



Urban Wildlife Photo Club

July 2020 Newsletter

Next Membership Meeting: July 13th 7 PM

Online meeting.

**Link will be sent a day or two before the meeting
with a reminder about an hour before!**

Club Contact Information

Address: COUWPC
PO Box 270501
Louisville, CO 80027-0501

Email: uwpc@comcast.net **Website** <http://www.couwpc.com>

Montview Pres is still closed to outside groups through June and possibly into July, so we will again utilize ZOOM for our July meeting. ZOOM has announced and is shipping rev 5.0.2 which is supposed to address the security and privacy issues that have been the subject of recent press coverage. We'll start our regular meeting at **7 PM**. I'll open the meeting at 6:30 to allow folks to sign in.

July Speaker – Our own Bob Stocker

Jaguars, Caimans and Screamers, but No Mosquitoes

Most people measure time by counting minutes, hours, months and years. Bob and Nancy Stocker measure time by counting the bottles of insect repellent on the shelf of a basement closet. They follow tour company advice to buy fresh insect repellent for each international trip. They rarely use much. On a recent trip to Brazil's Pantanal every drop of insect repellent came home with them. They also returned with thousands of photos. In his talk Bob will share some of their favorites. Watch Craig's List if you're in the market for insect repellent.



MEMBER MONTHLY IMAGE SUBMISSION

Members and first-time guests are encouraged to submit images for a gentle critique. We are not a competitive club, but we do strive to help our members learn and improve their photographic skills. Guidelines are below.

We have both open and theme image categories:

July images due by July 6th

Send to: uwpcimages@comcast.net

July Theme - Panorama

August Theme - Above Treeline

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS FOR IMAGE LABELING, ESPECIALLY THE USE OF SPECIAL CHARACTERS (NO @) AND NAMING NEEDS.

PLEASE ADHERE TO THE DATE & SIZE REQUESTED -1MB or less

Two categories at each meeting - THEMED AND OPEN

- Maximum of 4 images total and no more than one themed image
- Email files one week before the scheduled meeting to

uwpcimages@comcast.net Please use this one!

- Send themed category images in an email titled 'themed images'
- Send open category images in an email titled 'critique images'
- If your image is selected to appear on the club website, the website caption will be derived from the file name. Be sure that your name and the image title as you would like them to appear on the website are included in the file name. Use only letters (a-z and A-Z), numerals (0-9), dashes (-), underscores (_), and the single dot before ".jpg" in file names. Avoid using blanks. Use dashes (-) underscores (_) and capitalization to indicate word boundaries (e.g. Bob_Dean-Trees_In_Snow.jpg or BobDean-TreesInSnow.jpg). It is acceptable to include other information that identifies the image in file names, but you risk the possibility that this information will be misinterpreted by the webmaster. Although it's unlikely, the image BobDean_TreesInSnow_27583.jpg might end up on the website with the title "Trees in Snow 27853."



MEMBER MONTHLY IMAGE SUBMISSION CONT'D

OPTIONAL Descriptive information for each *critique image* should be as follows:

Exposure data should, for example, include f/stop, shutter speed, ISO, any exposure compensation, and any filter information. Post processing enhancements should include only those things beyond simply cropping, sharpening, noise reduction, etc. such as HDR, panorama work, color enhancements, exposure changes, etc. If you can put the image data (if you choose to include it) **as text** in the body of the email as opposed to an attached word or excel file, it would be appreciated! Makes life easier if everyone does the same thing.

IMAGE	IMAGE TITLE	SPECIES	LOCATION	CAMERA	LENS	EXPOSURE DATA	POST PROCESSING ENHANCEMENTS
Critique 1							
Critique 2							
Critique 3							

Please don't use an @ in the exposure information as when I copy it into the slide presentation, the computer sees it as an email address, and I need to retype rather than copy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTES

Writer's Wanted

We are ALWAYS looking for material to put in the newsletter. If you want to be "published," feel free to write (and add images if you want) on any subject about which you think the members would like to read. Don't worry about grammar or style, we'll do a bit of editing if you'd like. Send them to uwpc@comcast.net.



