



## Keeping Common Birds Common:

# Combat Invasive Species

Last year, Audubon released “Common Birds in Decline: A State of the Birds Report,” detailing alarming changes in bird populations in recent years. This is 4<sup>th</sup> in a series on how we, as birders, can be involved in reversing this trend.

**I**nvasive non-native species disrupt the delicate ecological balance that sustains birds and other wildlife. These invaders may be plants, animals, or even single-celled protists such as disease-causing organisms. Most birders are very aware that European Starlings, Rock Pigeons and House Sparrows were foreign imports. They cause millions of dollars in damage to crops and structures and compete with native songbirds. A relative newcomer is the Eurasian Collared Dove. So far, this bird doesn't seem to be as big a problem as the others, but time will tell.

Numerous immigrant insects, nematodes and other worms, and mollusks are causing tremendous environmental damage in this country. Efforts to eliminate these unwelcome guests can cause even more damage. The Australian island of Macquarie is an example of good intentions gone awry. In 1818, sailors introduced cats to the island. Sixty years later, rabbits were introduced by sealers as a ready food supply. The rabbit population soared, causing catastrophic damage to the island's vegetation. Diseases were introduced to control the rabbits, and their numbers plummeted. However, then the cats ran short of prey, and they started hunting the indigenous burrowing bird species. In 1985, a successful program was instituted to eliminate the cats. As a result, and in spite of the diseases,

Continued on page 4

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**N**ot long ago my sister-in-law emailed me photos of a Northern Cardinal with bilateral gynandromorphism seen near the Quad Cities area of Iowa. Visualize a bird that looks half male and half female split nearly right down the middle.

It reminded me of the Vaudeville act when a comedian would have one side of their face made up as a male and the other side as a female. The routine had two characters, turning the head indicating if the man or woman was speaking.

Webster's defines bilateral as “having two symmetric sides” and a gynandromorph as “an individual with male and female characteristics”—a pretty simple definition.

I also recently returned from Sierra Vista, AZ where a friend has been feeding a leucistic House Sparrow she calls Chi-chi. This bird is all white but does not have the red eye of an albino.

Another leucistic House Sparrow visits, but it just has a white patch on a wing, which fits the

leucistic definition even better. Leucism is an unusual condition whereby the pigmentation cells fail to develop properly.

Are we seeing genetic mutations, environmental issues, or have these oddities always been around and we're just seeing them now because more people are looking?

I mention these birds because we have a leucistic Red-Tailed Hawk in the area, which has been seen for at least four years. She is getting whiter as she ages and she has successfully fledged at least two young over the past two years. I believe she is a female because of her larger size when compared to her mate. Her offspring have had normal plumage. Hopefully she will continue being a successful parent.

But why is she getting paler as she matures, and what impact will her leucism have on her descendants? With DNA research so popular, maybe these questions can soon be answered.

Continued on page 2

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Meetings	2
Field Trips	3
Events of Interest	3
CBC Results	(insert)
Field Trip Report:	
Rosy-Finches	5
Subscription Form	5
Book Review:	
A Guide to the Birds of East Africa—a Novel.	6

## COMING PROGRAMS

### March 18

“Colorado's Breeding Bird Atlas”  
presented by Lynn Wickersham

### April 15

“Gardening is for the Birds”  
presented by Leslie Holzmman

### May 20

“Meet the Author: Mary Taylor Young”

### Summer

No programs June through August—see you in September!

## Newsletter Articles

Items and announcements of special interest to Aiken Audubon members are welcomed for consideration. We'd love to hear from you!

Deadline for the Summer 2009 issue of Aikorns is Wednesday, April 16.

Contact the editor, Leslie Holzmman,  
at: AikenAudubon@Gmail.com  
719.495.8889

## UPCOMING AIKEN PROGRAM

### March 18 • Lynn Wickersham Colorado's Breeding Bird Atlas

The Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II Project was initiated in 2007 to update the original Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, which was initiated 20 years earlier, in 1987.

