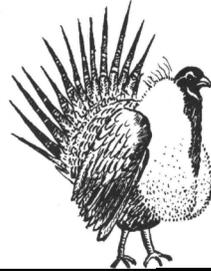


# PLAINS & PEAKS



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**MURIE AUDUBON**

Casper Wyoming - Monthly Publication  
<http://www.murieaudubon.org>



## WYOMING BATS AND THE WHITE NOSE SYNDROME SCARE IN NORTH AMERICA

**D**r. Zachary P. Roehrs, Research Associate and Adjunct Lecturer at Laramie County Community College will be our guest speaker for our May program. The bats of Wyoming will be the topic of his presentation. The most common species of bats in Wyoming are the Little Brown Myotis, the Big Brown Bat, and the Hoary Bat, a foliage roosting bat sometimes found in backyards and parks.

Bats make up 20% of mammal biodiversity worldwide and provide many ecological services on which we as humans depend. They are the stuff of myths and legends, and seem to hold a place of fascination and wonder to humans. In Wyoming 18 species have been documented, but for most species very little is known about these populations. Currently in North America bats are facing an epidemic surpassing the plagues of the dark ages which threatens to cause the extinction of a number of species in our lifetime.

Please join us on Friday May 11, 2012 at 7 PM at the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Building,

### CALENDAR

Bird Classes—see pg. 6  
 May 19—CHPAS Big Day—Contact Barb Gorges—307-634-0463  
 May 21—Parenting Outdoor—see pg. 5  
 May 28—Field Trip—see pg. 6  
 June 22-24—Birds Over Carbon County Festival—contact Francis Bergquist—307-326-8073  
 June 23-24—BioBlitz—see pg. 5  
 August 7—Summer Picnic—see pg. 3  
 August 22—Deadline for Sept. articles

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Along the Pathway with Harry, Slate of Officers  
 Summer Picnic, Audubon Adventures, Audubon Beginnings—William Dutcher  
 NASA Grant Recipient, The Rippling Brook  
 Bird Classes, Field Trip, Bird Notes  
 Thank you—Nestbox Monitors, Remembering Jim Bailey  
 Warblers & Windows Can be a Deadly Combination

### PAGE #

2  
 3  
 5  
 6  
 7  
 8

2211 King Blvd. to learn about your neighborhood bats, the important roles bats play in ecosystems, and the threats now facing bats in North America.

**Program Chairman—Bruce Walgren**

## ALONG THE PATHWAY WITH HARRY



As I make my daily commute to work, I've noticed an Osprey in the process of building a nest on top of one of those poles with a nifty man-made platform overlooking the North Platte River. The view of the action is quite good, even from a moving vehicle. I can get a good look as the nest grows thicker and stronger from scavenged materials interlaced together. If you would like to see the nest as it grows, it is located along Hwy. 220 just west of Casper between mile posts 99 and 100. Look north towards the river, and you should have no problem spotting the pole. I may try getting closer to get some pictures. If you have a long lens and good camera, that should be all that you need. Binoculars will be more than sufficient. A morning view is probably best as the sun won't be in your eyes.

I have looked into creating a Facebook page for MAS and I have to say I don't care for it one bit. It's not a difficult thing to do really, but who has the time to monitor and maintain a social networking site that features ads and an endless stream of email? My thoughts on this lean toward the negative side as Facebook is not an open platform. It requires visitors to have a login account to reach another account. My view of the Internet is that it should be open and easy to access.

Facebook is a great way to connect to friends and relatives, past girl friends (and boy friends), and long lost high school friends that you may

have lost contact with over the years. However, you become part of a collective of users who see photos of people you may not want to see.

MAS has a website that is open and easy to use and you don't need to login, and you don't have to see ads. MAS is about birding and conservation through education. Anyone who is interested in birding in Wyoming, can easily find our website. If anyone wants to take on the project of building a MAS Facebook page, you are more than welcome. I'm just not impressed with the platform.