The other website!

Contributions to oururbanwildlife.org have been stagnant for a few months. At this point, we don't need any administrative help with the site, but we do need contributions. Here are some of the ways that folks could help:

- Contributing photos
- Contributing blog posts (Curtis *might* edit posts, but only lightly for clarity)
- Soliciting others to write blog posts – any friend, acquaintance, or family member with special interest or knowledge of wildlife would be welcome
- Contributing articles
- Finding articles that we can reprint and getting permission to do so.
- Promoting the site to other clubs. I've found that promoting the site in person has been more effective than other methods.
- Promoting the site on social media. We already have a Facebook page set up for it and could add folks as admins to that page. We can work together to set up Twitter or other social media accounts.
- Contacting "celebrity" photographers for contributions – written or photographic. These folks could be known as photographers – such as John Fielder – or known for other work (journalism, politics, business, etc.) with an interest in photography – such as Tom Green on 9 News.

Please consider doing something to help this project along! If you have questions, contributions or ideas and are not sure what to do, contact me at uwpc@comcast.net or Curtis Johnson at curtis.e.johnson@comcast.net



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTES

The Planned Fall Field Trip

At this time our fall trip is up in the air (COVID-19). We'll make a decision based on guidance from local authorities, hotel and restaurant availability, but my guess is maybe next year.

Denver Audubon participates in Colorado State Parks nature sightings initiative

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has a nature sightings database that is helping Park officials create Park-usage and stewardship guidelines. Denver Audubon (<https://denveraudubon.org/>) is participating in the planning process by feeding iNaturalist sightings into the database. More on that below. Denver Audubon has asked UWPC member/photographer Tom Loucks to assist by shadowing one of the Audubon Naturalists in periodically patrolling the Audubon property near Waterton Canyon and taking good DSLR photos of whatever observations that individual wishes to record (birds, mammals, insects, plants, amphibians, etc). The actual Audubon project on iNaturalist is labelled, Denver Audubon Nature Center and Trails.

Tom reports that he's using two DSLRs fitted with short-range and long-range zoom lenses to capture plants and animals. Thus far, he hasn't used a macro-lens but has found that enlarging flower images has sufficed to capture views of appropriate insects. As of this writing (June 28th), there have been 114 observers recording sightings for Audubon (*not* including Tom), and 1046 observations recorded.



Presently, Denver Audubon is contemplating how it might best use the data being gathered. The issue is, since the Audubon data is already being contributed to the Parks' database, the most likely beneficiary of such data is Chatfield, and Chatfield is already receiving and massaging the data.

Denver Audubon employee Kate Hogan – Community Outreach Coordinator (and the one who conscripted Tom!) - reports that Colorado Parks & Wildlife currently collects all of the Audubon project data into the greater “State Parks Finder” project which helps to catalogue the wildlife and plant observations at all 41 state

parks: <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/RS-State-Parks-NatureFinder.aspx>.

Colorado Parks has a Stewardship Planning Process which is specific to each of the State parks. This process relates to a comprehensive biological resource management plan designed for each of the State parks. The individual Park plans result from field surveys, background research, and research-grade sightings compiled from iNaturalist (these are corroborated sightings which, once confirmed, are deemed worthy of being incorporated into the planning process).

How does all that affect the photographer/hiker/park-user? Setting aside the long-range planning process, the current sightings also feed into a Guidebook section of iNaturalist which can be called up for each park: each of the Parks now has available a Park Animal and Plant Guides, on-line.

- Each park has its own set of guides for plants and animals that occur in that park;
- A particular on-line guidebook can be refined by filtering colors and families (birds, mammals, grasses, butterflies).