Information gained from Atlas II will be important for wildlife managers/biologists that are making decisions on land management practices throughout Colorado.

Lynn Wickersham, statewide coordinator for the Atlas, will present the background, purpose and methods of the project, and what the results are after year two. Learn what new species are breeding here now and find out how to get involved and contribute to this huge and worthwhile project.

Lynn holds a M.S. in biology from Arkansas State University and a B.S. in wildlife biology from Colorado State University. She is a seasoned field biologist with more than a decade of experience, including nest searching/monitoring, mist netting/banding, and conducting avian surveys.



PHOTO: LESLIE HOLZMANN

### April 15 • Leslie Holzmänn Gardening is for the Birds



As our area becomes more urbanized, bird habitat is being converted to golf courses and parking lots. Learn what you can do to reverse this trend on your own turf. Whether you have a third-story balcony with a few potted geraniums or five acres of native plants, you can employ good gardening practices to provide beauty for you and a place to live for the birds.

Leslie Holzmänn has a background in biology and education. As a Colorado Master Gardener, she enjoys helping area residents succeed at gardening. For the past few years, her garden advice and photos have appeared in the Gazette, and she is a frequent speaker for CSU Extension's *Gardening in the Pikes Peak Region* series. Now she is combining her gardening skills with her interest in birds, and re-landscaping her yard to make it more wildlife-friendly.

**Aiken Audubon programs are free and open to the public. They are held at the Colorado State 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.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

One more thought regarding bilateral gynandromorphism. Brian Peer of Western Illinois University states, "This condition is pretty rare and nothing is known about their breeding behaviors, but apparently they have a single ovary and a single testis with corresponding plumages on either side."

I thought an organism with both male and female reproductive organs in the same individual is called a hermaphrodite. But that's a topic for another time.

Keep on birding,

*Risë*

• RISË FOSTER-BRUDER  
PRESIDENT, AIKEN AUDUBON SOCIETY

## AIKEN AUDUBON BOARD MEMBERS

### President

Risë Foster-Bruder  
719.282.7877

### Vice President

Frank Dodge  
719.548.9863

### Secretary

Position open

### Acting Treasurer

Gail Biedronski  
GBied@yahoo.com

### Conservation Chair

(on leave) Sandra McNew  
719.632.4374  
SandraMcNew@aol.com

### Publicity Chair

Stephen Vaughan  
719.531.7076

### Field Trips

Norman Lerch  
719.495.9305  
Norm Karasa  
NormKar@excite.com

### Aikorns Editor

Leslie Holzmänn  
719.495.8889  
AikenAudubon@gmail.com

### Christmas Count

Ben & Sally Sorensen  
719.635.1716



## AIKEN AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Everyone is welcome on Aiken field trips, regardless of experience level or membership in Audubon. Contact trip leader for details and to let them know you are coming. New trip information is available online at [www.aikenaudubon.com](http://www.aikenaudubon.com).



**Saturday, April 25, 7am - noon**

### Ramah Reservoir SWA

Join us for this trip to seasonal Ramah Reservoir, out on the plains near Calhan. Past trips have seen an assortment of waterfowl and short-grass prairie species from sandpipers to sparrows. In spring, hawks soar overhead. The shallow marshes at the south end of the reservoir give way to a low area full of willows, an excellent migrant trap. Hopefully, the snow will be melted and the reservoir full by the end of April. The sun rises at 6 am this time of year, so set your alarm clock and enjoy the early birds.

Meet in front of the Falcon Safeway to carpool. A scope will be helpful. Make sure you have your 2009 Colorado Habitat Stamp!

Contact Leslie Holzmann: [CMGLeslie@gmail.com](mailto:CMGLeslie@gmail.com); 719.494.8889, to let her know you are coming.

