



Urban Wildlife Photo Club

May 2021 Newsletter

Next Membership Meeting: **May 10th, 2021**

Online meeting at 6:45 PM

**SEE BELOW FOR MEETING LINK
INFORMATION**

Club Contact Information

Address: COUWPC
PO Box 270501
Louisville, CO 80027-0501
Email: uwpc@comcast.net Website <http://www.couwpc.com>

DUES: They are now past due for the 2021 calendar year

\$20 for an individual, couple or family. Please send them to the PO box shown above.

A link for the online meeting will be sent out a few days before the meeting and again as a reminder about an hour before the meeting.

May Program - Bob Dean Short Course on Flower Photography

Starting in Spring and going all the way to Fall, flowers continue to present great photo opportunities. In this short course we'll look the craft of flower photography and explore the artistic use light and creative composition for making images of these gifts of nature.

Have a note pad handy if you wish!

Photo Contest thoughts: You may want to pay particular attention to the notes on page 7 concerning possible rights grabs embedded in contest terms and conditions. A recent NANPA article on a New Jersey Fish and Game contest as well as the current Jackson Hole contest are examples of the range of rights you can give away when you enter. Link to the NANPA article is on page 7.



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:
May Critique and Theme images due by May 3rd

Send to: uwpcimages@comcast.net

- May Theme – Rain
- June Theme - Canyons

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS FOR IMAGE LABELING, ESPECIALLY THE USE OF SPECIAL CHARACTERS (NO @) AND NAMING NEEDS. If I get really busy, I may not be able to accept images that don't follow these "rules."

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 and on the Urban Wildlife website. 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 and enter it on the website: <http://oururbanwildlife.org/>

Thanks this month to Tom Loucks for his really fun article on a finch nest. See page 8.

Heads up on our June Program:

Our June speaker will be current NANPA President Dawn Wilson, and she will present her program on Photographing in National Wildlife Refuges. <http://www.couwpc.com/calendar/2021/06-DawnWilson.html>

2021 Meeting Plans NO CHANGES FROM LAST MONTH:

I finally spoke with the people at Montview Pres. They are still only holding virtual stuff and are planning to start thinking about outside groups meeting in person sometime in April or May. I figure we MIGHT be able to return in the July or August timeframe.

Once that is finalized, I'll see about their WiFi/Broadband situation and see if we can continue to use Zoom, so those folks who don't want to travel to Denver can still attend meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTES



Hey folks, please consider contributing to [Our Urban Wildlife](#). Submissions did increase since I sent information to other clubs, but since then they have slowed!

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)
- Links to blogs or websites.
- 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



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. Also, if you are doing something for the wildlife in our state shoot me an email. Please do use **email**: uwpc@comcast.net to alert us. (If you tell me verbally at the online meeting or on the phone, I can almost assure you that I'll forget!)

Kudos to Mary Kiesling for her volunteer efforts on behalf of Colorado's wildlife.

Raptor Monitoring at Jackson Lake State Park - - located east of Greeley and north of Wiggins in Morgan County, was created as an irrigation reservoir. It's a good place for fishing (summer and winter) and boating in the summer. She has been monitoring raptors and raptor nests there for the past four years - - going into her fifth year now.

Another wildlife project she has worked on for several years has been to monitor Mountain Bluebird nesting boxes in the North Park area of Colorado. Most of the boxes are located west of the town of Walden. There were 47 boxes to monitor this past year. The project will be going into the 23rd year of monitoring this spring. The route is part of the Bluebird Trail that runs through Colorado.

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.

For a current egregious example check out:

<http://www.nanpa.org/warning-photo-rights-grab-by-new-jersey-division-of-fish-and-wildlife/>

BBC Wildlife Magazine Monthly Photo on going Contest Information at:

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

2020 Share the View Contest Awards Encore Presentation on YouTube:

Check out the awards videos at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3-9X_iqQBk16ve6JW8tgg

Contest Information Website;

If you'd like a resource that has just about all the contests out there, take a look at Photo Contest Insider at

<https://www.photocontestinsider.com/contest/all-themes/>



Nature Loves a Vacuum by Tom Loucks

We all know that nature will fill a niche if one exists, and it doesn't matter that the opening might have been created by humans; in fact, for wildlife accustomed to humans, maybe they watch for these opportunities?

