



## Great Backyard Bird Count 2008 Is Almost Here!

### *Audubon Adventures Seeks Classroom Involvement*

This February marks the 11th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), hosted by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This year's GBBC is scheduled to be held from February 15 – 18, 2008. Participation in the GBBC is free, educational, easy, and best of all, Fun! For the past several months we have been working on promoting the GBBC and are thrilled with the response we've received from Chapters.

The theme of the GBBC is "Count for fun! Count for the future!" As children are the future of bird conservation, this year we have expanded our efforts to engage Audubon Adventures classrooms in this important event. To do this, we have asked Chapter coordinators to promote the GBBC to schools that participate in Audubon Adventures. We

greatly appreciate this help and look forward to getting feedback on this year's effort with further improvements and expansion for next year.

In addition to this, the GBBC has greatly enhanced its website ([www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org)) to include a new bird call identification game for kids, and a new online art exhibit for kids, along with many other new features for all ages. We look forward to another record-breaking year for the GBBC and thank all of our Chapters for making this such a successful event. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Hopkins, education coordinator for this year's GBBC, at [mhopkins@audubon.org](mailto:mhopkins@audubon.org) or (202) 861-2241, ext. 3050, or the Audubon Adventures office at [education@audubon.org](mailto:education@audubon.org) or (800) 813-5037.

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*Whooping Crane by Kirsten Munson*

Other helpful educational websites for the GBBC:

- Online Bird Guide at [www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/)
- Wild Birds Unlimited Educational Resources Web page: [www.wbu.com/edu/index.htm](http://www.wbu.com/edu/index.htm).

#### FOR MORE INFO:

To learn more about the upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count, go to the website at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>.



*Carolina Wren by Steven D'Amato*

## CHAPTER *Networker*

The Chapter Networker is published quarterly by National Audubon Society as a resource for Chapter leaders on the Audubon website and an electronic copy is sent to all Chapter officers, committee chairs and board members.

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**Chapter Resources Webpage:**  
[www.audubon.org/local/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/local/index.html)

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For Submitting Materials to  
the Chapter Networker

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Friday, March 14, 2008

**Summer 2008 Issue:**  
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Hog Island Camp photo

## Audubon Leadership Workshop at Hog Island Camp: August 10-16, 2008

All Audubon leaders are invited to attend this fun and informative session! Designed especially for active Chapter leaders to build and deepen your expertise and ability to enhance Audubon's effectiveness at all levels, the camp is led by top-level State and National Audubon program staff and thoroughly experienced Chapter staff and volunteers. Participants enjoy a combination of daily workshops, special presentations, lively discussions, and amazing field trips. The serenity of the Hog Island Camp, the accommodating staff, fine food and great bird watching are all hallmarks of this special place and have made this workshop very popular with past participants.

A National scholarship of \$200 per person is available to 30 registrants with a matching \$200 scholarship from her/his local Chapter. Camp fee is \$700 per person or \$300 with matching scholarship.

**FOR MORE INFO:**

Go to <http://www.audubon.org/local/leadershipWorkshop.html> or to register, call Maine Audubon, Linda Ledoux- registrar, toll free at (888) 325-5261 x215.

## New Outreach and Educational Materials

• **Waterbirds On Working Lands Brochure**  
Learn how Audubon and the Montsanto Fund have partnered to improve waterbird habitat with this colorful and informative brochure, which gives an overview of how managing farmland for waterbirds can be mutually beneficial. To learn more about the Waterbirds on Working Lands Project, go to <http://www.audubon.org/bird/waterbirds/WWL.html>.

• **Audubon Logo Decal**  
The Chapter Services Distribution Center now has decals! Perfect for showing your Audubon support, this 6" X 2.25" decal attaches to glass with static electricity and removes easily.

• **Annual Appeal DVD**  
Put together by the Santa Clara Audubon Society in California, this DVD goes through proven steps of writing an effective annual appeal letter. The DVD also comes with examples of other Chapter annual appeal letters.

**FOR MORE INFO:**

To order any of these items, please use the order form insert or contact Paul Travis at Audubon Chapter Services, [ptravis@audubon.org](mailto:ptravis@audubon.org) or (800) 542-2748.



## Global Warming Presentation Available for Chapters

Audubon is working hard to spread the word about the importance of curbing greenhouse gas pollution so we can avoid the worst impacts of global warming. There is much that can be done in our homes, in our local and state governments and of course in Congress.

One of the tools we've developed to help educate communities about the importance of reducing our emissions is a global warming Powerpoint presentation, now available at the Audubon Chapter Resources website under "Outreach Events and Support" <http://www.audubon.org/local/outreachEvents.html>.



