



# On The Wing

Volume 35, Number 1

Boulder County Audubon Society Newsletter

Jan-Feb 2005

## Taking Stock

George Oetzel, Acting President

It is traditional to take stock at the start of the New Year. It seems particularly fitting for BCAS at the conclusion of a year of many changes. After I volunteered to edit *On the Wing* starting with the October '03 issue, I learned that our once-thriving chapter had become a skeleton organization with a large mailing list mostly provided by the National Audubon Society (NAS). Fortunately, a number of fine volunteers have responded to the call to revive the organization. These volunteers have reconstituted the Board of Directors and/or agreed to chair activity committees. Some, like me, are newcomers. Others have agreed to rejoin after a period of inactivity with the Society.

Although we have the benefit of some historical knowledge, the process has felt very much like we were starting BCAS from scratch. Lynn Tennefoss, NAS VP of State Programs and Chapter Services, acted as a facilitator to help us chart new directions for BCAS during a September retreat. As we brought the Chapter by-laws up to date, we agreed to reinstate the traditional time to elect officers and directors at the Annual Meeting in May.

Past experience with volunteer organizations has taught me that high-priority tasks for the leadership of any volunteer organization must include recruiting volunteers and giving those volunteers meaningful ways to contribute to the organization. Several years neglect of this important activity led BCAS to the doldrums that characterized the organization a year ago.

Fortunately, effort to recruit additional Board members and committee chairs, and to define programs to carry BCAS forward has been quite successful. How-

(Continued on page 2)

## BCAS 4th Tuesday Program Series



Hyacinth Macaw  
Susie Mottached

### January 25

#### Birding in the Patanal Alice and Joe Doyle

The Pantanal in southwestern Brazil is the world's largest fresh-water wetland, half the size of France. The diverse wildlife includes capybaras, javelinas, anteaters, caiman, and colorful birds such as rhea, toco toucan, jabiru stork, and the spectacular hyacinth macaw. Joe and Alice visited the Pantanal and Iguassu Falls in September 2003 and are looking forward to sharing their experiences with Boulder County Audubon.

### February 22

#### Machu Picchu, Jewel of the Incas Ken & Ruth Wright

Machu Picchu, Peru, is the jewel of the Inca Empire. Ken and Ruth have been studying and exploring the site since 1994. Ruth will present slides to show the beauty and architecture of this spectacular royal retreat and religious center.

Ruth Wright is a founding member of Plan Boulder County, longtime state senator, and Boulder environmental activist. Ken is a water engineer who has been involved in many environmental projects and like Ruth, was active in the establishing the blue-line and the original open space tax.



Machu Picchu, 1974, G. Oetzel

#### Refreshments and Socializing before the meetings, at 7 PM Program at 7:30

Meetings are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder, 5001 Pennsylvania Ave. (off 55th St. between Arapahoe and Baseline)

(Taking Stock, Continued from page 1)

ever, most of the "committees" still consist of a single person. Some of these people have been in BCAS, BCNA, or both for quite a few years and have extensive knowledge of both the natural and political history of the area. However, we need and will always welcome people with new ideas and new enthusiasm.

Realistically, some of us must still wear two hats. So it is that I have agreed to become Acting President of BCAS from now until the formal selection of new officers in May. I believe it would be a mistake for the newsletter editor also to be president for very long. I am convinced that consistent and effective contributions by the rest of the Board and membership will make this solution satisfactory for the nonce.

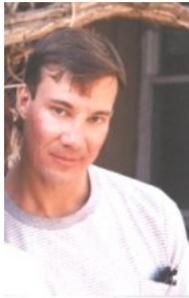
Look in the rest of this issue for projects that you might like to contribute to. Then contact the lead person or any Board member to volunteer. We welcome your contributions.

## Birds of a Feather? Who are these folks?

*There are about 1200 members of the National Audubon Society living in Boulder and Broomfield Counties. National membership automatically makes us members of our local chapter. (There are an additional smaller number who contribute separately to the local chapter, to give our grassroots efforts an extra nudge, or for philosophical or personal reasons). The subset of these big sets is the BCAS Board of Directors. This is the first of a series of profiles of our chapter Board of Director members.*

### **CURTIS WILLIAMS** OUTGOING TREASURER

Some members of our Board have served literally for years, more or less continuously. One such is Curtis Williams, our outgoing Treasurer of seven years and initiator of the



**Curtis Williams**

BCAS Web site. As he departs his official functions, we wish to salute and thank him.

