

Urban Wildlife Photo Club

May 2022 Newsletter

Next Membership Meeting: **May 9, 2022**

Online meeting at 6:45 PM

SEE BELOW FOR MEETING LINK INFORMATION

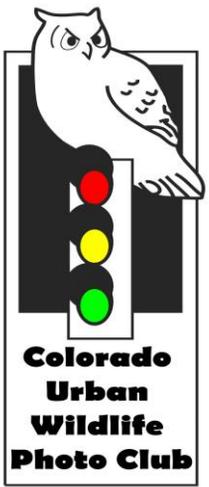
Club Contact Information

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

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.

Annual Dues were "due" in March. We are holding are dues at \$20 for a person, couple or family. Please send your check to the P O Box address shown above. Thanks to those who have already send them in.

May Program: We are not yet sure; Fred is working on it. We will have a program! When it's firm, I'll send out an email.



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 2nd

Send to: uwpcimages@comcast.net

- May Theme – Spring
- June Theme - Wildlife Babies

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."

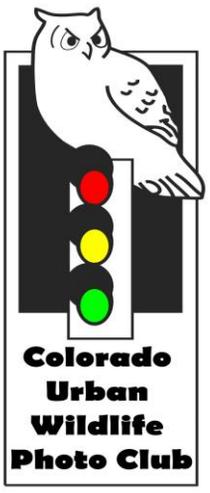
PLEASE ADHERE TO THE DATE & SIZE REQUESTED -1MB or less

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:

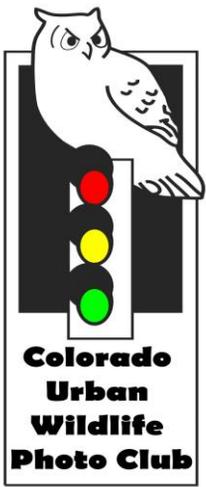
Exposure data should, for example, include f/stop, shutter speed, ISO, any exposure compensation, and any filter information. Post processing enhancements should include only those things beyond simply cropping, sharpening, noise reduction, etc. such as HDR, panorama work, color enhancements, exposure 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.

Sample table for exposure details

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.

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.

BBC Wildlife Magazine Monthly Photo on-going Contest Information at:

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

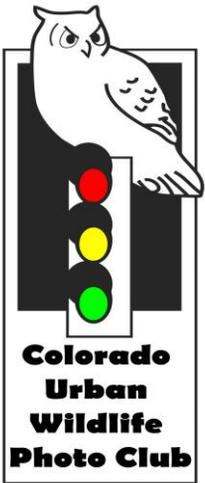
Contest Information Website;

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

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

Kudos

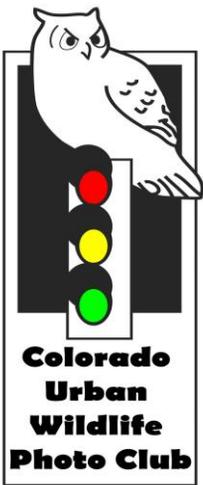
If anyone has an image published, places in a contest or gets any kind of recognition for their work, please let us know and we'll get it into the newsletter. Also, if you are doing something for the wildlife in our state shoot me an email. Please do use email: uwpc@comcast.net to alert us. (If you tell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



Announcements and Notes

The other website!

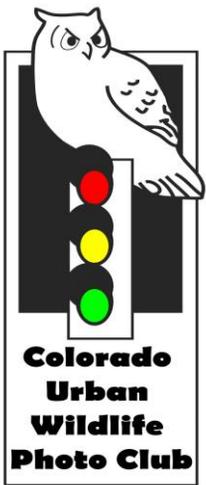
Contributions to oururbanwildlife.org have been stagnant for a few months. At this point, we don't need any administrative help with the site, but we do need contributions. Here are some of the ways that folks could help:



- 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

Announcements and Notes



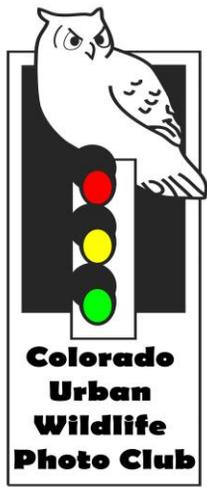
Spring Field Trip

We're in the final planning stages for our Spring field trip. The date is fixed for May 15th to photograph the total lunar eclipse. We're working on possible locations as the eclipse starts pretty close to moon rise, so we need a place with a clear view of the southeast horizon. The eclipse will be over by midnight so (at least for night sky photography) it will be an "early" evening. Several folks have expressed interest so if you wish to join them, please send me an email at uwpc@comcast.net. As with our meteor shower field trip last year, I'll be providing assistance on getting great images before and during the trip. The first set of tips went out to the folks who were "on the list."

Announcements and Notes

We have a new feature in the works: “Location Temptation”

With spring here and summer/fall on the horizon, we thought it might be fun to add to the newsletter descriptions and/or recommendations on possible locations, within Colorado or adjacent states, that offer photo opportunities. We'd like to ask you, our members, to do short articles on your favorite location(s) for photography.