## ARKANSAS VALLEY AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

**The Arkansas Valley Audubon Society welcomes you on their field trips. Check their website, [www.socobirds.org](http://www.socobirds.org) for more information. Be sure to contact trip leaders for details, and to let them know you are coming.**

## EVENTS

**March 20 – 22, 2009**

### Rivers and Wildlife Celebration

Come see the greatest crane migration spectacle in the world. Every year, some 500,000 Sandhill Cranes pass through Kearney, Nebraska. This weekend, sponsored by Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary, Audubon Nebraska, and the Nebraska Partnership for All-Bird Conservation, will be the 39th annual festival. Featured speakers include Pete Dunne and Joel Sartore, National Geographic photographer. Field trips actually begin on Thursday, March 19. Friday, Pete Dunne will lead a full-day trip. Great photo opportunities are made possible by viewing blinds along the Platte River.

For more information, go to [www.nebraska.audubon.org](http://www.nebraska.audubon.org), call (402) 797-2301, or write to Audubon Nebraska, P.O. Box 117, Denton, NE 68339.

**April 24 – 26**

### 3rd Annual Mountain Plover Festival

From the Friday night ice cream social to the home-grown beef BBQ, you are made to feel like a local as you explore private ranchland where the elusive Mountain Plovers nest. Sightings are almost guaranteed. Other birds of the prairies are also present, along with wildlife endemic to the seasonal wetlands called playas.

Registration is \$200. For more information, go to [www.karval.org](http://www.karval.org) or call 719.446.5354.

**April 16 & 18, April 30 & May 2, May 14 & 16**

### Birding 101 Course

County naturalist Ken Pals may have retired, but he's still birding. Join him as he goes over the basics of birdwatching, to develop and improve skills in identifying birds by sight and sound. Then put your new skills to work in the field. Even experienced birders can learn something new.

Each Thursday evening class, held at Fountain Creek, will be followed by a Saturday morning field trip. Destinations will vary.

The course fee is \$50 for members, \$60 for nonmembers. Registration is required: 719. 520.6745, [KenPals@elpasoco.com](mailto:KenPals@elpasoco.com)

**April 24 – 26, 2009**

### Wings & Wetland Weekend

Great Bend, Kansas hosts this weekend of events. Observational, educational and networking opportunities abound.

The schedule includes a guided tour of the Nature Conservancy and Quivira, identification sessions, outdoor photography classes, and a demonstration of Cornell's E-Bird Trail Tracker. A special event is the grand opening of the Kansas Wetland Education Center, which overlooks Cheyenne Bottoms, the largest wetland area in the interior of the United States.

Registration is \$95/person before April 3, and \$125 thereafter. For more information, go to [www.visitgreatbend.com](http://www.visitgreatbend.com), email [information@visitgreatbend.com](mailto:information@visitgreatbend.com), or call (620) 792-2750.

**May 14 – 17, 2009**

### Ute Mountain – Mesa Verde Birding Festival

Spring migrants and early nesters attract birdwatchers from across the nation to the Ute Mountain-Mesa Verde Birding Festival. Located in the archaeological center of America, many of the birding field trips visit spectacular archaeological areas such as Mesa Verde National Park and the Ute Tribal Park. Enjoy this year's keynote speaker, Bill Schmoker, plus a great variety of birding opportunities: Competitive Birding, Ute Tribal Park, Mesa Verde National Park, lake birds, Swifts and Swallows, Wildhorse tour, Bike and Bird and lots more.

For more information, go to [www.utemountainmesaverdebirdingfestival.com](http://www.utemountainmesaverdebirdingfestival.com)

**FOR MORE EVENTS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.AIKENAUDUBON.COM/EVENTS1.HTML](http://WWW.AIKENAUDUBON.COM/EVENTS1.HTML)**



the rabbit population once again soared, decimating the island's vegetation, and again endangering the birds. Clearly, playing with the ecological balance of an area is opening a Pandora's box of ills.