Work has kept me pretty busy for the last few weeks, so I don't have much more to say. I do have a neighbor who has let me know that some wind generators will be installed out near Pathfinder with a layout plan designed to meet the needs of Sage Grouse. I will get more information on this and discuss this with the Board. Sounds like the same folks who did a presentation with MAS some time ago on how they want to restore ranch land back to pristine habitat. Looks promising at this point.

Good Birding to all.

**President—Harry Martin—307-258-1255**

## SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2012-2013

At our May membership meeting (Murie's Annual Meeting), we will vote for officers and board members for the 2012-2013 term. The slate is as follows (nominations will also be taken from the floor at that time):

President - Harry Martin

Vice-President - Lisa Fujita

Treasurer - Stacey Scott

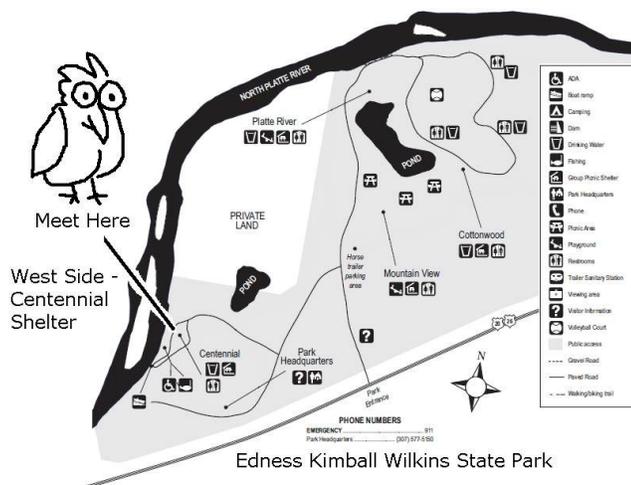
Secretary - Kathy Davis

Directors (terms to expire May 2014)

Bob Yonts, JP Cavigelli, Rose-Mary King, Will Waterbury

## SUMMER PICNIC

The annual Murie Audubon Society Chapter picnic will be held Tuesday, August 7 at 6:00pm. We will be in the Centennial shelter at Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park. Bring a pot-luck dish, plate and plastic ware. Drinks and the "Ann Hines Ice Cream Extraordinaire" will be provided. Guests welcome! For questions or additional information, call Ann at 266-3160 or Gloria Lawrence at 266-2574.



## AUDUBON ADVENTURES

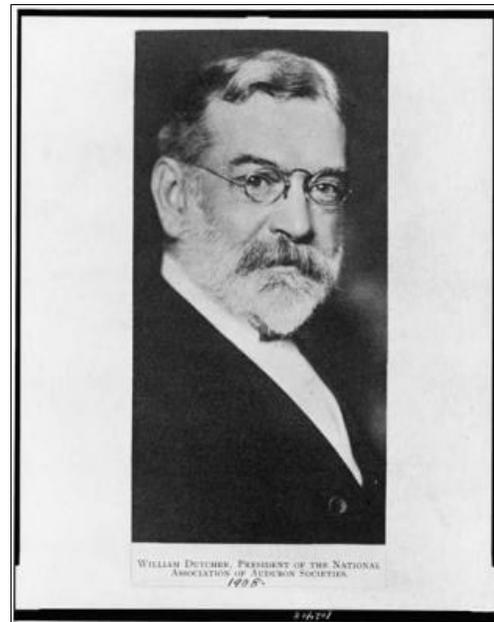
Congratulations to Margaret Courtade on her retirement. Margaret has been at Manor Heights for several years and has received Audubon Adventures since at least 1994. She has been an advocate for Audubon Adventures to her fellow teachers.

We have four new teachers enrolled in Audubon Adventures for next year.

