



On The Wing

Volume 36, Number 3

Boulder County Audubon Society Newsletter

May-Aug 2006

BCAS 4th Tuesday Program Series

Tuesday, May 23, 7:30 PM

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

John Vanderpoel

Hummingbirds of Colorado and the West

John will regale us with stories about the making of his new DVD/video, "Hummingbirds of North America." The video contains three hours of amazing images, and he will show some of the best of these while also offering tips on how to identify Colorado hummingbirds. John is a longtime Colorado birder and Boulder Audubon field trip leader, an expert on gull identification, and creator of the Advanced Birding Video Series. Copies of John's extraordinary videos will be available for purchase.

(This program was postponed from April.)



Female Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Longmont
© Bill Schmoker, www.schmoker.org

Tuesday, June 27, 7:30 PM

Note the location!

Boulder Mennonite Church, 3910 Table Mesa Drive in Boulder. It is just east of Broadway on the south side of Table Mesa.

Bill Eeds, Nathan Pieplow, and Scott Severs

The Great Woodpecker Search: The Adventures of Three Volunteers

In March and April of this year, Bill Eeds, Nathan Pieplow, and Scott Severs spent two weeks searching for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Eastern Arkansas. Volunteers for the prestigious Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, each came away with a slightly different perspective from the experience. In addition to the search for the elusive bird, these fellows witnessed the wonderful birdlife and animals of the bottomland hardwood forests of the Mississippi Delta. Join us for a slide and sound journey to the Deep South.

Bill Eeds and Scott Severs work for the Wild Bird Center in Boulder and volunteer frequently on wildlife projects and lead field trips.

Nathan Pieplow teaches writing at the University of Colorado and avidly records bird sounds for Cornell. He recently helped complete the County Birding Website for the Colorado Field Ornithologists. See: <http://www.coloradocountybirding.com/>



Barred Owl and swamp scene

Copyright 2006: Cornell Lab of Ornithology/Scott Severs

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

Field Trips: May - July

Saturday, May 13: 7 a.m. - Noon. International Migratory Bird Day at Walden Ponds, off 75th St. north of Valmont Road. Field trips, "Big Sit" birding event, kids activities, refreshments and more. Details: Call the Wild Bird Center at 303-442-1322. Co-hosted by Audubon and Boulder Bird Club.

Saturday May 20: Pawnee National Grassland with John Tumasonis. This full-day excursion will target lark buntings, lark sparrows, McCowen's longspurs, Swainson's hawks, loggerhead shrikes, burrowing owls, mountain plovers, shorebirds, warblers, pronghorn, and coyotes. We will also be looking at animal signs, flowers, and herpetofauna. Expect moderate hiking and changing weather conditions. Carpool from Niwot Park and Ride at 6:00 a.m. Return to Boulder County about 6:00 p.m. Bring lunch, snacks, proper clothing including raingear, hiking boots, hat, sunscreen, and lots of water. Call John Tumasonis for more details: 303-926-8779

Saturday, May 27: Breeding bird survey, foothills shrublands and forest. Paula Hansley (hansleyp@att.net) and Natalie Shrewsbury (n.shrewsbury@comcast.net) will lead a 2.5-mile hike up Shadow Canyon to census breeding birds. This workshop for ecosystem stewards is open to all Boulder Audubon members. Contact Paula or Natalie for meeting location and other details.

Tuesday, June 6: Breeding bird survey, foothills conifer forest. Steve Jones (stephen.jones@earthlink.net; 303-494-2468) will lead a hike into the canyons on Green Mountain to census breeding birds. This workshop for ecosystem stewards is open to all Boulder Audubon members. Meet at the Panorama Point parking area, opposite the Flagstaff Summit turnoff (about 3.5 miles up Flagstaff Mountain Road) at 6 a.m. bring binoculars and a notebook. Return around 10.

Tuesday, June 20: Breeding bird survey, foothills conifer forest. Laura Osborn and Steve Jones (stephen.jones@earthlink.net; 303-494-2468) will lead a hike at Walker Ranch open space to survey breeding birds. We should see some woodpeckers, a few raptors, and a good number of bluebirds. Meet at the Ranger Cottage parking area at Chautauqua at 6 a.m. Return around 11.

