMBO’s own programs.

**2013 by the Numbers**
1,381 people reached through landowner visits, presentations, workshops, public events and restoration projects in Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming and Chihuahua, Mexico
294 visits with landowners
111,033 acres of prairie, shrublands and wetlands enhanced in Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming
160,000 acres of grasslands enhanced in Chihuahua, Mexico
$547,916 in Farm Bill funds and $336,896 in non-Farm Bill funds put toward improving wildlife habitat on private lands in the U.S.
Aerial Surveys
In June, RMBO took to the skies over Weld County, Colorado, in search of degraded playa lakes. Playas have a noticeable footprint from the air, so aerial surveys are an efficient way to scout for playas in need of restoration. Eleven playas were identified for potential projects on private lands, with playa restoration benefitting ranchers and birds. The flight was donated by LightHawk. Also in 2013, LightHawk donated flights to RMBO to survey nesting activity of Ferruginous Hawks and Golden Eagles in Nebraska and possible Black Swift nesting sites in southeast Wyoming.

State of the Birds
Published in July, the “State of the Birds 2013” report drew attention to the important role of America’s farmers, ranchers and foresters as stewards of bird habitat. As a leader in private lands conservation, RMBO served as a key partner in writing and editing this landmark document. The report celebrates the many contributions landowners make to conservation, including the farmers who participate in RMBO’s cooperative Mountain Plover nest-marking program.

Looking Ahead
→ In the spring of 2014, RMBO will study the cost-effectiveness and durability of different types of markers for preventing collisions of Greater Sage-Grouse with fences. Markers help sage-grouse and other birds see and avoid fences, reducing deaths for species of conservation concern.

Aerial Surveys

Biologist Noe Marymor and LightHawk pilot Stephanie Wells pose before their flight.

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Landowner Profile

Visintainer Sheep Co.

“When songbirds flourish, everything else flourishes.” That’s the declaration of intent for Visintainer Sheep Co., a sheep and cattle ranch in northwest Colorado. Over the years, the ranch has shifted from production-based to forage-based management to support the economic viability of the ranch, as well as the long-term health of the range and the birds and other wildlife that depend on it.

The Visintainers have worked with RMBO and partners on projects to enhance the land, including reseeding lost sage-grouse habitat and rangelands after a fire in 2010. An exemplar of private lands conservation, the ranch was the recipient of the 2013 Leopold Conservation Award.

Biologist Noe Marymor and LightHawk pilot Stephanie Wells pose before their flight.

Dean Visintainer and biologist Brandon Miller talk on the Visintainers’ ranch.

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Looking Ahead

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→ RMBO will host training workshops in Colorado, Montana and Wyoming with landowners and resource professionals to support the conservation of sagebrush birds and habitat.

→ In 2014, RMBO will continue to expand its private lands work in Mexico. It has already added a third position in Chihuahua City in 2014 and will add a fourth position in Janos with the support of partners.
Monitoring Eastern Screech-Owls

In March of 2013, RMBO launched a citizen science project to study the population dynamics and habitat needs of the common but little-understood Eastern Screech-Owl. Volunteers collected data at random sites along the Cache la Poudre River in Fort Collins, Colorado, detecting 19 Eastern Screech-Owls at nine sites during the three-month study. Using the data, 41 breeding pairs were estimated across all 69 possible sites along the river. Projects like this not only fulfill research objectives, but get citizens involved in science linked to conservation. In addition to the owl project, RMBO coordinated Bald Eagle Watch, ColonyWatch and HawkWatch in 2013, along with the 15th annual Barrow’s Goldeneye count in Colorado. Visit www.RMBO.org to learn how to become a citizen scientist.

Protector Mountain Plovers

Mountain Plovers breed on flat, bare ground on the shortgrass prairie. Agricultural fields suit them just fine, as long as nests are not accidentally tilled. To help farmers avoid unwittingly plowing over plover nests, RMBO operates a nest-marking program in western Nebraska. In 2013, 79 landowners representing 212,000 acres took part in the program. With their help, 65 nests were located and marked, 72% of those nests produced young for a total of 115 Mountain Plover chicks hatched. Also in 2013, RMBO partnered with the University of Colorado Denver to study the plovers’ habitat use. Sixteen plovers were radio-tagged and followed to discover where Mountain Plovers go to forage during their nesting cycle. Information from this study will help guide management and conservation efforts.

DMNS Speaker Series

In 2013, RMBO and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS) collaborated to bring avian experts to the museum to share amazing photos, stories and research on grouse, crows and the origin of birds. More than 750 people attended the series to learn the latest in bird science and conservation.

Wildlife photographer Noppadol Paonthong conducts a photo workshop during last year’s BBQ for the Birds, RMBO’s annual picnic, after speaking about grouse conservation at DMNS a few days earlier as part of the speaker series.

