

# Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

June 2009

Volume 33, Number 6

## “Things with Wings” Exhibitors Chosen

Our May club meeting was devoted entirely to the upcoming exhibit at The Wildlife Experience, “Things with Wings.” The night’s agenda was to vote on all the photographs submitted by the members, eventually determining the final 22 photographs to be included in the exhibit. Forty different members submitted over 100 entries. The first round of voting chose the favorite entry for each of the 40 members. After the break, the second round of voting chose the 22 exhibit finalists from among the best of each member. A final round of voting chose the two ‘best of show’ photographs. The winning photographers and photographs are:



*Pallid Bat by James Hager*



*Snowy Owl by Fi Rust*



*Singing Robins by Russ Burden*



*Weaver be Jan Forseth*



*Royal Terns by Georgia Hart*



*Soaring by Pay Hayes*



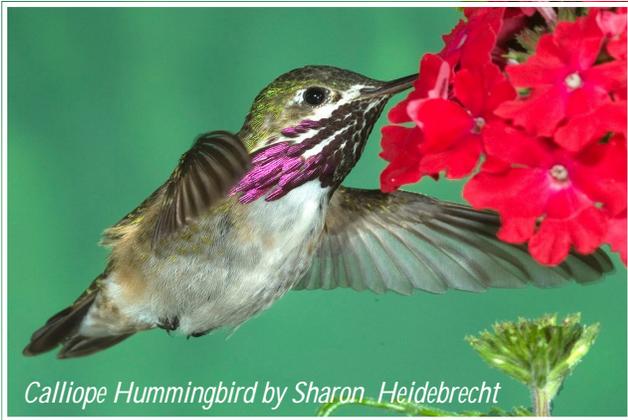
*Lilac Breasted Roller by Jack Davis*



*Great Egret Reflection by Steve Goodman*



*Flying Beetle by Michael Heidebrecht*



*Calliope Hummingbird by Sharon Heidebrecht*



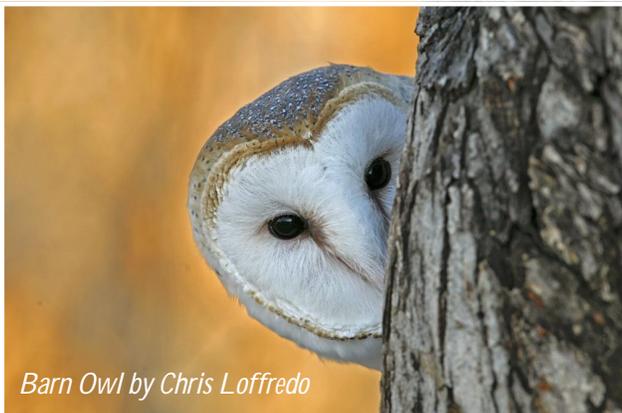
*Tropicbird by Cathy Illg*



*Monarchs by Gordon Illg*



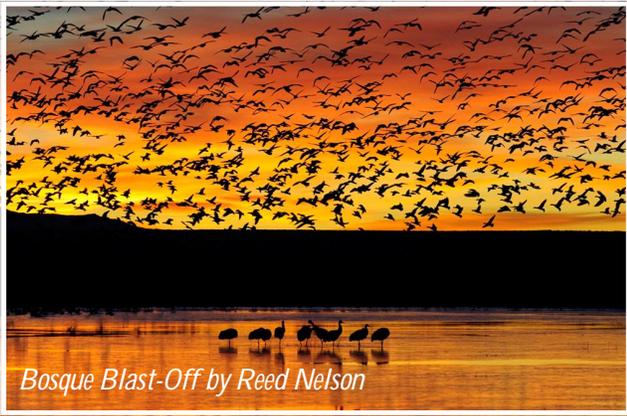
*Goldfinch by Lara Hardesty*



*Barn Owl by Chris Loffredo*



*Homer Eagle by Peter Miller*



*Bosque Blast-Off by Reed Nelson*



*Swallow-Tailed Bee-Eaters by Rita Summers*



*Sacred Ibis by Bruce Norman*



*Galapagos Owl by Mary Paetow*



*Western Bluebird by Chuck Summers*



*Red-Billed Hornbill by Chauncey Walden*



*Broad-Tailed Hummingbird by Robin Wilson*



*King Vulture by Bob Cross*



*Bosque Take-Off by Patrick Devereaux*



## Sheba's Pack - Part One

By Nancy Rynes

*Mid July, 2002:*

I rounded one of the last turns on my morning bicycle ride – I was tired and hot and intent on getting home. A strange noise came from off to my right. It sounded like a pack of wolves howling. *It couldn't be wolves, not here. Not Canon City, Colorado!*

More howling, louder this time and obviously wolves. I stopped my bike and looked for the source of the howling. About a hundred feet off the road and down a hill, next to a small home, I saw part of an enclosure. Inside of that fence was a beautiful white wolf. Her amber stare sent a quick chill up my spine despite the 95° heat.

