

# Western Bird Banding Association 2019 Annual Meeting



Hosted by **Bird Conservancy of the Rockies** at the  
Old Stone House Environmental Learning Center and  
Barr Lake State Park  
Brighton, Colorado  
September 19-22, 2019



The **Bird Conservancy of the Rockies** conserves birds and their habitats through an integrated approach of science, education, and land stewardship. From the Rocky Mountains to the Great Plains, Mexico, and beyond, they collaborate with private and public landowners to improve native bird populations by conducting sound science, empowering people, and sharing information.

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## Meeting at a Glance...

### **Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**

#### *Thursday Evening*

- Registration & BBQ at the Old Stone House

### **Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

#### *Friday Morning*

- Registration & breakfast at Barr Lake SP
- Banding demonstration at Bird Conservancy of the Rockies' Barr Lake station
- Tour of the collection at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science
- Birding at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

#### *Friday Afternoon*

- Lunch at Barr Lake SP
- General workshops

#### *Friday Evening*

- Dinner & social at the Old Stone House
- Plenary talk TBD

### **Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**

#### *Saturday Morning*

- Breakfast at Barr Lake SP
- Plenary Talk TBD
- Banding demonstration at Bird Conservancy of the Rockies' Barr Lake station
- Morning scientific session

#### *Saturday Afternoon*

- Lunch at Barr Lake SP
- Afternoon Scientific Session

#### *Saturday Evening*

- Poster session, silent auction, social, & drinks
- Happy hour and dinner at the Old Stone House
- Keynote talk by Dr. Lauryn Benedict, Northern Colorado University

### **Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

#### *Sunday Morning*

- Breakfast at Barr Lake SP
- Banding demonstration at Bird Conservancy of the Rockies' Barr Lake station
- Tour of the Pawnee National Grassland

## **Field Trips**

**Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**

### **Tour of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science bird collection**

**Times:** 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Tour the state-of-the-art collection facility at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and learn about the museum's expansive bird collection and ornithological research program.

**Enrollment:** Limited to 20 participants, waitlist available

**Fee:** \$10; Proceeds to benefit WBBA and BCR

### **Birding at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR**

**Times:** 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Spend a morning birding at a nearby National Wildlife Refuge that has a mix of grassland, shrubland, forest, and marsh habitats. Learn about local efforts to restore the endangered black-footed ferret and view bison in their natural habitat. This trip will include a short hike (1 mile) and a driving tour of the 11-mile Wildlife Drive loop.

**Enrollment:** Limited to 12 participants, waitlist available

**Fee:** \$10; Proceeds to benefit WBBA and BCR

### **Birding at the Audubon Center and Chatfield State Park**

**Times:** 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Join a guided tour of the Audubon Center, an education and outreach facility operated by Denver Audubon within Chatfield State Park. Chatfield State Park was designated an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society. In cooperation with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Denver Audubon runs a banding station here each spring. This station will not be in operation during our visit, but representatives from Denver Audubon will provide an overview of local conservation challenges and initiatives, and they will lead a bird walk on the property.

**Enrollment:** Limited to 12 participants, waitlist available

**Fee:** \$11; Proceeds to benefit Denver Audubon

**Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Tour of the Pawnee National Grassland and Central Plains  
Experimental Range**

**Times:** 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Visit one of the largest remaining tracts of shortgrass steppe habitat. This trip will be led by Amber Carver, who completed her graduate research on shortgrass steppe breeding birds and will share her knowledge of local ecology, birds, and research.

We will start the morning at Crow Valley Campground, one of Colorado's best migration hotspots. Crow Valley Campground is located in prime riparian habitat surrounded by grassland and attracts a wide array of bird species during migration.

We will then drive across the west unit of the Pawnee National Grassland, stopping along the way to view grassland birds and learn about shortgrass steppe ecology and Pawnee National grassland management practices.

The final stop on this trip is the Central Plains Experimental Range (CPER), a long-term (1939 – present) grazing research facility where rangeland scientists are currently studying the effects of domestic cattle grazing on grassland birds. The CPER is a restricted-access facility, so this is a special opportunity to visit a site that is normally closed to the public. Amber will provide a tour of the pastures where her research took place and give an overview of local conservation challenges and initiatives.

**Enrollment:** Limited to 12 participants, waitlist available

**Fee:** \$10; Proceeds to benefit WBBA and BCR

## Friday Afternoon Workshops

This year's meeting will feature a variety of interesting and informative workshops. All workshops will take place Friday afternoon (1:00 PM – 5:00 PM). Most workshops will be free-of-charge, but we are collecting a small fee for the following special workshop:

### **Crash Course in Data Entry and Management in R**

**Times:** 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Led By:** Amber Carver

The R programming language is one of the best ways to streamline data management, manipulation, analysis, and visualization. Unlike traditional tools (e.g., Excel), R provides a way to easily document, replicate, and modify procedures. This workshop is intended for beginners who have little or no knowledge of R and would like to learn how to get started.

Amber is a PhD student at the University of Colorado Denver who teaches R programming to undergraduates. Using the RStudio interface, this workshop will cover: 1) basic R syntax and logic, 2) importing, entering, manipulating, visualizing, and exporting data; and 3) how to create, use, and modify scripts. You will need to bring your own computer and install R and Rstudio before attending the workshop. Detailed instructions will be provided in advance.

**Enrollment:** Limited to 10 participants

**Fee:** \$10; Proceeds to benefit WBBA and BCR

## **Invited Speakers**

**Lauryn Benedict** is an associate professor at the University of Northern Colorado. She received her bachelor's degree from Cornell University and her PhD from UC Berkeley. She currently studies animal communication and behavior, using bird song as a model system for understanding how signals evolve in nature. Research in her lab combines field observation, population-monitoring, and sound recording analyses within a phylogenetic context.