The Pikes Peak area learned a hard lesson about the dangers of an introduced disease with the arrival of the West Nile virus, accidentally brought to the US in 1999. The drought year of 2003 concentrated the vector mosquitoes, and Colorado led the nation with 2,326 documented cases of West Nile and 63 deaths. The same year was equally hard on the birds; populations of Corvids (crows, magpies, etc.) and Chickadees, which are particularly susceptible to the virus, dropped precipitously. Since then, it appears that numbers have rebounded to some degree, but West Nile will remain one more factor in the decline of our native bird species.

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that are invasive, aggressive, and difficult to control. All too frequently, they are also useless as wildlife forage or shelter, while out-competing plants on which wild creatures depend. Noxious weed lists vary by state, as not all plants are invasive everywhere in the country. Landowners are required by law to control and/or eliminate these species from their property.



PHOTO: US FOREST SERVICE

**Saltcedar, Tamarix**

Two such plant species of concern in our area are Tamarix and Russian olive. Tamarix, commonly known as Saltcedar, was introduced from Eurasia in the early 1800s. It forms a large shrub or small tree with scaly leaves resembling those of a true cedar. Saltcedar grows in wet soil along streams and irrigation canals. Able to reproduce both by seed and underground runners, the species can quickly colonize large strips of riparian habitat, replacing native species important to birds, such as cottonwoods and willows. Mature plants

absorb tremendous amounts of water, to the point of drying the soil, thus destroying wetlands. Their presence also reduces the amount of water available for native species, and increases the effects of drought.



PHOTO: LESLIE HOLZMANN

**Russian Olive**

How does a saltcedar invasion affect bird species? Studies have shown that native habitats have more foliage-foraging insectivores and seed-eating species. This isn't surprising, since Saltcedar provides little in the way of food for birds. Yet the news isn't all bad. A number of birds use the dense foliage as cover for nesting. A few, such as Red-winged Blackbirds and Yellow Warblers, actually prefer saltcedar-dominated communities to native habitats. Clearly, more research is needed, especially regarding migrating songbirds, which are largely insectivorous.

Another plant that has proved a mixed blessing is Russian Olive. This silvery tree used to be sold locally as an ornamental. Well-adapted to Colorado's climate and soils, Russian Olives began to spread across the landscape. It is now illegal to sell seedlings, and the species was recently included on the state noxious weed list.

Russian Olive does provide some food for foraging birds. A few species, most notably Yellow Chat and Mourning Dove, like to nest in its branches. But overall, areas dominated by Russian olive have far fewer bird species than the native habitats they replaced.

Many alien species are here to stay; they are so widespread that there is little hope of eradication. Others, including a number of plants on the noxious weed list, are still relatively contained. This gives hope that an all-out effort will exterminate these species before they become entrenched.

## How to help

What can we do? First, be aware; don't transport species either intentionally or by accident. Leave firewood at home; it can harbor insects. Before you go home, check off-road vehicles for plants that might have become caught in the wheels. Similarly, always wash boats and other equipment before traveling to a new waterway. Never transfer plants, animals, or even water from one body of water to another. Many problem species are descended from unwanted pets that were turned loose. Obey the laws governing the importing of plants and animals from other countries. More ideas can be found at [www.ucsusa.org/invasive\\_species/](http://www.ucsusa.org/invasive_species/).

Learn to identify noxious weeds. Some species on the noxious weed "A" list that are found in El Paso County include Purple Loosestrife, Orange Hawkweed, and Donkey-tail (Myrtle) and Cypress Spurge. It is critical that property owners destroy them before they can go to seed. More information on identification and control of noxious weeds is available online at [www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Agriculture-Main/CDAG/1174084048733](http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Agriculture-Main/CDAG/1174084048733).



PHOTO: JOAN NUSSBAUM

**Donkey-tail (Myrtle) Spurge**

Finally, lend a hand to local eradication efforts. Saltcedar has been cut down and eliminated from Fountain Creek County Park, a boon for the many bird species that are found there. A work day at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo was successful in removing Orange Hawkweed. With the proliferation of invasive species, there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved.