The white wolf was soon joined by four others – two black, one almost as white as the first, and one tawny brown. They all stared at me with those glowing, amber eyes.

Home could wait a bit.

I pedaled my bike down the drive and found the owner. Her name was Annie\*. She and her husband, Pat, acquired the wolves the previous year.

They had actually rescued just the white wolf, Sheba. Sheba had been a "pet" - chained to a post in someone's yard in town – she was underfed and neglected. Having helped with wolf rescues before, Annie convinced the owner that Sheba would be better off on some acreage, so

Sheba came home to their small farm.

Annie and her husband, Pat, constructed a ½ acre wolf enclosure (10 feet of above-ground steel fencing plus 3 feet of below-grade fence). Sheba seemed content in her new home – she had room to run and plenty of meat to eat.

Just a few weeks after the rescue, Sheba surprised Annie by giving birth to four pups – Crow, Arapahoe, Dakota, and Shoshone. They were later genetically tested to make sure they were true wolves and not wolf-dog hybrids. They passed the test – 100% gray wolf genes.

Now the pups were about ten months old – almost full-grown but still looking a bit like awkward teens. Crow was the largest of the pups – he would fill out to be about 120 pounds and have a tawny-colored coat.

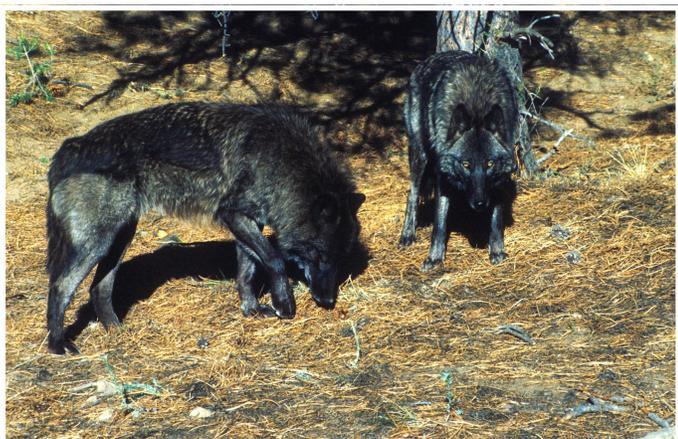


Shoshone was a small female and very light-colored like her mother. Dakota and Arapahoe were the black-coated, inseparable, brother and sister pair.

Annie convinced me to meet the wolves inside the pen. I will admit to a fleeting panic as I walked in behind her. Any one of these wolves could easily have me for lunch – it's humbling to understand that *you* can be considered prey.

Sheba immediately trotted over and gave me a thorough sniffing. She was a small wolf, perhaps 90 pounds, but her head was massive – she could easily have taken my entire face between her jaws without a second thought. Her feet were bigger than the palm of my hand and her shoulder came up almost to my hip.