As is true for so many birdwatchers, Curtis combines seemingly disparate skills: experience in financial analysis, a profession as manufacturing manager for a small herbal company in Boulder, a masters in International Management and... the ability to hike tall peaks in a few bounds, to spot wildlife before others in a group have seen a thing, and the ability to keep his mouth shut until he has something substantive to say. Rare qualities.

Indeed, his long legs have carried him to the top of thirty-five 14ers in the Rockies (so far). Along the trails his favorite birds are the classic Western Tanager and the graceful Northern Harrier. Not one to discriminate, he likes moose and beaver too.

He has a few ambitions for his post-BCAS lifestyle: "to become an accomplished birder someday," as well as to establish a family (someday: he is still working on perfecting his mating song).

The Board will greatly miss this native Coloradoan and his quiet competence too.

### **Meet the New Treasurer** Richard Stromp

A fairly recent business graduate, Richard is by far the youngest member of the BCAS Board.

He moved here last summer from the Sacramento, CA NAS office to become office manager for Colorado Audubon in Boulder.

We're very fortunate that Richard appeared at his first Board meeting eager to help BCAS, and that his background is ideal for taking over as treasurer. Thanks, Richard!

## Boulder County Audubon Society

### Officers

Acting President  
**George Oetzel** (303)543-3712  
Acting Vice President  
**Connie Holsinger**  
Secretary  
**Beverly Baker** (303)666-1972  
Treasurer  
**Richard Stromp** (303)415-0130

### Other Board of Directors

**Joan Dawson**  
**Steve Jones**  
**Susie Mottashed**  
**John Tumasonis**  
**Bob Turner**

### Standing Committees

Membership  
**Marti Oetzel** (303)543-3712  
Newsletter  
**George Oetzel** (303)543-3712  
Web Site  
**Amy Schlotthauer** (303)402-0905  
Conservation/Legislation  
**Linda Andes-Georges** (303)772-3239  
Programs  
**Steve Jones** (303-494-2468)  
Field Trips  
**John Tumasonis** (303)926-8779  
Education  
**Susie Mottashed** (303)499-0984  
Christmas Bird Count Coordinator  
**Bill Schmoker** (303)702-9589  
Bird-A-Thon Team Coordinator  
**Bill Kaempfer** (303)443-3175  
Wildlife Inventory  
**Alex and Gillian Brown** (303)494-3042

*On the Wing* © 2005  
Boulder County Audubon Society.

***On the Wing*** is published five times annually: Sept, Nov, Jan, March, and May.

### Next issue:

Deadline for materials for the March 2005 issue is **Tue, Mar 1**.  
Email address for submissions:

otw@boulderaudubon.org

Look for ***On the Wing***  
in PDF format  
and in color

**www.boulderaudubon.org**

Available before you receive  
your copy in the mail.

## Field Trips for Jan. Feb. March 2005

### **Saturday January 29 – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Mountain birding trip – for rosy finches, pine grosbeaks, evening grosbeaks, crossbills. Meet at the Boulder County Justice Center parking lot at 6<sup>th</sup> and Canyon (SE corner). Dress very warmly and bring snacks and water.

Leader: Bill Kampfer, 303-443-3175

### **Saturday February 5 – 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Joint trip – Boulder County Audubon welcomes Fort Collins Audubon with leaders John Tumasonis and Gary Lefko. Check out Boulder “hot spots” and look for raptors and waterfowl. Meet at Scott Carpenter Park at 30<sup>th</sup> near Arapahoe. Bring lunch, snacks, and very warm clothes. All levels welcome.

Boulder: call John at 303-926-8779 Fort Collins: call Gary for carpooling details at 970-897-2454

### **Sunday February 13 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Buttonrock birding and hike. A moderate hike up a unique area of St. Vrain Creek in the foothills above Lyons to see dippers, jays, nuthatches, crossbills, finches, chickadees, and other mountain species. Meet at Niwot Park 'N Ride for carpooling. Bring lunch, snacks, and warm clothes. All levels welcome.

