

GRAND VALLEY AUDUBON BOARD MEETING **MINUTES**

Presbyterian Church Community Room 3940 27 ½ Road

February 19, 2024 4:30 – 6:30

PRESENT: Pam, Tina, Cary, Logan, Larry, Nic, Janet, PJ

REGRETS: Pam Johnson, Chuck

GUESTS:

WELCOME & APPRECIATIONS:

Facilitator

Thank-you to Mark and Denise Vollmar for designing squirrel proof owl boxes; Pam Johnson for getting field trips and bird walks scheduled; Logan for volunteering to do one bird walk per month; Pam L operating unofficially as president!

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Report to Nat'l Audubon: due 3/1/24

Cary

Cary will need assistance from board members regarding their portion of the annual report.

Goal possibilities: Phase 2, replacing our signs, revised website.

Impact Categories 2023: Owls, Bird Banding, Phase 1 Wetlands

How do we increase diversity: age, involve HS in a bird count for spring (engagement for annual plan). Model of not having a president is working.

Flight Plan Categories/Nat'l Audubon:

Cary

Cary emailed National Audubon's link to their Flight Plan which charts the course of National Audubon for the next five years.

<https://www.audubon.org/about/welcome-flight-plan>

Top school Assistance needed: on Friday March 1, 9-11

Nic

Cary Volunteered.

Bird Books

Pam

Nic and Logan will contact people who have books to donate. It was agreed that people could donate books and we would put them out at our meetings with a free will "bucket" offering. This worked well at our December meeting and some books from WBU were sold at February's meeting.

ONGOING BUSINESS

FINANCE

Larry

Larry McKenna has been contacting people whose credit cards have not been processed for their memberships.

Chris Herman is no longer the contact with Western Colorado Community Foundation. Chris is now President of CCA. **Tina** will contact Chris to find out who is the contact at WCCF. Legacy gifts would go to this new person not Larry.

We discussed changing our website developer and it was agreed this is too large of a project to take on at this time. Our current website developer is \$18/month.

CatsAren'tTrophies.org - Sierra Club chapter gave GVAS \$500 donation.

WEBMASTER

Tina/Pam

Tina and Pam made significant changes to the website updating outdated information, calendar, adding and testing links, improving the hierarchy as well as reorganizing information into similar categories.

MARKETING

Tina

Sherry Shank (Great Old Broad/Bro) invited Board to hear Steve Allan on 2/26/24.

Get GVAS name in the paper.

Spring Migration/Bird Count Celebration: Mid May

PRESERVE MAINTENANCE/Volunteer Committee :

Pam

Pam met with the Volunteer Committee which would like to help at the Preserve. Pam will schedule a meeting with them in March and **needs someone to attend who can talk about what is needed.** Pam would like to meet 1x month on Sundays.

Work Day: March

Logan

Beavers at the Preserve have been working on some trees and they need protection.

Pam gave Cary a list of volunteers that could help.

Interpretative Signs:

TJ Smith is willing to do our Interpretive signs on the riverfront trails including artwork. He will attend our **March** board meeting. Cary submitted TJ Smith proposal by email to the board.

Non-profit Volunteer Collaborative:

Cary needs to get on the list for announcements.

MEMBERSHIP:

Pam

Local membership is 199 which is the highest since Pam has kept track. Yeah!

WETLANDS RESTORATION

Cary

USFW gave us \$22,000 to cover the difference to finish the Preserve Phase II. Nothing will happen until the fall. Need a pipe to move water that won't deteriorate/Meredith prefers to leave it as a ditch.

PROVISIONAL approval has been giving from USFWs for the upgraded infrastructure for Phase 2 of the Wetlands.

Capital funds approval for the Audubon wetland: The committee originally approved up to \$150,000 for this project in December 2022, to be used in extending a water pipeline from an existing project to the site where a listed fish wetland habitat is to be built. When Grand Valley Audubon Society (GVAS) and Ducks Unlimited put the project out for bid, the quotes came back \$21,138 over the original budget amount. To cover the increased project costs, GVAS has requested an additional \$21,138 to install infrastructure that will feed water to the wetland habitat that will be built for listed Colorado River fishes. We are already receiving some savings on this project since we are cost sharing parts of the water system with GVAS and constructing this feature as part of their ongoing habitat improvements. The water delivery system will benefit the fish wetland habitat by supplying supplemental water to maintain water quality at the site.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Cary

BIRD WALKS:

Pam J.

2/12/24 Organizational meeting with Logan, Pam J, Brett Walker, John Higgins, and Pam L. Many amazing ideas and tentative schedule.

