A close-up photograph of a small bird, possibly a sparrow or similar species, perched on a person's hand. The bird's wings are fully extended, showing the intricate structure of the feathers. The bird has a mix of brown, black, and white feathers, with a distinct dark eye. The person's hand is visible at the bottom, with the thumb and index finger supporting the bird. The background is a soft, out-of-focus tan color. The image is framed by a large, semi-circular white shape on the left side.

# Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

2014 Annual Report

**Our Mission: conserving birds and their habitats**

**Our Vision: healthy, native bird populations sustained in healthy, native ecosystems**



### Brighton Headquarters

**14500 Lark Bunting Lane  
Brighton, CO 80603  
(303) 659-4348 | Fax (303) 654-0791**

Tyler Edmondson, Education Director  
Nancy Gobris, Biologist/Banding Coordinator  
Meredith McBurney, Biologist/Bird Bander  
Kacie Miller, Deputy Director  
Abby Mohny, Staff Accountant  
Emily Snode-Brenneman, School Programs Coordinator  
Peggy Watson, Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator  
Michael Wright, Staff Accountant

### Fort Collins Office

**230 Cherry Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80521  
(970) 482-1707 | Fax (970) 472-9031**  
Tammy VerCauteren, Executive Director  
Gillian Bee, Stewardship Director  
Jenny Berven, Northern Goshawk Project Coordinator  
Jeff Birek, Outreach Biologist  
Jennifer Blakesley, Biometrician  
Angela Dwyer, Wildlife Biologist  
David Hanni, Science Director  
Wendy Lanier, Spotted Owl Project Leader\*  
Greg Levandoski, Director of International Operations  
Matthew McLaren, Biologist  
Arvind Panjabi, International Director  
Teddy Parker-Renga, Communications Manager  
David Pavlacky, Biometrician  
Laura Quattrini, Stewardship Program Manager  
Viviana Ruiz-Gutierrez, Senior Scientist  
Allison Shaw, International Program Assistant  
Rob Sparks, Research Biologist/GIS Manager  
Erin Strasser, Biologist  
Nick Van Lanen, Biologist  
Chris White, IMBCR Coordinator  
Kristen Winter, Science Program Administrator\*  
Brittany Woiderski, GIS Biologist  
Erin Youngberg, Biologist  
\*employment began in 2015

### Nebraska Office

**330243 C.R. H  
Minatare, NE 69356  
(308) 783-1019 | Fax (308) 783-1021**  
Katy Kuhnel, Shortgrass Prairie Coordinating Wildlife Biologist  
Alexandra Mayes, Nebraska Education Coordinator  
Larry Snyder, Landowner Outreach Biologist

### Field Offices

Jason Beason, Special Monitoring Projects Coordinator, Paonia, Colorado  
Pedro Calderón-Dominguez, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist (IMC - Vida Silvestre), Chihuahua City, Chihuahua  
Casey Cardinal, Private Lands Range/Wildlife Ecologist, Lamar, Colorado  
Nancy Drilling, Dakotas Projects Coordinator, Rapid City, South Dakota  
Brandon Elkins, Range Conservationist, Gillette, Wyoming  
Nancy Hernández Rodríguez, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist (IMC - Vida Silvestre), Chihuahua City, Chihuahua  
Becky Jones, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, Steamboat Springs, Colorado\*  
Colin Lee, Private Lands Wildlife and Wetlands Biologist, Greeley, Colorado  
Martin Moses, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, Durango, Colorado  
Garrett Pantle, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, Saratoga, Wyoming  
Duane Pool, Landscape Ecologist, Bismarck, North Dakota  
Roberto Rodríguez, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist (IMC - Vida Silvestre), Chihuahua City, Chihuahua  
Aaron Trujillo, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, Fort Morgan, Colorado  
\*employment began in 2015

### Former Staff Members Employed at RMBO in 2014

Noah Bates, Private Lands Range/Wildlife Ecologist  
Francyne DeBauge, Science Project Manager & Finance Administrator  
Christine Fabian, Chief Financial Officer  
Seth Gallagher, Stewardship Director  
Brandon Miller, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist  
Christina Santana, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist  
Chase Taylor, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist  
Magdalena Vinson, Nebraska Education Coordinator

### Board of Directors

Peter Ampe, J.D.  
Stephen L. Bloom, Ph.D., ABPP (Vice Chairman)  
David M. Charles, M.D.  
Steven Deitemeyer, C.F.  
Jack Ferguson  
Stephen Fischer  
T. Luke George, Ph.D.  
Grady Grissom, Ph.D.  
Larry Modesitt, M.B.A., CQE, CTP (Chairman)  
Joe Roller, M.D.  
D. Jean Tate, Ph.D.  
Warren Taylor, Ph.D. (term ended Nov. 7, 2014)  
Ed Warner, M.S., L.H.D.  
Tiffany Watts, CPA (term ended Aug. 25, 2014)



The staff and board gather for a photo in September of 2014 at RMBO's Environmental Learning Center at the Old Stone House at Barr Lake near Brighton, Colorado.



