

# THE PRIMARY SOURCE

Bird  
Conservancy  
of the Rockies

NEWSLETTER FOR BIRD CONSERVANCY OF THE ROCKIES | FALL/WINTER 2015 | NUMBER 48



## Behind the Headlines

Keeping a species “off the list”

By Gillian Bee, Stewardship Director

Four years ago, I gathered with a group of strangers, all brought together to help save a species—the Greater Sage-Grouse—on the brink of being federally listed by the U.S. government. Among them was Seth Gallagher, Bird Conservancy’s former Stewardship Director, and his field team. We would have to be strategic, work collaboratively and use best-known science. If successful, our efforts would go down in history.

Across the birds range, federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic, agriculture and industry stakeholders were coming together to build an innovative, proactive approach to conservation that largely started with conversations with private landowners. The premise was simple: what’s good for sage grouse is good for the ranching industry; and success depends on landowner engagement. A win-win solution for wildlife and ranching was ready for testing in the real world.

See **SAGE GROUSE** on page 5



A male Greater Sage-Grouse struts his stuff.  
Photo by Noppadol Paothong

## Learning Takes Flight

Summer Camps spark Conversations and Inspire Leadership

By Clayton Norman, Summer Education Assistant

Working with Bird Conservancy’s nature camps this summer, I witnessed the powerful link between children and nature. Whether it was in a National Park or a pile of dirt in a backyard, children were experiencing nature in a ways beyond definition, engaging their whole selves, enabling transformation, building confidence and changing their lives. Their contagious energy and enthusiasm ripples out to capture the imagination of others.

These concepts really came to life during an “On the Wing” overnight camp for 15 to 17 year olds. Participants did field investigations, conducted scientific research, and present their findings. I worked with two campers comparing the nesting behavior of Mountain Bluebirds to Chipping Sparrows. On the second day of the study, the Chipping Sparrows had abandoned their nest. While I personally felt discouraged and assumed the study ended, the campers responded to the missing birds with excitement and curiosity.

Rather than give up, they insisted on tracking down the missing sparrows and solving the mystery of why they left. We began our search, which quickly felt to me like part of a bigger story.

Their undaunted enthusiasm had turned a problem into a full-on quest. After a day of sneaking around, listening for calls, and piecing together clues, we found the Chipping Sparrows and a newly-fledged juvenile in a nearby juniper bush.



“On the Wing” Camper **May McCoy** (left) and the author share a moment of inspiration in Rocky Mountain National Park. Photo by Tyler Edmondson

All the elements of a good story came together in this process: we felt suspense, encountered a problem, answered questions, and left with greater understanding and empathy for Chipping Sparrows and the lives of birds. Afterwards, we talked about how the world seemed richer, more alive with stories, and a bigger place for us to explore. The campers discovered connections with birds that none of us could have imagined.

On their last day of camp, the group delivered a presentation to family members,

See **INSPIRED** on page 2

## THE PRIMARY SOURCE

The Primary Source is the member newsletter of Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

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The Primary Source refers to a bird's primary feathers which power their flight. Our members, Friends, volunteers and partners are the primary source of Bird Conservancy's power to accomplish its mission to conserve birds and their habitats.

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## From the Director: Celebration and Reflection

As the winds are blowing and snow blankets the landscape, I'm glad to be in my office reflecting on the last year. Meanwhile, Erin Strasser with our International Team is prepping for another field season tracking grassland birds on their wintering grounds in Mexico. This work is critical to understanding the annual life cycle conservation equation. The collaborative relationships and partnerships we're building across borders make it all possible.

It's always rewarding to read updates from our Education Team about the life-changing experiences we provide. "On The Wing" returned this summer to serve a critical need for teenagers interested in science. It's exciting to see and hear the transformations that happen. Kids get to be kids while also realizing their full potential. A mom of one of our campers said it best, "My daughter left for camp a caterpillar and returned a butterfly."

Our Stewardship Team is on the front lines working in sagebrush, grassland and wetland habitats making connections with landowners that have lasting effects. The recent decision not to list the Greater Sage-Grouse highlights the importance of the conversation being about what private landowners can do for conservation. The Stewardship program expands next year to

South Dakota and Montana, with biologists working in critical breeding areas for grassland birds including Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrow, McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs. These birds are experiencing drastic population declines, so the need is urgent and closely linked to our Science and International programs. Through this integrated approach, we can develop strategies to ensure the most return on the conservation dollar.