**Education Chairman - Ann Hines**

## AUDUBON BEGINNINGS WILLIAM DUTCHER

By the late 1800's New York City was the center of the millinery/bird plume industry. Women's hats had been described as being a com-



ination of chiffon lace and taffeta ribbons mingled with plumes, wings, and sometimes the entire bodies of birds. (Particularly sought after were the long-billed shorebirds.) Frank Graham wrote this in *The Audubon Ark*: "Frank Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History, during two strolls through the shopping district of Manhattan in 1896, counted (with a birdwatcher's incomparable zeal) 700 hats, 542 of which were decorated with feathers. Most of the unadorned hats belonged to ladies in mourning or elderly ladies. Chapman recognized 40 different species including Wilson's warblers, pileated woodpeckers, "Acadian" owls, bluebirds, pine grosbeaks, and a northern shrike." [Note: an Acadian owl was a northern saw-whet owl.] Therefore, conservationists felt that New York was where the bird destruction needed to be fought the hardest. This fight would require great energy and a national strategy; both would be found in New York.

William Dutcher was born in 1846 in New Jersey. He was trained as a Wall Street banker; but working in New York City was difficult for him - he developed health problems; headaches, sinusitis, bronchitis, and fits of coughing flared up periodically, making him miserable. Douglas Brinkley notes in *The Wilderness Warrior, Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America* that

he moved to a farm in Massachusetts where fresh air and hiking along the Connecticut River greatly improved his overall health. He came to believe that "Nature had curative powers more potent than the homeopathic nostrum in his local pharmacy."

He headed back to New York to earn a living working for a life insurance company. Again, the city took a toll on his health; to counter it, he went hunting on weekends - for snipe, ducks, and geese. Like many of the leaders in the conservation movement, he enjoyed hunting, and also became fascinated with the science aspect of the outdoors - writing several scientific papers about the birdlife in his area.

He was an active member of the newly formed American Ornithologists Union, becoming the most active member of the nonprofit organization's Protection of North American Birds Committee. In the meantime, the Audubon movement was spreading, and Dutcher was working with the various state Audubon societies springing up along the Atlantic coast. He was determined to stop the plume hunters one way or another. George Bird Grinnell and others had little success deterring the "fashion demand" for bird feathers (and other body parts), so Dutcher came to the conclusion that bird protection would have to come through the legislative process. Brinkley writes: "cordial, determined, and always armed with data, Dutcher headed to Albany in an effort to convince the New York legislature that the gulls and terns of the Empire State deserved protection. With Governor Theodore Roosevelt and John Burroughs cheering him on, he persuaded the legislature to approve the assigning of a few wardens all around Long Island to safeguard seabirds' breeding grounds."

Dutcher had an "ace in the hole" - Abbott H. Thayer, an AOU member in New Hampshire, who offered to create a fund to hire wardens to protect bird colonies from Maine to Florida - provided he could get the legislation passed. With the Albany victory, the Thayer Fund immediately paid

for the new wardens. He continued working and "scored legislative victories in Boston, Trenton, Hartford, and Augusta, Maine."

He continued working with Roosevelt on bird protection in Florida, where it was much harder - plumes from egrets and herons were very much in demand. Brinkley notes that even though the relationship between Dutcher and Roosevelt was initially based on Roosevelt's ability to provide political muscle for Dutcher's cause, an abiding affection developed between these two bird lovers.

The Thayer Fund enabled Dutcher to build a dependable warden system. Still interested in science, he sent each warden a booklet of printed forms, asking for certain information: What species are you protecting? When did each species arrive in the spring? How many of each species? What success did the birds have?

By 1901, there were 36 Audubon societies around the country, but communication was a problem. In 1899 Frank Chapman started a bi-monthly magazine called *Bird-Lore*. This greatly helped the Audubon movement with its articles and editorials; plus it contained news from the various state societies, helping to bind them together. This publication later evolved into the *Audubon* magazine.

Dutcher now began pushing for some sort of union so that the state societies could work together, to present a strong national front. In 1900, several members from the societies met to consider this, eventually the National Committee of the Audubon Societies of America was formed. It was agreed that Committee members "may be empowered to represent the Societies whenever concerted action on the part of the Societies be deemed by the Committee expedient." Dutcher was elected chairman. However, the first provision of the agreement said that "the several Societies retain their individuality."