Sheba was still a wild creature, but by watching her body language I understood that I was being treated as an *alpha* and she was the *beta*. Having worked with habituated, rescued wolves previously helped me know how to act around them. Be confident. Don't be aggressive or afraid, and for God's sake, don't run!



Once Sheba approved of me, Crow and Shoshone joined in. Crow did a wolf-rub greeting against my thigh and almost knocked me over with his weight and strength. Shoshone was a little shy and gave me a few sniffs before loping off to the far end of the enclosure. Arapahoe and Dakota were the most timid of the group – neither approached me on this visit, and Arapahoe retreated into a den she was excavating.

Even though captive, these wolves maintained the “wolfness” of their non-captive counterparts. All of the typical wolf behaviors were played out in front of me – greetings, establishing pecking order, play, stalking, even denning.

Annie explained that the wolves were not pets – it was her intention to give them a safe, comfortable place to live out their days as wolves. Being habituated to humans meant that the wolves could never be released, but as wild animals they didn't make very good “pets” either.

To give the wolves a better home, the couple was moving to a larger parcel of land in the mountains. Annie invited me to visit again once they completed their move - an offer I gladly accepted.

*Continued next month...*

*\*human names changed to maintain privacy. All photos courtesy of Nancy Rynes.*

## From the Webmaster

The club website, [www.mhwpc.org](http://www.mhwpc.org), has two new features to keep you informed, especially if you miss a General Meeting. First, there are meeting summaries so you can see what happened at the General Meetings. Go to the News & Information menu then the Meeting Summary link. Special thanks to Chris Frazier, one of the new Newsletter editors, who will enter the meeting summary information. Second, the website will send out emails when new competition images are available online.

If you had requested any form of email communication from the club, you will have received an email with the meeting summary for the May General Meeting and an email that the TWE images were online. You will continue to receive meeting summary emails and competition image emails unless you opt out on your Manage Account page (see Meeting Summaries and Competition Images in the Email Preferences section).

If you would like to start receiving emails with the meeting summaries, notices when new competition images are posted, notices of upcoming meetings, notices of upcoming competitions, and/or blog posts, visit your Manage Account page and edit your Email Preferences.

If you have any questions or suggestions for how to improve the website, contact the webmaster ([webmaster@mhwpc.org](mailto:webmaster@mhwpc.org)).

## Photo Ops of Interest

If you would like to share Photo Ops with other members of the club please send information to [newsletter@mhwpc.org](mailto:newsletter@mhwpc.org).

### *National Wildlife's Photo Contest*

It's time again for *National Wildlife's* Photo Contest. The magazine invites you to enter your favorite images in its 39<sup>th</sup> annual competition.

**This is its biggest contest ever:** Cash prizes totaling **\$25,000** plus other gifts will be awarded to winners in **Professional, Amateur and Youth divisions**, including \$5,000 each for two grand prize winners, one professional and one amateur. You can submit as many as 20 images in any combination of the following seven categories:

**Birds:** portraits and behavior

**Mammals:** portraits and behavior

**Other Wildlife:** portraits and behavior (includes underwater life, reptiles, amphibians, insects and more)

**Backyard Habitats:** wild creatures, native plants and natural settings in your yard

**Landscapes and Plant Life:** scenic views and native plants in wild settings

**Connecting People and Nature:** people enjoying the outdoors

**Global Warming and Wildlife:** portraits and behavior of specific species affected by global warming (complete list of species at <http://www.nwf.org/photozone/categories.cfm>).

- **\$25,000 in Cash Prizes**
- **Two \$5,000 Grand Prizes**
- **Pro, Amateur and Youth Divisions**
- **Submit up to 20 Photos**
- **7 Categories**
- **Free One-Year NWF Membership and Subscription to *National Wildlife***

The deadline for all submissions is **July 20, 2009**. For more details about the categories, the rules, how to submit your photos and other information, go to <http://www.nwf.org/photozone/enterphotocontest.cfm>.