Leader: Scott Severs, 303-684-6430

### **Saturday March 5 - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Rocky Mountain National Park – Snowshoe or Hike up Cow Creek

Join in for snowshoeing up Cow Creek in the north part of RMNP. If there is not enough snow, we will hike instead. Look for all the foothills and mountain bird species as well as mammals. Come prepared with all the proper equipment. There are various outdoor stores in Boulder that will rent snowshoes and ski poles if needed. Open to everyone, but be prepared for exercise. Meet at Sol Azteca restaurant parking lot at 28<sup>th</sup> and Iris (southeast corner) at 8:00 a.m. for carpooling. Bring warm clothes, good hiking boots, snowshoes, ski poles, lunch, water, and snacks.

Leader: Bill Schmoker, 303-702-9589

### **Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 a.m. to evening**

Gulls of the Front Range Area

A special tour to see common and unusual gulls in the Front Range Area. Locations to be determined by where various species are being seen at the time of the trip. We could end up at Cherry Creek, Fort Collins, Boulder or any other spot that is having a high concentration of gulls. Dress for the weather; bring lunch, snacks, scopes, and bird-books. Everyone is welcome. Meet at the Niwot Park 'N Ride on the Boulder / Longmont Diagonal at 7:00 a.m.

Leader: John Vanderpool, 303-652-3678

---

### **Birds of Prey Foundation's Quality Thrift Shoppe**

1140 Pine St. #6 Louisville, CO 80027

720-890-4311

Hours: Mon-Sat 10am to 6pm

Do you have some old treasures that you no longer need, or Christmas gifts you can't use? How about some ordinary household items that you no longer use? Please consider donating them to the Birds of Prey Foundation's Quality Thrift Shoppe. During a recent visit, I noticed all sorts of goodies, everything from crystal vases to a bicycle! They have used furniture, kitchen appliances, a large book selection, clothing and much more. The Thrift Shoppe has quality items with great prices. Please visit.



The gift shoppe is located in a shopping center at the corner of Pine Street and Highway 42 in Louisville. If you have any questions, just give them a call. Your donations help support the Birds of Prey Foundation's ongoing efforts to rehabilitate our injured raptors.

-Susie Mottashed

## Education Program Update

*Susie Mottashed*

It is an exciting time to be involved in the BCAS. We have new faces on the Board of Directors. Ideas are flowing and are being implemented. As the new Education Chair person, I would like to invite members to consider joining our Education Committee. Education encompasses a wide variety of interests. In the months ahead we will try to incorporate a variety of educational programs for our members as well as in our community.

Here are a few of the ideas we are working on:

1) Re-introduce the Audubon Adventures program into schools. This nature program is designed by National Audubon for elementary school classrooms. If you have a child or grandchild in grades 3-6 please consider sponsoring their classroom with the Audubon Adventures Kit. The cost of the kit is \$35 plus \$6.50 shipping/handling. Please email me the teacher's name and phone number as well as the school name. I will contact them and discuss the program with them.

2) BCAS has been granted permission to use the Audubon Adventures curriculum in designing a summer class for children ages 9-12. Look for more details this spring.

3) The BCAS Education committee will work in conjunction with the Thorne Ecological Institute to conduct teacher workshops on various nature-related topics.

4) John Tumasonis, BCAS field trip co-coordinator and board member, will work with the Education committee to develop a few fun and educational all day field trips. Themes such as "Becoming Aware of Nature" and "Techniques on how to Draw, Listen and Look at Nature" are being discussed. Look for these field trips in late spring and early summer.

I encourage anyone with a desire to teach, assist or work behind the scenes to join the Education Committee. One of my goals is to develop a top-notch educational program that is fun! We want to encourage participation that encompasses a wide range of interests and age groups. Please email me with any ideas or suggestions at [susiemott@comcast.net](mailto:susiemott@comcast.net).