If you're willing to brave the cold, winter birding can be spectacular. Our events calendar includes Christmas Bird Counts for adults and youth, as well as trainings for Hawk and Bald Eagle Watch. I hope you have many opportunities to get outdoors, share your passion for birds and help others understand more about the landscapes we share.

Conservation is a marathon, not a sprint. Thank you for staying with us as we launched into Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. Whether you've been with us for decades or just getting to know us, we are excited about your interest. I appreciate your support and hope you will consider an investment as we bring the year to a close. 2016 marks my 17th anniversary with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. It is an honor to wake up every day and work with such a passionate group of board and staff dedicated to improving bird populations, the land and lives of people. ■

- Tammy VerCauteren  
Executive Director

### INSPIRED *continued from cover*

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

- William Butler Yeats

friends, outdoor educators, and biologists. Scientific and personal experiences were shared. They fielded questions from the audience, from younger siblings to scientists, age 3 to 73. These youth were given an opportunity to be leaders by sharing their voice and inspiring others.

Bird Conservancy's summer nature camps provide the spark that ignites a fire and creates opportunities for everyone to gather around its glow. By inviting youth into the conversation, we share the wonder and love that they have for nature, play, and learning. Let us hope that passion spreads through their communities, bringing the world together around conservation. ■

**THANK YOU** *to all of the generous donors who provide scholarship funds that make these life changing programs possible!*



# 2016 Calendar of Events



## Volunteer Trainings



Are you passionate about connecting others with nature and science? Volunteer with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and be a part of the solution for conservation!

For additional information:  
Peggy Watson, Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator  
(peggy.watson@birdconservancy.org)

### Volunteer Open House

Saturday, February 13, from 10am -12pm  
Location: Barr Lake State Park Nature Center  
13401 Picadilly Rd, Brighton, CO 80603

### New Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, February 27, from 8am -12pm

### Event and General Volunteer Training

Saturday, February 27  
12:30- 4:30pm (following Orientation)

### Volunteer Naturalist Program Training

Tuesdays, March 8 and 15, 9am -12:30pm  
and Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17, 9am -4pm  
Location: The Old Stone House  
Environmental Learning Center  
14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO

## Citizen Science



Take birdwatching to the next level and help study Bald Eagles, hawks, colonial waterbirds, Eastern Screech-Owls, Barrow's Goldeneyes and other birds as a citizen scientist.

### Bald Eagle Watch Training

Saturday, January 16 from 9am - 12pm  
Location: The Old Stone House ELC  
14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO

### Hawk Watch Training

Tuesday, February 23 from 5:30 - 7pm  
Location: Discovery Center  
17681 W Alameda Pkwy, Golden, CO

Bald Eagle and Hawk Watch Information:  
Jeff Birek (jeff.birek@birdconservancy.org)

### Poudre River Screech Owl Monitoring

Friday, March 4  
Location: 230 Cherry Street, Fort Collins  
For more information:  
Rob Sparks (rob.sparks@birdconservancy.org)

## Educational Programs



Please note that pre-registration is **REQUIRED** for all Educational Programs.

For additional information, contact Nicole Passeri, Community Programs Coordinator  
(nicole.passeri@birdconservancy.org)

### Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Monday, January 18 from 9am-2pm  
Join local families and naturalists from Bird Conservancy of the Rockies for a Christmas Bird Count held especially for kids age 3-18.

Location: Barr Lake State Park (Location TBC)  
**RSVP by Friday, January 15** to Nicole Passeri  
(nicole.passeri@birdconservancy.org)  
(303)659-4348 ext.18

### I Love Summer Camp Registration Kickoff and Campfire

Friday, February 12th from 7- 9pm  
Bring the whole family out for a crisp evening gathering around the campfire. Includes **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS** for Bird Conservancy of the Rockies' Summer Nature Camps, songs, stories and of course, marshmallow roasting!

Cost: \$3 per person  
(Fee waived for Summer Camp registrants)

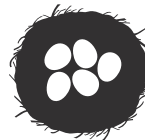
### Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

Saturday, February 13 from 9am-12pm  
Join Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and Barr Lake State Park for the 19th annual GBBC. Learn why citizen science is so important and discover the local birds toughing out the winter.

Location: Barr Lake State Park Nature Center  
13401 Picadilly Rd, Brighton, CO 80603

### "Wild Nestlings"

A special 2-hour program designed exclusively for toddlers (2-5 years old) and their parents. A story, exploration, snack, and craft are provided at every program!