Two versions are available--a longer version that focuses on impacts and science and a shorter version based on the same material but with a strong focus on solutions.

Poll after poll shows people understand that global warming is a problem, but they are not sure what they can do about it. The shorter solutions version of the Powerpoint presentation helps everyone understand the various roles they can play, and the many different tools and resources available to make a difference on global warming. We suggest you start with the smaller slide presentation, adapt it to your audience and your locale and use slides from the larger presentation that may help you do that. A presenters' guide is also included, with tips for an effective presentation.

### FOR MORE INFO:

If you have questions or would like to receive a CD, please contact [audubonaction@audubon.org](mailto:audubonaction@audubon.org).

## A Message from John Flicker



The 2007 Christmas Bird Count is now history. Soon, the hard work of Chapters and citizen scientists nationwide will again pay off with additions to Audubon's vast, century-old repository of bird population trends. Yet the full power of that information and the alliance from which it springs was reaffirmed just after Thanksgiving, when Americans awoke to headlines, editorials and discussion of WatchList 2007.

The newest addition of Audubon's ongoing series of State of the Birds analyses was released November 28. It quickly reminded Americans that actions to protect imperiled birds protect our environment and our future as well.

New data from the Christmas Bird Count and other birding research were analyzed using the latest in peer-reviewed techniques by Audubon and the American Bird Conservancy, along with other top scientists. They combined factors including species numbers and range size, population trends and the impacts of habitat destruction and other threats to reveal the bird species at greatest risk. One-in-four U.S. species had the dubious honor of making the list, indicating its need for urgent conservation action.

Scores of national and local stories established the new joint WatchList as the gold standard for use in prioritizing conservation funding, planning and execution.

Reports quoted Chapters and state offices nationwide, with the most visible a New York Times feature and editorial call to action resulting from the efforts of Audubon New York.

Working in concert, Chapter, state and national representatives delivered valuable information on problems and solutions that captured interest and catalyzed action. They showcased the Audubon network as a powerhouse for connecting people to nature and serving as America's leading voice for birds and conservation.

Extensive information to help Chapters engage and mobilize people around the needs of WatchList birds can be found online at [web1.audubon.org/science/species/watchlist/](http://web1.audubon.org/science/species/watchlist/).

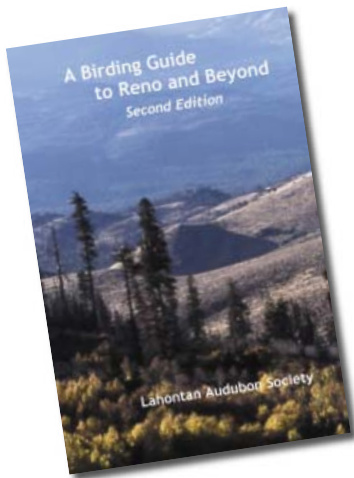
Prominent in the information is the first-ever presence of global warming as a leading threat to WatchList birds. Listed species and their warming-related perils include: the Piping Plover, Reddish Egret and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, all at risk from sea-level rise; the Ashy Storm-Petrel and Xantus's Murrelet, jeopardized by loss of coastal upwellings; and the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, one of many birds threatened by the damage to high arctic tundra.

For many people, these birds add new faces and greater urgency of calls to combat global warming; they can add yet another dimension to the important climate efforts spreading across the network. From rallying local people to take individual actions, to supporting state and municipal initiatives and delivering the grassroots clout to shape national policy, Audubon Chapters are already making a difference—but there's much more to do and no time to waste.

Chapters helped to make WatchList possible, and then to make it visible. It will no doubt shape a variety of Audubon conservation plans and priorities in the years to come. But using WatchList to help inspire action that stems global warming may be the best way for Chapters to ensure that this Audubon science will benefit the birds and our future as well.

*John Flicker*  
President

# Chapter Products and Projects



## A Birding Guide to Reno and Beyond

### *Lahontan Audubon Society, Reno, NV*

Lahontan Audubon Society has recently published the second edition of *A Birding Guide to Reno and Beyond*. The guide includes information on 20 significant birding areas, including a newly described area, and 32 side trips within a 90-mile radius of Reno, all areas visited by LAS representatives to ensure accuracy. The guide also includes 14 professionally produced to-scale maps illustrating the detailed popular birding routes, plus an overview map showing all area locations in relation to Reno. Trip planning tools such as mileage tables, time considerations, and finding selected species are included, as are ideas on what to expect for each area. This includes the best time of year, notable species, precautions, how to get there, popular birding routes, and optional side trips.

Other items published by Lahontan Audubon Society include the Nevada Birding Map and Important Bird Area's of Nevada.