Meanwhile, he continued to work on the warden system, but now he was looking farther south. In North Carolina he found an ally - a young college biology instructor. T. Gilbert Pearson's work

quickly made that state a leader in protective legislation. By now Dutcher felt that the National Committee should incorporate; this would give the organization a semblance of permanence, plus legal and financial security. Several prominent members also favored a National Audubon organization supported by paying members.

In 1904, Albert Willcox contacted Dutcher and gave him a check for \$400 to support the Audubon movement. He told Dutcher that he had just made a new will, leaving a legacy of \$100,000 to the National Society, provided that they incorporate and that they have a paid secretary who would solicit memberships and contributions. His other condition was that his identity remain unknown until after his death.

Dutcher had a lawyer draw up a constitution, by-laws, and a certificate of incorporation which was filed in New York. On January 5, 1905, the National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals came into existence. Then on January 30, an organizational meeting was called, and the constitution and by-laws were adopted. Later in the day, the first official meeting was held; William Dutcher was elected president, John E. Thayer as first vice-president, Theodore S. Palmer was second vice-president, T. Gilbert Pearson was secretary, and Frank Chapman was treasurer. The constitution called for a board of 30 directors, 20 to be named by the state societies. All of the societies would remain as independent organizations with their own officers and dues-paying members. This evolved into the Audubon organization of today.

In October, 1910, William Dutcher suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed; he had dedicated 30 years of his life to bird protection, and thanks to that dedication he accomplished so very much!!!

**Donna Walgren**



## NASA GRANT RECIPIENT

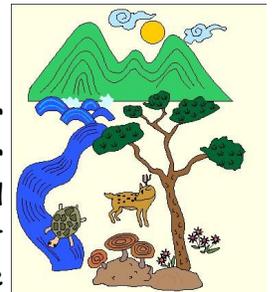
**M**urie Audubon wishes to congratulate Annette Hein on having her geology research project funded by the Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium. Annette's project is her original idea to map old terraces (former channels) of the North Platte River near the west end of Casper Mountain. She will be investigating by what route the river cut its way down to the present channel, how flow and sediment types were carried, and how other parameters changed over time as it did so. Annette says that Dr. Kent Sundell from the Casper College Geology department helped her with the grant application and will be providing advice and support on the project. Annette is a Murie member and also volunteers at the Audubon Center at Garden Creek and is very excited about this project. Congratulations Annette!!!!

**Donna Walgren**

## THE RIPPLING BROOK

**W**arm Spring Greetings!

It's that time of year when we expectedly look for the new - whether it is a bird sighting or song, or the first flower or bud to start. We eagerly anticipate what is to come, not sure what surprises will cross our paths.



May is also the month for the annual Audubon Bird-a-Thon. Several "teams" here in Casper will be seeking pledges or flat rate donations. Even though the teams spend the day birding trying to get as many species as possible, it's really about the amount of money we can raise. Hopefully you will decide to pledge as much as you can, knowing the money will go for the growing programs and operation of the Audubon Center at Garden Creek. Our goal is \$10,000.



Monday  
May 21 at  
6:00, I will be  
doing a pro-  
gram at the  
library for  
adults on *Par-  
enting Out-  
doors*, how we  
as adults can

help facilitate fun and meaningful nature experiences and survive the summer. This will be for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, anyone who would like to get children outdoors.

What could be more fun than a summer science weekend? Join Audubon Rockies Staff, scientists and others from around the state in a Bio-Blitz in Pinedale Wyoming. The dates to mark are June 23 and 24. We will be collecting data on all kinds of life forms from birds to mammals plants to reptiles. Stay in town or camp, bring your family, there will be opportunities for all to participate!

Since there are no newsletters over the summer, look for news of summer programs and events on the web site, in the paper, contact me at the center via phone or email (see pg. 11).

Our work for the birds and conservation is important, and whatever you do makes a difference. Let's all remember to also get outside, marvel at those hawks or eagles, relish the sounds of the meadowlarks, gaze at wildflowers and most importantly share those moments with a child!