1st Wednesdays through May, 9 -11:00 am  
Location: The Old Stone House ELC  
14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO  
**Registration required.** RSVP to Nicole Passeri  
nicole.passeri@birdconservancy.org

## Connect with Us

For the latest on our upcoming events, visit **www.birdconservancy.org**, sign up for our e-newsletter on our website or become a fan of Bird Conservancy of the Rockies on Facebook.



### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/birdconservancy](http://www.facebook.com/birdconservancy)

### Twitter

@BirdConservancy

### YouTube

Search: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies



## SAVE THE DATE!



### Winter Survival and Spring Break Snowshoeing Trip

Saturday, March 19th  
Location: TBD (in the mountains!)

Try something different for Spring Break! Say hello to spring with one last winter outing. On this family-oriented field trip, you'll learn the basics of snowshoeing and how birds and other animals survive harsh, cold conditions. Bird Conservancy of the Rockies' staff and Naturalists will share their knowledge and point out interesting things to see. Bring your binoculars and wear something warm!

**Pre-registration is REQUIRED.**

**RSVP by Tuesday, March 15** to Nicole Passeri  
nicole.passeri@birdconservancy.org  
(303)659-4348 ext.18

Cost: \$10 children / \$15 adults  
Includes instruction and snowshoes  
Cost is \$5/person if you bring your own snowshoes

Adults and children ages 7 and up. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult (parent, guardian, or friend's parent/guardian)

Limited to 24 total participants.

Price does not include transportation.

# Return to Mexico

## International efforts shed light on grassland bird declines

By Erin Strasser, Biologist (International Team)

This year marks Bird Conservancy of the Rockies' fourth field season researching survival and movement patterns of wintering Grasshopper and Baird's Sparrows in the Chihuahuan Desert grasslands of northern Mexico. These species, along with the majority of grassland birds, have declined by 70-95% since the 1960s, and the reasons why are poorly understood. Monitoring of these birds at their overwintering grounds provides important insights. Preliminary results suggest low survival rates that vary considerably by location and year.

Predation is a leading cause of direct mortality. With such low winter survival, fewer birds are migrating north to breed each spring, contributing to population declines. Our research focuses on survival rates at three distinct sites in the states of Chihuahua, Durango, and Coahuila, so we can better understand how factors such as habitat and climate are affecting grassland birds. This information is vital to informing grassland conservation efforts and management approaches so that birds remain a part of our grassland ecosystems. ■



## Bird-Friendly Living Winter Birdfeeding

By Scott Menough, Wild Birds Unlimited

Winter bird feeding is enjoyable and rewarding—we get to help our winged friends and view nature up close. The finches seem to be eating non-stop. The Red-shafted Flicker stops by for a snack, just ahead of a Blue Jay trying to grab the same sunflower seeds. Birds that spend most of their time in the foothills and mountains enter populated areas during late winter. You may be able to attract Pine Siskins, American Goldfinches, Downy Woodpeckers, nuthatches, Juncos and a variety of Chickadees to your yard.

Winter feeding helps birds at a time when the usual food sources are scarce. To attract certain species, pick your seeds carefully. Oil-type sunflower seed is preferred by finches, chickadees, grosbeaks and nuthatches. Millet is important for ground-feeding birds like doves, sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. Jays and woodpeckers like striped sunflower and peanuts in the shell. Goldfinches and Pine Siskins prefer Nyjer® seed, nicknamed thistle.

Using seed mixtures of sunflowers, safflower and millet are an excellent way to attract a good variety of birds with a small number of feeders. Avoid mixes containing 'filler' such as milo, wheat and oats since birds will generally knock those seeds to the ground. The high oil content of many seeds (less in millet than the others)

helps provide the extra energy that birds need to keep warm. Suet can be an important winter food source for insect eaters such as flickers, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, chickadees, Bushtits and nuthatches.

Water is also important for birds. When natural water sources are frozen, birds resort to eating snow. It takes energy to convert ice to water, lowering body temperature and even causing dehydration. Providing water often attracts birds that don't normally visit feeders. Birdbath heaters prevent water from freezing.



Red-shafted Flickers display flashes of bright colors under their wings when in flight, a beautiful contrast to the white winter landscape.

Photo by Tony Leukering.



## PLIGHT OF THE GRASSLAND BIRDS

A Windows to the Wild Special

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies' work in Mexico is featured in *Plight of the Grassland Birds*, a new documentary from New Hampshire Public Television.

