



Broomfield Bird Club, March Newsletter

Hello, Broomfield Bird Club members!

For many birds, longer days trigger the urge to choose a mate, build a nest, and raise a new generation. Keep an eye out for birds carrying twigs, grass, bits of dried leaves, and other materials in their beaks. Chances are, they are preparing a nest where they can safely lay and incubate their eggs.

Each bird species has its own timetable. Bald Eagles, for instance, are sitting on eggs now, while seed-eating American Goldfinches won't nest until summer, when their favorite foods are plentiful. Yet most birds follow a similar [nesting cycle](#), from identifying a breeding territory to feeding their young until (and sometimes after) the fledglings leave the nest.

It's tempting to "help" wild birds by offering nesting materials in addition to food, water, and sheltered spaces in our yards. However, most manmade materials aren't safe for birds. Fluffy dryer lint gets crumbly after it rains; even natural yarns, such as cotton or wool, can wrap dangerously around a baby bird's leg. Before you put out nesting material, please check this [list of do's and don'ts](#) from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

In-person Meeting Info

Many thanks to the nearly 40 members who attended our Annual Meeting last month. We were delighted to welcome some of the club's founders and past board members as we kicked off our 10th anniversary year. And just in time for Valentine's Day, we had fun learning about bird courtship behaviors with Nellie Boyd-Owens, an educator from Bird Conservancy of the Rockies.

In-person meetings are a wonderful way to connect with fellow birders, so mark your calendar now for our **spring picnic**. We'll be gathering from **11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. Saturday, June 13**, under the pergola at Brunner Farmhouse. Watch for program details in an upcoming newsletter.

Upcoming Bird Walks

It's been a treat to spend time with new bird club members on some of our recent outings. Whether you are a longtime club member or someone brand-new to birding, you're invited to join our guided walks.

- **8:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 10: Waneka Lake and Greenlee Wildlife Preserve, Lafayette.** Easy does it! Let's take a casual morning walk around the 1.2-mile lake loop, then go to Lafayette for coffee and conversation. In addition to watching for waterfowl on the lake, leader Karen Clark will guide us to a feeding station to look for White-Crowned Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Bushtits, Spotted Towhees, and other songbirds.

- **7:30- 11 a.m. Saturday, March 27: Birding Boulder’s Blues at South Mesa Trails, Boulder.**

This popular walk with leader Chris Petrizzo is *open to members only*. Starting at South Mesa Trailhead, we’ll follow a roughly 3-mile route to look for Mountain, Eastern, and Western Bluebirds, as well as raptors and other “blues” such as Blue, Scrub, and Steller’s Jays.

- **8-10 a.m. Saturday, April 4: Wheat Ridge Green Belt Clear Creek Trail.**

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt is an important migration hotspot for birds passing through the greater Denver metro area in early spring. Leader Brian Genge hopes to spot a few “first of the year” birds as we explore the greenbelt’s mix of creeks, lakes, and deciduous woodlands.

Registration is required for all bird walks; club members are given priority when group size is limited. [See details and sign up here.](#)

Other Programs

- Broomfield’s **Open Space Speaker Series** provides top-quality information about a wide range of conservation topics. Tune in at **7 p.m. March 12** to learn about “Preservation of Critical Habitat for the Migratory Monarch Butterfly in Central Mexico” with Shiran Hershovich, a senior lepidopterist at the Butterfly Pavilion.

[Click here for details about this free online program](#) or to find recordings of past talks. The series is sponsored by the Broomfield Open Space Foundation and the city/county’s Open Space and Trails Department.

- **Geo sapiens**, a nonprofit based in nearby Louisville, offers public programs on a range of topics. This month’s schedule includes talks on Colorado’s chickens, both wild and domestic, and Bald and Golden Eagles. [Learn more here.](#)

Spring officially begins on Friday, March 20. Enjoy the season – and happy birding!

Christine Kindl

President, Broomfield Bird Club