## Digital Study Meeting

The May Digital Study Meeting featured three excellent presentations. Stephanie Lindemann started the evening with her workflow methods, including ideas for setting up files and long-term file management. She also demonstrated using the Adobe Bridge Photo Downloader, including how to set up standard options. Options include setting up automatic backup, preferably using an external hard drive that can be kept separate from your main computer. Matt Schaefer followed with a presentation on using Adobe Elements, advising that Elements has a large part of Photoshop that is important to photographers at a much lower cost. Matt also mentioned he uses Microsoft Photostory 3—a free download—as a tool for building slide shows. Chuck Summers closed the evening with a presentation on Photoshop techniques, especially demonstrating the Vivesa plug-in.

Upcoming Meetings:

### June 24th

Frank Weston: Working with Blend Modes to lighten or darken images.

A Volunteer is needed to also present a basic level topic.

### July 22nd

Excerpts from the Colin Smith DVD Demonstrating what's new in Photoshop CS4.

If you have not yet attended the digital group meetings you can hopefully see there's a lot to be learned from your fellow club members!

All paid members are encouraged to attend the digital study meetings. The meetings start at 7:15 PM on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Enter through the main entrance, not the doors used for accessing the theater. Bring a notebook and writing implement to take your notes. Also, feel free to volunteer to do a presentation. The more people who participate, the better!

## Upcoming Field Trips

Anyone interested in field trips should contact Chuck Winter. (303)972-2538, [cwinter80127@gmail.com](mailto:cwinter80127@gmail.com), or, [cwinter@mii-rmcc.com](mailto:cwinter@mii-rmcc.com).

We need a leader for a potential field trip to Mount Evans on May 30<sup>th</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup>, June 20<sup>th</sup>, or June 28<sup>th</sup>. This is prime season for mountain goat kids. Last year on the first weekend of June we had some great shooting. This year might be later due to the late snow fall. Contact Chuck Winter if you could lead this trip (303) 972-2538.

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## Library News from the Lamb's

Don't forget how to read and energize yourself with new ideas for photo ops. Stop by the library table and see what we have to offer. I have a DVD set on the national parks which shows many special places for you to visit – in your spare time (ha, ha) or at least in your dreams. Remember, you may receive the special prize for the night just for checking out an item. Please remember to return your checked out items.



Joe and Betsy Lamb - Librarians

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## More Photo Ops of Interest

### Photo Contest

National Geographic Magazine is holding a photo contest, an entry fee required. Amateur and Professional prizes will be awarded. Check it out at: [www.worldinfocuscontest.com](http://www.worldinfocuscontest.com)

### Hospitality for May Meeting

**Robin Wilson**      cookies/snacks  
**Roger Kinney**      beverages

## Upcoming Programs

### June - Glenn Randall

*"Colorado Wild & Beautiful"*

Program will show images from Randall's two books *Colorado Wild & Beautiful* and *Rocky Mountain National Park Impressions*. He will describe techniques used for best-selling images, offer tips on scouting great locations, and finding beautiful light by understanding atmospheric optics and controlling high dynamic-range scenes. Glenn Randall has sold over 10,000 prints of his landscape images. We should get some great tips on photographing Colorado wildflowers (see our website for details). Glenn will be judging our competition. Bonus feature during our break—we will visit the MHWPC Exhibit "Things With Wings".

### July

Speaker TBA

Photographing Colorado Fall Colors. Bonus feature during our break - we will be able to tour TWE exhibit – Fragile Nature.

### August

Guided tour of the new addition to The Wildlife Experience – Globology!

### September

Speaker TBA

*Photographing Colorado Fall Wildlife*

Best locations for photographing Colorado wildlife: deer, elk, foxes, waterfowl, and more.

### October - Gordon and Cathy Illg

*How to Photograph Nature*

Presentation on the nuts and bolts of nature and wildlife photography.