Contact your PBS station(s) to inquire about broadcasts in your area. You can also watch the full documentary online at: <http://bit.ly/nhptbirds>

Locating feeders close to the house makes for easier viewing, but take care not to get too close to windows so that birds don't fly into them. When spring arrives, moving feeders a bit further out may attract more 'timid' birds to your yard. Try placing feeders near dense bushes to provide a safe hiding place and protection from hawks and falcons. To discourage cats, place chicken wire or pine cones on the ground under the feeder. Remember to keep your feeders filled evenings and mornings, when birds are very active. ■

Scott and his wife, Sandy, own the Wild Birds Unlimited store at 2720 S. Wadsworth in Denver, CO. Call them at (303) 987-1065 or visit <http://denver.wbu.com/>

Other WBU Front Range locations:  
Arvada: 7370 West 88th Ave.  
Fort Collins: 3636 S. College Ave.

Live along the Front Range?  
Tune in to Scott and David Menough for **BirdTalk Radio** at noon on Saturdays on 710 KNUJ.  
Older broadcasts are available at <http://birdtalk.podbean.com/>

# On the Trail: Black Swifts

## Is the 'Coolest Bird' in Trouble?

By Jason Beason, Special Monitoring Projects Coordinator



Through the collaborative efforts of Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, U.S. Forest Service and citizen scientists, we know much more today about Black Swifts than we did. For more than half a century, a migratory mystery had confounded the bird world: Where did Black Swifts go when they left their cliffside nests in Colorado? Geolocator tracking solved the riddle, revealing their wintering destination to be Brazil. The birds travel about 4,300 miles, flying around 244 miles a day getting there, and about 211 miles each day on the return. There is still much to learn, though, about this species.

Colorado is home to about half of all the known Black Swift breeding sites in the country. In 2015, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies conducted a small monitoring project in the state to determine if declines were occurring. The project was funded through Grand Valley Audubon Society and by a generous donation from long-time supporter Matt Fraker. We looked at sixteen historical breeding sites. All were still active except for two. The scale of the survey was too small to be conclusive; we hope to conduct a larger survey in 2016.

The need for more research and monitoring of the species throughout its range is clear. There's evidence and concern that population declines are occurring at the western edge of its range in California and Canada. Declines have been noted along the Santa Cruz coast since the late 1990s. The Colorado research

team traveled to a breeding site in the San Jacinto Mountains near Los Angeles in 2014 with the hopes of deploying geolocators and found no Black Swifts. This Colony once hosted seven breeding pairs in the mid-1980s. The only monitored breeding site in Canada at Banff National Park also no longer supports breeding swifts. This colony supported 12 breeding pairs in the 1980s. This and noted declines from data collected during Breeding Bird Survey routes caused the Canadian government to list the Black Swift as endangered in 2015.

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies is seeking support for ongoing Black Swift research and for expanding our monitoring efforts across other western states. We hope to continue to unravel the mysteries of the beautiful Black Swift to help ensure its long-term survival.



Support for this work comes from the Audubon Society of Greater Denver, Colorado Field Ornithologists and the U.S. Forest Service. Much of the funding comes from Bird Conservancy members and people like you who care about birds and habitat conservation. To make a donation in support of Black Swifts, visit: <http://www.birdconservancy.org/get-involved/chip-in/> and designate your gift to the Levad fund.

## 'Epic' Banding Season!

Over 1,400 birds were banded and 64 species recorded this season at Barr Lake's fall banding station. Wilson's Warbler, the most common species typically banded at Barr Lake, did not disappoint with 602 individuals. We also banded many species that are commonly seen in the area, but rarely caught in mist-nets—including five Red-shafted Northern Flickers caught in a single net run! The station was visited by nearly 1,400 students and over 400 adults.

Many thanks go out to our donors and financial supporters who make this program possible: Adams County Open Space, Science Cultural and Facilities District, Science and Cultural Collaborative and the Urban Bird Treaty. Thanks also to our dedicated volunteers and Barr Lake State Park for helping us offer such a terrific learning experience.



4th grade students helping release a Green-tailed Towhee at the Barr Lake Banding Station. Photo by Kacie Miller.

## SAGE GROUSE *continued from cover*

Fast-forward four years to September 22, 2015. "This is truly an historic event - one that represents extraordinary collaboration across the American West," said Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, speaking about the Greater Sage-Grouse "not-warranted" listing decision by the USFWS. Those conversations, started four years earlier, had resulted in the largest land conservation effort in the history of the United States. Thousands of private landowners and managers came forward to implement conservation practices.

