

Celebrating 20Years
...and still "doin' our thing"

For The Birds

*With the grateful support
of interested residents
of Sanctuary on the Park*

**500 or more new bird broods
have originated in The Sanctuary on the Park's
Bird Sanctuary since its inception .**

A little history

The Plat Plan of the Common Area surrounded by the homes on So. Carson and So. Blackhawk Ct is officially described by ACWWA as Lagoon #7. It is the final holding area for the surface water run-off through Windmill Creek on its way to the Cherry Creek Reservoir. It lends itself perfectly to the Bird Sanctuary concept...and also explains how our community got its name. The Developer donated funds to build the original Bird Sanctuary. A volunteer group was formed to carry out the plan, implement the installation and provide the on-going guidance. We enlisted Dr. Scott Menough, a respected bird expert, to guide us. Using the ACWWA Plat Plan, which included all existing plantings and terrain info, we worked with Dr. Menough on placement of the habitats based on type of bird, proximity of existing flora and a host of other considerations.

The final design, concentrated solely on Cavity Nesters (birds who nest, lay eggs and raise young inside) has continued with some re-arranging, additional habitats and new placements for the past 20 years. The program has had its usual "growing pains" as volunteers have dwindled away leaving just Ron Robinson and me as the only stewards. A little over 2 years ago I also lost Ron, a dear friend and loyal Bird Sanctuary caretaker. I was especially blessed, then, when Earl Wenngren stepped in to offer his help.

For most of its history, the efforts of the Bird Club has been financed exclusively by its volunteers. Several anonymous residents "chipped in" following a discussion at a Sanctuary Board Meeting and more recently the Social Committee donated an unused portion of their 2020 budget. These funds helped me purchase new habitats and repair others. With this thoughtful help and also a new program, spear-headed by Carol Race to add "new blood " we are in better shape as we look forward to the future. We currently have 14 active habitats throughout the community. The most prevalent are the Swallows (Tree and the Violet Green backed), the Mountain Bluebird ,Wrens and Black Capped Chickadees.

Finally, I would be remiss if I neglected to mention that the Bird Club efforts are only a part of this total Eco System. We at **SoP** have this very special natural element within our boundaries, not just near by as our neighboring communities do. As such it behooves us to take this opportunity seriously and recognize all it entails. We see fox, coyotes, rabbits, raccoons, deer and the oft-maligned bull and garter snakes and a few prairie rattlers who play their part with the mice, voles & host of the other "Creepy Crawlies" as my kids used to call them. All these and the natural foliage they require should be protected and monitored for their proper essence to the whole.



Tree Swallow checking things out



Tree Swallow Nest & eggs
Interesting fact- Tree Swallows use feathers- BUT never their own.



A Bullocks Oriole visits a resident's "Hummy" Feeder.
Courtesy- Lou Palley



3 Western King Bird Fledglings on their first venture from the nest.
Courtesy- Carol Race