2/10/24		Delta Sandhill Cranes	9 people attended
3/24/24	Logan	Highline Lake	
3/27/24	J. Higgins	Riverfront Trail 29 Road	
TBD	Mark and	OM Cemetery	Field trip screech owl boxes

	Denise		
TBD	Cary	TBD	

PROGRAMS:

Pam

Possible programs: Social at Ramblewine, present the revised website, haiku box, etc and everything we are doing. Shannon and Pam talked briefly about a Spring Benefit Concert but nothing is set yet.

Feb 19	Poetry	Africa Fauna I	Tamara, Rich
Mar 18	Poetry	Owls	Nic Korte
Apr 15	Poetry	Ecuador GVAS trip	Shannon Young
May 20	Poetry	Africa Fauna II	Tamara

SOCIAL MEDIA - BIOBLITZ

Logan

Bioblitz date to be set. Need to coordinate with plant society and CFO meetings.

COLORADO CBC 2023

JAG

JAG sent GJ and Mesa results to Brandon Percival to enter as Harriett was unable to transfer Compiler Access to JAG on the National Audubon website. JAG contacted National Audubon and now has access.

Brandon Percival, Colorado Christmas Bird Count Regional Editor, Pueblo West, CO
 Might be a record breaking Christmas Bird Count season for Colorado as we already are up to 209 species (usually right around 200, last year was lower than 200). Over 650,000 birds were counted on Colorado Christmas Bird Counts. Go to:

<https://netapp.audubon.org/CBCObservation/CurrentYear/ResultsByCount.aspx>

CONSERVATION

Nic

Hawk Migration: could Brett put up a prescribed route and then enter data?

CATS (Cats Aren't Trophy):

Eric Recktel - vice chair local Sierra Club needs 180,000 signatures by 7/4/24 to get on state ballot to prohibit trophy hunting for mountain lions, bobcats, and linx. Currently no limit to hunting in Colorado for pelts, asking for increase fines, and limits in numbers of hunting. If this measure goes through, populations could increase. Animal rights groups on the Front Range and Black Canyon Audubon didn't want to be associated with this measure.

HT Properties:

This 175 acre area includes the riparian zone downstream from the Loma Boat Launch. They wanted more information on birds and what they could do to enhance their species. They would also welcome bird surveys, but we would need prior contact/permission as there is a locked gate. Nic met with Jim Liewer (retired from CPW). There are wonderful old cottonwoods but the riparian strip where there is vegetation along the river is not so wide as across the river at Horsethief. Nic gave them some recommendations about needing more understory and suggestions for bird boxes. JAG notified Shannon Young by email to include this location in the Spring Count for whomever covers this area. Nic would do the access contacts. Nic and Logan are going to 25 site locations.

Podcast of the interview of Nic and his granddaughter did on KAFM. They discussed the WESO count and other GVAS activities. This was the week after the Grand Valley

CBC. <https://kafmradio.libsyn.com/earth-talk-christmas-bird-count>

Tope Elementary School requested Nic to assist with a unit they are doing on **raptors**. Several years ago, Nic assisted on a unit with owls. Nic asked local falconer Ray Rickard to accompany him with Ray's gyrfalcon and peregrine falcon. Students were able to see the birds up close and ask questions. Friday, 3/1/24 9-11am. Panels listen to student groups discuss solutions to their problem (how to enhance raptor populations). Fun and interesting. Kathleen and Nic.

Mike Henwood, Kathleen McGinley, and Nic also met the **Tope Elementary** students at **GJWA** with multiple scopes to view raptors. A RTHA perched in the middle of the field trip and all the students had excellent views.

Darren Lawley assisted Nic with owl box maintenance in February. A new box on city property in a wash in the NW portion of our count circle was put up. They also installed two boxes off 19 road in excellent habitat. One other box had to be replaced and another box cleared of blocking branches. There is still quite a list which Nic hopes to complete by the end of February.

Mark and Denise Vollmar have crafted a couple of squirrel-proof owl boxes. These have been placed at OM Cemetery where the squirrels have extirpated the WESOs. The boxes are bristling with spikes. This design is used in Costa Rica. Some modest use of GVAS funds to the necessary materials.

Nic notified Daly Edmunds that GVAS wished to sign on to the GSUG comments regarding the technical comments on the proposed (draft EIS) Gunnison Sage-grouse plan being submitted to the BLM.

BOARD RECRUITMENT

ALL

John Higgins new member from Arizona.

Next Meeting: March 18th

3rd Monday 4:30 – 6:30 Presbyterian Church