## We're migrating. Migrate with us.

I am immensely excited to announce that we are changing our name in 2015. After much reflection by our staff and board and many conversations with longtime members, supporters and partners, we are becoming Bird Conservancy of the Rockies!

Just as birds make annual treks for the chance at productivity – the opportunity to thrive – so, too, are we migrating to a new identity after 15 years as Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. We are still focused on conserving birds and their habitats. It is time, though, to adopt a name that more accurately and completely reflects who we are.

Since our earliest days, we have had robust bird population monitoring, bird banding, and citizen science and education programs. But through 25-plus years of progress, we have greatly expanded the breadth of our work to include cutting-edge research, private lands conservation and international programs. We have grown into a conservancy, and our new name – Bird Conservancy of the Rockies – better reflects what we have become and better positions us to achieve continued success in the future.

As the scope of our work has increased, so has the need to expand our community of partners and supporters. Our new name will help us reach and engage new people. Supporters like you, who care about our natural world, have been instrumental to all of our amazing successes over the years.

In the coming months, we will officially launch our new name, so stay tuned. Thank you for investing and believing in us. Together, we are improving native bird populations, the land and the lives of people. The future is bright, and I look forward to migrating with you.

**Tammy VerCauteren**  
Executive Director



## Aligning Programs with Goals

I'd like to join Tammy in saying how thrilled I am that we are changing our name to Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. We affirm that our mission of conserving birds and their habitats – and our approach to accomplishing it through science, education and stewardship – is unchanged.

In providing data to public land managers, we inform their management decisions. With our rigorous monitoring within the context of the full annual cycle of birds, we guide conservation action where it is needed most. With our science-based, hands-on education programs, we inspire conservation action and connect people to nature. By working with landowners, we build trust for land conservation, which helps sustain both wildlife populations and the livelihood of farmers and ranchers.

Recently, board and staff members worked together, under the guidance of Vice Chairman Steve Bloom, to ensure we align our programs to our stated goals. Every one of you, our supporters, wants to know that your investments generate results. Alignment focuses our limited time and valuable resources to produce maximum mission impact.

Read further in this report to learn how and where we're making a difference. Thank you for helping to make these successes possible.

**Larry Modesitt**  
Chairman of the Board



### A Bird in Its Habitat

The cover photo of this report, taken last December at our study site in Janos, Chihuahua, Mexico, shows a bird taking flight. The image is our new logo in action. We're excited to adopt this logo along with our new name. It's reflective of every bird that depends on healthy habitat for survival.



# Science

Advancing Knowledge That Drives Conservation Action



From the mountains of Montana to the grasslands of Mexico, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory scientists are gathering data on birds and their habitats through scientifically rigorous monitoring and research. What they are discovering is fascinating – and it's influencing how lands are managed for birds. Data gathered by RMBO and partners are used to create tools, such as maps and web-based applications, that inform land managers and other decision makers about birds and their habitats, offering them strategies for ensuring bird population viability. Through scientific monitoring and research, RMBO is advancing knowledge that drives conservation action.

