

Draft Agenda
Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting
Feb 7th-9th, 2024
Pueblo Convention Center – Pueblo, Colorado

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Workshop Section 7 and 10 : Darren LeBlanc USFWS (half day)

Description : Come learn about the Endangered Species Act, important sections of the Act, how they contribute to species conservation, and how those sections may affect wildlife managers/conservations/etc. The presentation will probably not exceed 2 hours, with time for questions afterward.

Avian point count workshop : TC Walker, Jen Timmer, and Matthew McLaren, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (morning)

IDEA workshop : Pat Magee

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Internal Meetings

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Symposium: Sensitive Species Management

Organizers: Kathy Griffin

2:00-5:00 Presentations on Colorado Parks and Wildlife's management of Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Opening Networking reception

6:00-9:00 Location: Pueblo Convention Center, cash bar, heavy appetizers

Thursday, February 8, 2024

Student Networking Breakfast

7:00-9:00 Including Ignite-style presentations about different career/agency paths
Presentations included from: USFS, BLM, USFWS, non-profit, consulting, academic, etc.

Students who are interested in attending should contact their local student chapter president.

Professionals: if you are interested in helping with this event or mentoring future wildlife biologists please contact Katie Gray. Contact info can be found on CCTWS website.

Thursday, February 8, 2024

Wildlife Photo Contest

Organizer: Marcella Tarantino

Bring up to three of your best photos to display at the conference – please drop off your photos at the registration desk by the end of the first break on Thursday morning to be voted on through the end of the first break on Friday morning. Photos will be judged by popular vote in the following categories: 1. Amphibians, Reptiles, and Fish; 2. Birds; 3. Invertebrates; 4. Mammals; 5. Game Camera; 6. Human Dimensions; 7. Landscapes and Still Life (including flora); and 8.

Creative/Comedic. Prizes will be awarded in each category. See CCTWS website for details:
<https://wildlife.org/colorado/meetings/annual-meeting/#PHOTO%20CONTEST>

Thursday, February 8, 2024

Plenary Session: Sensitive Species Conservation

Case Studies

Organizers: Robin Russell and Nathan Jones

9:00 am Welcome and introductions – *Nathan Jones, President CCTWS*

9:10-9:45 Sara-Oyler McCance

9:45-9:05 The Endangered Species Act at 50: Learning from the past to improve our future - **Jennifer Wilkening** (USFWS) and Brenna Forester (USFWS)

9:05 - 9:25 Helping Frogs So They Don't Croak: A case study of headstarting and translocation of northern leopard frog tadpoles - a Colorado Tier-1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need - **Sarah Heerhartz** (Boulder County Parks and Open Space), **Joseph Ehrenberger** (Matrix Design Group), Will Keeley (City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks), Mac Kobza (Boulder County Parks and Open Space), Mikki McComb-Kobza (Ocean First Institute), Aran Meyer (City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program), Ryan Pioreschi (City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks), Jayme Sneider (Innovation Center - St. Vrain Valley School District), and Boyd F. Wright III (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)

9:25-9:45 BREAK

9:45-10:05 Restoration of wet meadows to enhance Gunnison sage-grouse habitat and drought resilience in arid rangelands: lessons learned from the Gunnison Basin - **Nathan W. Seward** (Colorado Parks and Wildlife), R. J. Rondeau (Colorado Natural Heritage Program), G. Austin (Bureau of Land Management), R.S. Miller (BLM), S. Parker (U.S. Forest Service), A. Breibart (BLM), S. Conner (Bio-Logic), E. Neely (The Nature Conservancy), M.G. Vasquez (USFS), and W. D. Zeedyk (Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, LLC)

10:05-10:25 Special Status Species Management in Colorado – **Carol Dawson** (Bureau of Land Management)