A friend of ours lives in an apartment complex in Lakewood, and there the complex has been the subject of repeated nesting attempts by swallows. The response of Property Management was to install plastic spikes (clear in color) under the eaves so as to discourage swallows from attempting to build nests.

That friend of ours noticed something different this year: Outside above her porch, there had been a gap in the line of plastic spikes, and Property Management had installed some kind of netting instead. Well, that was all that was needed for some House Finches to move in.

In the attached photo, we can see (barely) the clear plastic spikes on the left where swallows were discouraged from nesting, and, on the right, we can easily see the nest built by the finches. The House Finches pulled the netting aside once they saw the gap and filled the void between plastic spikes with their own new nest.



The message? Not only that “nature loves a vacuum” and there was a nesting opportunity created when Property Management left a void in the lineup of plastic spikes, but that birds are ever on the lookout for situations and, given the chance and the absence of swallows, the Finches were on it! (apologies that the photo doesn’t show a current finch, but the story and photo are current as of April 2021).

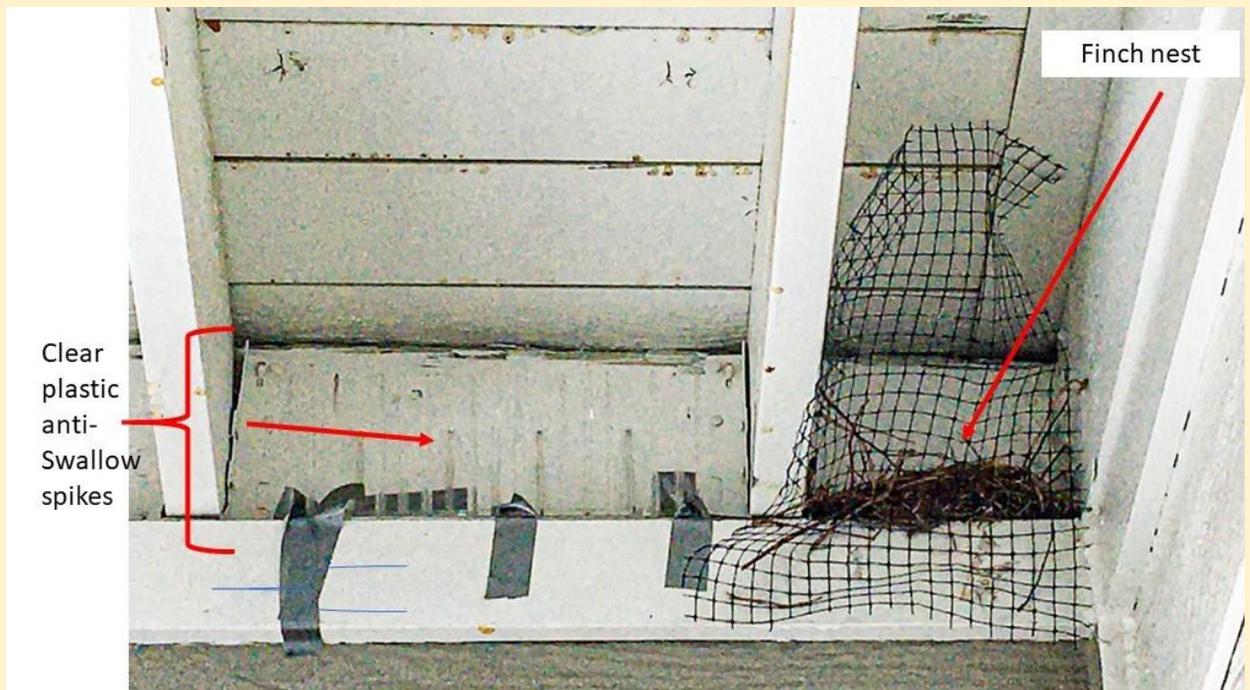


Image made by a friend of Tom and Dominique Loucks