• BY LESLIE HOLZMANN

Learn more at <http://www.audubon.org/campaign/invasives/index.shtm>. The Audubon At Home program offers tips for supporting birds with native plants at [http://www.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/index.html).

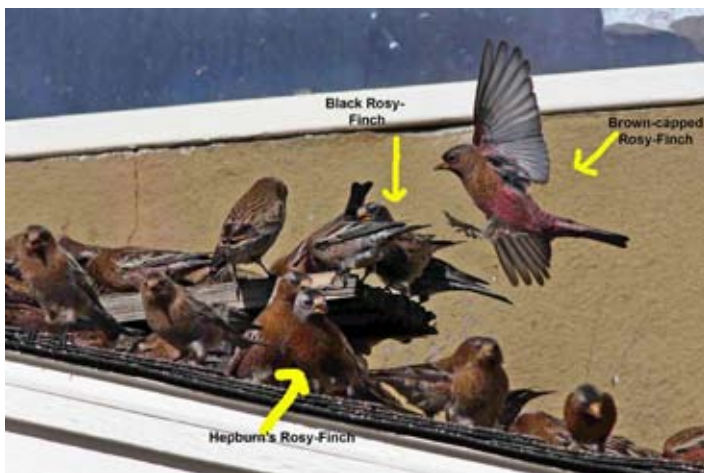
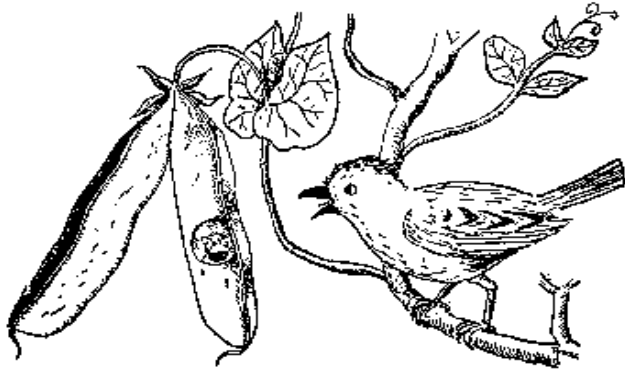


PHOTO: DEBBIE BARNES

## Photographing Rosy-Finches

JANUARY 17 & 18, 2009: Debbie Barnes led these back-to-back photo shoots to Cripple Creek and Victor. Saturday's weather was wonderful for January—mid to upper 30s with little to no wind. We saw lots of raptors sitting on power poles on the way up and a coyote below Woodland Park heading into the woods. We didn't find many birds in Cripple Creek, but Victor produced some great sightings, along with a fox. We had around 200 Rosy-Finches! Most were Gray-crowned, with a few Black and Brown-capped thrown in. We even got three Hepburn's Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches, visiting from the coast. On the way home we got a nice surprise—a young mountain goat feeding beside the road. Everyone went home with some wonderful images and a few tips to help them with their bird photography.



## The Pea. The Pewee.

To tell the Pewee from the Pea,  
Requires great per-spi-cac-ity.  
Here in the pod we see the Pea,  
While perched close by is the Pewee;  
The Pea he hears the Pewee peep,  
While Pewee sees the wee Pea weep.  
There'll be but little time to see,  
How Pewee differs from the Pea.

From "How to Tell the Birds from the Flowers: A Manual of Flornithology for Beginners," by Robert Williams Wood, ©1907.

*aikorns*

## Aiken Audubon Society Membership/Subscription

### Sign Up For:

- ☐ One Year \$10.00  
☐ Two Years \$18.00  
☐ Donation   
☐ New Total \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail Check To:

Aiken Audubon Society  
6660 Delmonico Dr. D-195,  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

On Sunday's trip we had the same poor luck in Cripple Creek, but the drive up to Victor produced some nice birds. In fact, our day was characterized by raptors. First we saw an interesting second-year, dark-morph-ish Rough-legged Hawk. That was followed by a Prairie Falcon. While we were looking at a few finches, we heard a Northern Pygmy Owl vocalizing and moving around us trying to avoid the crows and jays that were harassing it. We didn't get a look at it, but it was a cool encounter. We also had fly-bys of another second-year, light-morph Rough-legged Hawk and a second year Golden Eagle!