10:25-10:45 Defend and growth the core for birds: How a biome-wide sagebrush conservation strategy benefits imperiled rangelands birds – **Alexander V. Kumar** (USFWS), Jason D. Tack (USFWS), Kevin E. Doherty (USFWS), Joseph T. Smith (University of Montana), and Geoffrey Bedrosian (USFWS)

10:45 - 11:05 Evaluating conservation efforts on private lands for bird population dynamics in the Northern Great Plains - **Quresh Latif** (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies), Chris White (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies), **Jennifer timmer** (Bird

Phagocytic Function of Leukocytes Across Seasons and Temperatures in the Mojave Desert Tortoise – **Holly Nelson*** (*Colorado State University - Pueblo*), *William Fikan (CSU-Pueblo)*, *Rylee Conklin (CSU-Pueblo)*, and *Franziska Sandmeier (CSU-Pueblo)*

Planting a native pollinator garden and its effect on Apidae diversity– **Jake Powers**** (*Colorado State University - Pueblo, Creating Connected College Research Communities (CUATRO), MAPS*) and *Claire Ramos (CSU-Pueblo, CUATRO, MAPS)*

The effects of temperature and seasons on microbial growth of nasal bacteria in Mojave Desert tortoises – **Jenna Morales*** (*CSU – Pueblo*), *Joseph Harker (CSU – Pueblo)*, *Daniela Ramirez (CSU-Pueblo)* and *Franziska Sandmeier (CSU-Pueblo)*

Do hatch-year White-Crowned Sparrows or after-hatch-year White-Crowned Sparrows have better body condition during fall migration? – **Lacey Sprouse**** (*Colorado State University - Pueblo and MAPS*) and **Julian Golz**** (*CSU-Pueblo, Creating Connected College Research Communities (CUATRO), MAPS*), and *Claire Ramos (CSU – Pueblo, CUATRO, MAPS)*

Temperature dependence and seasonality of antimicrobial capacity of leukocytes in the Mojave Desert tortoise – **Mariah Painter*** (*Colorado State University - Pueblo, National Science Foundation*), *Lexi Anderson (CSU-Pueblo, NSF, Creating Connected College Research Communities (CUATRO))*, and *Franziska Sandmeier (CSU-Pueblo and NSF)*

The Rate of Pollution is Too Darn High!: Investigating the Role of Oxidative Stress on Migratory Birds in Southern Colorado – **Megan Miller*** (*Colorado State University - Pueblo*), and *Claire Ramos (CSU-Pueblo)*

Bullfrogs (*Lithobates [Rana] catesbeianus*) in Southeast Colorado: Are they Invasive or Native? – **Michelle Luna**** (*Colorado State University - Pueblo and Creating Connected College Research Communities (CUATRO)*) and *Daryl Trumbo (CSU-Pueblo and CUATRO)*

The effects of urbanization on stress levels in *Aspidoscelis neotesselata* – **Paige Stephens**** (*CSU-Pueblo*), *Holly Humphries (CSU-Pueblo)*, *Brianna Fong (CSU-Pueblo)*, *Jenna Morales* (CSU-Pueblo)*, *Danni Moran (CSU-Pueblo)*, and *Franziska Sandmeier (CSU – Pueblo)*

Woody Habitat Availability and Distribution in Colorado Forests – **Savannah Lehnert** (*Colorado Forest Restoration Institute*)

Thursday, February 8, 2024 **Banquet, Awards, Silent Auction**

6:30-10:00 2024 CCTWS Annual Banquet, awards, and auction

Keynote speaker: Jeff Davis, Director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Friday, February 9, 2024 **Contributed Papers Session: Avian Ecology (Student)**

Breakfast/Snacks 7:00-8:00

Organizers: Marcella Tarantino, Robin Russell, and Nathan Jones

*Denotes student presenter (double asterisk = undergraduate student, single asterisk = graduate student)

8:00-8:10 Contributed papers, welcome and introduction

8:10-8:30 Occupancy and abundance of burrowing owls nesting in eastern Colorado – **Sarah Albright*** (*Colorado State University Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit*), *William Kendall (CSU Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and USGS)*, and *Reesa Conrey (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)*