Saturday, June 24: Rocky Mountain National Park - Upper Beaver Meadows. Join Wayne and Dianna Johnston (303-682-5662) for this annual trip to observe breeding birds of montane woodlands and aspen groves. Enjoy a leisurely hike on the Upper Beaver Meadows Trail looking for nesting Williamson sapsuckers, red-naped sapsuckers, and mountain bluebirds. Three-toed woodpeckers are possible. Meet to carpool at the North Foothills Trail parking area, just north of the intersection of Broadway and US 36, at 7:15 a.m.; or meet us at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center in the Park at 8:30 a.m. (drivers will need a Park pass).

Saturday, July 1: Hike to meadow in Shadow Canyon to look for songbirds and fledged raptors. Meet at 8 a.m. at the South Mesa Trail parking area, Eldorado Springs Drive about 2 miles west of South Foothills Hwy. This will be a moderate uphill hike on the Towhee Trail. The hike up will take an hour and a half. We will stop and sit in a meadow to watch for fledged raptors on the ridge line. Return around noon. Note: hiking boots are better on this trail than sneakers. Leaders: Wayne and Dianna Johnston (303-682-5662).

Saturday, July 29: Butterflies and songbirds of Boulder Mountain Park canyons. Expect to see 20 or more species of butterflies, along with a modest assortment of warblers, flycatchers, and finches. Bring close-focusing binoculars and a butterfly field guide if you have them. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Panorama Point parking area, 3.5 miles up Flagstaff Mountain Road opposite the Flagstaff Summit turnoff. Return around 11. Leaders: Steve Jones (stephen.jones@earthlink.net; 303-494-2468) and Jan Chu.

Boulder County Audubon Society

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Newsletter

George Oetzel (303)543-3712

Web Site

Amy Schlotthauer (303)402-0905

Christmas Bird Count Coordinator

Bill Schmoker (303)702-9589

Wildlife Inventory

Alex and Gillian Brown (303)494-3042

On the Wing © 2006

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 Sept 2006 issue is Tue, Aug 29.
Email address for submissions:

otw@boulderaudubon.org

Color pictures in the Web
version of *On the Wing*:
www.boulderaudubon.org

Kudos to Volunteers

BCAS depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. We salute and thank those who give their time and energy to make BCAS a better organization.

Education program volunteers:

Educational outreach is an important BCAS program, supported in part by the SCFD (logo). A major part of that program has been distribution of Audubon adventures kits to classrooms in the Boulder area. We are also seeking to expand our outreach through such efforts as the Boulder Creek Festival and more high-profile speakers for the monthly programs. Susie Mottashed is stepping down as Education Chairperson. We'd like to thank Susie for a wonderful job and wish her luck on her new projects.

Replacing her are Mary Balzer and Maureen Lawry. Mary is returning to Boulder after living in the Monterey Bay area for 10 years. She enjoyed the birds there so much that she decided to join and become active in Audubon. She was the director of a non-profit while in California. You might have seen Maureen selling coupons at the monthly meetings. She has taught CU Science Discovery Programs and has given talks through the Boulder County Naturalists.

Both Maureen and Mary welcome questions and comments about the program that provides an Audubon curriculum to local grade schools. Mary: 303-499-0662 and Maureen: 303-499-3833

New field trip coordinator:

Dianna Johnston, our new field trip chair, has organized and led field trips for Boulder County Audubon, Boulder County Nature Association, and Denver Field Ornithologists. She and her husband, Wayne, are expert birders and avid naturalists who have participated in owl, wintering raptor, and breeding bird surveys throughout Colorado. Their annual June foray to Beaver Meadows to observe cavity-nesting birds, a Boulder Audubon tradition initiated by Wes and Bev Sears, is one of our best-attended and most rewarding trips.



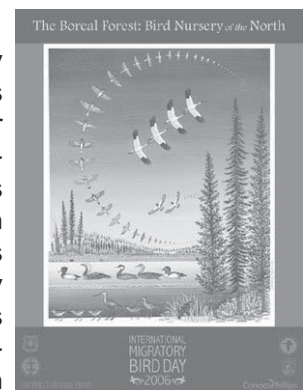
Audubon Colorado Rendezvous: AUGUST 26

Please mark your calendar and plan to join Audubon members from all around the state for the third annual Audubon Colorado Rendezvous. All chapter members are invited and encouraged to attend. The gathering will take place on Saturday August 26, with a reception and program planned on Friday evening for participants who arrive then. We'll be getting together at the scenic Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort, centrally located in the state near Buena Vista, in the shadow of the Collegiate Peaks. Please check their website www.mtprinceton.com to see the facilities, including their hot springs pools that are accessible to you as part of the affordable lodging fee.

