

The “Lafayette birds!” Initiative and “Bird City” - FAQs



What is “Lafayette birds?” – an initiative of **Lafayette Open Space** to connect bird watching and appreciation of birds with Lafayette’s overall well-being and celebration of place! This includes programs and activities, meetings, artwork and photography, and lots of interest from the community.
Lafayette has been designated Colorado’s first “Bird City!”

- **What is “Bird City” designation?** – “Bird City” is an official designation for cities that show their interest in and care for birds. To be declared a “Bird City,” a community must demonstrate that they have made significant efforts in habitat preservation and restoration, education about birds, and even in responsible energy use and conservation! This title is somewhat analogous to the Arbor Day Foundation’s “Tree City” program, but unlike “Tree City,” which is in all states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, “Bird City” is only in 6 states so far and Colorado is the 6th state. **Lafayette was designated Colorado’s first “Bird City” in 2019!** For more information, Google “bird city environment for the americas.”
- **Why are birds an area of major emphasis?** *Birds are a very visible part of every part of our community and they attract our attention whether we consider ourselves “bird watchers” or not.* People naturally talk with others about birds they’ve seen or bird behavior that caught their attention. Birding can connect our community to geography, science, art, culture and much more! Schools, Lafayette Library, businesses and other organizations are working with Open Space to bring “Lafayette Birds” to the whole community.
- **What local businesses and organizations have helped make “Lafayette birds!” a success?** *See images, after the text in this document, to see the great partners that have been working with Lafayette Open Space!* Businesses and organizations have helped with publicity, prizes, venues and other elements of “Lafayette birds!” If you know of a business or organization that would like to help, let us know!
- **How do I find out about “Lafayette birds!” programs?** Bird watching sessions are held 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at Greenlee Wildlife Preserve. During December through April, these are bird walks that meet at and leave from Greenlee. During May – November, you can drop in at any time to watch birds with experts. Visit the Lafayette Open Space website to find a calendar of events and a link to all 2020 events or contact Martin Ogle at Martin@EntrepreneurialEarth.com. Don’t miss the **8th annual “Celebrating Migratory Birds” event in September, 2021 (watch for event on Open Space calendar).**



- **How many birds are in Lafayette and how do I find out more about them?**
 - See <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L384546> This lists 250 species of birds that have been seen in the Waneka Lake / Greenlee Wildlife Preserve. The total number of birds in Lafayette could be higher.
 - Use a field guide (and consider *The Smithsonian Field Guide to Birds* and the *Field Guide to Colorado Birds*, both written by Lafayette resident, Ted Floyd!).
 - Or, look at any number of online sites such as Cornell University's *All About Birds* or the Audubon Society's *Guide to North American Birds*.
 - **Finally, if you are viewing this on-line, see the amazing pictures at the bottom of this document!**

- **What are good places to see birds in Lafayette?** – Waneka Lake and Greenlee Wildlife Preserve are wonderful, commonly visited places with lots of birds, many of which are easily seen! Coal Creek is also great bird habitat. But, just about any open space or parks, yard or schoolyard have birdlife, sometimes aplenty! Even when birdlife is not as plentiful, or consists mostly of “common” city birds like sparrows and pigeons, there is almost always something interesting to see and experience with birds in almost every corner, nook and cranny of our city! Finally, don't forget to just look up in the sky anywhere you are, and you'll probably see birds! A Red-tail Hawk flying over a parking lot, an American White Pelican soaring over your school, a tipping, turning group of Common Nighthawks hunting insects in your neighborhood. Birds are everywhere!

Contact: Martin Ogle Martin@EntrepreneurialEarth.com for more info!

Photos by Gerry Morrell (search online: Gerry Morrell Photography)



Bald Eagles fighting over food on a frozen pond – our national symbol nests in Boulder County, but populations are greater during the winter when birds from the north migrate to our area.

Male Common Goldeneye duck – this “diving duck” (it dives for aquatic invertebrates, fish and other food) is a regular winter resident in our area.



Nonbreeding Male Hooded Mergansers – breeding males have white “hoods” that they can expand to a helmet-like hemisphere.

Adult Bald Eagle – Bald Eagles get their white head and tail feathers and yellow eyes on their 4th or 5th year.



Photos by Ted Floyd (search online: Ted Floyd ABA) Ted is the author of the Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds and the American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of Colorado



Have you seen an American White Pelican in Lafayette? These huge birds – with wingspans of over 9 feet – can be seen, spring – fall, on ponds and lakes or soaring over in big “V” flocks.

Adult Hooded Merganser – this spectacular bird can be seen on ponds in Lafayette.



American Avocet – a unique, striking shorebird that can be seen at Greenlee Wildlife Preserve, especially in May.

American Kestrel – these small falcons can be seen in Lafayette any time of year and help control rodent populations.

