



## A Birder's Resolutions: Let's get real for 2007

Once again it's January, time for making a list of all the things you would like to do differently in the new year. If you're at all like me, you'll resolve to finally lose that extra weight, walk at least two miles a day, and empty the accumulation of credit card receipts out of your wallet at least once a week. You promise to, in general, exhibit more self control over all those accumulated habits that stand between you and perfection.

But we're not just ordinary people. We're Birders. So it seems appropriate that we make some New Year's resolutions specific to our particular passions. How about if we resolve to...

**1** Go birding. This is the priority, right? If you're too busy to go birding, you're too busy.

**2** Attend all eight Aiken Audubon meetings in 2007! Compare resolutions with other like-minded enthusiasts.

**3** Track down your nemesis bird. You know it's out there! Think of the satisfaction you'll feel when you finally add it to your life list.

**4** Read a book about birding, even before you vacuum the house or do the laundry! Some suggestions: *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession*, by Mark Obmascik; *Kingbird Highway: The Story of a Natural Obsession That Got a Little Out of Hand*, by Kenn Kauffman; *To See Every Bird on Earth: A Father, a Son, and a Lifelong Obsession*, by Dan Koeppel.

**5** Enter trip results into your master list as soon as you get home, while the details are still fresh. Do it even before you take off your muddy boots.

**6** Fill your bird feeders and keep them full... do it before you even think of mowing the lawn or pulling weeds.

Continued on page 2

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2007, a new year with tantalizing birding possibilities. Many people make annual resolutions at the New Year to lose weight, end a bad habit, improve their relationship, etc. I think everyone should make a new year's resolution somehow tied into birding.

If everyone would add just one new birding experience in 2007, think how much fun we would have. There are many possible birding experiences. One very important and popular opportunity happens every December, the annual Christmas Bird Count. At Fountain Creek Nature Center, naturalist Ken Pals conducts spring and fall bird counts. Birders of all levels are needed and invited to enjoy a Saturday morning hike through Fountain Creek Park. The Division of Wildlife sponsors Eagle Days every February at Pueblo State Park. Last year they released a rehabilitated

golden eagle and the Air Force Academy mascots were on hand for great photo opportunities. Also in February Audubon conducts the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). This year it is February 16-19. There's more information on our website and in this newsletter and there will be handouts available at the next general meeting.

So, whether you participate in one of the opportunities listed above or attend a regional birding festival or travel to another state or country with the main focus to see new birds – just get out and bird. It takes a bit of planning and commitment but that's what New Year's resolutions are all about.

Thanks for supporting Aiken Audubon.

• **RISÉ FOSTER-BRUDER**  
**PRESIDENT, AIKEN AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### January 17

Program: Raptor ID

#### February 21

Program: Flammulated Owls

#### March 21

Program: Bluebird Project

#### April 18

Program: Galapagos Islands

## Newsletter Articles

Items and announcements of special interest to Aiken Audubon members are welcomed for publication in this newsletter.

Deadline for the March-April 2007 issue is February 21.

Contact the editor, Leslie Holzmänn  
leslie@icta.net, 719.495.8889

## January 17 • Steve Vaughan Raptor ID



Colorado is home to many different species of birds of prey. Although they may appear quite similar, they are all unique. Join Steve Vaughan as he gives the tips needed to help you identify Colorado's diurnal (active during the daytime) birds of prey.

Stephen holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology from Colorado State University. He has been a professional nature photographer since 1985. Stephen has photography credits from such prestigious magazines as Audubon, Birders World and Sierra. His photographs have appeared in calendars published by Audubon Society, Sierra Club and Arizona Highways. Stephen has been teaching nature photography at Pikes Peak Community College since 1998. He has led photography works shops to Cape May New Jersey, Garden of the Gods, Rocky Mountain National Park, Southeast Arizona, Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge New Mexico and Costa Rica.

## February 21 • Brian Linkhart Flammulated Owls

The Flammulated Owl is as small as a fist and reticent enough to disappear in the shadows of western forests.

Considered the country's leading expert on Flammulated Owls, Dr. Brian D. Linkhart has been studying the demography and habitat requirements of the small raptor on the Manitou Experimental Forest since 1981. His aim is the development of conservation plans for forest ecosystems containing this and other sensitive species.

With this extended period of study Brian has been able to uncover some fascinating secrets about this species. Don't miss this outstanding program.

Dr. Brian D. Linkhart is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Colorado College, where he teaches courses in ornithology, ecology, and field biology.

**Meetings are held at the Division of Wildlife building located at 4255 Sinton Road. Coffee and socializing is at 6:30pm and programs begin at 7:00pm. Please use the back entrance. Note: Sinton Road runs parallel to I-25 on the east side, between Garden of the Gods Road and Fillmore Street.**

### RESOLUTIONS (CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

**7** Drop everything and go see that rare bird that just showed up at Cherry Creek State Park, before it flies back to Cuba.