Audubon is planning a full day of programs, workshops, birding and special speakers. As in past years, we will be bringing in speakers from out of state, including National Audubon staff who will want to share ideas with chapter members and other conservation friends. Among the topics that will be covered in workshops and other presentations are Gunnison Sage-Grouse conservation and the collaborative effort being led by our chapters in 2006, the latest info on avian flu and how Audubon members can head off misinformation about the flu and wild birds, updates on the new Colorado Birding Trail and the planning for the second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, and much more. Please check the website www.auduboncolorado.org for details about speakers and programs, as well as registration forms and information as it becomes available. Register early and make room reservations before you head out on summer vacation. Call (303-415-0130) or email Audubon Colorado (rstromp@audubon.org) for more information

IMBD 2006

International Migratory Bird Day celebrates the incredible journeys of migratory birds between their breeding grounds in North America and their wintering grounds in Mexico, Central, and South America. The event, which takes place on the second Saturday in May each year, encourages bird conservation and increases awareness of birds through hikes, bird watching, information about birds and migration, public events, and a variety of other education programs. Join us in the celebration!



IMBD in Boulder is Saturday, May 13, 7 a.m. to noon at Walden Ponds, off 75th St. north of Valmont Road. Field trips, "Big Sit" birding event, kids activities, refreshments and more. Details: Call the Wild Bird Center at 303-442-1322. Co-hosted by Audubon and Boulder Bird Club.

My Yard is a Wild *Bird* Center



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We deliver to Boulder, Longmont, & Surroundings

Changing Raptor Populations Reflect Environmental Successes and Failures

Steve Jones

During the past six months, a half dozen volunteers have been entering 25 years of data from the Boulder County Monthly Wildlife Inventory onto Excel spreadsheets. The work is slightly tedious and mind-numbing, until we stop to contemplate the sometimes uplifting, sometimes heartbreaking stories that the numbers reveal. The table below could serve as a report card on our environmental stewardship of Boulder County.

Total Number of Selected Diurnal Raptors Reported to Boulder County Monthly Wildlife Inventory by Three-Year Period, 1981-2004*. **Up- or down-trending species in boldface.**

Species	'81-83	'84-86	'87-89	'90-92	'93-95	'96-98	'99-01	'02-04
Turkey Vulture	330	338	310	428	429	599	780	672
Osprey	17	40	24	32	29	106	136	143
Bald Eagle	34	319	269	272	305	277	385	530
Northern Harrier	266	219	127	148	206	235	230	176
Sharp-shinned Hawk	147	141	154	106	150	129	228	116
Cooper's Hawk	77	97	110	87	75	72	79	81
Northern Goshawk	45	56	75	47	42	38	42	25
Broad-winged Hawk	4	6	5	9	4	7	10	31
Swainson's Hawk	106	131	176	212	140	187	126	326**
Red-tailed Hawk	788	1053	948	790	815	899	1074	1090
Ferruginous Hawk	168	463	296	297	240	142	125	122
Rough-legged Hawk	233	259	231	126	121	74	91	66
Golden Eagle	263	455	265	250	264	263	377	241
Merlin	23	20	34	16	16	23	28	27
Peregrine Falcon	3	3	4	27	23	21	19	32
Prairie Falcon	97	216	130	97	86	80	92	110

*Each entry represents the sum of the maximum number observed by any one observer within each of 51 areas during each month.

**A single kettle of at least 150 Swainson's Hawks was reported near Louisville during June 2004.

The first thing you may notice is that numbers of many species have remained relatively stable over the 25-year period. It's good to see that Northern Harriers, Golden Eagles, Swainson's Hawks, and Prairie Falcons have persevered during a time when Boulder County's human population has nearly doubled.