## Monitoring Bird Populations IMBCR Program

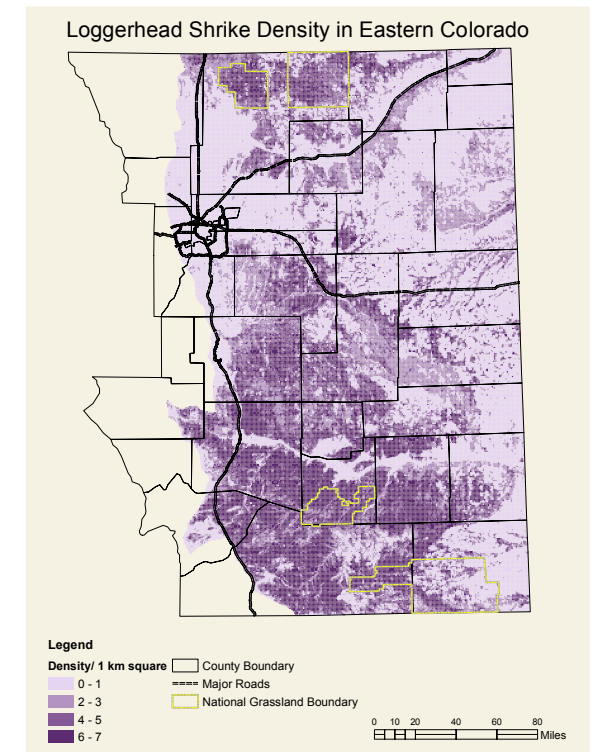
Every year in late spring and summer, biologists and technicians traipse across mountains, prairies and deserts to survey birds under the Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) program. The program, coordinated by RMBO, is one of the largest of its kind in North America, stretching across public and private land in 12 states in the western U.S. In 2014, RMBO and its partners at the Avian Science Center, Intermountain Bird Observatory and Wyoming Natural Diversity Database conducted 1,180 IMBCR surveys, detecting 170,864 individual birds of 305 species. One hundred percent of surveys were completed, a testament to the dedication of RMBO and its partners in collecting data through the IMBCR program. Data gathered through the program help inform land managers about their stewardship responsibility for birds across the West.



An American Three-toed Woodpecker (pictured above) was detected during IMBCR surveys in the Pine Ridge of Nebraska, only the second time this species has been seen in the state. Other rare species observed last year include a Mexican Whip-poor-will in northern Arizona and the first record of a Dickcissel in Wyoming under IMBCR surveys.

## Analyzing Results Loggerhead Shrikes in Colorado

The map below shows the estimated density of Loggerhead Shrikes on the shortgrass prairie of eastern Colorado using IMBCR data. Maps are being developed for seven grassland birds using a novel modeling approach to estimate density, availability and detection. The approach accounts for landscape variables, such as grass height, grass cover and shrub cover, when estimating how many birds may exist in an area. This is critical information for RMBO private lands biologists and partners to use to help inform where to work and what to do.



**“By creating management tools from what we’re learning in the field, we can ensure that science-driven information is available to land managers and others to make informed decisions.”**

– David Hanni, RMBO’s Science Director

## Focusing on Owls

### Mexican Spotted Owls in the Southwest

RMBO refined a study design for monitoring the Mexican Spotted Owl and tested it last summer on national forests in Arizona and New Mexico. The Mexican Spotted Owl is one of three subspecies of Spotted Owl. In 1993, it was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, and monitoring the owl’s population is an important component of its recovery plan. Tackling the rugged terrain where the owls live, biometrician Dr. Jennifer Blakesley and technicians surveyed 289 sites for the owl on all 11 national forests in the two states. Mexican Spotted Owls were detected at 91 sites, including locations where U.S. Forest Service biologists were previously unaware of the owls’ presence. The crew heads back into the field in 2015 to continue this long-term monitoring effort.



RMBO worked with the U.S. Forest Service to refine a monitoring protocol for the Mexican Spotted Owl, implemented last summer on national forests in Arizona and New Mexico.

## Studying Winter Survival Sparrows in Northern Mexico

In March of 2014, RMBO wrapped up its second season studying survival and habitat use of Baird’s and Grasshopper Sparrows on their wintering grounds in Mexico. Last year, the study area was expanded to two sites, one in Chihuahua and a new site in Durango, with support from Universidad Juárez del Estado de Durango. During the winter, a total of 121 sparrows at the sites in Chihuahua and Durango were captured, radio-tagged and tracked. Through this study, RMBO is getting a picture of the variability in winter survival and causes of mortality for Baird’s and Grasshopper Sparrows. This knowledge will be integrated with work on the breeding grounds to inform what is driving population declines of these sparrows and other grassland birds and, in turn, where, when and what actions must be taken to stem these declines. The study continues in 2015, with expansion to a third site in Coahuila.



Biologist Erin Strasser releases a Grasshopper Sparrow at a study site in Chihuahua, Mexico. Grassland birds, such as this sparrow, live in the heart of the region where RMBO works. This research is paramount to helping these birds thrive for generations to come.