8:30-8:50 Impacts of Land Management and Colony Site Selection of Pinyon Jays in Colorado – **Emily Macklin*** (*South Dakota State University*), *Amanda E. Cheeseman (South Dakota State University)*, *David McNitt (Bureau of Land Management)*, *Amy Seglund (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)*, and *Scott Somershoe (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)*

8:50-9:10 Analyzing Northern Goshawk Nesting Habitat Selection in Colorado – **Derek Schleicher*** (*Colorado State University - Pueblo*), *Lacey Sprouse (CSU-Pueblo)*, *David McNitt (Bureau of Land Management)*, and *Nate Bickford (Oregon Institute of Technology)*

9:10-9:30 Bald Eagle Home Range Size in an Urban to Rural Gradient – **Miranda Middleton*** (*Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Colorado State University*), *Reesa Conrey (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)*, *Liba Pejchar (Colorado State University)*, *Jim Gammonley (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)*, and *Bruce Snyder (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies)*

9:30-9:50 Using abundance and presence to understand the habitat needs of Eastern Black rails (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*) – **Nora Hargett*** (*Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*), *Stephen A. Forbes Biological Station*), *TJ Benson (Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)*, *Lizza Rossi (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)*, and *Auriel Fournier (Stephen A. Forbes Biological Station)*

9:50-10:10 Sapsucker wells as a keystone food resource: new methods for detecting secondary users – **Rick Clawges*** (*University of Idaho*), *Lee Vierling (UI)*, *Jan Eitel (UI)*, *Leona Svancara (UI and USGS)*, and *Kerri Vierling (UI)*

10:10-10:30 BREAK – refreshments provided

Friday, February 9, 2024 **Contributed Papers Session: Wildlife Ecology**

Organizers: Marcella Tarantino, Robin Russell, and Nathan Jones

*Denotes student presenter (double asterisk = undergraduate student, single asterisk = graduate student)

10:30-10:50 Bears, watch your step. Influence of garbage-securing experiment on fine scale individual bear movements in a developed area – **Cassandra Venumiere-Lefebvre*** (*Colorado State University and Center for Human-Carnivore Coexistence*), **Stewart Breck** (*National Wildlife Research Center, USDA*), **Heather Johnson** (*Alaska Science Center, USGS*), **Mat Alldredge** (*Colorado Parks and Wildlife*), and **Kevin Crooks** (*CSU and Center for Human-Carnivore Coexistence*)

10:50-11:10 Survival Trade-offs of Migratory and Resident Behavior in Mule Deer – **Anneke Hart*** (*Colorado Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit*), **William Kendall** (*USGS and Colorado Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit*), and **Mat Alldredge** (*Colorado Parks and Wildlife*)

11:10-11:30 How high temperatures influence selection for snow in cold-adapted species – **Forest P. Hayes** (*Colorado State University*), **Larissa L. Bailey** (*CSU*), **Kenneth R. Wilson** (*CSU*), **Daniel McGrath** (*CSU*), and **Joel Berger** (*CSU and Wildlife Conservation Society*)

11:30-11:50 Ornate box turtle ecology in Pueblo, CO.: efficacy of remote tracking, home range approximations, and habitat use - **Franziska Sandmeier** (*CSU-Pueblo*), **E. Norton** (*CSU-Pueblo*), **M. Sena** (*CSU-Pueblo*), **J. Moreno** (*CSU-Pueblo*), **J. Morales** (*CSU-Pueblo*), **M. Gomez** (*CSU-Pueblo*), **N. Bickford** (*Oregon Institute of Technology*), and **Claire Ramos** (*CSU-Pueblo*)

11:50-12:00 Student poster and paper awards, photo contest awards

12:00 Conference concludes

12:30 CCTWS Board Meeting

Thanks to all our sponsors!