## NO BIRD LEFT BEHIND! GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Feb 18-21, 2005

The GBBC is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited stores. Instructions for participating can be found at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc), including tips for families and groups with children. The web site also includes information about bird feeding, bird identification, using binoculars, and making your yard bird-friendly.

## Support your Chapter Become our Coupon Guru

BCAS badly needs a coupon coordinator who is located in the city of Boulder. Maddy Goldhawk is making the phone-call-reminders to those who faithfully purchase coupons, but she is often out of town. We need someone to help deliver the coupons, and to sell them at our monthly chapter meetings.

This is a valuable but simple way of helping BCAS to fund important programs. Please call Linda Andes-Georges at 303 772 3239 to find out how this works, and perhaps to volunteer.

### Forgotten how the Coupons Work?

Many longtime BCAS members are familiar with the classic supermarket coupon programs which allow our chapter to earn money back for coupons sold. In the case of the King Soopers, Wild Oats, and Safeway supermarket coupons (our biggest moneymakers at \$1610 in 2004), we earn 5% on every dollar spent.

However those of us who secretly love fine living may need this reminder: our "take" on Liquormart coupons is a handsome 10%.

Buying coupons is pain-free: call our current broker, Maddy Goldhawk, tel. 303.494.7953, and confess how much you want to spend. You can pick up your certificates or "cash cards," or you can have them delivered to your door. Then when you go to the stores, you spend the coupons--or use the cards--just like cash. You can also buy the coupons at our monthly meetings.



## Chapter Outreach Designer(s) Wanted

Have you noticed that various nonprofit organizations have display tables at public events such as the Farmers' Market and Creek Festival? Boulder Audubon has not been represented for a number of years, because we have neither the display posters to attract attention nor brochures to hand out to interested people.

Here's your chance to utilize your creative talents for a worthy cause. There are two parts to each project:

1. Decide on both text and graphic content.
2. Turn the ideas into computer files to be delivered to a printer for production.

Both content help and production assistance are available from Board members. However, your Board needs help to complete these projects.

Contact George Oetzel, 303-543-3712 or [otw@boulderaudubon.org](mailto:otw@boulderaudubon.org)



**Boulder County Audubon Society**

[About Us](#)  
[What's New](#)  
[Events](#)  
[Education](#)  
[Conservation](#)  
[Wildlife Inventories](#)  
["On the Wing" Newsletter](#)  
[Links](#)

Welcome to the Boulder County Audubon Society

The Boulder County Audubon Society is a voice for migratory bird and wildlife conservation through habitat protection, political action, and education.

Site Updated: 1-2-05  
 Visitor # 0277



[About Us](#) | [What's New](#) | [Events](#) | [Education](#) | [Conservation](#) | [Wildlife Inventories](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [Links](#) | [Home Page](#)

© 2004-2005 BCAS. All Rights Reserved.  
 All photos © 2004-2005 Bill Schmecker. All Rights Reserved.

## BCAS Web Site Upgraded

Visit our newly redesigned and updated Web site!! Thanks go to our volunteer Web Angel, Amy Schlotthauer, for the new look. Of course, the new look isn't the only change. Check "What's New" to see what's been added or changed recently. Check "Events" for the latest field trip schedule and information about monthly programs. You can expect to see more useful information and descriptions of ways to become involved in BCAS in the coming months. Here's what Amy says of the BCAS Web site development:

"I'm launching my web site development business, Big Owl Designs, in January. My web site (<http://www.bigowldesigns.com>) is under construction. It will have my business contact information --- [info@bigowldesigns.com](mailto:info@bigowldesigns.com) and (303)819-0925. I've appreciated the opportunity to build the Boulder Audubon web site as I'm starting out with my new business. Finally, it's been a delight working with the great folks on the BCAS board."

## Become an Ecosystem Steward

Over the years Boulder County Audubon and the Boulder County Nature Association have collaborated on research projects that have added tremendously to our knowledge of Boulder County's natural heritage. More than 200 volunteers have participated in owl studies and monthly wildlife inventories; more than 100 volunteers continue to monitor cliff-nesting raptors, wintering raptors, and high mountain bird populations.