2013 Volunteers

Thank you to these citizen scientists, naturalists, bird banders, board members and other volunteers who donated their time and talents to help RMBO conserve birds and their habitats.

Tom Abbott
Peter Ampe
Arden Anderson
Mark Anderson
Julia Auckland
Stacy Baker
Dale Ball
James Ball
Misi Ballard
Karen Balog
Jim Banks
Ben Baumgartner
Shelley Bayard de Volo
Bill Bell
Elizabeth Berkley
Kathi Bledsoe
Valerie Bliss
Steve Bloom
Mitchell Blystone
Georgie Bohlender
Jennifer Bohn
Ann Bond
David Boyd

Data gathered through the owl project will inform conservation efforts along the Poudre River in 2014 to benefit Eastern Screech-Owls (pictured above), other wildlife and people.

A Mountain Plover chick, no more than a week old, ventures from its nest in a crop field in Nebraska.
Volunteer Profile
Time for What He’s Always Wanted to Do

Dale Jones volunteers as a naturalist and citizen scientist. As a naturalist, Dale assists with education programs, having personally interacted with more than 4,000 kids and adults on behalf of RMBO. Dale retired in 2005 after a long career with the Army and Department of Defense, “and now that I’m retired, I’ve finally got time to do what I’ve always wanted to do,” he said. Along with sharing his knowledge of nature, Dale monitors the Bald Eagle nest at Barr Lake through Bald Eagle Watch. As a kid growing up in Cheyenne, Wyoming, he never saw a Bald Eagle in the wild. “Being able to see one in the wild on a regular basis is an overwhelming joy for me,” he said. In 2013, Dale received the Nelda Gamble Volunteer Award, given annually to the most outstanding volunteer at RMBO.
2013 Members and Donors

Thank you to the following people and organizations for supporting Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and its mission to conserve birds and their habitats. Basic one-year memberships are $35 for individuals and $60 for families. RMBO welcomes and appreciates contributions in any amount. Please visit www.RMBO.org or call 970-482-1707 ext. 30 for information.

Bonnie Adamson
American Birding Association
Mark Amershek
Catherine Anderson
Jane Anderson
Keith Anderson
Mario & Meredith Anderson
Linda Andes-Georges
Anonymous (21)
Sandra & Tore Arnesen
Margaret & Vincent Arp
Jane Axtell
Van & Sheila Baker
Boulder Bird Club
Fernando Boza
Mike & Mimi Brady
Denise Bretting
Stephen Broich
Kerry Brookman
Philippe & Alice Bucher
Karel Buckley
Mary Cay Burger
Wilford Burt
Jonathan Byrne
Cynthia Cahn
Lynne & Gary Caletti
Robert Camp
Art Campfield
Minerva Canavan
Kathleen & David Carr
Maggie Carter
Mike Carter
Cecil Electronic Systems: Chris Cecil
Bobbi Cipriano & Lu Callahan
Patricia & Boyd Clark
Carol Cochran
Victoria Collier
Jennifer Collins
Colorado Field Ornithologists
James Commers
Terry Cookro
Haultain Corbett
Carole Cotham-Machala
Edward Crane
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Doris Cruze
Barbara Cummings
Jerry Davidson
Jane Davis
Paul & Marilyn Davis
Madeline Day
Denver Field Ornithologists
Coen Dexter & Brenda Wright
Eileen & Brian Dey
Martha & Donald Dick
David & Elizabeth Dillman
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Sharon Dooley
Christy Dowling
Georgia Doyle
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Terrence Dunn
Chris Eberly
Debra Eberts
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John Falker
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Fiesta Time Inc.
Warren Finch
Paula Fischer & Billy Helmich
David & Margaret Fletcher
Kate Frost
Ed Furlong
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Gallagher Jills Family
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Peter Gent
Luke George & Carol Ann Moorhead
Galen Gibson
Jane Goff
Lesley Golub
Peggy Gonder
Gregg Godrich
Jeff & Liz Gordon
Gary Grabowski
Sara Gremel
Grady Grissom & Family
Mike & Ann Groshek
Mace Hack
JoAnn Hackos
Deborah Hahn
Joanne Hailer
Joanne Harrit
Susan Harris
Carrie Harrod
Reid Hayhow
Alison Hazel
Norma Heinz
Pat Heller
Mike Henwood
Steve Herbener
Mindie Hetrick
Robert Hill
Ann & Wilmer Hines
Doug & Jan Hodous
Barbara Holme
Mevin & Gina Hooten
Barbara Hughes
Chuck Hundertmark & Marjorie Jannotta
Diane Hutton
Inglenook at Brighton
Sally Isaacson
Anne & Clifford James
Tom Johnson
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Dale Jones
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Joseph Prentice
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Buzz Schaumberg
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Karleen Schofield
Julie & John Schroeder
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Carol Seemueler
Keith & Barbara Shader
Elizabeth Jean & David Sharer
Alice Sharp
Betsy Shaw
Janet & Jerry Shin
Arthur Smith
Jean Smith
Emily Snode & Adam Brenneman
Steven Snyder
Rita Sommers
Frances Sperl
Howard & Anne Sperry
Jeff Stephenson
Leslie Stewart-Phelps
Robert & Nancy Stocker
Carl & Cherry Stogsdill
Tifani Stout
Thomas Streiffert
Jeff Stroup
Terry Stuart
Margaret Stuvel
Kathleen Sullivan
Mark Sutherland
Dean Swift
Martha-Ann Sylvester
Joyce Takamine
D. Jean Tate