The Rosy-Finches were not as numerous as on Saturday, but we did see them. A flock of about 75 fly around us but didn't land. Everyone was disappointed but philosophical.

Our birds for the two days: Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Townsend's Solitaire, Clark's Nutcracker, Steller's Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Pine Siskin, Dark-eyed Junco (Pink sided, Oregon, Gray-headed, Slate-colored, & White-winged), Mountain Chickadee, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (including Hepburn's), Black Rosy-Finch, Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, Cassins Finch, House Sparrow, European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Black-billed Magpie.

• BY DEBBIE BARNES

Go to [www.aikenaudubon.com/trip\\_report1.html](http://www.aikenaudubon.com/trip_report1.html) for more field trip reports.

PHOTO: JOHN DRUMMOND



## Aiken Audubon Society

6660 Delmonico Dr. D-195  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

CHECK YOUR MAILING  
LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR  
SUBSCRIPTION IS EXPIRING!

President Risë Foster-Bruder  
719.282.7877

[www.aikenaudubon.com](http://www.aikenaudubon.com)

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

### BOOK REVIEW

A delightful read about love and birding:

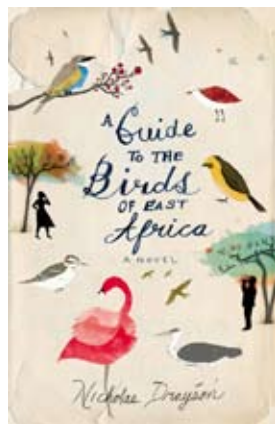
## A Guide to the Birds of East Africa

by Nicholas Drayson

Combine un-confessed love, complicated by a long-standing rivalry, with detailed descriptions of life and politics in Kenya. Add a generous helping of Kenyan birds. Stir with charm. It's the perfect recipe for a delightful novel.

Mr. Malik is short, round, and brown. He has a classic comb-over. And at 61, he has been widowed for 8 years. Burying his grief in his work only led to a heart attack. At his cardiologist's suggestion, he has recently taken up several other pursuits, including birdwatching. Although he has never let on, for the past three years he has been passionately in love with...

Rose Mbikwa originated in Scotland. While a young woman on holiday in Kenya, she fell in love with the country, and one particular citizen thereof. She stayed on, even after her husband, a member of the Kenyan parliament, died under mysterious circumstances.



We find her working at the museum where she trains tour guides and leads a bird walk every Tuesday morning. Then, who should show up but...

Harry Khan was Mr. Malik's tormentor at the English boarding school they attended as boys. Now, years later, he appears in Nairobi with lots of money and no current wife. Not only does he join Mr. Malik's sanctuary—his men's club—but he starts attending the museum bird walks. And, he's interested in Rose.

A week-long birdwatching contest involving both men is proposed. The prize? First dibs on asking Rose to the premier social event of the year, the Nairobi Hunt Club Ball.

Of course, matters become complicated. Secrets are revealed, and the characters of the contestants are severely tested. Who will win the contest and the lady?

To find out what happens next, you'll just have to read the book.

• REVIEWED BY LESLIE HOLZMANN

If you have read a bird-related book that you particularly enjoyed, please share it with us. Write a short review and send it to the Aikorns editor at [Leslie@icta.net](mailto:Leslie@icta.net).



# 2008 Christmas Bird Count Results

The weather on this Christmas Bird Count reminded us of the cold temperatures of last year. While Ken Pals had sunny weather at Fountain Creek Regional Park, Clark Wilder and Ann Adnat were treated to snow showers in Glen Eyrie. The official temperature range was 13 to 24 degrees, mostly sunny skies with low clouds in the north towards Monument and south along the Rampart Range. Snow cover was not a problem, with the ground generally free, yet some places had up to four inches.