Now we are ready to initiate long-term monitoring of plants, wildlife, and ecosystem processes in Boulder County natural areas. This new Ecosystem Stewardship Initiative will document the effects of such forces as global warming, urbanization, recreation, and habitat fragmentation on local plants and wildlife. As a side benefit, we expect all the naturalists we place in the field

to become long-term advocates for native habitat protection.

The goals of the initiative are threefold:

1. Monitor natural processes in Boulder County native ecosystems.
2. Use data collected to improve management and influence policy-making.
3. Recruit a cadre of naturalists to monitor and protect natural areas in perpetuity.

If you cherish the peace and beauty of natural places, please consider becoming a steward. The only prerequisites are an interest in nature, a desire to learn more, and a willingness to spend four to six mornings a year recording observations in a protected part of Boulder County. You might choose a secluded canyon in the foothills, a prairie wildlife area such as Sawhill Ponds, or a favorite meadow or forest grove in the Indian Peaks Wilderness.

Volunteers will receive training in forest inventory, breeding bird and butterfly survey techniques, and wildflower identification. However, no volunteer will be expected to carry out all these tasks; instead, each of us will work from a "menu" of things to monitor. As much as possible, experienced naturalists will be paired with beginners so that we can all learn and share our knowledge on site.

The first organizational meeting for the initiative will be held Sunday, March 6, from 3-4:30 PM, at the George Reynolds Branch Library, 3595 Table Mesa Drive, in Boulder. A series of optional volunteer trainings will begin in April.

If you already have an idea of an area you would like to adopt, please let me know right away. Areas should be protected (parks, open space, forest service lands, and private lands under conservation easement all qualify), with actual study sites limited to approximately 1 km<sup>2</sup> (1000 m by 1000 m).

If you would like to join the project but can't come to the first meeting, please call or e-mail before March 6.

Steve Jones

303-494-2468; [stephen.jones@earthlink.net](mailto:stephen.jones@earthlink.net)

## Goodbye Wes

Dear friends, we've lost one of our oldest (in faithfulness), youngest (in spirit), and best: Wes Sears died peacefully January 6 at home, surrounded by family. Our thoughts are with Bev and their family. His memorial service is set for Jan. 15th at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5001 Pennsylvania Avenue, Boulder, beginning at 1:30 PM. Carol Saunders of UUB is coordinating reception contributions (call 303 499 3731).

## BOULDER COUNTY WILDLIFE INVENTORY, AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2004

E-mail [gillianbro@yahoo.com](mailto:gillianbro@yahoo.com)

There were many signs of fall migration throughout August and September. Both months were cooler and wetter than average. This may have contributed to an especially strong shorebird migration. Most of our reservoirs were so full that they had little shore, but flooded fields produced excellent shorebird habitat. Such was the case with the south eastern corner of the intersection between Jay Road and the Diagonal. This one spot produced many Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpipers (last seen in 2002), Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Least Sandpiper, and 50 Wilson's Snipe. At Sombrero Marsh, the first Ruddy Turnstone since 1996 was reported. Another good spot for shorebirds was found in Erie, where a Sanderling was seen. Baird's Sandpiper was reported for the first time this year in August; it is not unusual for the first sighting to be during fall migration rather than in the spring.

Two Parasitic Jaegers were reported in September after a gap of four years. Gulls were counted in large numbers with populations of Franklin's Gulls and California Gulls changing daily. A Bonaparte's Gull was reported in August and three Sabine's Gulls in September. As well as the more common Forster's Tern, both Black Tern and Common Tern were reported. By the end of September, ducks were beginning to appear; only four duck species were reported in August but this had increased to thirteen duck species for September.

The cool weather seemed to mean that birders were more active than usual in the foothills and plains. Many observers went to Dowdy Draw. At least a dozen Sage Thrashers were reported there, as well as one Northern Mockingbird. The first Townsend's Warbler of the year was seen there, as well as a Nashville Warbler and American Redstart. This was a good spot for finding lingering breeders such as Blue Grosbeak and Gray Catbird, as well as to find migrating warblers and sparrows. In other places, Blackpoll Warbler was new for the year; this is the first time we have had reports of this bird during fall migration. We also had the first report of the year for Cassin's Vireo; it seems to be easier to find this species during fall migration than in the spring. Other birds seen that are worth a mention are three of our less usual flycatchers: Least, Ash-throated and Cassin's Kingbird. A family of Orchard Orioles was found at White Rocks. Calliope Hummingbirds were seen in many places in both the plains and foothills, continuing the trend of the last few years.

