



NEWS RELEASE

June 13, 2022 – For Immediate Release
Contact: Sherry Nickolaus, Education Directory
sherry.nickolaus@birdconservancy.org
(303) 659-4348 x11

Celebrating the Third Annual Bird Conservancy BioBlitz

BRIGHTON, Colo. – Bird Conservancy of the Rockies hosted the 3rd annual Barr Lake BioBlitz on June 4, 2022. It was a day of exploration and a celebration of community science with opportunities for everyone to learn about the park's biodiversity. This year's BioBlitz was our most successful to date, with 68 attendees and over 50 species of plants and animals recorded.

A BioBlitz brings together community members, students, naturalists, and scientists to find and identify as many birds, plants, insects, reptiles, mammals and other organisms as possible in a short period of time. The result is a snapshot of the biodiversity of a specific place. It's a great way for people of all ages to learn about the world around them, personally contribute to the biodiversity data for Barr Lake, and connect with fellow nature lovers.

A record number of participants joined in the team effort, which included all manner of wildlife enthusiasts from absolute beginners to seasoned naturalists. Nine expert volunteers from Bird Conservancy, Barr Lake State Park, the Butterfly Pavilion, and Colorado Native Bee led ten different nature surveys, helping participants find and identify plants, birds, insects, and more. Participants of all ages had meaningful experiences; a group of young children on the insect survey were thrilled to find insects and show them off, while several adults got the chance to see some of our smallest aquatic invertebrates for the first time in their lives. Morning bird walks included numerous first-time birders, who were in awe of the abundance, diversity, and striking coloration of our native birds!

We used the iNaturalist mobile app to document our sightings throughout the day. iNaturalist is a popular nature app that helps users identify plants, animals, and fungi. Observations on iNaturalist can also be used by scientists interested in studying and protecting nature. Leaders and participants have contributed over 70 observations to the event's [iNaturalist project](#). It's a wonderful example of a technology tool that can bridge curiosity and love of the outdoors with making a meaningful contribution to our scientific understanding of the natural world around us.

The BioBlitz provided a great opportunity to advance our mission, immersing children and adults in nature and fostering stewardship values across generations. We would like to thank all of our leaders

and participants who made it such a great success. We would also like to thank our sponsors United Power, Bank of Colorado, Birds & Beans Coffee, and Fiesta Time Inc.

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies is a Colorado-based nonprofit that works to conserve birds and their habitats through an integrated approach of science, education and land stewardship. Our work extends from the Rockies to the Great Plains, Mexico and beyond. Together, we are improving native bird populations, the land and the lives of people. We envision a world where birds are forever abundant, contributing to healthy landscapes and inspiring human curiosity and love of nature. Visit birdconservancy.org for more information.

###

Accompanying images with suggested captions:



BioBlitz participants observe a Mourning Dove during a morning Bird Walk.

Photo: Sofia Prado-Irwin. [Hi-res Download link](#)



A tortoise beetle (*Agroiconota bivittata*) observed near the Barr Lake Nature Center during the BioBlitz, identified using iNaturalist.

Photo: Sarah Doxon. [iNaturalist observation link](#)



Bird Conservancy Banding Manager Colin Woolley leads a morning bird walk. Photo: Eric Tokuyama.

[Hi-res Download link](#)



Lake James from the Butterfly Pavilion leads an aquatic insect survey. Photo: Eric Tokuyama. [Hi-res](#)

[Download link](#)



Ryan Bartlett from Colorado Native Bee takes a moment to pause and photograph a *Penstemon* plant. Photo: Eric Tokuyama. [Hi-res Download link](#)



Bird Conservancy Bander and Volunteer Coordinator Meredith McBurney leads a bird banding demonstration. Photo: Eric Tokuyama. [Hi-res Download link](#)