It's also apparent that several species (shown in boldface) are increasing or declining, some precipitously. [Cautionary note: Because there is no control over observer hours or effort in the monthly wildlife inventory, there is probably a tendency toward "overreporting" of rare species and "underreporting" of common species. Although some contributors to the inventory report every single bird they observe every month, others report only rarities and other birds of particular interest to them. As a result of this tendency to report rarer species, the numbers may tend to mask the degree of increase or decline for some species. For example, Ferruginous Hawks have declined nearly 90% on the BCNA winter raptor surveys since 1990; the monthly wildlife inventory data suggest a decline of only 60%.] Nevertheless, the numbers indicate some striking trends:

Turkey Vulture: A mosaic of open spaces, highways, and human settlements fits this open country scavenger's lifestyle to a T, so it's not surprising that turkey vultures are becoming more abundant in Boulder County. A summer roost in West Boulder, established during the 1990s and occupied by 30-50 juveniles each year, has no doubt boosted the overall numbers.

Osprey: Once rare in Boulder County, Osprey have grown fairly common in summer. The increase reflects the banning of DDT nationwide in 1972, as well as the establishment of nesting populations at reservoirs on the plains and willow carrs in the mountains beginning around 1998.

(continued next page)

(Raptor populations, continued from page 4)

Bald Eagle: Two jumps here, the first during the 1980s after the banning of DDT, the second during the current decade as nesting populations became established along prairie streams. The first documented nest in Boulder County fledged a single eaglet in 2003; this spring there are five active nests along Boulder Creek, St. Vrain Creek, and Coal Creek.

Broad-winged Hawk: This eastern forest buteo, a rare migrant in Boulder County, bears watching. Recent field guides suggest a gradual range shift westward as more deciduous trees are introduced onto the Great Plains.

Ferruginous Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk: During the early 1990s we began to notice that wintering populations of these open-country specialists were dwindling away in Boulder County. A University of Colorado study by C.E. Bock, M. E. Berry, and S. L. Haire (Condor, January 1999) suggested that these buteos abandon or avoid foraging areas on the plains as these grasslands become fragmented by roads and houses.

Peregrine Falcon: Another partial success story, fueled first by the banning of DDT and second by protection of nesting cliffs in the foothills.

So what does all this tell us? Apparently, we've done a pretty good job of protecting nesting and foraging habitat for cliff-nesters such as Peregrine Falcon and open country generalists such as Red-tailed Hawk. We appear to be doing a poor job of protecting habitat for some open country specialists, including Ferruginous Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk.

Can we do anything to reverse the negative trends? A first and necessary step is compiling the numbers and sharing them with other concerned individuals and organizations. These twenty-five years of wildlife data, gathered by several hundred Boulder County Audubon volunteers, at least give us the opportunity to make our case and get started.

Note: If you would like to help out with this data entry project, please email stephen.jones@earthlink.net. If you would like to submit monthly sightings to the wildlife inventory, email Gillian Brown: gillianbro@yahoo.com.

GROCERY COUPONS SUPPORT BCAS

Every time you buy food (or wine or beer), you could be supporting this chapter and its goals of backyard habitat creation, schoolroom programs for kids, and protection of important bird areas in our own county.



Call your coupon salespeople today, and ask how to regularly buy and use these coupons without any cost to you as you get provisions for your family. Cards and certificates are used exactly like cash. You are whisked through the check-out line as though you were handing over greenbacks. Every \$100 you spend puts \$5 or \$10 into the BCAS piggybank for our local chapter needs.

Our friendly coupon sales contacts :
Maureen Lawry, tel. 303 499 3833, Bev Sears, tel. 303 499 4751, or Linda Andes-Georges, tel. 303 772 3239

Coupons are always available at chapter meetings, the fourth Tues. of each month. Bring your checkbook!

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Wild Birds Unlimited



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Phone: (303)443-9659 Fax: (720)406-7778

BOULDER COUNTY WILDLIFE INVENTORY, DECEMBER 2005 - JANUARY 2006

Gillian and Alex Brown, 4560 Darley Avenue, Boulder, CO 80305

December 2005 was a record month for the number of bird species beating the previous record of December 2004 by one species to give a total of 123 bird species. In contrast January 2006 came nowhere close to last year's record 122 species with only 99 bird species reported. The Boulder Christmas Bird Count (BCBC) always produces good coverage both on the day of the count and during the scouting trips leading up to it. Since it is based on a circle of diameter fifteen miles centered on Boulder, it covers a large part of the county with a wide range of habitats. The Indian Peaks Winter Count (IP) provides good coverage of our winter mountain birds. It nominally took place on January 7 but in fact could take place nearly a month either side of this date. December had a couple of cold spells early in the month, then was unseasonably warm with a record high of 68F on Christmas Day. January continued mild with very little precipitation. Some days never dropped below freezing.