## Looking Ahead

- › Last year, RMBO hosted workshops with resource professionals and landowners to gather feedback on a web-based tool that helps guide land management decisions in the sagebrush ecosystem. This tool shows how conservation practices, such as rotational grazing, can increase populations of sagebrush songbirds while accounting for economic impacts on landowners. In 2015, RMBO will release the tool, along with an accompanying webinar and manual.
- › RMBO spearheaded the first-ever conservation assessment of the birds of Central America at a meeting held in Costa Rica last year. Representatives from all seven countries attended. In March of 2015, partners met again, this time in Panama, to continue assessing threats and population trends of birds.
- › In 2015, RMBO will release the second South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas with analyses, discussion and maps of all 251 birds that breed in South Dakota.



Brewer’s Sparrow  
by José Hugo Martínez Guerrero

# Education

Empowering People to Be Part of the Solution for Conservation

Last year, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory connected with 28,902 people through education and outreach. One of those people was Avis Devlin, life science teacher at Hemphill Middle School in Strasburg, Colorado. Avis brings her students to RMBO's Environmental Learning Center every spring and bird banding station at Barr Lake every fall. She even drives an hour each way several days a week every summer to send her own sons, niece and other family members to RMBO nature camps. As both an educator and a parent who inspires the next generation to love birds and nature, Avis is one of the many people RMBO is empowering to be part of the solution for conservation.

## Inspiring Youth Problem-Based Learning

The high floodwaters of 2013 washed out a bridge and section of Coal Creek Trail in Boulder County, Colorado. The following spring, fourth-graders from STEM Magnet Lab School were tasked with coming up with solutions for replacing the bridge and restoring lost habitat along the trail through problem-based learning, tackling the dilemma from different perspectives. Educator Emily Snode-Brenneman offered the nature perspective, advising the students on strategies to enhance the damaged habitat along Coal Creek to benefit birds and other wildlife. The students presented their well-researched solutions to Emily and a panel of experts. "I was really impressed with how well the students applied their critical thinking skills to this real-world problem," Emily said.



Students from STEM Magnet Lab inspect the project site along Coal Creek. Later in the spring, the students visited RMBO's Environmental Learning Center to do some hands-on restoration of their own, pulling weeds from the prairie outside the center.

## Connecting with Nature

### Grasslands Curriculum

RMBO published "Grasslands: A Home for Wildlife and People" in 2014 to connect students living in the Great Plains with their local ecosystem – grasslands. The curriculum uses the place-based theme "You live in a grassland" to engage students in where they live and their role in its future. The curriculum focuses on birds that rely on grasslands for survival, including Lark Bunting, Mountain Plover and Burrowing Owl. It has been piloted at Hemphill Middle School, a small rural school located on the prairie of Colorado, and will be used by the U.S. Forest Service in an upcoming GrasslandsLIVE distance learning adventure for grade-school students. Download the curriculum at [www.RMBO.org](http://www.RMBO.org).



A student from Hemphill Middle School is all smiles as he participates in an activity as part of RMBO's new grasslands curriculum.

## Reaching New Audiences

### Outreach Video in Mexico

Critical grassland habitat for birds and other wildlife is disappearing at an alarming rate in northern Mexico, much of it to unchecked agricultural growth. To help combat this problem, RMBO released an outreach video for ranchers in the area last year. The video lets them know that resources exist, such as RMBO's private lands biologists, to help them improve both wildlife habitat and a ranch's bottom line. By inspiring ranchers through successful examples, the video engages landowners and highlights options for them to continue ranching. The video, produced with support from Habitat Seven and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, has already received several thousand views at [www.YouTube.com/RMBObirds](http://www.YouTube.com/RMBObirds).



A film crew from Habitat Seven interviews a rancher on sustainable grazing practices.



**“My daughter’s knowledge of and interest in nature – and the conservation of nature – grows each year she attends RMBO’s summer camps.”**

– Mother of summer nature camp participant

## Healing Through Birds

### Bird Tales

For the last two years, RMBO has offered a therapeutic program called Bird Tales to residents of three assisted living facilities in the Denver area. Bird Tales is aimed at improving the quality of life for people living with dementia through birds, combining the stimulation of Audubon plush birds with the engagement of wild birds right outside residents’ windows. RMBO facilitated 45 separate Bird Tales offerings in 2013 and 2014, bringing the healing power of nature to more than 500 people. “We have found through this wonderful program how incredibly comforting, reassuring and secure the sound of birds can be to those in distress,” one care services director said. “This program is nothing short of amazing.”



A resident of an assisted living facility plants native perennials in her facility’s new bird-friendly garden, installed through Bird Tales.