The count differed from last year only in the lower number of species seen; 86 versus 106. The number of individual birds reported was about 100 less than last year. Notable features of the count include:

- The return of Pine Siskins in large numbers; 550 is the most we've reported since 1992.
- The number of robins is the second highest since the beginning of our records in 1950. (The highest number of robins, 1080, was reported in 1996.)
- Over the last three years the number of lesser Canada Geese seen has been increasing. This year there were 310, made up of Richardson's and Cackling.
- The most significant feature of this count is the low number of sparrows reported, 55. This is by far the lowest number of sparrows on our count day ever, and the 8 Song Sparrows are the fewest number since 1950 (12 were seen in 1969).
- For the second time in the past 30 years, we did not report a sighting of a Northern Shrike. And for the first time in 20 years, we did not flush a Wilson's Snipe.
- As for Jays, Juncos, and Chickadees, this has been a more representative count as in past years.
- The following sixteen species were seen in only one count area: White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, Northern Pintail, Greater Scaup (thanks to Mark Peterson), Ferruginous Hawk, Merlin, Scaled Quail, Virginia Rail, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Horned Lark, American Dipper, Eastern Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, White-throated Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak (the 6th reporting of this species), and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (last reported in 1992). Surprisingly, only two species were seen in all of the count areas: American Crow and House Finch.
- There were also possible sightings of a Fox Sparrow from two different areas, and a flycatcher, possibly a Western Wood Pewee. These sightings could not be verified. Both would have been very good birds to report. The Fox Sparrow has been reported five times on previous count days, the last time in 2005. As for the flycatcher, we have reported a Say's Phoebe and a Western Kingbird in the past, but not an Empidonax or Wood Pewee.
- A Spring freeze reduced the crop of acorns produced by the scrub oaks and may explain the lower number of Spotted Towhees seen this year. Despite our dry summer, there is an abundance of juniper berries and Russian olives that are available, and the ground feeding birds are finding grass seeds to feed on.

This year, 115 persons, including 25 feeder counters, supported the Christmas Count effort, along with volunteers from the Friends of the Garden of the Gods and the Starsmore Discovery Center. Our thanks to each of you for your part in the count, and to the area count leaders who made this all possible again.

A welcome is extended to Steve Castle, Fred and Margaret Cox, Dirk and Lydia Draper, George Gehrung, Ann Gerber, Robert and Aurora Glaze, Anna Hintz, Kathi and Bill Killough, Gary Koehn, Jennifer Lat, Percy Lopez, Ann Marin, Rolf Miller, Debbie Scofield, and Kathy and Don Stevens who joined us in our counting for the first time.

A big thank you to the Board of the Fountain Mutual Irrigation Company for again granting Aiken Audubon Society permission to access Big Johnson Reservoir on the day of the count.