Altogether 144 bird species were reported in August, and 175 in September. This is probably average for August, but undoubtedly lower than it might be because of lack of coverage. Surely there are more than four duck species present in the county? September's 175 species was by no means a record, but was higher than average. This was helped by good reporting early in the month of lingering summer birds.

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THE AUGUST & SEPTEMBER INVENTORIES

Linda Andes-Georges, Julie Bartlett, Alan Bell, William Blackburn, Maggie Boswell, Andy Boyce, Alex & Gillian Brown, George Coffee, Raymond E. Davis, Helen Eisner, Gene Ellis, Ted Floyd, Steve Frye, Roy Halpin, Paula Hansley, Rachel Hopper, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, D.W. King, Tony Leukering, Gene & Lynn Monroe, Sue A. Olmsted, Nathan Pieplow, Pam Piombino, Peter Plage, Suzi & Myron Plooster, Ira Sanders, Bill Schmoker, Wes Sears, Scott Severs, Jack Solomon, Bob Spencer, David Stewart, Joyce Takamine, John Tuma-sonis, David J. Waltman, Eric Zorawowicz.

## 63<sup>rd</sup> Boulder Christmas Bird Count

Bill Schmoker, Boulder CBC compiler

Saturday, December 18 found 125 birders covering 28 territories and watching feeders for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Boulder Christmas Bird Count. Their efforts paid off with 107 species accounted for, along with an additional 3 count-week species for a total of 110! Congratulations to everyone for the great results and thanks for your hard work.

Weather leading up to the count this fall was generally mild, with the exception of a strong cold spell with sub-zero lows and a snowstorm at the end of November, which completely froze most water bodies in the county. Lakes and ponds were generally thawed out in time for the count, but many birds may have moved on in search of open water. The weather on count day was fantastic-temperatures broke 50° in the low-land territories under mostly clear skies and very little wind.

Birds never previously recorded on the count include Cackling Goose (split this year from Canada Goose), Brown-headed Cowbird, and a count-week White-winged Dove. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at Valmont Reservoir was the first recorded for count day, although it had been seen during count week on a few previous counts. Greater Scaup, Gray Catbird, Green-tailed Towhee, and Great-tailed Grackle were recorded for only the third time.

Our biggest misses this year were Horned Lark (seen on 50 previous counts), Clark's Nutcracker (38 previous), and Eastern Screech-Owl (34 previous). These were the only species missed that had been seen on at least half of the previous counts.

Data entry will still take a few weeks- after that number trends can be tracked. Look for full results posted on the National Audubon Society's CBC web page: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html>. Click on the "Current Year's Results" link and navigate to the Boulder count.

The great outcome of the Boulder CBC stems directly from the efforts and quality of all of its participants. Thanks especially go to the territory leaders for their contributions- with so many teams afield, the success of the count rests on their shoulders. Here's to another successful CBC next year- remember, it's never too early to start recruiting teams!!

## BOULDER OSMP VISITOR PLAN

*Letter from BCAS Board to Council Members, Open Space Board of Trustees, and Open Space Staff December 3, 2004.*

Boulder County Audubon Society, comprised of 1200 members, is a voice for migratory bird and wildlife conservation through habitat protection, political action, and education.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Open Space and Mountain Parks Visitor Plan. During the last two years of the Visitor Plan creation, our board has been in a transition period, and we have not been able to offer helpful comments as much as we would have preferred. However, at our November 17th board meeting we wrestled with current unresolved issues in the plan, and decide to offer the comments below on salient aspects of the Plan.

Guiding our conclusions is the knowledge that, once changed, it is impossible to return our wildlands back to their original state. As greater numbers of people arrive into the region each day, it is critical that we hasten to protect the remaining habitats of Open Space, for wildlife and future generations of Open Space visitors.