## Banding Birds

In 2014, RMBO and partners operated three banding stations in the spring in Colorado and seven in the fall in Colorado and Nebraska. In addition, RMBO operated banding stations for Northern Saw-whet Owls in North Dakota and South Dakota last fall. The stations served as outdoor classrooms for studying bird migration and anatomy and enhancing the public’s appreciation of birds. The highlights to the right show what RMBO is learning about migration routes and the life history of birds.



A child gets a close look at a Wilson’s Warbler at RMBO’s bird banding station at Barr Lake State Park in Colorado. More than 40% of all birds caught at Barr Lake during the fall season were Wilson’s Warblers.

## 2014 Highlights

- In the spring, RMBO welcomed back a Yellow Warbler to the banding station at Chatfield State Park in Colorado for the eighth time. First banded as a second-year bird in 2006, this male warbler has been caught every year at the Chatfield station except 2008.
- For the first time, other banders last fall recovered three Northern Saw-whet Owls first banded by RMBO. One of these owls, banded in November of 2011 in South Dakota, was recovered about 600 miles northeast on the shores of Lake Superior in Minnesota.
- In the fall, records were set for number of birds banded with 571 individual birds at Chadron State Park and 419 individual birds at Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area in Nebraska. In addition, the Chadron station saw six new species, including a Swamp Sparrow and a Blackpoll Warbler.



This owl was one of two Flammulated Owls caught at Chico Basin Ranch last spring. The species was a first for the Chico banding station, having only been spotted twice before on the ranch, once in 2004 and again in 2005.

## Looking Ahead

- › This summer, RMBO is bringing back its On the Wing nature camp for teenagers aspiring to a career in natural resources. Kids ages 15-17 will spend a week in the Colorado Rockies designing and conducting a research project and gaining skills in field biology. Info and registration at [www.RMBO.org](http://www.RMBO.org).
- › RMBO will publish a guide showcasing birds common to backyards along the Front Range of Colorado. The guide will not only provide an introduction to bird-watching for people, but also offer tips on creating sustainable backyard habitat for birds and other wildlife. The guide is part of RMBO’s increasing efforts to foster bird conservation in urban environments.
- › RMBO and partners in Chihuahua, Mexico, are working to rekindle the Birds Beyond Borders program, which connects students in Colorado with students in Mexico through their shared stewardship responsibility of birds.



American Robin  
by Fernando Boza

# Stewardship

Starting the Conversation for Conservation



For nearly 20 years, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory has operated a private lands program. RMBO biologists and rangeland specialists work alongside private landowners and conservation partners to enhance wildlife habitat. It's a win-win for birds and people. Grasslands, shrublands and wetlands are improved to contribute to the population viability of songbirds, grouse, waterbirds and other wildlife, while farms and ranches remain working lands that support families, communities and a rural way of life. From Gillette, Wyoming, to Chihuahua, Mexico, RMBO is starting the conversation for conservation with private landowners.

## 2014 by the Numbers

**3,987 people reached** through landowner visits, presentations, workshops, public events and restoration projects in Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming and Chihuahua, Mexico

**595 visits** with landowners

**102,750 acres** of prairie, shrublands and wetlands enhanced in Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming

**194,101 acres** of grasslands enhanced in Chihuahua, Mexico

**\$2,322,414** in Farm Bill funds and \$444,228 in non-Farm Bill funds secured for improving wildlife habitat on private lands in the U.S.

## Working at a Local Level >

RMBO collaborates with partners in the U.S. and abroad to place private lands wildlife biologists (PLWBs) in communities across the Rockies, Great Plains and northern Mexico. These individuals work with landowners, land managers and resource professionals to build trust and foster proactive, voluntary conservation efforts that benefit people, birds, other wildlife and the land. In 2014, RMBO added a third PLWB in Mexico, based in Chihuahua City, and plans to add a fourth PLWB in 2015, based in Janos, both areas of importance for wintering grassland birds.

## River Restoration

In 2014, RMBO, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, San Juan Conservation District and other partners kicked off a multi-part project to restore a nearly 7-mile-long stretch of the Navajo River in southern Colorado impacted by a diversion structure. On July 25, 35 volunteers attended a kick-off event to plant more than 200 native trees on two private properties along the river, home to the Lewis's Woodpecker and Red-naped Sapsucker. Over the next two years, RMBO and partners plan to install in-stream structures, create meanders through the existing channel, build three wetlands and plant more trees as part of the project, which will increase water quality and habitat for birds and other wildlife.



A volunteer transports cottonwoods to be planted along the Navajo River during an event to kick off the restoration project.