## **Detailed Conference Schedule**

### ***Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019***

**4:00 PM – 9:00 PM:** Registration opens at the Old Stone House

**5:30 PM – 9:00 PM:** BBQ dinner and social at the Old Stone House

### ***Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019***

**6:00 AM – 7:00 AM:** Breakfast at Barr Lake State Park

**7:00 AM – 11:00 AM:** Bird banding demonstration and bird walk at Barr Lake State Park (*free*; sign-up required)

**9:30 AM – 11:30 AM:** Tour of the bird collection at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (\$10 fee; sign-up required)

**9:30 AM – 11:30 AM:** Field Trip to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (\$10 fee; sign-up required)

**9:30 AM – 4:00 PM:** Field Trip to the Audubon Center and Chatfield State Park (\$15 fee; sign-up required)

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM:** Lunch at Barr Lake State Park

**1:00 PM – 5:00 PM:** Workshops at Barr Lake State Park

**2:00 PM – 5:00 PM:** Board meeting at the Old Stone House

**5:30 PM – 7:30 PM:** Dinner and social at the Old Stone House

**7:30 PM – 8:30 PM:** Plenary talk (speaker TBD)

### ***Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019***

**6:00 AM – 7:00 AM:** Breakfast at Barr Lake State Park

**7:00 AM – 11:00 AM:** Bird banding demonstration and bird walk at Barr Lake State Park (*free*; sign-up required)

**9:00 – 10:00:** Plenary talk (speaker TBD)

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** Morning scientific sessions at Barr Lake SP

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM:** Lunch at Barr Lake State Park

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM:** Afternoon scientific session at Barr Lake State Park

**4:30 PM – 5:30 PM:** Poster session and social at the Old Stone House

**5:30 PM – 7:30 PM:** Dinner and social at the Old Stone House

**7:30 PM – 9:00 PM:** Keynote speaker Lauryn Benedict Barr Lake State Park

***Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019***

**6:00 AM – 7:00 AM:** Breakfast at Barr Lake State Park

**6:15 AM – 3:00 PM:** Birding tour of the Pawnee National Grassland (\$10 fee; sign-up required)

**7:00 AM – 11:00 AM:** Bird banding demonstration and bird walk at Barr Lake State Park (*free*; sign-up required)

## **Silent Auction Fundraiser**

WBBA's annual silent auction is one of the most important fundraisers contributing to our student grant program. We will have many exciting items on display to bid on including rare books, pieces of artwork, bird feeders, banding equipment and many other exciting tools and collectables. Be sure to visit the auction frequently throughout the conference! The bidding will commence on Friday and end at 7:00 PM Saturday evening.

Also, WBBA is soliciting more auction item donations. Please bring our books, art posters, banding tools, etc. to the meeting and help the WBBA raise the funding necessary to continue our mission.

## Directions, Maps, Contact Information, & Rates

### Event Venues

#### **The Old Stone House Environmental Learning Center (Meeting HQ):**

14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO 80603 ([Map](#), [Website](#))

#### **Barr Lake State Park Nature Center:**

13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80603 ([Map](#), [Website](#))

General Inquiries: (303) 659-6005

Website: [cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/barrlake](http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/barrlake)

Daily Admission Fee: \$8/vehicle

Distance from Meeting HQ: 5 miles (13 minutes)

### Hotels with Meeting Rates

#### **Holiday Inn Express & Suites:**

2212 S Medical Center Drive, Brighton, CO 80601 ([Map](#), [Website](#))

General Inquiries and Reservations: (303) 659-8574

Room Type: One King or Two Queens

Meeting Rate: \$114.99 plus tax

Distance from Meeting HQ: 2.9 miles (7 minutes)

#### **Candlewood Suites:**

2204 S Medical Center Drive, Brighton CO 80601 ([Map](#), [Website](#))

General Inquiries and Reservations: (303) 659-6929

Room Type: One King or Two Queens

Group Rate: \$99.99 plus tax

Distance from Meeting HQ: 2.9 miles (7 minutes)

### Nearest Camping

#### **Cherry Creek State Park:**

4201 S Parker Rd, Aurora, CO 80014 ([Map](#), [Website](#), [Reservations](#))

General Inquiries: (303) 693-3957

Daily Admission Fee: \$10/vehicle

Site Type (Nightly Fee): Basic (\$28) or Full Hook-up (\$41)

Distance from Meeting HQ: 31.7 miles (33 minutes)

#### **St. Vrain State Park:**

3785 Weld County Road 24 ½, Firestone, CO, 80504 ([Map](#), [Website](#), [Reservations](#))

General Inquiries: (303) 678-9402

Daily Admission Fee: \$8/vehicle

Site Type (Nightly Fee): Electric Hook-up (\$36) or Full Hook-up (\$41)

Distance from Meeting HQ: 27.9 miles (39 minutes)

**Jackson Lake State Park:**

26363 County Road 3, Orchard, CO 80649 ([Map](#), [Website](#), [Reservations](#))

General Inquiries: (970) 645-2551

Daily Admission Fee: \$8/vehicle

Site Type (Nightly Fee): Basic (\$28) or Electric (\$36)

Distance from Meeting HQ: 53.5 miles (56 minutes)

**Chatfield State Park:**

11500 N Roxborough Park Rd, Littleton, CO 80125 ([Map](#), [Website](#), [Reservations](#))

General Inquiries: (303) 791-7275

Daily Admission Fee: \$9/vehicle

Site Type (Nightly Fee): Electric (\$36) or Full hook-up (\$41)

Distance from Meeting HQ: 52.9 miles (1 hour, 7 minutes)