#### **FOR MORE INFO:**

The guidebook can be ordered for \$10.00 plus \$2.00 postage by going to the Lahontan Audubon Society website at <http://www.nevadaaudubon.org/bookstore.html> or direct sales contact: Jane Burnham, LAS Sales, (775) 677-4178 / [jane.burnham@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jane.burnham@sbcglobal.net).

## Delaware Birding Trail Debuts

### *Delaware Audubon Society, Wilmington, DE*

In a first of its kind collaboration, Delaware Audubon, Delmarva Ornithological Society, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have joined talents to create the Delaware Birding Trail.

More than a year and a half in development by the Delaware Birding Trail Task Force, the trail features 27 birding hotspots throughout Delaware. The formal unveiling of the trail map and its website was held on Dec. 8, at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Smyrna, DE.



The primary purpose of creating the Delaware Birding Trail is to educate, inform and encourage both in-state and out of state birders to experience the incredible wealth of birdlife and bird habitat Delaware has to offer. Internationally known as the Shorebird Capital of the world, the bay shoreline along Kent and Sussex counties is ablaze in both spring and fall with hundreds of thousands of migratory shorebirds.

But the abundance of birds calling Delaware home or just taking a needed rest stop does not end with shorebirds. Fall and winter bring hawk migration along with thousands of waterfowl and

the snow goose spectacle, and spring and summer begin with colorful migrant songbirds and end with the breeding season.

To guide birders on the trail, the task force has created both the full-color brochure map version and a website, [www.delawarebirdingtrail.org](http://www.delawarebirdingtrail.org), using dramatic photography by Delaware wildlife photographer Kim Steininger and distilling decades of field experience by hundreds of Delaware birders to create informative and user-friendly text.

#### **FOR MORE INFO:**

Maps are free to the public and are available through the website at [www.delawarebirdingtrail.org](http://www.delawarebirdingtrail.org). To learn more about this collaborative project, contact Delaware Audubon at (302) 428-3959 or Karen Bennet at DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife, (302) 739-9912.

## Educational Bird Banding Project

### *Black Canyon Audubon Society, Delta, CO*

In September 2007, the Black Canyon Audubon Society, in conjunction with Ridgway State Park and Colorado Division of Wildlife, conducted its' second bird banding program. For five days, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory conducted an educational bird banding station for 4th graders in the Montrose and Ridgway school districts.

Bird bander and educator Glenn Giroir set up and ran 6 mist nets at Dallas Creek located at the west end of Ridgway State Park. Four hundred children came through the 30 minute banding station presentation during the five day program. The children learned about migration, bird identification, and bird banding procedures.

Great fun was had by all as the children got to see many different species of birds and even got to release birds themselves. In addition to the bird banding station, 2 other stations were also conducted.

*(continued on page 5)*



Photo by © D. Pace

*Cordilleran Flycatcher and helping hands*

### ***Banding*** (continued from page 4)

First, was a feather station run by Ridgway State Park, where children got to touch and see bird feathers up close, and learn about their function and biology. They also got to see and understand the difference in bird's beaks, using Audubon's bird skins collection.

The second station was an outdoor field station put on by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The children broke into small groups, were given several pictures of common plants and trees found in riparian habitat, and then were sent on a hunt to find these plants and trees. More information about the plant was on the back of the sheet, and they read this aloud after finding the plant.

After lunch, Ridgway State Park put on a short Nature Scavenger Hunt to end the day. The children and teachers loved every moment of this morning!

This program was a model of cooperation between different organizations: Black Canyon Audubon paid for the Bander/Educator from Rocky Mt. Bird Observatory, and Ridgway State Park donated trailer spaces for volunteers, funded half the cost of school buses, and set up nature programs for the children, as well as the use of their park. Their Park Naturalist set up and ran the Feather Station, and worked with the schools to schedule classes.

And the program couldn't have been completed without the help of the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The agency provided each student and teacher with an activity workbook that both prepared students for their field trip, and helped continue their bird education back in the classroom. The CDOW also funded half the cost of the school buses that brought the children to Ridgway State Park for this special field trip.

It took great effort and planning to make this year's program such a success. Thanks to all that contributed their time and effort into making this year's program so beneficial to the hundreds of children that will forever have a positive experience and lasting memory about the benefits of birds in our world.

— Cheryl Day

#### **FOR MORE INFO:**

Contact Cheryl Day, Black Canyon Audubon Society at [caday357@tds.net](mailto:caday357@tds.net).

## **Audubon to Host Chapter Workshop - Taking Action for Birds in a Changing Climate**

Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary will host a Chapter Workshop titled Taking Action for Birds in a Changing Climate. Scheduled for Friday, March 14, 2008, at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, Nebraska, the workshop is open to all Audubon Chapter members and the general public.