Five species of geese were reported both months: Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross' Goose, Canada Goose and Cackling Goose. Dodd Reservoir was the place to see geese in their thousands and gave a great opportunity to compare the different species. The first Tundra Swans of the year were reported in early December in two different locations. In recent years Tundra Swans have been less common than Trumpeter Swans. A White-winged Scoter was reported at Lagerman Reservoir in December and a single Greater Scaup was seen at Walden Ponds in January. Valmont Reservoir always has the greatest selection of grebes and diving ducks in winter as the power station keeps the water from freezing. A Red-necked Grebe was seen on Valmont in January. A male Cinnamon Teal seen on January 13 was an unexpectedly early sighting. It is unclear whether the bird had wintered here or was newly arrived.

Eight species of gull were reported in December including Bonaparte's Gull, Mew Gull, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Glaucous Gull. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was also seen in January on Baseline Reservoir. A late Lesser Yellowlegs lingered into the first few days of December. American Pipits were seen both months wintering at Valmont Reservoir. A Green-tailed Towhee also appeared to be wintering in a Boulder yard. A Say's Phoebe seen in January was a most unusual winter species, as was a Northern Parula Warbler. Unfortunately, the Parula did not survive. A Carolina Wren was found at Boulder Reservoir in late January. This is the first sighting of this species since 1999.

For the second year in a row, the hot spot for mountain birds was the Fawnbrook Inn in Allenspark. The feeders at the inn attracted enormous flocks of Rosy Finch; one estimate suggested around eight hundred birds. All three types of Rosy Finch (Gray-crowned, Brown-capped and the less common Black) were seen by many observers. A Common Redpoll was among the finches in December. Both Pine Grosbeak and Evening Grosbeak were also seen nearby. Cassin Finch numbers were extremely low with only two birds reported in December, but Red Crossbills were fairly widespread. Two Lesser Goldfinch stayed at a Boulder feeder in December.

Both Eurasian Collared Dove and Great-tailed Grackle can now be expected as winter sightings. In December 2005 there were 10 Mourning Doves reported and a single Eurasian Collared Dove. In January only the latter were reported. It will be interesting to watch what happens with these species in the future. Winter sightings of Grackles seem to be more likely to be Great-tailed than Common. The last report of Common Grackle for the year was on December 1.

For the full listing of sighted species go to www.boulderaudubon.org/inventory.htm

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE DECEMBER 2005 AND JANUARY 2006 INVENTORY

Margaret Arp, Alan Bell, Alex & Gillian Brown, Tamie Bulow, Allen Carpenter, Shaundra Crisler, Todd Deininger, Patty Echelmeyer, Doug Faulkner, Ted Floyd, Peter Gent, Paula Hansley, Jack Harlan, Thomas Heinrich, Ann Hicks, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Ellen Klaver, Jim Knopf, Nick Komar, Steve Larson, Tony Leukering, Gene and Lynn Monroe, Kayleen A Niyoo, George and Marti Oetzel, Nathan Pieplow, Pam Piombino, Suzi and Myron Plooster, Walter and Pat Pollock, Scott Severs, Randy Siebert, Debra Sparr, Andrew Spencer, Charles Thornton-Kolbe, Richard Trinkner, John Vanderpoel, David J. Waltman.



Female Red Crossbill
Meyers Gulch, 4/21/06

2005: An Overview of the Boulder County Wildlife Inventory

2005 saw a continuation of the trend of increased coverage and reporting of rare and interesting species in Boulder County, but a drop in the reporting of the more common species. This has resulted in 2005 having a lower total number of bird species than in many recent years, yet still being well over the historical average. The year started well with both January and February having record numbers of birds. However, spring migration did not produce the normal number of unusual migrants. There was only one bird that was a new addition to the inventory – a Painted Bunting that delighted many birders at a feeder in Erie. A few birds were notable for their absence; in particular Lewis' Woodpeckers were not found. This is a species of concern in the county. Other birds that we would have expected to be reported are Western Sandpiper, Brown Thrasher, Black-and-White Warbler, Hooded Warbler and Brown Thrasher. Altogether 286 avian, 25 mammalian, 6 reptilian and 3 amphibian species were reported to the Boulder County Wildlife Inventory.