Happy sightings, discoveries and time outdoors!

**Nature Center Supervisor - Wanda Peters**

### BIRD CLASSES

**B**ird identification classes continue: Thursday evenings are held mostly indoors at the Audubon Center At Garden Creek, the Saturday field trips are held outside at various locations.

Your \$3.00 donation per class will help continue the programs at the Audubon Center!

→Thursday May 10—7:00p.m. Birds of Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park

→Saturday, May 12—8:00a.m. Field trip to Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park

→Wednesday, June 6—7:00p.m. Birds of Casper Mountain

→Saturday, June 9—8:00a.m.—Field trip to Rotary Park and Casper Mountain—meet at ACGC

→Date for Raptor class still to be determined.

(Note change of time for classes on Thursday night from April's newsletter)

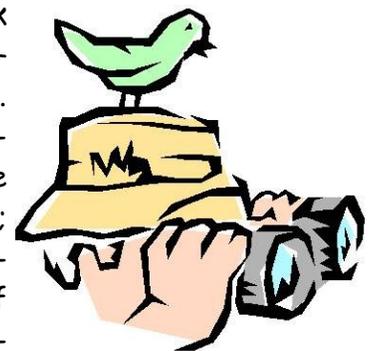
### FIELD TRIP

**M**onday, May 28: meet at the Audubon Center at Garden Creek at 8:00AM for a field trip. Last year, I tried to go to Little Red Creek on Memorial Day, but the weather only allowed us to go where we had paved roads and trails. I would like to try Bates Hole again this year, but that is dependent on the weather. We plan to be back by noon. Call Stacey Scott at 262-0055 for information about where the weather will allow us to go.

**Field Trip Chairman - Stacey Scott**

### BIRD NOTES

**I**t is starting to look more like spring - birdwise, that is. Meadowlarks, bluebirds, and robins are being seen everywhere; we are also getting increasing numbers of reports of Turkey Vultures, Sandhill Cranes, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Spotted Towhees. And soon warblers will be flitting around in the



trees.

For the month of March, Wayne and I received 175 reports for the Yard Bird Project. 83 species were tallied from 71 locations in 16 states plus Yukon Territory, Belize, French Guiana, and Tasmania. The No. 1 species reported was again American Robin, but this time tied with Western Meadowlark. Illustrating the increasing movement of species, second place was a 4-way tie with Mountain Bluebird, Dark-eyed Junco, Evening Grosbeak, and Sharp-shinned Hawk. Third place was another 4-way tie between Sandhill Crane, Western Bluebird, Black-capped Chickadee, and Ring-necked Pheasant.

#### Wyoming Yard Bird Report

**Casper:** Chris Michelson - Northern Saw-whet Owl, Jim Brown - Dark-eyed Junco, Ed Reish - House Finch, Jeff Morton - Red-winged Blackbird, Ed Whitney - Northern Flicker (yel.-sh.), Rose-Mary King - Townsend's Solitaire, Garden Creek Audubon Center - Brown Creeper, Barb Yonts - Red-winged Blackbird, Bob Yonts - Cedar Waxwing, Casper College Greenhouse - Eurasian Collared-Dove, Bruce Walgren - Western Meadowlark, Donna Walgren - Black-capped Chickadee; **Atlantic City:** Jan Whitney - Mountain Bluebird; **Dubois:** Anna Moscicki - Mountain Bluebird, Michael Kenney - Three-toed Woodpecker; **Kaycee:** Bruce Walgren - Wood Duck; **Lander:** Andrea Orabona - Great Horned Owl; **Sheridan:** Peg Cullen - Sandhill Crane, Tom Varcalli - Great Blue Heron; **Linch:** Donna Walgren - Sandhill Crane; **Sundance:** Jean Adams - Hoary Redpoll; **Ucross:** Ruth Salvatore - Dark-eyed Junco.