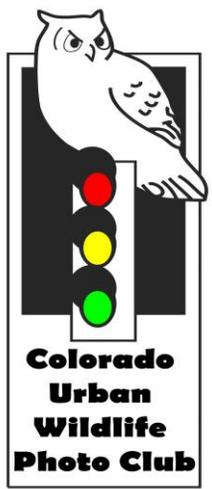


Here is an example of a trip we recently made to the San Luis Valley. The trip was primarily to photograph the sandhill cranes, but we found other great opportunities. As we drove around the Valley, we reminisced about many other things down there that are great subjects.

San Luis Valley:

It isn't an exotic location compared to Belize, Africa, or Antarctica and it isn't really local, but it is doable for a range of budgets. The San Luis Valley offers a variety of photographic opportunities, both natural and cultural, within its large expanse (>100 miles long and 50 miles wide). The main requirement is that you don't mind driving.

Time of year makes a difference. You wouldn't necessarily make the 5-hour trip in winter to capture images you could get in the Denver area. Beginning in March, however, the opportunities begin with the impressive migration of greater sandhill cranes primarily through the area south of Monte Vista. The town has a festival with an Arts and Crafts component, educational opportunities, and bus tours if you are so inclined. The cranes are on their way to Gray's Lake NWR in Idaho as well as other parts of the greater Yellowstone Ecosystem for breeding. They rest and "re-fuel" at the Monte Vista NWR for a few weeks each year. The refuge is easily accessible to photographers and the birds can be quite close to the various pullouts on the roads. Early morning and late afternoon provide nice light for shots of cranes dancing, flying and just congregating.

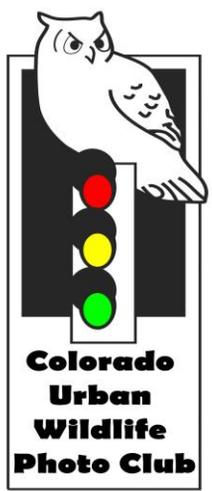


On our most recent trip we did spend time with the cranes but additionally we took side trips to La Garita where we photographed the old church and rosary walk outside the church, spent part of a day in Creede where we discovered the mining museum completely inside the mountain, and after a great lunch at the 4th Street Bakery and Café in Saguache (pronounced Sa WATCH), we photographed some of the historical buildings. Also, while in Saguache, we had the opportunity to visit with the publisher and editor

of the local weekly newspaper, the last paper in the country (world?) to use a hot lead linotype machine. (See Smithsonian Magazine April/May 2022 issue for lots of information on the newspaper.)

You might also consider:

- Sand Dunes National Park. Lots of great shots, especially in the late afternoon. The Dunes are an IDA Dark Sky location so night photography is wonderful, especially when the Galactic Center of the Milky Way is visible (use an app like PhotoPills or Stellarium to find dates). Our club had a productive night photographing the dark sky from the parking lot of the Sand Dunes Visitor Center last summer.
- Crestone with its unique town, Buddhist Stupa, and local wildlife
- Historic Spanish villages in the far southeast part of the Valley
- Cumbres and Toltec railroad with regular excursion and specialty trains. If you'd rather not ride the train, it's fun to photograph it when it leaves the station in Antonito or from various places along the highway to Chama, New Mexico.
- The town of San Luis with its Stations of the Cross walk (uphill!)
- All of the interesting and historical buildings in the various small towns along the main highways.
- The National Wildlife Refuges: Alamosa. Monte Vista and Baca.
- Russell Lakes State Wildlife Area south of Saguache.



- The history museums in Saguache, Alamosa, Fort Garland, and Del Norte and the Museum at the Homelake Veterans Home in Monte Vista.
- Fun and possibly “tacky” places like the Alligator Farm in Mosca and the Alien Observation UFO Watch Tower along State Highway 17 near the town of Hooper.
- The historical cemetery at Villa Grove at the north end of the Valley.
- Old mining town of Bonanza, west and north of Villa Grove (just beyond Bonanza is the Exchequer townsite and cemetery where the historic figure and author Anne Ellis is buried).

Lodging is readily available in many of the towns (Alamosa, Monte Vista, Del Norte, and Ft Garland). There are a variety of places to stay with a wide price range from camping to hotel chains to a boutique hotel (Windsor Hotel in Del Norte). As a lark, there is the Best Western Movie Manor just west of Monte Vista, where in the warmer weather, you can watch current movies on the outdoor drive-in screens right from your room.

Restaurants also range from modest - Dos Hermanas in Antonito, Locavores in Alamosa, Chavolo's Mexican Restaurant, Raisin Rye Bakery and Three Barrels Brewing all in Del Norte - to gourmet (Windsor Hotel). Alamosa has many fast-food places as well.

We'd like to know about your favorite place or places that are within a day's drive or so of Denver (or even in the Denver area), for our new feature “Location Temptation;” anything from a paragraph or two to an article with photos. If you can, please include information on food and/or lodging, what made your photo experience successful and any tips on how to best enjoy the experience. In addition to the newsletter, we'll add these to one or possibly both of our websites.