## Shrub Removal

Through long-term research on the wintering grounds, RMBO has learned that several high-priority declining songbirds will not occupy grasslands with shrub cover. To increase suitable habitat, RMBO worked with partners to remove mesquite, an invasive native shrub, from 1,435 total acres across three private properties in northern Mexico last year. These shrub removal projects, paired with reseeding of native grasses when necessary, will increase numbers of priority species such as Baird's Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit and Chestnut-collared Longspur. Additionally, the projects will improve forage quantity and quality for livestock – a win-win for birds and people.



Invasive mesquite is removed from a ranch in Mexico to create ideal habitat for grassland songbirds and improve forage for livestock.



**“Brown Mill Ranch and RMBO have the common goal of sustaining a viable cattle operation while managing for birds and other wildlife. That’s what makes it such a great partnership.”**

– Peter Page, Brown Mill Ranch, Lamar, CO

## Nest Protection

Mountain Plovers fledge young quite well on crop fields, as long as their nests are not accidentally tilled. To help farmers avoid inadvertently plowing over plover nests, RMBO coordinates a nest-marking program in the Nebraska panhandle with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and Nebraska Environmental Trust. In 2014, 80 landowners participated in the program. With their help, 58 nests were located and marked, and 97 Mountain Plover chicks hatched from those nests. Also in 2014, RMBO partnered with the University of Colorado-Denver for a second year to study the plovers’ habitat use. Five adult Mountain Plovers were outfitted with GPS tags and followed. Preliminary data suggest that 1 mile around the nest is especially important for the bird’s foraging and, ultimately, its survival.



Only a few hours old, a Mountain Plover chick rests after a big morning in its nest on a crop field in western Nebraska. In minutes, this chick will get up and begin foraging for food.

## Sage-Grouse Conservation

Last fall, RMBO, in cooperation with the NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative, worked with partners and fifth-generation rancher Jay Yust on a water-delivery project on the Yust Ranch with big benefits for Greater Sage-Grouse. The ranch, located west of the Continental Divide in Grand County, Colorado, is home to an active Greater Sage-Grouse lek. The project involved delivering water to pastures and increasing the options the ranch has for grazing rotations that help enhance livestock management on sensitive Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.



This tank, a tractor tire cut in half, is plumbed to receive and hold water at the top of a ridge that previously had insufficient water for grazing.

## Landowner Profile Brown Mill Ranch

Brown Mill Ranch, a summer yearling operation in Cheyenne County, Colorado, is home to the largest active Lesser Prairie-Chicken lek in the state. When the current owners acquired the ranch several years ago, RMBO was instrumental in helping to access funding for projects and develop a grazing plan for the ranch that works for both cattle and prairie-chickens.

Since then, the ranch has worked with RMBO and partners to erect wildlife-friendly fences, place fence markers on them, and install stock tanks and wildlife escape ladders in tanks.

“RMBO has always been the most common sense-driven organization in moving projects forward,” said Peter Page, ranch manager. “RMBO is the one organization that really pulled everyone together among all the agencies trying to accomplish the same goals for Lesser Prairie-Chickens.”



Ranch hand Levi Leonard and ranch manager Peter Page conduct a vegetation survey on Brown Mill Ranch in southeast Colorado.

## Looking Ahead

- › In the spring of 2015, RMBO will conduct the second season of a study on the cost-effectiveness and durability of markers for preventing collisions of Greater Sage-Grouse with fences.
- › RMBO and partners launched a new column on private lands conservation, The Wild Side, in “The Fence Post” agricultural newspaper in January of 2015. Visit [www.thefencepost.com](http://www.thefencepost.com).
- › RMBO will continue to improve wintering habitat for grassland birds in Mexico through shrub removal in 2015 and evaluate outcomes to help inform and target conservation efforts.



Sage Sparrow  
by Bill Schmoker

## Getting Kids Involved in Christmas Bird Counts

To get children outdoors and involved in the Audubon tradition of Christmas Bird Counts, RMBO hosts an annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids at Barr Lake State Park in Colorado. On Jan. 3, 2014, 50 kids and 25 adults took part in RMBO's second count for kids. Participants observed roughly 11,000 individual birds of 37 species, including Prairie Falcon, Great Horned Owl and Ring-necked Duck. "From the introductory training, to the field work, to the kids' presentations of findings and the raptor show, it was a superbly entertaining day," said the grandparent of a Christmas Bird Count for Kids participant.