• BY BEN & SALLY SORENSEN

## Participants

Marge Abbott, Debbie Ackley, Deborah Adams, Ann Adnet, Marta & Chris and Alita and Francisco Alvarez, Larry & Carol Arnold, *Debbie Barnes\**, Donna Becker, Terry Berger, Shirley Blackurn, Kent Borges, Judy Bowen, Penelope Bowen, Dana & Eric Breier, Toni Brevillier, *Steve Brown*, *Risë Foster-Bruder* & John Bruder, Sandra Callnan, *Charlie Campbell*, Steve Castle, Bev Cellini, Chip Clouse, *Gary Conover*, Eldon Cornish, Fred & Margaret Cox, *Susan Craig*, Martha Curry, Stephanie DiCenzo, Don & Gerry Downs, Dirk & Lydia Draper, Judy Dugan, Shirley Durkee, Dave Elwonger, Ed Flannery, Lenore Fleck, Marsha Garcia, George Gehrung, Ann Gerber, Robert & Aurora Glaze, Eleanor Griffith, Pat Grove, Doris Hiatt, Tom Higginbotham, Anna Hintz, Linda Hodges, Dick Holiday, Leslie Holzmman, Peg Hunter, Tess Kelso, Bill & Kathi Killough, Gary Koehn, John & Jane Koshak, Hans & Dorothy Krimm, *Bob Landgraf*, Jennifer Last, Percy Lopez, *Patty Lovekin*, Diane Luck, George Maentz, Mindy Mahler, Ann Martin, John & Virginia Maynard, Sally McGuill, *Jennie McGuckian*, Michele McMurray, Sandra McNew, *Paula Megorden*, Don Meyer, Ralph Miller, Rolf Miller, Sue Miller, Mary Ellen Moore, Kent Nelson, Steve Olson, *Ken Pals*, *Betty Peterson*, *Don Peterson*, Mark Peterson, Mark Pleimann, Chuck and Jo Romero, *Dave Romero*, Rosemary Scheuering, Chris Schoenfelder, Marsha Simms, Nancy Jean Smith, *Ben & Sally Sorensen*, Rip Stanwood, *Bret Tennis*, Jathy & Don Stevens, Beverly & Duane Swanson, Diane Turechek, Don VanHorn, Alexandra Vargo, Jim & Mickey Wallace, P.J. Wenham, Judy Westcott, *Marty Wolf*, and *Clark Wilder*.

\*Area count leaders are in italics.

# 2008 Christmas Bird Count Results

Pied-billed Grebe	6	Raptor sp.	2	Pygmy Nuthatch*	60
Great Blue Heron	2	Wild Turkey	42	Brown Creeper*	4
White-fronted Goose	5	Scaled Quail	3	American Dipper	1
Snow Goose	3	Virginia Rail	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
Canada Goose	4124	American Coot	83	Eastern Bluebird	2
Lesser Canada Goose	303	Killdeer	8	Western Bluebird	53
Cackling Goose	7	Ring-billed Gull	34	Mountain Bluebird	1
Gadwall	47	Gull sp. (Herring Gull?)	4	Townsend's Solitaire	87
American Wigeon	556	Rock Pigeon*	1338	American Robin*	978
Mallard*	1243	Eurasian Collared Dove	126	European Starling*	1282
Northern Shoveler	35	Mourning Dove	4	American Pipit	3
Northern Pintail	12	Great Horned Owl	4	Cedar Waxwing	25
American Green-winged Teal	47	Belted Kingfisher	7	Spotted Towhee*	80
Canvasback	13	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	American Tree Sparrow*	28
Redhead	3	Downy Woodpecker	41	Song Sparrow*	8
Ring-necked Duck	11	Hairy Woodpecker*	14	White-throated Sparrow	3
Greater Scaup	2	Northern Flicker*	148	White-crowned Sparrow	16
Lesser Scaup	24	Yellow-shafted	1	Dark-eyed Junco*	797
Bufflehead	3	Red-shafted	87	Slate-colored	75
Common Goldeneye	23	Intergrade	1	White-winged	2
Hooded Merganser	17	Steller's Jay*	116	Oregon	125
Common Merganser	21	Blue Jay	54	Pink-sided	131
Bald Eagle	4	Western Scrub Jay*	158	Gray-headed	121
Northern Harrier	4	Black-billed Magpie*	311	Black-headed Grosbeak	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12	American Crow*	568	Red-winged Blackbird*	134
Cooper's Hawk	4	Common Raven	67	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	4
Northern Goshawk	3	Chihuahuan Raven**	1	Cassin's Finch	19
Red-tailed Hawk	39	Horned Lark*	100	House Finch*	1230
Ferruginous Hawk	1	Black-capped Chickadee*	232	Pine Siskin*	550
Golden Eagle	3	Mountain Chickadee*	136	Lesser Goldfinch (black-backed)	11
American Kestrel	17	Bushtit	234	American Goldfinch*	88
Merlin	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	30	House Sparrow*	586
Prairie Falcon	6	White-breasted Nuthatch	66		

\* Seen on every count since 1950

\*\* Seen during the week of the count.