

Arkansas Valley Audubon Society *Valley Harrier*

Notes from the President: Dr. Peg Rooney

March 2018

- In 1918, Congress passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to protect birds from wanton killing. To celebrate the centennial, National Geographic partnered with the National Audubon Society, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to declare 2018 the "Year of the Bird".

Birds matter. They are our connection to the natural world. A world too rapidly disappearing. They cannot protect wetlands, fields, forests, streams, mountains, and prairies. But, we can. And in so doing, we ultimately protect ourselves.

So, speak up to protect the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Speak up to maintain the Endangered Species Act. Speak up for clean air and water. Speak up to keep extractive industries out of public lands. And vote for candidates who support these positions.

- AVAS received a grant from the National Audubon Society to build and install fishing line recycling bins at the new Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center- River Campus (formerly the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo) and at Lake Pueblo State Park. Monofilament fishing line can entangle and kill birds and other wildlife. Through fishing line recycling, AVAS hopes to educate anglers about the danger and encourage proper disposal of fishing line.



Upcoming events:

- Diana Miller will present a program on "California Condors" April 14 at 11am at Rawlings Library Pueblo, CO
- AVAS will host Audubon Colorado Council, representing all Audubon chapters in the state, on April 21 at the NWDC- River Campus.
- Mountain Plover Festival is in Karval, CO April 27, 28, 29
- Spring Bird Count is May 12. Check socobirds.org and the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ArkansasValleyAudubon>) for details.
- Field trip to the San Luis Valley led by John Rawinski is scheduled for 6/2. Email drpeg@bresnan.net if interested.
- 4th Saturday bird walks continue at 9am at the NWDC- River Campus. If you'd like to lead a bird walk, please email arkvalleyaudubon@gmail.com

Hope to see you on the birding trails soon!

Email arkvalleyaudubon@gmail.com if you have bird identification questions or want to post your bird photos on the website. Visit the AVAS website: www.socobirds.org