Also in 2014, RMBO coordinated Bald Eagle Watch, HawkWatch, ColonyWatch and other citizen science efforts to get people engaged in bird conservation and advance our knowledge of local bird populations, nesting needs and migration routes.



Anyone with budding young birders is encouraged to bring them out to RMBO's next Christmas Bird Count for Kids at Barr Lake State Park in Colorado.

## Celebrating and Restoring Our Local River

In May of 2014, RMBO co-hosted Poudre RiverFest in Fort Collins, Colorado, to celebrate, restore and educate people about the Cache la Poudre River. More than 1,000 people attended the festival, organized by RMBO and fellow nonprofits Save the Poudre, Sustainable Living Association, Fort Collins Museum of Discovery and Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV). With the Poudre River impacted by the 2013 floods, Poudre RiverFest was a chance for citizens to pitch in for the Poudre River and celebrate the natural lifeline of the community. WRV coordinated restoration activities. RMBO ran a bird banding station and led nature walks in the morning. The museum led kids' activities, and the day culminated with a celebration of the river that included live music and booths from more than 40 partners. Poudre RiverFest returns to Fort Collins on May 30, 2015. More info at [www.poudreriverfest.org](http://www.poudreriverfest.org).



RMBO shared the beauty and science of birds with the many families who attended Poudre RiverFest in Fort Collins, Colorado.

## 2014 Volunteers

**Thank you to these citizen scientists, naturalists, bird banders, board members and other volunteers who donated their time and talents to help RMBO conserve birds and their habitats.**

Tom Abbott  
Sarah Albrecht  
Susan Allerton  
Peter Ampe  
Mark Anderson  
Meredith Anderson  
Annalouiza Armendariz  
Ken Arons  
Donald Arthur  
Cary Atwood  
Dale Ball  
James Ball  
Misi Ballard  
Laina Baltic  
Andy Bankert  
Jim Banks  
Debbie Barnes  
Tracy Baron  
Karen Baud  
Theo Bauder  
Ron Beane  
Bill Bell  
Lauryn Benedict  
Andy Berg  
Nathan Berry  
Valerie Bliss  
Steve Bloom

Kina Blunt  
Mitchell Blystone  
Georgie Bohlender  
Jennifer Bohn  
Ann Bond  
Julie Brantner  
Denise Bretting  
Glenda Brown  
Jennifer Brown  
Lori Brummer  
Mary Cay Burger  
Erin Busch  
Nicole Buyck  
Madel Calderon  
Amber Carver  
Jim Carver  
Patricia Chapa  
Kirstin Chapman  
David Charles  
Bekah Chew  
Karen Clark  
Carolyn Clawson  
Jennifer Clay  
Walt Combs  
Francis Commercon  
Joyce Commercon  
Pat Conner  
Jeff Connor  
Meg Cooper  
Linda Cozart  
Megan Creegan  
Mike Crosby  
Eileen Cunningham  
Charlie Curlee  
Clem Dabrowski  
Art Dahl  
Hero Dahlman  
Bill Day  
Cheryl Day  
Susan Day  
Steve Deitemeyer  
Larry DeMers

Leah Dempsey  
Tom Dennehy  
Coen Dexter  
Ariana Dickson  
Breanna Dodge  
Romeo Domínguez-Vidal  
Mary Donahue  
David Dowell  
Christy Dowling  
Georgia Doyle  
Barb Draffin  
Larry Draffin  
Gary Drendel  
Rachel Dunbar  
Ken Ecton  
Bill Eden  
Joe Elliott  
Rosemary Engard  
Andrew Englehorn  
Lorraine Everman  
Lee Farese  
Lee Farrell  
Linda Farrell  
Jack Ferguson  
Karen Fernandez  
Mike Fernandez  
Paula Fischer  
Steve Fischer  
Veronica Flores Diaz  
Bill Flowers  
Nelson Ford  
Tom Foster  
Ron Friedrich  
Kate Frost  
Dan Gabarron  
Pam Gabarron  
Nelda Gamble  
Jim Gano  
Shari Garrison  
Janet George  
Luke George  
Joan Glabach



Ren Gobris  
Liz Goehring  
Mackenzie Goldthwait  
Chris Gray  
Celia Greenman  
Sara Gremel  
Grady Grissom  
Emily Gubler  
Stephanie Guilliams  
David Gulbenkian  
Fran Haas  
Andy Hagan  
Joanne Haller  
Carrie Harrod  
Anna Hartwick  
Cartie Hartwick  
Frank Hatch  
Jane Hawk  
Alison Hazel  
Wilma Heckman  
Pat Heller  
Billy Helmich  
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## Volunteer Profile