One land manager frequently mentioned by Secretary Jewell is Ray Owens of Craig, Colorado. Owens worked with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and Partners for Fish & Wildlife and as Secretary Jewell stated, "is a model of the 21st century western rancher with his outstanding stewardship of this working landscape. He represents the spirit of partnership that can be replicated across the West as we develop landscape-level strategies to lessen the threats to the sage grouse and conserve its habitat."

The decision not to list the Greater Sage-Grouse is a win for wildlife and people. It means the species hasn't reached a critical point

requiring further regulation. For species that are listed, the future is hard to predict and a listing doesn't guarantee their future. Landowners and producers can operate with fewer regulations, pursuing their traditional way of life using approaches that are beneficial to the land, their livelihood and also wildlife.

Sustainable working lands equate to economic and environmental prosperity for the flora and fauna of our American West, and form the foundation of Bird Conservancy's Stewardship programs. We look forward to continuing the conversations, about Sage Grouse and many other species. ■

# Staff & Board Migrations



## Erin Divine Coordinating Wildlife Biologist (Shortgrass Prairie Ecoregion)

Erin grew up in SE Nebraska roaming around the farm land of her parents' home and nearby Wildlife Management and State Recreation Areas. She attended Nebraska Wesleyan University and earned a B.S. in Biology before completing a graduate certificate in GIS from University of Denver, University College. She has worked for the Arizona Forest Service, Oregon State University and Boise State University's Raptor Research Center conducting surveys for Mexican and Northern Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, and other raptors. Erin is stationed in Chadron, Nebraska.



## Mindi Walker, Grant Accountant

Originally from South Korea, Mindi was adopted at the age of 1 and raised in South Texas where she earned her bachelor's and master's in business administration from the University of Houston-Victoria. Mindi and her husband moved to Fort Collins in October 2015, where she joined Bird Conservancy. In her spare time, you can often find her throwing a round at the disc golf fields or exploring all of the beautiful scenery that Colorado offers!



## Marcella Fremgen, Range Ecologist, Stewardship

Marcella grew up in Golden, Colorado and did her undergraduate at Western State College in Gunnison in 2011. She worked for Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service in Gunnison, as well as Oregon State University on a variety of projects. Marcella then studied sage-grouse diet and habitat use at Boise State University for her Master's. She enjoys skiing, backpacking, fishing and living in the west! Marcella is based out of the Montrose, CO NRCS office.



## Becky Jones Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, Stewardship

Becky received her bachelors in wildlife biology from Colorado State University. After graduating, she worked 12 years for the U.S. Forest Service in Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests doing habitat work for a variety of species, from elk to boreal toads. Simultaneously, she worked with Colorado Parks and Wildlife for 10 years assisting with Greater Sage-Grouse monitoring. Becky works from the Steamboat Springs NRCS field office assisting private landowners and land managers seeking to incorporate conservation into their management operations.

## Donn Slusher, Rangeland Ecologist, Stewardship

Donn is a Colorado native. He served as a seasonal for the U.S. Forest Service in Montana for 15 years improving forest health, conducting sampling and habitat evaluation, and analyzing fire fuels. He's worked in very remote and wild places in Montana, southern British Columbia, Idaho and the deserts of Utah. Donn recently graduated from Colorado State University with a bachelor's degree in rangeland ecology and restoration. He works from the NRCS office in Kremmling, Colorado, helping landowners as part of the Sage Grouse Initiative.



## Sonja Macys, Development Director

See **IN DEVELOPMENT** on the next page

## Welcome to our new Board Members!



**Eric Lane** moved to Colorado in 1992 to accept a full-time position at the Colorado Bird Observatory, pursuing a career as an ornithologist. He later earned an M.S. in Natural Resource Policy from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and returned to Colorado to join the CO Dept. of Agriculture as the state's first weed coordinator. He is Director of Conservation Services at CDA dealing with invasive species management and is also involved in biological control, groundwater protection, agricultural energy, climate change, and working with Colorado's 74 conservation districts.