11 | Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
Matthew Fraker and Sherri Thornton are new Friends of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. They live in Illinois and joined RMBO to support Black Swift research. Matthew’s dedication, however, went beyond just philanthropy in 2013. He joined expeditions in an attempt to discover the first Black Swift nesting site in Wyoming, trudging up canyons in the Wind River and Teton ranges to inspect behind waterfalls for nests. No nests were found during the 2013 surveys, but that won’t deter him from continuing to search for this “mystical bird” in Wyoming and supporting RMBO. Matthew said we, as humans, have a responsibility to keep ecosystems as healthy as possible and conserve the birds that serve as important indicators of ecological health. There’s also so much left to learn about Black Swifts, he said. “That bird is so remarkable. Just like Rich Levad noted in his book, it really is ‘the coolest bird.’”

Please consider Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory in your estate planning. For assistance, contact Executive Director Tammy VerCauteren at 970-482-1707 ext. 16 for you to make a lasting contribution to bird and habitat conservation.
This summary financial information has not been audited. Please visit www.RMBO.org after May 31, 2014, for the audited financial statements including all note disclosures.

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.
Karval Community Alliance
Kimball Banner County Chamber of Commerce
Kimball County Conservation Collaborative
Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation
Klamath Bird Observatory
La Plata Conservation District
La Plata County Open Space
Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas
Larimer County Natural Resources
Legacy Land Trust
LightHawk
Medora Foundation
Missouri Dept. of Conservation
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Montezuma Land Conservancy
Mountain Studies Institute
Mule Deer Foundation
National Association for Interpretation
National Audubon Society
National Ecological Observatory Network
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Forest Foundation
National Park Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Nebraska Bird Partnership
Nebraska Educational Service Unit 13
Nebraska Environmental Trust
Nebraska Forest Service
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
New Belgium Brewing Co.
Nikon, Inc.
North American Bird Conservation Initiative
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
North Platte Natural Resources District
Northern Great Plains Joint Venture
Odell Brewing Co.
Palmer Land Trust
Noppadol Paonthong
Partners for Conservation
Partners In Flight
Pheasants Forever
Playa Lakes Joint Venture
Point Blue Conservation Science
Prairies and Wetlands Focus Area
Profuna Chihuahua
Prontura Noreste
Prontura Sur
Prowers Conservation District
Rainwater Basin Joint Venture
Ranchlands Learning and Science Center
REI
Ridgway State Park
Rio Grande Joint Venture
Riverside Zoo
Rocky Mountain Conservancy
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
San Juan Conservation District
San Juan County Foundation
Sandhills Task Force
Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District
Bill Schmoker
Scientific and Cultural Collaborative
Sky Islands Bird Observatory
Sonoran Joint Venture
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department
South Platte Natural Resources District
South Pueblo County Conservation District
Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative
Southwest Conservation Corps
Stewart Architecture
Glen Tepke
Texas Parks & Wildlife
The Nature Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy - Mexico
The Tamarisk Coalition
The Wildlife Experience
Three Rivers Alliance
Tierra de Aves, A.C.
Toyota TogetherGreen
Trout Unlimited
Turkey Creek Conservation District
Tutuaca Mountain School
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Western SARE
U.S. Dept. of Defense: Camp Guernsey
U.S. Dept. of Defense: Partners in Flight
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: National Fish Passage Program
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: National Wildlife Refuge Program
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Region 6
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Forest Service International Programs
United Power
Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León
Universidad de Guadalajara
Universidad Estatal de Sonora
Universidad Juárez del Estado de Durango
University of Colorado Denver
University of Montana
USDA Agricultural Research Service
USDA NRCS Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative
USDA NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative
USGS Bird Banding Laboratory
Utah Dept. of Natural Resources
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Warren Resources, Inc.
Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Western Native Trout Initiative
Wild Birds Unlimited
Wild Wings Environmental Education
Wildcat Hills Audubon Society
Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area
Wildlands Restoration Volunteers
Wolverine Farm Publishing Co.
Wyoming Association of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Partnership
Wyoming Bird Habitat Conservation Partnership
Wyoming Game & Fish Department
Wyoming Natural Diversity Database
Xerces Society
Yuma County Pest Control District
Zen-Ray Optics

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