Thanks to all who helped with the Yard Bird Project in March!!! Spring migration season has begun, so keep those binocs handy! Send your bird info to Donna Walgren, 4311 S. Center St., Casper, WY 82601, or email to [Pi-ranga@bresnan.net](mailto:Pi-ranga@bresnan.net). or phone 234-7455. Good Birding!!!

Donna Walgren

## THANK YOU – NESTBOX MONITORS

In 2008, monitoring of 12 nest boxes began on the Audubon Center at Garden Creek. The construction and placement of the boxes was an Eagle Scout project designed and carried out by Austin Brown. Several volunteers have worked consistently monitoring and recording the activity at these boxes. Murie Audubon would like to recognize the dedication of these people and say "Thank You!!!" to the following: Gabriel and Micah Miller, and Emma and Jacob Narotzky are the young "citizen scientists" who were guided by Judy Naginey and Terri Narotzky. Larry Keffer also offered his expertise, helping set things up and showing them how to check and clean the boxes.

Thanks to all of you for everything you have done over the last 4 years!!!

Donna Walgren

## REMEMBERING JIM BAILEY

Murie Audubon and Audubon Rockies wish to extend condolences to the family of Jim Bailey. Everyone who has visited the Audubon Center at Garden Creek has been able to enjoy all the time and effort that Jim and Audrey Bailey have put into making outdoor education available to the Casper area.

Jim was one of those people who was always active. The Bailey family ranch at the foot of Casper Mountain was a working operation from 1941 to well into the 1980's; and at the same time Jim was taking care of another family business, Bailey School Supply - and was a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels. When he finally decided to slow down a bit and think about retirement, Jim and Audrey turned to thoughts of how the 460-acre ranch could help children learn more about Wyoming's outdoors.

In 1997, they set up a conservation easement on their ranch with The Nature Conservan-

cy, so that the land would remain intact and undeveloped. Plus, they had an additional stipulation - they wanted their land to be used for education and for it to remain "as wild as possible." Because of Jim and Audrey's vision and generosity, countless children and adults have enjoyed the beauty of their land and learned more about the natural world. Up until about a year ago, despite some physical failings, Jim could be seen on his daily walks, with a positive, joy-filled attitude.

Jim's 98 years of life were filled with hard work, persistence, ingenuity, and a love of the land. Audubon is thankful for Jim and Audrey Bailey who have given us the opportunity to have a Nature Center in Casper!!

**Wanda Peters and Donna Walgren**  
**Member memories**

**Bart Rea writes** - My first memory of the Baileys was back in the 1960s when a couple of our kids attended the summer day camp near where the Audubon Center now is. At that time I think they were still living in what is now housed the Center. And then in the 70's, I worked with Jim to get National Audubon interested in running an outdoor education program on the ranch property, but Audubon was not starting any new programs at that time. John Flicker, President of National Audubon, came out to visit the Baileys, and they worked out the deal for the partnership of the Baileys, The Nature Conservancy, and National Audubon to create the Audubon Center at Garden Creek. Jim and Audrey never lost their vision of seeing children outdoors learning about the natural world in their own backyards. Let's all hope that vision continues.

**Bob Yonts writes** - We thank Jim for his generosity and foresight of putting his land in a conservation easement such that it would not be developed but rather preserved for educational purposes for residents in Wyoming and especially those living in Casper. National Audubon was extremely fortunate to work out an arrangement with The Nature Conservancy to utilize the property for outdoor education for the Natrona

County School District and the residents of Casper and surrounding communities. The plan was Jim's (and his families') wishes all along. Jim and his generosity will be greatly appreciated by all who visit the property but at the same time he will be missed tremendously by all who knew him.

**Ann Hines writes:** I had the great pleasure of meeting Jim and Audrey Bailey at the first meeting of the birth of the Audubon Center. He always knew me by name after that. In the following years when I went to the center, I often met Jim on his morning walk down the road. Often he was seen going by in his truck. Those intense blue eyes and bright smile will be remembered by many people. I remember a surprise party at the center with some members of their family attending. Jim's hearing wasn't the best but he seemed pleased with the occasion. I often saw him working in the area around their house as I did a bird count. He would stop long enough for a wave and was right back to work. The last time I saw Jim, he and Audrey were sitting on their porch having a snack one morning. What a great legacy he has left for the children. He was a wonderful person and it was my privilege to have known him. He will be missed.

