

Urban Wildlife Photo Club

May 2026 Newsletter

Next Membership Meeting: **May 11th, 2026**

Online and In Person at 7:00 PM

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE MEETING INFORMATION

Club Contact Information

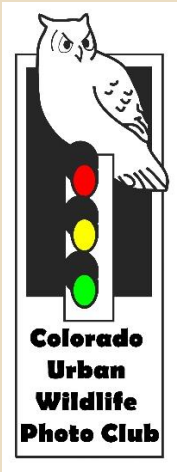
Address: COUWPC
PO Box 270501
Louisville, CO 80027-0501

Email: uwpc@comcast.net Website <http://www.couwpc.com>

- **A Zoom link for the online meeting is included in the email and in this newsletter and will be sent again as a reminder a few hours before the meeting.**

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May Program

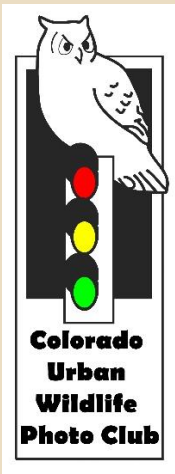
Our May program will be Bob Dean's:

Big Noses, Bigger Attitudes: Northern Elephant Seals Up Close

Program description:

Northern Elephant Seals are one of the most interesting subjects for photographers, wildlife watchers, and folks interested in biology. These fascinating creatures have come back from the brink of extinction and have established themselves along the Pacific coast of the United States. This program will explore the life cycle, some of the biology, and the habits of Northern Elephant Seals. We'll also look at the places available for photographers to create great images, and we'll share some photo tips. We'll also look at some of the threats of the modern world to animals that have been around for about four million years.





Meeting Location

We meet in person at Park Hill United Methodist Church at Montview and Glencoe. We'll also have a Zoom link that is in this newsletter and email plus it will be sent a few hours before the meeting.

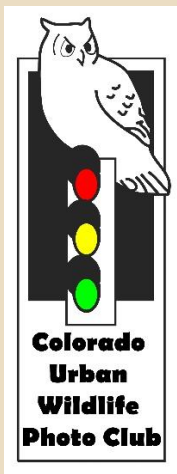
Parking is off Glencoe, north of the church. Enter through the double doors on the north side of the church. If no one is there, please do not ring the doorbell as that alerts several people from the church on their mobile phones. Text or call (303) 807-7678 or (303) 589-5414 and someone will come down and let you in.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85012974953?pwd=satyFlche215fzZFcbkPRGyqzq22yE.1>

Meeting ID: 850 1297 4953

Passcode: 616910



MEMBER MONTHLY IMAGE SUBMISSION

Members and first-time guests are encouraged to submit images for a gentle critique. We are not a competitive club, but we do strive to help our members learn and improve their photographic skills. Guidelines are below. We have both open and theme image categories. Please send critique and theme images in separate emails with subject Critique or Theme

May Critique and Theme images due by May 4th. Star Wars Day

May Theme – Sunrise or Sunset

June Theme - Flowers

PLEASE ADHERE TO SIZE -1MB or less

Two categories at each meeting - THEMED AND OPEN

- Maximum of 4 .jpg images total and no more than one themed image
- Email files one week before the scheduled meeting to uwpcimages@comcast.net Please use this one!
- Send themed category images in an email titled 'themed images'
- Send open category images in an email titled 'critique images'
- Please ensure that the image file name includes your name so that if we choose to include that image in the monthly pictures on the website, we can give proper credit.
- When renaming your images please use only letters numerals, dashes, underscores, and the single dot before ".jpg" in file names. Avoid using blanks. Use dashes (-) underscores (_) and capitalization to indicate word boundaries (e.g. Bob_Dean-Trees_In_Snow.jpg or BobDean-TreesInSnow.jpg).
- Optionally you can include information on location, species, exposure, equipment, etc. Please format it as text in the email, not a table. Here is the format we'd like for the critique images (up to 4).