Species reported in 2005 but not in 2004	Species reported in 2005 but not in 2004 (continued)	Species reported in 2004 but not in 2005 (continued)
Least Bittern	Chestnut-collared Longspur	Chihuahan Raven
Little Blue Heron	Baltimore Oriole	Brown Thrasher
Glossy Ibis (U)	Scott's Oriole	Cassin's Vireo
Ross' Goose		Blue-winged Warbler
Chukar	Species reported in 2004 but not in 2005	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Black-bellied Plover	Red-throated Loon	Cape May Warbler
Long-billed Curlew	Cattle Egret	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	Brant	Blackburnian Warbler
Red Phalarope	Long-tailed Duck	Pine Warbler
Black Swift	Bobwhite	Prairie Warbler
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Ruddy Turnstone	Palm Warbler
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Sanderling	Black-and-white Warbler
Gray Flycatcher	Western Sandpiper	Hooded Warbler
Bewick's Wren	Pectoral Sandpiper	Scarlet Tanager
Varied Thrush	Dunlin	Cassin's Sparrow
Philadelphia Vireo	Short-billed Dowitcher	Black-throated Sparrow
Golden-winged Warbler	Parasitic Jaeger	Harris' Sparrow
Black-throated Green Warbler	Glaucous-winged Gull	Lapland Longspur
Painted Bunting	Black-legged Kittiwake	Dickcissel
Field Sparrow	Lewis' Woodpecker	White-winged Crossbill
Sage Sparrow		

Month-by-Month Avian Species Totals

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	99	100	100	90	90	96	89	98	103	108	122
February	98	88	90	75	97	86	91	89	95	106	112
March	116	107	112	90	120	96	97	115	100	116	105
April	140	137	146	151	137	134	155	170	150	136	159
May	229	207	208	205	221	199	203	243	211	214	201
June	150	139	144	171	164	164	153	159	155	168	161
July	121	124	147	167	150	153	132	173	113	147	137
August	113	125	152	147	139	166	125	177	111	144	152
September	152	150	166	157	165	178	146	172	145	175	154
October	99	110	127	129	118	139	124	149	102	107	141
November	110	103	97	113	101	114	118	112	113	111	105
December	103	111	102	111	114	116	118	125	115	122	123
Year Total	273	264	270	275	286	279	276	308	290	298	286

Turkey: Eclipse, Birds, Ruins

George Oetzel

Marti and I took a lucky opportunity to join a small, private tour to see the total solar eclipse March 29 in Turkey. Of course, after traveling so far, and with 50% probability of a good day for the eclipse, we wanted to see some of the historical sites as well. Friends from Tucson arranged for us to spend a day at the Bosphorus hawkwatch site. Hawks and other birds migrate from Africa around the Mediterranean and cross into Europe at the narrowest point, near Istanbul. We saw many hawks and eagles, as well as flocks of both black and white storks, even though it was early in the spring migration.

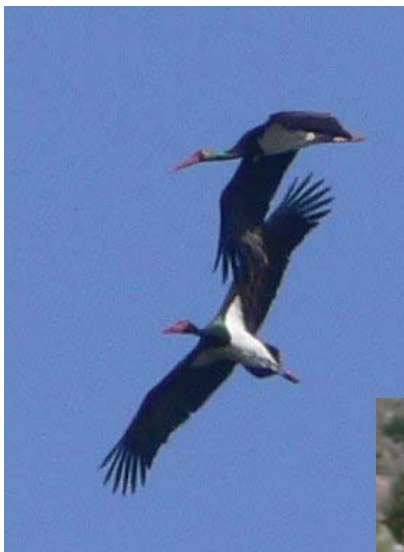
We were fortunate to have a beautiful, clear day for the eclipse. A lifelong interest in astronomy didn't really prepare me for the real-life experience of the eclipse. We had a great hilltop viewing site just for our group of 30. Watching the sun slowly swallowed by the moon's shadow, experiencing the 10° temperature drop, and seeing the 360° "sunset" around the shadow during totality were a truly awesome experience. We could hardly believe the cars driving along the Mediterranean shore with their lights on. (Why didn't they stop and look?)