Set against the backdrop of Nebraska's magnificent spring migration of Sandhill Cranes, attendees will have the opportunity to explore a number of topics including Chapter development, Important Bird Areas, Audubon's science programs and harnessing the power of Chapter resources.

The workshop dovetails into the 38th Annual Rivers and Wildlife Celebration that starts later that evening. People are encouraged to attend both events. For more information on the Rivers and Wildlife Celebration, visit [www.nebraska.audubon.org/RWC.htm](http://www.nebraska.audubon.org/RWC.htm) or call (402) 797-2301.

#### **FOR MORE INFO:**

The enrollment deadline is March 7. For more information or to register, visit Audubon Nebraska at [www.audubon.org/states/ne/](http://www.audubon.org/states/ne/) or call (402) 797-2301.

### *Chapter Networker*

A QUARTERLY RESOURCE FOR AUDUBON CHAPTER LEADERS ACROSS THE NATION AND BEYOND



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# Available from the Chapter Services Office

	Number Per Set	Number of Sets Ordered	Cost Per Set (postage/copy)	Total Cost
<b>AUDUBON INFORMATION AND PINS</b>				
Audubon Membership Brochure	50		No cost	
2007 Annual Report	1		No cost	
Audubon Informational Brochure – Connecting People with Nature	25		No cost*	
Audubon DVD- 100 Years of Conservation: The Story of Audubon	1		No cost	
Audubon Lapel Pins (\$1 ea; 5 for \$4; 10 for \$7.50)	1, 5 or 10		\$1, \$4, \$7.50	
Audubon Birdathon Pins (\$1 ea; 5 for \$4; 10 for \$7.50)	1, 5 or 10		\$1, \$4, \$7.50	
Audubon Centennial Birdathon Pins (\$1 ea; 5 for \$4; 10 for \$7.50)	1, 5 or 10		\$1, \$4, \$7.50	
Audubon Junior Member Pins (\$1 ea; 5 for \$4; 10 for \$7.50)	1, 5 or 10		\$1, \$4, \$7.50	
<b>NEW</b> - Audubon Logo Decal (\$0.75 ea; 5 for \$2; 10 for \$3)	1, 5 or 10		\$.75, \$2 or \$3	
<b>STATE OF THE BIRDS</b>				
2007 State of the Birds pullout section	100		\$ 5.00	
<b>CAMPAIGN &amp; SPECIAL EVENT MATERIALS</b>				
Top Ten Endangered Birds in the US Booklet (limit 1 per chapter)	1		(no cost)	
Teshkepuk Lake (Alaska) Booklet	25		\$ 3.00	
How to be an Effective Advocate In Less Than 5 Minutes	50		\$ 3.00	
Birds Can't Vote, But You Can brochure	50		\$ 3.00	
Carbon Trading Guide pullout section	100		\$ 6.00	
<b>NEW</b> - Waterbirds on Working Lands brochure	50		\$ 3.00	
<b>AUDUBON AT HOME PULLOUTS/BROCHURES</b>				
Audubon Guide for a Healthy Yard and Beyond (Spanish) - singles	100		\$ 5.00	
Audubon Guide for a Healthy Yard and Beyond (Spanish) - box	500		\$ 20.00	
Healthier Choices – The Audubon at Home Guide to Healthier Pest Control – singles	100		\$ 5.00	
Healthier Choices – The Audubon at Home Guide to Healthier Pest Control – box	500		\$ 20.00	
Audubon Bird Feeding Basics Brochure - singles	100		\$ 8.00	
Audubon Seed and Feeder Selection Guide - singles	100		\$ 8.00	
Birds, Bats & Butterflies Poster - Healthy Yard - singles	100		\$ 6.00	
Birds, Bats & Butterflies Poster - Neighborhood - singles	100		\$ 6.00	
Birds, Bats & Butterflies Poster - Apartment - singles	100		\$ 6.00	
Birds, Bats & Butterflies Poster - School Yard - singles	100		\$ 6.00	
Birds, Bats & Butterflies Poster - County Home - singles	100		\$ 6.00	
<b>CHAPTER SERVICES SUPPORT MATERIALS</b>				
Chapter Leader's Guide	1		\$ 4.00	
Clip Art – CD	1		\$ 4.00	
Guide to Chapter Planning	1		\$ 3.00	
Membership Committee Guide	1		\$ 3.00	
Membership Recruitment Handbook	1		\$ 3.00	
Chapter Conservation Committee Guide	1		\$ 3.00	
Chapter Guide to Planned Giving	1		\$ 3.00	
Annual Appeal DVD- Santa Clara Valley A.S.	1		\$ 5.00	
<i>*Orders of quantities more than 25 will be charged for additional postage only.</i>			<b>TOTAL PAID</b>	

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