

## Field Trips

*Continued from page 3*

north to park on left at E 17th Ave.

Bird until 1 or 2 p.m. Walking will be held to a minimum, less than 2 miles, and we will drive from site to site.

We will be looking for waterfowl, raptors, and other winter residents. Bring lunch, water, snacks if needed, and dress for the predicted weather.

Also be prepared to be a rider in a car pool. **Call or email to register.**

**Saturday, January 25  
Allenspark and Lyons  
Leaders: Niña Routh, 303-987-8687, and Mike Serruto**

Meet the leaders at 8:30 a.m. at the southwest side of the Wagon Road RTD Park and Ride, 120th Ave. (from I-25) and Huron (less than 0.5 miles west of I-25).

Or the Boulder County or north- and west-siders, and any others can meet at the parking lot near the public restrooms in Sandstone Park in Lyons by 9:30.

We plan on carpooling from both locations so please be prepared for riding as well as driving.

Dress for winter conditions. We'll be walking approximately 3 miles throughout the day. Plan on a traipse around the Fawn Brook Inn and area looking for the elusive rosy-finches and assorted winter species.

Last year's highlights included Evening Grosbeaks and Clark's Nutcrackers.

Then we'll head toward Lyons looking for shrikes and eagles along the way and visit Oskar Blues for lunch.

Lunch will be followed by either a walk along the river

*Continued on next page*

## DFO grant assists educational bird banding project challenged by flood

*by Jeff Birek*

Fall 2013 was Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's inaugural season of the Lee Martinez Park banding station in Fort Collins. The beginning of the season presented a major challenge that we were not prepared for.

The flood of the Cache la Poudre River in mid-September prevented us from opening the banding station for the first scheduled week. Once the Federal Emergency Management Agency closed access to the river, we were unsure if we'd be able to band birds at all. Despite the station being underwater for several days, we were able to resume banding activities the week after.

There were a few days of bad weather after that. However, we were still able to open the banding station for 10 mornings between September 24 and October 10, 2013. We captured and banded 63 birds of 14 species. We re-caught five of these same birds a second time and re-released them. One of those, a Black-capped Chickadee, was caught three times throughout the banding season. All of the birds were released unharmed and healthy.

There were 198 people who visited the banding station during the short season. This included three school groups from Poudre School District: a group of pre-K students from the Young People's Learning Center; students and instructors from Colorado State University, University of Northern Colorado, and Front Range Community College; and a group of learning-disabled adults.

Many local birders and aspiring naturalists would stop by regularly to check on our progress. We made many great connections and look forward to new partnerships and opportunities arising from this new point of contact.

*Continued on page 5*



Visitors from the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery staff and a few Fort Collins residents enjoy viewing a Wilson's Warbler being handled by Anna Harris of RMBO. *Greg Levandoski*

## **Barr Lake CBC Sunday, January 5, 2014**

Meet at Old Stone House (RMBO Headquarters) at 7 a.m. to organize for field activity. The headquarters is at the south end of Lark Bunting Lane in Brighton. Coffee, hot cocoa, tea, and donuts will be available as we organize for the count. Participants can register online or contact Chuck Hundertmark at <chundertmark8@gmail.com> or 303-604-0531.

## **Roxborough State Park CBC Saturday, December 28, 2013**

Bird lovers unite! All ability levels welcome. Join us for the 2013 annual Douglas County Roxborough SP CBC and potluck chili dinner.

Teams spend the day counting birds and at the end of the day converge at the Roxborough State Park Visitor Center for a potluck chili dinner. State Park Pass on 28th not required for counters.

**Registration is required before December 24.** There is a \$2.00 chili charge. Chili and drinks are provided. Please bring a side dish to share. Most teams start by 7:30 a.m.

**Call the visitor center** at 303-973-3959 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to register.

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### *DFO GRANT, continued from page 4*

The highlight of our banding season was capturing a Wood Thrush. This species is an uncommon migrant in Colorado and its presence surprised the banding station staff and volunteers. The species' nearest regular breeding sites are over 400 miles away in eastern Nebraska and South Dakota.

This is an excellent indicator that the chosen site hosts a variety of migratory species and will yield critical information contributing to local and national knowledge on bird distributions and ecosystem health.

The most commonly banded species was House Sparrow with 22 captures. We captured 11 House Finches and nine Black-capped Chickadees. We banded four individuals or fewer of the other species.

On behalf of RMBO, I thank Denver Field Ornithologists for their funding support this year. We are looking forward to expanding our banding efforts in the spring and fall of 2014. This would not have been possible without your generous help this year.

***It's time to renew  
your DFO membership for 2014!  
Please fill out and mail the application  
on the back page.***

## **Field Trips**

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*Continued from page 4*

in Lyons in search of riparian species or a stroll on Rabbit Mountain (trails are more challenging than the river walk) to look for raptors and other winter residents. There is always a surprise.

**Trip is limited to 10 participants so an RSVP is a must. Please call Niña at 303-987-8687 to hold a spot.**

**Sunday, January 26  
Barr Lake SP-North Side  
Leader: Chuck Hundertmark,  
303-604-0531**

Easy walking trip for all birding skill levels. Meet leader at parking lot at the south end of Lark Bunting Lane at 8 a.m. (Note: This is not the usual Barr Lake SP meeting place.)

From the Bromley Lane/E 152nd Ave. exit off I-76, drive east on E 152nd Ave. across the railroad tracks and take an immediate right onto Lark Bunting Lane. Park pass or admission fee required.

We'll bird the area around RMBO's headquarters and the fields and ditches below the Barr Lake dam. We'll look for winter residents including raptors and waterfowl on the lake.

Bring water, snacks, binoculars, and scopes. Half-day trip.

**Call or email leader if you plan to attend <chundertmark8@gmail.com>.**

**—Scheduled by Chris Owens**