**8** Wash and refill your bird bath at least every other day. After all, you take a shower or bath every day, don't you? Don't you?

**9** Volunteer. Do something to help birds survive the ravages of 21st century civilization. Contact Risé for opportunities right here at Aiken Audubon.

**10** Introduce a friend, relative, or neighbor to the joys and wonders of chasing elusive little brown jobs while frantically thumbing through the "Sparrows" section of your ID book.

I'm sure you can think of lots more. Why not share them with the rest of us? And who knows? Maybe these are some resolutions we can keep!

• BY LESLIE HOLZMANN

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April 27 – 29, 2007

## Wings 'n Wetlands Weekend in Great Bend, Kansas

Great Birding—Great Fun! This event includes guided field trips to Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, and more, educational seminars, networking, and fun.

Host Hotel: Best Western Angus Inn, 620.792.3541

For more information, contact Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau  
P.O. Box 274, Great Bend, KS 67530

Phone: 620.792.2750 • Email: [information@visitgreatbend.com](mailto:information@visitgreatbend.com)

February 28, 2007

## Colorado Bird Breeding Atlas II Project

Aiken Audubon will sponsor an informational program on the start of the second Colorado Bird Breeding Atlas. Tony Leukering, of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, will explain the purpose and methods used in compiling Atlas II. The Atlas Project is looking for volunteers to do some field work. Tony will have maps and will be looking for commitments to survey one or more blocks during the upcoming breeding season.

The Atlas is a very useful resource to the birding hobbyist and scientist alike. It is used in wildlife management, environmental impact studies and generally increases knowledge about Colorado birds.

Join us February 28 at 6:30pm. in the DOW classroom (same location as Aiken Audubon meetings). There is a snow date of March 14 if needed.

For more information: [www.rmbo.org/specialproj/atlas2.html](http://www.rmbo.org/specialproj/atlas2.html)

### FIELD TRIPS

**Everyone is welcome on Aiken field trips, regardless of experience level or membership in Audubon. Please contact trip leader for more information and to let them know you are coming. Current field trip information is available online at [www.aikenaudubonsociety.org](http://www.aikenaudubonsociety.org).**

February 3

## Eagles!

Join us for the annual Audubon trip to Pueblo Reservoir in search of our national bird, the Bald Eagle. We will explore back roads in search of Golden Eagles, Ferruginous, Red Tailed and Rough-Legged Hawks, Merlin, Kestrel and Prairie Falcons on the way to Pueblo. At the Reservoir, we will take some time to enjoy activities at the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society's Eagle Days celebration. Please bring a sack lunch and a full tank of gas. We will be outside for short periods with a few short walks if the weather is bearable. A great trip for beginners! Meet at Sears Southgate (Broadmoor Towne Center Nevada and Lake Avenue) near the AAA office at 8pm. Plan to return by 3pm. Reservations not required.

For more information: Gary Conover 719.635.2505  
[www.eagleday.org](http://www.eagleday.org)

February 16 – 19, 2007

## Birding your Backyard

Count for the Birds in America's Great Backyard

- No Fee or registration required
- All ages and skill levels welcome
- Track results in real time online
- Count in your backyard, balcony, schoolyard, park, etc.
- Be a part of the network

Join with thousand of others to find out how many birds are being seen in your area and across the continent this winter. By participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, you help document where birds are, and track changes in their numbers compared to previous years, helping scientists paint a picture of the state of birds this winter.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND TO VIEW RESULTS,  
GO TO [WWW.BIRDSOURCE.ORG/GBBC](http://WWW.BIRDSOURCE.ORG/GBBC)**

### TRIP REPORT

## Chico Basin Ranch

**OCTOBER 28, 2006:** In spite of a blizzard just two days earlier, Chico Basin was warm, sunny and snow-free (although not exactly mud-free). John Drummond was our excellent guide.

Here's the day's list: Canada Goose, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Pied Billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Sora (late), American Coot, Killdeer, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Ladder-backed Woodpecker (female in Pueblo Cty, pair in El Paso Cty), Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Cassin's Vireo (late), Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Brown Creeper, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit Thrush (about 8 in total, both counties), Gray Catbird (2), European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, House Sparrow.



PHOTO © LESLIE HOLZMANN



# Wild Connections: What You Can Do

## Talk to the Forest Service about future management of the Pike-San Isabel

- Attend public collaboration meetings
- Write letters – Send to District Rangers or Pike-San Isabel planning team.