### 1. Dealing with uncertainty in determining management priorities

Our board agrees with the position of Open Space staff and the Open Space Board of Trustees throughout the past two decades, and indeed, that of the Mountain Parks staff when it developed its precedent-setting Management Plan in 1999: that is, the emphasis on protection of resources in these cases. However, we would be open to members of the community working with staff to help resolve specifics, relying on this principle: that the special resources of OSMP first be thoroughly studied for their critical values, after which the ability of those lands can be properly (objectively) evaluated for recreational use. Citizens would be an important part of the latter process.

### 2. On-trail designations in Habitat Conservation Areas

Again, our board is in general agreement with Open Space staff and OSMP Board members that visitors visiting HCA's should be strongly advised to remain on the trail, with exceptions for scientific research and guided educational hikes. Reasons justifying any restrictions can be articulated in short, clear (educational!) sentences at main access points. Most people will respond to such precautions. Rangers—when funds are available to provide the necessary personnel-power—can be allowed to use discretion in educating, warning, or ticketing for egregious behaviors. The latter can be specifically defined (i.e., allowing children or pets to run through signed protection areas, using fireworks, etc).

### 3. Dogs in Habitat Conservation Areas.

In approaching dog management, we can all agree that the great majority of natural areas and parks in Boulder County are already open to dog use. Disagreement arises when one discusses impacts. Our organization relies on the increasing body of evidence that dogs have negative impacts on plants and wildlife. While this is true of any off-trail visitor, it is applicable to dogs to a far greater degree because of their number and because of their nature: few children, for example, chase deer or prairie dogs. Furthermore, dogs have negative impacts on other visitors to such an extent that polls show it is one of the most common complaints of Open Space visitors. Given the especially sensitive character of HCAs, our board believes that they should have particular protection: no dogs should be allowed in HCAs. This would enhance areas of Open Space for critical wildlife needs, as well as improve opportunities for those individuals who desire to visit portions of Open Space free from interference from dogs.

Boulder County Audubon Society recognizes the important work from all parties that has gone into the Visitor Plan. We especially appreciate the hard work and efforts of our fellow volunteers of the Community Group Forum to come together to work on building consensus on these issues. However, we regret that the most intense "users" of Open Space—wildlife species affected by the Plan—are not able to give their perspective. We also regret missing comments from other groups like the Center for Native Ecosystems, Ancient Forest Rescue (associated with C.U.), and the Boulder Chapter of the Colorado Native Plant Society.

Still, we hope our own comments will help the Council to shape direction for the final touches on the Visitor Plan, bringing the process to a close, or rather, to a hopeful beginning.

The natural values of Open Space must guide the way visitors use the land.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Severs and Members of the Board  
Boulder Chapter of the Audubon Society

### BCAS Board Meeting Schedule

The BCAS Board usually meets on the third Tuesday of the month, starting at 7 PM—Jan 18, Feb 15, and Mar 15. Call any Board member to verify that there is a meeting and learn the location.

Boulder County Audubon Society

*On The Wing*



Nonprofit  
Organization  
U. S. Postage  
**Paid**

<b>Programs</b>
<b>Jan 25</b> Alice and Joe Doyle Birding in the Pantanal, Brazil
<b>Feb 22</b> Ken and Ruth Wright Machu Picchu, Jewel of the Incas
<b>Socialize: 7:00</b> <b>Program at 7:30</b>

### Boulder County Audubon Society Membership

When you join the National Audubon Society (NAS), you automatically become a member of the Boulder County Audubon Society (BCAS) as well. Joint membership in the NAS and BCAS includes the NAS quarterly *Audubon* and the BCAS newsletter *On the Wing* (5 issues annually), as well as participation in all BCAS activities.

However, BCAS receives only a small amount of your dues from NAS to support local activities. We encourage you to join BCAS to help support local activities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- \$20 Annual BCAS membership
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional contribution

Make check payable to *Boulder County Audubon Society*

If you would like to join or donate to the National Audubon Society and receive *Audubon* magazine, or to make changes to your NAS membership:  
please call 1-800-274-4201 or  
go to <http://www.audubon.org>