



Western Meadowlark
(*Sturnella neglecta*)

State Bird of Wyoming

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There's an App for That

[Audubon Birds Pro](#)

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Focus on Wyoming

As many of you may know, our center in Casper is officially closed. We are currently transitioning into outreach programs, outdoor field trips, and educational programs.

Janet Milek from the [Wyoming Game & Fish Department](#) contacted us, offering space for some of our mounts, books, and educational items. This is a possible location for brown-bag birding and some outdoor education programs by the river! Dusty Downey and Rene Hansen have already moved a few things over to the Visitors Center. The total process could take a year or more. But we are looking forward to the many possibilities before us.

Most of Rene Hansen's time this Fall has been spent on the Birds of Wyoming calendar fundraiser and a silent auction with the local school district art teachers and the [Nicolaysen Art Museum](#). All the calendar art was produced by the students themselves.

In 2014, we will be working in the schools at least 3 or 4 times a month with the Discover Program at Natrona County School District #1. We are looking forward to a scheduled 3rd grade program in Wheatland, numerous 2nd grade butterfly programs in March and April, and a citywide Earth Day activity.

Southwest Colorado Programs Update

Our [Four Mile Ranch Environmental Education](#) program has completed its 7th successful year in Pagosa Springs! 600 elementary school students, more than 150 teachers and parents, and 21 Audubon-trained Volunteer Educators spent glorious Fall days (in between the rainstorms) exploring the natural world and learning concepts and vocabulary that support state and national science standards. Volunteers contributed more than 1000 hours of their time to lead student groups at the ranch.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Terra Foundation, we will be partnering with The Nature Conservancy to help restore wetland and riparian areas across the Gunnison Basin. Audubon's role will be to monitor the birds that use these habitats over the next three years, and to track changes in the presence and population of species before and after restoration work is completed. Gunnison Sage-grouse rely on riparian zones when raising their chicks, so we'll be making a special effort to document the presence of this iconic bird.

Audubon will continue its outreach to the Telluride region for a third year, working with Telluride High School science students and Telluride Academy summer campers. Using Telluride's Valley Floor as an outdoor laboratory, the high school's AP Environmental Science class will practice citizen science by adding to a growing database of bird sightings, while Academy campers will participate in games and activities designed to help children experience the challenges of bird migration.

Wildscaping 101: Habitat Hero Landscaping

Why wildscape? Learn how and why to provide habitat for songbirds and pollinators, while reducing irrigation needs and saving water. You will learn how to create inspiring and beautiful habitat gardens of all types with a nuts-and-bolts instructional Wildscaping talk.

[Lauren Springer Ogden](#), renowned gardener, lecturer, and best-selling author, along with [Susan J. Tweit](#), plant biologist, award-winning author, speaker and teacher, will present at the following locations:

March 8, 2014 **10AM to Noon**
University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension/
Natrona County/Casper Audubon Center
Contact Donna Cuin at (307) 235-9400 x31 to register.
\$5 fee to be shared with Audubon Rockies.

March 29, 2014 **10AM to Noon**
Denver Water at South High School Auditorium
1700 E. Louisiana Avenue, Denver
Contact Mary Weis at (303) 628-6023 to register.
Workshop free.

April 5, 2014 **10AM to Noon**
Southeast Colorado Water Conservation District/CSU
Extension/Native Plant Society/Arkansas Valley Audubon
Society - District Boardroom
3717 United Avenue, Pueblo (Pueblo Airpark)
Contact Liz Catt at (719) 948-5726 to register.
Workshop free.

April 9, 2014 **7PM to 9PM**
Fort Collins Water and Utilities/Gardens at
Spring Creek/Fort Collins Audubon Society
Midtown Arts Center
3750 S. Mason Street, Fort Collins
Contact Laurie D'Audney at (970) 221-6877 to register.
Workshop free.

April 12, 2014 **10AM to Noon**
City of Aurora Conservation Division
Central Library, Large Community Room
14949 E. Alameda, Aurora
Contact Diana Denwood at (720) 859-4407 to register.
Workshop free.

Spring Giving

As the Spring birding season approaches, please consider a gift membership or donation for the conservationist or citizen scientist in your life.

This can be an especially good gift for children who are interested in learning about the way birds and their habitat matter to us all. Participating with Audubon Rockies can be an excellent family activity that all will remember for years to come.

[Teach kids to care with games and activities!](#)

[Visit the Audubon Rockies Kids Page!](#)

Your dollars save birds. It's that simple.

Please make your credit/debit card donation on our
[secure website](#)

Colorado Grant Program Available to Chapters

Audubon Rockies has received a very generous funding opportunity from the Terra Foundation to help fund Colorado Audubon chapter projects that assist local Colorado communities on water-related issues.

The goal of these Colorado Audubon chapter projects is to expand community knowledge and awareness of ways to achieve improved water conservation, especially as it pertains to the Colorado River Basin. These projects will ultimately enable Audubon Rockies to build a stronger local grassroots network, better informed and motivated to advocate for the long-term protection and restoration of the Colorado River Basin. We expect to achieve tangible results with on-the-ground conservation projects in local communities. Click here to download the grant proposal form and instructions:

[Water Conservation Chapter Grants](#)

Think Globally. Act Locally.

Be a Habitat Hero! With Garden in a Box



This is an excellent example of Wildscaping!

Garden in a Box from [High Country Gardens](#) gets you started on a beautiful springtime adventure!

[Habitat Hero Birdwatcher Pre-Planned Garden](#)

[Audubon Rockies Habitat Hero fact sheet](#)

The Sagebrush Ecosystem

The unbroken Sagebrush country that provides crucial habitat for the Greater and Gunnison Sage-grouse is one of the most awe-inspiring landscapes of the Rocky Mountain West. The sage encompasses approximately 120 million acres and stretches from eastern Washington to central Wyoming and down to northern New Mexico and Arizona. It is home to a plethora of species, including 297 species of birds, 87 species of mammals, and 63 fish species.

This fertile but fragile landscape has been fragmented, degraded, and, in some areas, completely eliminated by many different human activities. By some accounts, the sage-brush steppe habitat has declined by 50 percent from its levels just a century ago.

[Learn More About the Sagebrush Ecosystem Here!](#)

Western Rivers Initiative ~ Our Rivers Need Your Voice!

The West has suffered through drought, fire, and floods over the past several years. We can no longer ignore the issues surrounding our water supplies versus our growing water needs. To that end, Colorado is preparing the first ever statewide water conservation plan.

“The plan will leverage and integrate nine years of work accomplished by Colorado’s Basin Roundtables, the Interbasin Compact Committee, and Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWBC) to determine how to implement water supply planning solutions that meet Colorado’s future water needs while supporting healthy watersheds and environment, robust recreation and tourism economies, vibrant and sustainable cities, and viable and productive agriculture.” [Read the Colorado Water Plan!](#)

Audubon Rockies is going to need your voices to make sure that human and wildlife water needs are met. By taking action now, we can ensure a secure water future for ourselves (throughout the West), our wildlife, and our future generations. No matter where you live in the West, the birds need your voice. Please join the Western Rivers Action Network and be heard.

[Please click here to join the Western Rivers Action Network TODAY:](#)

Our Rivers Need Your Voice!

[Visit the Audubon Rockies Newsroom!](#)