**WARBLERS AND WINDOWS CAN BE A DEADLY COMBINATION**

By Barb Gorges—published April 15, 2012, in the *Wyoming Tribune Eagle*.



**W** Wyoming is a tourist destination. We love statistics on how many visitors come from how many other states and countries. We also try to keep visitors safe, reminding them to stay hydrated at our high, dry elevation, to stay away from dangerous wildlife and to avoid summer lightning storms.

Spring migration is like the beginning of tourist season for birds. On May 19, members of Cheyenne - High Plains Audubon Society and friends will again hit the local birding hotspots, hopefully at the peak of migration, to see how many different species of birds can be counted.

Some years, we hit the shorebird migration just right, and others it's the flycatchers. But every year we hope for a warbler year. We scour the tree branches for those smaller-than-sparrow-sized, color-coded birds which are scouring the same branches for insects to devour.

Over the previous 18 years we have had 31 of North America's 50 warbler species visit. Only four have made it every year: yellow warbler, yellow-rumped warbler, common yellowthroat and Wilson's warbler—probably because they are part of the 12 warblers breeding in Wyoming, and because they are abundant species.

Others we've seen only once because they breed in eastern North America and, for some reason, they take the scenic route through Cheyenne. They include golden-winged warbler, black-throated blue warbler, worm-eating warbler, prothonotary warbler, and six others.

Almost all of these were observed at one of Cheyenne's two Wyoming Important Bird Areas, Lions Park and Wyoming Hereford Ranch. But there is reason to believe that all of Cheyenne, wherever there are trees and shrubs hosting insects, is hosting common and rare warblers, if only people look.

Casual observation of Mark's and my yard has turned up nine species including Wilson's and yellow-rumped regularly, sometimes a MacGillivray's and once, a chestnut-sided warbler.

Between mid-April and mid-June, who knows how many warblers pass through our yard? Maybe our retriever knows. Last year I caught her eating at least two after they were injured flying into our window.

While I'm fine with continuing to keep our remaining cat indoors year round (the other passed on last month at nearly 14 years old), we need the

dog on squirrel defense duty. But even if we didn't, there would still be injured birds.

Short of plywood over this one deadly window, how can we keep birds from hitting the glass? I tried a small sticker in the middle, but over the winter we collected a wreath all around it of lovely imprints of Eurasian collared-dove wings and tails, outlined in feather dust on the glass, where they tried to avoid the sticker.

Hanging dangly, shiny objects in front of the window probably wouldn't work with the caliber of breezes we get—the objects would end up stuck in the gutter or perhaps banging on, and breaking, the window.

The American Bird Conservancy has come out with a new product this spring, BirdTape, which we are going to try. It sticks to the outside of the glass, breaks up the reflective surface that fools the birds, and is translucent—like frosted glass.

The strips of  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-wide BirdTape can be applied vertically four inches apart, or horizontally two inches apart. Studies show that our backyard birds will try to zoom between obstacles spaced any greater distance. It obviously takes less tape to do the vertical arrangement.

The tape also comes in rolls three inches wide. These can be cut into squares placed in a pattern leaving spaces between them four inches horizontally and two inches vertically. I didn't do the math to see which tape size's pattern is more economical. Your choice might have more to do with whether you prefer bars or floating squares.

Currently, BirdTape is available through [www.ABCBirdTape.org](http://www.ABCBirdTape.org) or call 1-888-247-3624. (Ed's note—see the March issue of *Plains and Peaks*, page 6, for more info.)

I'm not sure I like the idea of anything impeding my view of our backyard, but with up to a billion birds hitting home windows each year, according to ABC, I want to give this product a try. It is the least I can do to protect avian tourists on their annual spring, and fall, visits to Wyoming.