### Best Friends Share Love of Birds



Rachel Dunbar and Mayrene McCoy bonded over birds. Both teenagers and from different high schools, they have attended RMBO nature camps together and have developed a strong friendship. They are now sharing their love for birds and nature as Leaders in Training, serving as mentors for younger kids during RMBO day camps. "I enjoy showing kids that it's OK to be themselves and have fun," Rachel said. For Mayrene, she said she enjoys being a part of RMBO because "RMBO helps children take healthy breaks from the stressful outside world and gives them the opportunity to appreciate nature." Both teenagers plan to attend college and pursue careers in natural resources. In 2014, Rachel and Mayrene jointly received the Nelda Gamble Volunteer Award, given annually to the most outstanding volunteer at RMBO.



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Thank you to the following people and organizations for supporting Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and its mission to conserve birds and their habitats. Basic one-year memberships are \$35 for individuals and \$60 for families. RMBO welcomes and appreciates contributions in any amount. Please visit [www.RMBO.org](http://www.RMBO.org) or call 970-482-1707 ext. 30 for information.

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– Kathanne Lynch, Legacy Donor

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Friends of RMBO attend special events and tours, spend time in the field with RMBO biologists and enjoy other unique opportunities.

Friends also increase RMBO's ability to direct conservation efforts where they're needed most, including scholarships for education, coordination of citizen science programs and acres of land conserved for birds and other wildlife.

To become a Friend, call 970-482-1707 ext. 16 or email [tammy.vercauteren@rmbo.org](mailto:tammy.vercauteren@rmbo.org).

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory makes every effort to maintain accurate and up-to-date records. If you were a member or donor in 2014 and your name does not appear on this list, please accept our apologies and let us know by emailing [teddy.parker-renga@rmbo.org](mailto:teddy.parker-renga@rmbo.org) or calling 970-482-1707 ext. 30.

## Friend Profile

### Longtime Supporter Enjoys Field Experiences



In June of 2013, Kevin Corwin visited Nebraska to spend a day in the field conserving Mountain Plovers with Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. That morning, he was fortunate to witness a plover chick in its nest, just hours old. “All of that potential lying there,” Kevin said, “it still takes my breath away.” Kevin is a longtime member and Friend of RMBO. A former computer programmer with the U.S. Department of Defense, Kevin enjoys getting into the field with RMBO biologists. He’s searched for Western Tanagers in Rocky Mountain National Park, hiked to waterfalls in Colorado to see Black Swifts and helped to capture grassland birds in northern Mexico. Kevin said, most of all, he enjoys interacting with RMBO staff during these field experiences. “Good work comes from good, dedicated, passionate people,” he said. Kevin plans to continue supporting RMBO as a Friend and hopes to get into the field as much as he can with RMBO in the future, he said. “It’s good for your heart, good for your soul.”

## Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory Financial Summary FY 2014

(Unaudited)

### Revenues

Contributions & Memberships	\$434,342
SCFD Grant	\$249,663
Contracts & Grants	\$3,626,067
Other	\$28,329
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$4,338,401</b>

### Expenses

Program	\$3,656,967
Administration	\$508,795
Development	\$74,199
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,239,961</b>

Change in Net Assets \$98,440

This summary financial information has not been audited. Please visit [www.RMBO.org](http://www.RMBO.org) after May 31, 2015, for the audited financial statements including all note disclosures.

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

2014 Revenues  
\$4,338,401



2013 Revenues  
\$4,067,714



## 2014 Partners & Funders

Adams County Open Space  
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Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies  
Audubon Center at Bent of the River  
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 Wyoming Natural Diversity Database  
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## Partner-Funder Profile

### State Agency Supports Monitoring, Outreach



The partnership between Wyoming Game and Fish (WYGF) and RMBO was forged 20 years ago, when RMBO's bird monitoring protocol was exported north from Colorado to the Equality State. Today, RMBO continues to monitor breeding birds in Wyoming as part of its regional monitoring effort. WYGF uses these data to track populations of all 250-plus birds that breed in Wyoming, including Species of Greatest Conservation Need. In addition to monitoring, WYGF has previously helped to fund Northern Goshawk assessments on national forests in Wyoming and a "Pocket Guide to Sagebrush Birds", available for free to the public at WYGF offices. We are grateful for WYGF's support in helping us keep a finger on the pulse of bird populations and educate the public about birds living in the sagebrush sea.



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