



Taking Flight campers enjoy a break on the Ouzel Falls Trail in Rocky Mountain National Park. *Tyler Edmondson*

DFO grants benefit young birders

by *Tyler Edmondson*

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory is currently in full-swing with its summer nature camps, which are being supported by DFO grants in a couple different ways.

First, RMBO staff members are enjoying the use of six, brand new, 2-way radios that were purchased with the financial assistance of one DFO grant.

Thanks to another DFO grant, three different campers were awarded scholarships to attend RMBO's overnight camps, "Taking Flight" (for 12–14 year-olds) and "On the Wing" (for 15–17 year-olds).

"Taking Flight" took place from June 14–19 near Rocky Mountain National Park, where 15 campers researched various species of birds and plants to create mini-field guides, which they presented to their families and RMBO staff members at the end of the week.

"On the Wing" was reintroduced into RMBO's summer camp schedule and to eight campers during the week of June 26–July 3 for the first time since hundreds of youth went through the program in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

This unique program taught campers how to design and implement mini-research projects/field investigations about birds. After writing scientific research papers to document their findings, campers presented their research to their families, RMBO staff and volunteers, and local natural resource professionals.

RMBO would like to thank and recognize DFO for helping to create successful, enriching experiences for campers this summer, and for its support with educating and inspiring the next generation of biologists, conservationists, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Field Trips

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Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: Take S Wadsworth Blvd past Chatfield SP to Waterton Rd on left.

Take Waterton Rd 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Road.

Turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd.

Turn left (east) onto Roxborough Park Rd and then turn immediately right (south) on Roxborough Rd and follow signs to the Park (2.2 miles).

State Parks pass or day pass required.

Bring binoculars, water, sturdy footwear, and snacks. Lunch optional, but there is a great place to picnic at the park.

Species list will probably include Lesser Goldfinch and Golden Eagle.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Staunton State Park (Jefferson County)

**Friday, August 21
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM**

Mark Amershek (Email: mamershek@msn.com Phone: 303-329-8646)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Meet at the Park-n-Ride at southwest corner of Hampden (CO 285) and Wadsworth to carpool to the park.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

Bruce Neuman will be coleader. This is a moderate hike on maintained trails for 3-4 miles total.

Habitat includes ponderosa pine, aspen, meadows, and cliffs.

Species may include woodpeckers, thrashers, flycatchers,

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