**Yvette Martinez** is a "Brightonian" with strong community connections. She serves on the boards of Brighton Legacy Foundation; heART of Brighton; and Foundations Academy. She served as Community Concierge for the Brighton Chamber of Commerce from 2013-2015 and was honored to be Brighton Chamber of Commerce's 2013 Citizen of the Year. She is Customer Service Representative for Platte River Medical Clinic & Advanced Urgent Care of Colorado. Yvette is a graduate of the University of Northern Colorado, and she has worked in undergraduate admissions with numerous Colorado universities and community colleges. Yvette says she feels privileged to serve on the Board for the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. She was introduced to us by her two children, who participated in our Summer Programs for the past two consecutive years. They had a wonderful experience, encouraging the entire family to learn more about birds, nature and conservation.



# In Development

## Broadening the Circle

By Sonja Macys, Development Director

It is an honor to serve as Bird Conservancy of the Rockies' first Development Director, just three years shy of our 30th anniversary. What an exciting time to join an organization playing such a distinctive leadership role in bird conservation, science and education.

Leadership is about credibility. And Bird Conservancy has earned that credibility. Having delivered on many successful cooperative agreements and government contracts, our reputation has grown quickly and we have built strong working relationships with many partners.

One of these partners is the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC), an entity that provides guidance to corporations wishing to implement wildlife habitat projects and environmental education on their corporate sites. Our science team led the way in helping them develop grasslands certification standards to certify habitat with the needed characteristics of a healthy grassland system. Dr. Duane Pool and I joined their conference this fall and were the only bird conservation organization presenting to member corporations on how to manage corporate lands for the benefit of birds and use birds as the focal point for STEM (science,

technology, engineering and math) education. Bird Conservancy's work was a natural fit, and our presence confirmed our unique status among conservation organizations.

Our success is actually one of the reasons we've never had a Development Director. Government grants and contracts have sustained us to the tune of 90% of our budget. Many people, like you, support us with membership dues, generous donations, in-kind contributions, and volunteerism. Yet many more don't even know we exist. We need to broaden the circle. We are grateful to Ed and Jackie Warner whose financial support makes the Development Director position possible.

A diverse financial portfolio and support base is vital to the future of our organization. I'll be reaching out to our members at all levels to learn about why you continue to support us, and even why you don't. Don't be afraid to take my call. As one of our Board Members so aptly put it, we view our supporters as people, not purses. Thanks for welcoming me to the flock. ■

### Sonja Macys, Development Director

Sonja's passion for birds and conservation began on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula where she landed a position with the Mexican national non-profit organization, Pronatura, right after college. Her work focused on migratory birds, marine turtles, land conservation and economic development in the Peninsula's coastal and inland Biosphere Reserves. While there, she 'commuted' between Yucatan and Fort Collins, completing her Master's Degree at Colorado State University. Sonja has served as Executive Director for the Tucson Audubon Society and Yampatika. She now brings her passion for birds to Bird Conservancy. She is a self-proclaimed 'organizational development nerd' who loves helping non-profits be their most effective and sustainable selves. She is a self-proclaimed 'organizational development nerd' who loves helping non-profits be their most effective and sustainable selves.



## Connecting People, Birds and Land

### OUR MISSION

Conserving birds and their habitats through science, education and land stewardship

### OUR APPROACH

Our mission is advanced through sound science, achieved through empowering people, realized through stewardship and sustained through partnerships.

Our work radiates from the Rockies to the Great Plains, Mexico and beyond.

*Together, we are improving native bird populations, the land and the lives of people.*

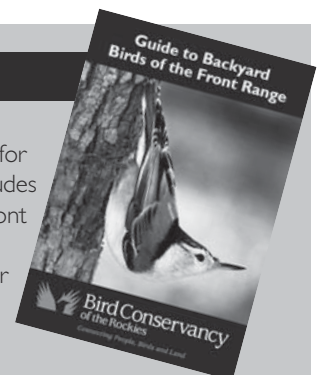


**On the cover:** Black-Capped Chickadee  
Photo by John Carr

A small, active bird with distinctive black-and-white coloration and a cheerful callnote that sounds a bit like *chick-a-dee-dee*. They are common at feeders and in wooded residential areas, and are one of the first birds that many people learn to identify.

### COMING SOON!

Our latest guide is scheduled for release in early 2016 and includes details about 50 species of Front Range birds as well as tips for bird-friendly living around your home and garden.





Bird Conservancy of the Rockies  
 14500 Lark Bunting Lane  
 Brighton, CO 80603  
[www.birdconservancy.org](http://www.birdconservancy.org)

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## Give a gift to our birds

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Donations are welcome in any amount.

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\* Please make check payable to Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

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or

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 Click "Donate Now."

**THANKYOU** for supporting bird and habitat conservation!

PS48