We took advantage of opportunities to look for birds among the ruins and in hotel gardens. The Mediterranean beaches seemed quite sterile—just one plover after lots of watching. It was our first birding in Europe and Asia, so many of the birds we saw were lifers.

We saw much beautiful scenery and learned a lot of history from a very knowledgeable guide. Searching for birds at the archaeological sites added to our experiences at the ancient ruins.



Ruins of Kekova-Simena, destroyed and submerged by earthquake in 2nd century AD.



Storks over the Bosphorus



Jackdaw, Crusaders' Castle, Bodrum



Rock Nuthatch, Ephesus



Blue Rock Thrush, Kas



Hooded Crow, Kas

Boulder County Audubon Annual Elections

BCAS elections are usually much like typical corporate proxies—no contested positions. That is the case this year, as well. However, this is your opportunity to speak up. Votes will be tallied at the May 23 meeting.

The bylaws specify that the board may have up to 12 members. Only 10 are listed below. Others who may be interested can be suggested by write-ins.

To vote by mail, mark the ballot, below, and mail it to Boulder County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2081, Boulder CO 80306. (Ballots also will be available at the May 23 meeting.)

BCAS Ballot, May 2006

President

Steve Jones

Vice-President

Penni Parr

Secretary

Joan Dawson

Treasurer

Richard Stromp

Directors

- Linda Cooper
- Deb Henson
- Connie Holsinger
- Ellen Klaver
- George Oetzel
- Bob Turner

Write-ins:

Position	Name

Join BCAS at the Boulder Creek Festival



After many years among the missing, Boulder County Audubon is returning to the Boulder Creek Festival during Memorial Day Weekend (May 27-29) in the Earthkeeping Section Booth 811. Plan a family outing and visit us to hear all the news about our Educational and outreach programs and Wildscaping with Colorado Wildscapes – our new easy-to-use landscaping guide to attracting hummingbirds and other wildlife. We'll have lots of kids' activities to share along with some really neat bird/wildlife items, including books, to buy with proceeds supporting our community environmental activities.

We really need volunteers to help for two-hour sessions over the weekend – all you need is enthusiasm and a friendly face! Call the Audubon Colorado office (303) 415-0130 or email info@boulderaudubon.org. Let us know when you're available and provide contact information. The "schedule master" will let you know when you're most needed.

The Festival has become a fun place to be over the holiday weekend so drop in to see us! We'll even share stories about the arriving bird migrants and where to see them up close.

Bluebirds at Walker Ranch

Bluebird nestbox monitoring is underway again at Walker Ranch/Meyers Gulch. This is the second year that Boulder Audubon has partnered with Boulder County Parks and Open Space on this project. We have eight new boxes to replace substandard boxes noted last year, thanks to Eric Albright and his student from Compass Montessori High School, Andrew Davidson.

Eight BCAS monitors record data weekly and report any problems to Denny Morris with BCPOS who repairs, moves, or replaces boxes as needed. He also provides monitors with great maps showing box locations, then reports all the data to Cornell at the end of the season. In mid-April, pairs of Mountain and Western Bluebirds are checking out the 45 boxes. Besides being dazzled by bluebirds, we've seen Red Crossbills, Vesper Sparrows, Western Meadowlarks and a few other species. Early wildflowers include large stands of Pasqueflowers and Ball Cactus.

We also saw four deer spooked by a coyote. A short time later, we were amazed to see the four deer chasing the coyote.

- Marti Oetzel

Western Bluebirds
Meyers Gulch
4/21/06
G.Oetzel



Boulder County Audubon Society

On The Wing



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John Vanderpoel
Hummingbirds of Colorado

Program June 27
Bill Eeds, Nathan Pieplow
and Scott Severs
The Great (Ivory-billed)
Woodpecker Search
(at Boulder Mennonite Church)



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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 _____

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

Make check payable to Boulder County Audubon Society

Mail to: Boulder County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2081 Boulder, CO 80306

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>