## Mobilize your group

- Schedule a slide show for your group.
- Have your group endorse the Wild Connections Conservation Plan.
- Visit roadless areas near you.

## Pike San Isabel Public Meetings scheduled for January and February

The Pike-San Isabel Forest plan is the guiding vision document outlining how the Forest Service wants to manage the land over the next 15-20 years. It will set the goals, objectives and general policy for the Forest Service. Therefore, it is critical to speak out for the lands we love!

The Pike-San Isabel has scheduled the first round of public meetings to gather input and comments for their forest plan revision. Forest Service resource specialists and officials will be on hand to answer questions and listen to your perspective. The Forest Service wants to specifically know, “Why do you love these lands? What should the future condition of the forest be?”

## What should I say at the meetings or in letters?

The Forest Service needs to know that the public cares about quiet recreation opportunities, ecosystem and watershed protection, and sustainability! They want to know about the places you care about. Ask the Forest Service to:

- Protect and expand opportunities for quiet recreation and solitude.
- Manage both recreation and extractive uses in a balanced way that sustains a healthy forest for the indefinite future.
- Protect and restore native biodiversity.
- Manage for healthy ecosystems and watersheds that sustain robust local economies, ensure high water quality, provide clean air, and improve the quality of life.
- Protect 100% of the official Inventoried Roadless Areas. Additionally, the official inventory should be updated to include citizen proposed roadless areas.
- Recommend that all citizen proposed wilderness areas be included in the plan and managed to protect wilderness values.
- Allow natural processes such as fire, seasonal cycles, and interactions among plants and insects to aid renewal of the land.
- Focus fuels treatment projects in the wild-urban interface or other appropriate locations to protect human life and property. In the roadless back country, the cycles and processes of the natural world should continue without man’s intervention.
- Support the principles and recommendations of the Wild Connections Conservation Plan, a citizen created, science based conservation plan for the Pike-San Isabel National Forest and adjacent BLM lands.
- Closely coordinate the forest plan and 2005 OHV rule implementations for greatest management cohesiveness.
- The best available science must be used, and deference must be given to conservation where data is incomplete.
- Forest management recommendations should be applied and defined by logical and ecologically effective units, rather than broad generalizations.

## When and where are some near-by meetings?

**Denver:** 1/30/07 • 5:30-9pm

Lloyd C. Clements Community Center  
480 S. Allison Pkwy.

**Colorado Springs:** 1/31/07 • 5:30-9pm

La Foret Conference Center  
6145 Shoup Rd.

**Pueblo:** 2/15/07 • 5:30pm - 9pm

El Pueblo Museum  
302 N. Santa Fe Ave.

## Where can I get more information?

Go to UASPP’s website at:  
[www.wildconnections.org](http://www.wildconnections.org)

The full Wild Connections Conservation Plan is available online. You can read the newsletter, Landscapes, for information. Click on “Get Involved” to learn about upcoming meetings and events.

You can contact us via the website to receive alerts, more information or to donate to UASPP to support our collaborative efforts.

Also check out the Pike-San Isabel website at [www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc).

• SANDRA MCNEW

## Want up-to-the-minute conservation news?

Want to do something for the birds? Since environmental issues usually come up quickly and call for a rapid response, we find it’s not always helpful to put specifics in a bi-monthly newsletter. There’s too long a lag time! So, if you’d like a more timely guide to bird conservation issues, please subscribe to our e-conservation tree: Send a message to Sandra McNew, Conservation Chair, at [sandramcnew@aol.com](mailto:sandramcnew@aol.com). Put “e-conservation tree” in the subject line, and we’ll get conservation information to you quickly enough to do the most good for the birds and the environment. Thanks.

• SANDRA MCNEW

# American Birding Association's Principles of Birding Ethics

*Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.*

## CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS

### 1 PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF BIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area;

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

### 2 RESPECT THE LAW, AND THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

### 3 ENSURE THAT FEEDERS, NEST STRUCTURES, AND OTHER ARTIFICIAL BIRD ENVIRONMENTS ARE SAFE.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean, and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

### 4 GROUP BIRDING, WHETHER ORGANIZED OR IMPROMPTU, REQUIRES SPECIAL CARE.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g. no tape recorders allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

A checklist of birds commonly found in El Paso County is available at local bird stores for a nominal fee of 89¢.

## PLEASE FOLLOW THIS CODE AND DISTRIBUTE AND TEACH IT TO OTHERS

For more information about the American Birding Association, go to <http://americanbirding.org>



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YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN AIKEN'S ACTIVITIES

#### OCTOBER MEETING HIGHLIGHT



*aikorns*

## Aiken Audubon Society Membership/Subscription

### Sign Up For:

☐ One Year \$10.00

☐ Two Years \$18.00

☐ Donation

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