To use the Park guides, go to the Guides section of the iNaturalist website. Then,

Type the name of the Park into the search bar and select which guide you wish to use.

Click the menu icon on the side to access the species filters.

If one is accessing the Guides on-line, one will need to click “Green +” to add additional filters.

<https://www.inaturalist.org>

It’s a work in progress. Tom has joined iNaturalist and may have more to report as we move through the Summer into Fall.

Thanks to Tom Loucks for his work and for contributing this article to the newsletter. A version of it is on our Urban Wildlife website: oururbanwildlife.org

Kudos



If anyone has an image published, places in a contest or gets any kind of recognition for their work, please let us know and we'll get it into the newsletter. Please use email to uwpc@comcast.net to alert us. (If you tell me verbally at the meeting or on the phone, I can almost assure you that I'll forget!)

The Los Angeles chapter of the Sierra Club has a very active photography club (they are once again advertising field trips) which publishes a monthly newsletter. They were searching for "topics alpine" from beyond the Sierra Nevada, and asked Tom Loucks for a short article on wildlife and landscape photography opportunities in the Rockies. His story ended up being the cover story for their June edition. The attached newsletter cover was a photo cropped from one of UWPC's club entry photos that won an acceptance award at the Glennie contest in 2018.

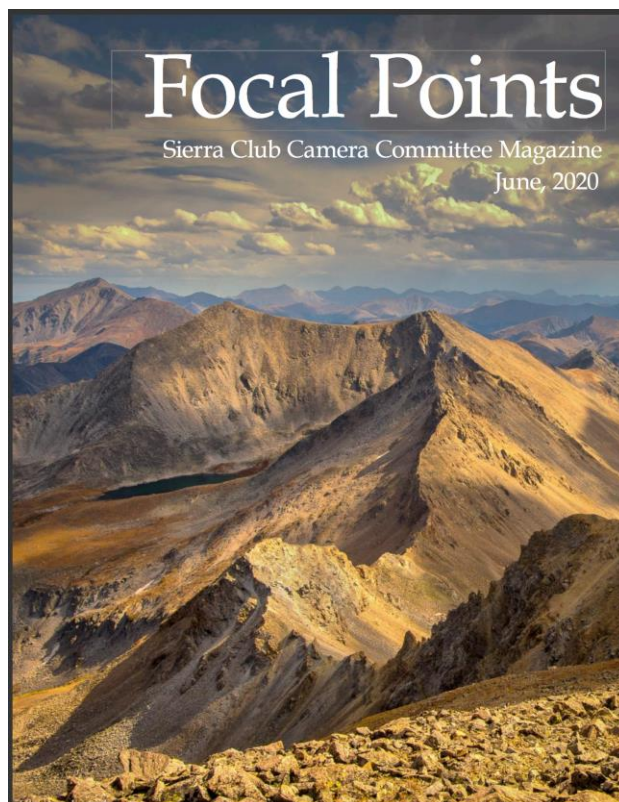


PHOTO CONTESTS



Some thoughts on Photo Contests:

Whenever you think about entering a photo contest you should very carefully read the Ts and Cs. I know that the legalese can be daunting but there are a lot of contests out there that are a “rights grab.” Make sure that the ones you enter specifically lay out the image ownership agreement. Whenever you send in images to a contest you are entering into a contract. You really should consider only those contests that have very limited usage of your photos and state in their rules that YOU retain full ownership of the image. When you read the fine print on image usage, watch out for those contests that demand the right to use all your entries for their own purposes, not just the winners.

Ongoing Contest

BBC Wildlife Magazine Monthly Photo Contest

Information at:

<http://www.discoverwildlife.com/your-photos/photo-contest>

Contest Information Website;

If you'd like a resource that has just about all of the contests out there, take a look at Photo Contest Insider at <https://www.photocontestinsider.com/contest/all-themes/>

When considering a contest, heed the warnings in the “Some thoughts..” box above.