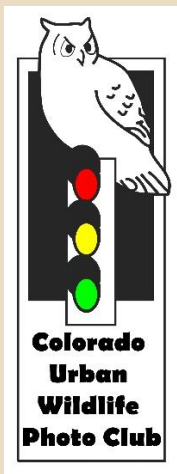
Image No. 1 Name

Species and/or location

Camera/Lens

Exposure Data (focal length, f stop, ISO, filter) DO NOT USE @ in the data.

Post processing beyond cropping, sharpening and minor adjustments.



Opportunity to Recruit!

Cards are now available for members to pass out to photographers (or anyone who would be interested) that they meet in the field or anywhere really! I'll bring them to the next few in person meetings.



Urban Wildlife Photo Club

Club website

<https://couwpc.com/>

Urban Wildlife website

<https://oururbanwildlife.org/>

Email

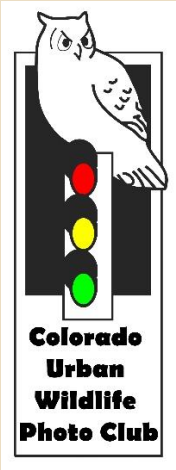
uwpc@comcast.net

PO Box 270501

Louisville, CO 80027

Feel free to take a few and have them in your wallet or camera bag.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) downfall of civilization or great productivity tools? (by Bob Dean)



Note: I wrote this article 100% by myself, not asking AI to do it!

As I started writing this month's newsletter I couldn't help but think back to how I put together the Elephant Seal program. Quite a while back I started using Copilot, Microsoft's AI tool to assist in doing programs, researching places and critters, and many of the things I used to do with The Mighty Google. Copilot, along with ChatGPT, Gemini, and a bunch of others have come to the forefront recently.

The big difference between search engines like Google, Safari, and Bing is that they give you a list of links, often with the first bunch being advertising or sponsored links. AI goes one great step further, it provides INFORMATION.

Using AI tools requires a of good old human intelligence to get the most out of it. Yes, you can ask these tools to write an article for you about a certain topic (something teachers should and do have issue with). The real power of AI is that, when used "properly" it can streamline your work and will give you additional ideas and resources. When I did the Elephant Seal Program, I used AI as follows (using Copilot):

- 1) I typed in to Copilot a question that was something like "I want to do a presentation on Northern Elephant Seals, what are some titles and flows?" The response was a set of possible flows that addressed general audiences, storytelling, science based, and classrooms.
- 2) I then asked: "How about for photographers" and Copilot gave me several slightly different flows.
- 3) I went through and picked the ideas that I liked from all the possibilities, put them in the order I wanted and then started assembling images and writing text (again, I like to do the writing vs letting AI do it).
- 4) As I went through the building of the program (in PowerPoint) I went back to Copilot a few times to gather more information rather than using Google. An example was "What legal tools aided recovery on these seals" and Copilot gave me a detailed list, staring with hunting bans and continuing with the laws, protected areas, etc.

5) When I finished the Program, I “put away” AI and did what I always do for my programs, let it set for a day or so, then went back and went through it, moving things around, tweaking some if the text and images and so forth.

I have found a few things using Copilot that I’d like to pass on.

- AI tools are software engineered algorithms that make it seem you are talking to a real person - remember you’re not! I once asked about doing a particular project and Copilot came back with “I love that idea” before actually answering my question. This can be a bit disconcerting.
- These tools are great for helping gather information on plants, animals, places or whatever. Unlike search engines, they will give you information rather than a bunch of links, many of which are ads. They also might ask you questions for clarification, other things that may help in what you are researching, etc.
- Also, spelling is not a big thing, my typing is less than high quality, but Copilot is very good at both understanding what I’m asking and gently correcting it.
- Finally, if once you have written some text for a letter, presentation or any other reason and you aren’t quite happy with it, submit to an AI tool and ask for ideas to clarify, make it more readable or whatever you’d like. You’d be surprised at what can be done.

So, if you have been avoiding AI, reconsider. If you use Microsoft tools such as Office 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc.) you already have Copilot, just turn it on. Copilot is available as a free App from Microsoft outside Office 365 as well. I use that on my iPhone.

If you are an Apple user, ChatGPT is the “official MAC App.”

Note: There is a huge controversy about the use of AI in photography as related to image modification and creation – another topic for another time!