## Workshops and Seminars:

### Cathy & Gordon Illg – Workshops:

Adventure Photography 303 237-7086

[gordon@advenphoto.com](mailto:gordon@advenphoto.com)

[www.advenphoto.com](http://www.advenphoto.com)

### 2009 Schedule:

- Wildlife Babies, June 18-21
- Glacier National Park, July 5-10
- Polar Bears, October 30-November 5

We are offering our NANPA discount to all club members also – \$50.00 discount on less than 5 day tours and \$75.00 discount on all other domestic tours.

### Russ Burden's Photography Tours:

Visit [www.russburdenphotography.com](http://www.russburdenphotography.com). Contact Russ at 303-791-9997, [rburden@ecentral.com](mailto:rburden@ecentral.com)

Destinations include:.

- Sept. 23-Oct. 2, 2009 - Tetons and Yellowstone National Parks in Fall - 10 days
- Oct. 20 - 25, 2009 - Hunts Mesa
- Nov. 1 - 7, 2009 - Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks
- Dec. 1 - 7, 2009 - Bosque Del Apache & White Sands National Monument

## Classified Ads:

For Sale – 4 Cool Cams – 3 in 1 digital camera kits – 640x480 pixels Save and view your pictures on your TV without a computer. Great starter set for kids. Retail for \$59.99 . Selling for \$25.00 each. See Betsy or Joe to take a look at them. See it by contacting Joe or Betsy Lamb at 303-841-2565 or cell 303-961-1073

5 Canon ELPH 370Z APS Camera kits complete with film, batteries, case. Retail for \$55.99 . selling for \$25.00. Takes close –ups, panoramics , and regular pics. See processed pics by contacting Betsy or Joe Lamb – 303-841-2565 or cell 303-961-1073

Nikon 300mm F4 AF-S. Excellent condition. \$950. Really Right Stuff LC-A10 collar for Nikon 300mm F4 AF-S. Note, does not include LCF-10 foot. \$80. Contact [peter@petermillerphoto.com](mailto:peter@petermillerphoto.com)

## Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

**President:** Matt Schaefer

[mattscha@aol.com](mailto:mattscha@aol.com) 303-972-9882

**Vice-President:** Sam Fletcher

[shjff@aol.com](mailto:shjff@aol.com) 303-688-5107

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Patrick Devereaux

[Patrick@devereauxphoto.com](mailto:Patrick@devereauxphoto.com) 303-717-2436

### Newsletter Editors:

Nancy Rynes Chris Frazier

[newsletter@mhwpc.org](mailto:newsletter@mhwpc.org) 303-356-2399

**Webmaster:** James Hager

<http://www.mhwpc.org> [webmaster@mhwpc.org](mailto:webmaster@mhwpc.org)

### TEAM LEADERS

**Monthly Programs:** Chuck Winter

[cwinter@mii-rmcc.com](mailto:cwinter@mii-rmcc.com) 303-972-2538

**Membership:** Rita Summers

[ritasummers@gmail.com](mailto:ritasummers@gmail.com) 303-840-3355

**Special Programs/Field Trips:** Chuck Winter

[cwinter@mii-rmcc.com](mailto:cwinter@mii-rmcc.com) 303-972-2538

**Competition:** Russ Burden

**Competition Scoring:** Chris Loffredo

**Competition Entries/Judging Coordinator:**

Fred Stearns 303 400-0385

**Snacks/Greeters:** Nancy Stocker 303-759-4056

**Publicity:** Buzz Soard 303-779-9933

**Library:** Betsy Lamb 303-841-2565

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

Rita Summers • Russ Burden

Chuck Winter • Chris Loffredo • Frank Weston

### June 2009 Meeting

Wednesday, June 10th

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

at

### THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: The Wildlife Experience

May Attendance: Approximately 53

### June 2009 Digital Training Meeting

Wednesday, June 24th

7:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Please send your articles and input to

[newsletter@mhwpc.org](mailto:newsletter@mhwpc.org).