



# On The Wing

Volume 43, Number 5 Boulder County Audubon Society Newsletter

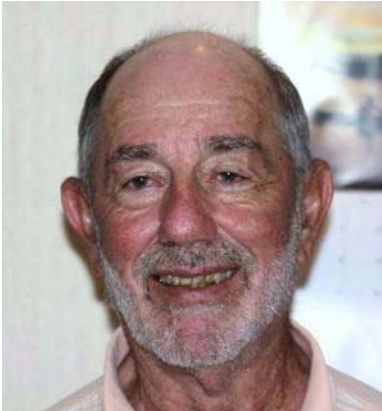
Jan-Feb 2014

## BCAS 4th Tuesday Program Series

**Tuesday, January 28:**

### "Big Years," with Sandford Komito

In 1998 Sandy Komito set the record for the most birds ever seen by one observer in North America in a single year: 748 species. Sandy's feat was described in *The Big Year* and the popular movie of the same name. While this record has been approached (our own John Vanderpoel saw 745 species in 2011), it has not been broken. During his 1998 big year, Sandy spent 270 days in the field and logged 275,000 miles. Sandy's two books describe his big year adventures in 1987 (722 species, a record at the time) and 1998. Sandy has photographed more than 700 North American bird species and visited every continent in quest of rare and beautiful birds. His talk for Boulder County Audubon will touch on some of these adventures and include a host of striking bird photos.



Sandford Komito began birding at age 8 and began to keep serious birding records by age 12. He and his wife of more than 50 years, Bobbye, have three children and six grandchildren. Since retiring from business in 1992, he has traveled throughout the world studying and photographing birds.

### BCAS needs a Treasurer

BCAS will be needing a treasurer in the near future, someone who is comfortable with modern electronic accounting. We have a modest budget but an active program. Call Steve Jones for more information (303 494 2468).

**Tuesday, February 25:**

Richard Holmes:

### "Birding Southern Arizona's Canyons and Mountains"

During a number of trips to southern Arizona, Richard Holmes photographed several dozen species, including scaled quail, gila woodpecker, roadrunner, and a variety of hummingbirds. He'll share his striking images, both digital and from slides, and lead us into some of the prettiest areas of southern Arizona, including the Chiricahua Mountains, Madera Canyon, and the desert west of Tucson.

Richard Holmes has been photographing birds for 20 years, often hunkering down for hours in a special spot to get just the right image. He recently became a charter member of "Birders Gone Bad," a local group that has become shamefully distracted from birding by butterflies and dragonflies. Several of his exquisite insect photos will appear in the forthcoming *Dragonflies of the Colorado Front Range*.



Scaled Quail—Richard Holmes

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

## Field Trips, January-March 2014

**“Raptor Alley” with the “Nunn Guy” Sat., Jan. 11:** Join Gary Lefko, Nunn resident and one of the most knowledgeable eastern plains birders, for a trip down raptor alley. It will be possible to see up to 10 species, including many Ferruginous Hawks, Eagles, Northern Harriers, different color morph Red-tailed Hawks, Kestrels, and Prairie Falcons. Meet at 8:30 a.m., at Honey’s Café (previously the Nunn Café), on the south side of Nunn, on Highway 85. Come earlier if you would like to first enjoy breakfast there.

**Ducks-a-plenty along the South Platte River, Sun., Feb. 9:** Join Ray Davis for a leisurely 2-3 mile stroll along the Platte River on a paved and wheel-chair accessible trail. There’s a possibility of seeing 17 waterfowl species, including Barrow’s Goldeneye and Long-tailed Duck. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the NW corner of the north main parking lot of the East Boulder Rec. Center or at 9:15 a.m. at Colorado Blvd. south of E. 88<sup>th</sup> St. in Thornton in the Platte River Trailhead Parking lot on the SE corner. Bird until 1:30 p.m. and bring a light lunch. Leader: Ray Davis 303-823-5332.

**Early Spring on the Northeastern Plains, Sat., Feb. 22:** Join Colorado Field Ornithologist’s President, Bill Kaempfer, for a full day trip visiting this region’s hottest birding areas. You will stop at Jackson State Park, Prewitt Reservoir, Jumbo Reservoir and/or North Sterling Reservoir, depending on conditions, recent sightings and time. Meet at 6 a.m., at the Niwot Park and Ride, along the Diagonal hwy. **All participants must be willing to car-pool with full cars and STAY with the group for the full trip.** Bring lunch, snacks, drinks, and dress warmly. Must pre-register to be on record in case of weather cancellation. Email Pam Piombino: [piombino.pam@gmail.com](mailto:piombino.pam@gmail.com) for a reservation. Please include an email address and phone number, for your spot on this exciting outing.

**Spring Welcoming Breakfast Hike at Sawhill Ponds, Sat., March 8:** Join leader Steve Jones for the annual spring welcoming breakfast hike. Meet at 7:30 am at the Sawhill Ponds parking area (west of 75th St. between Valmont and Jay roads). Bring something warm and nutritious to share in a potluck picnic beside Boulder Creek. Expect to see ducks, raptors, and early-singing passerines. Return around 11:00 am. Contact Steve at [curlwsj@comcast.net](mailto:curlwsj@comcast.net) or 303-494-2468.

**Quack-up with Steve Frye, Sat., March, 15:** Wild Bird Center owner and renowned funny leader Steve Frye will lead this Ides of March outing. We will search the local hotpots for many different waterfowl species, all in resplendent breeding plumages. Targets include myriad types of ducks, geese, and possibly swans and loons. Meet at the Wild Bird Center, on the west side of 28<sup>th</sup> Street, just SW of the IHOP and World Market locations at 7:30 a.m.

### Boulder County Audubon Society

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Christmas Bird Count Coordinator

Bill Schmoker (303-702-9589)

Wildlife Inventory

Alex and Gillian Brown (303-494-3042)

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Boulder County Audubon Society

**Next issue deadline:**  
**(March 2014 issue) Feb 14**

Contact editor via link at:  
[www.boulderaudubon.org/newsletter.htm](http://www.boulderaudubon.org/newsletter.htm)

## Butterflies Persevere During Boulder's Wildest Weather Year

Steve Jones, BCAS president

When Ron Butler and Pam Piombino found orange sulphur butterflies near their respective residences on December 1, we were guaranteed a rare year when butterflies were observed within Boulder County during every month. Two days later a frigid Arctic air mass settled over Colorado, putting an abrupt end to the late fall butterfly display, which had included flights of checkered whites, cabbage whites, painted ladies, variegated fritillaries, and common buckeyes.

The first butterfly report we received in 2013 was of a mourning cloak seen in Gregory Canyon on January 31. Mourning cloaks are among a half-dozen Colorado species that overwinter as adults, so it's not unusual to find one or two flitting through sunlit canyons in late winter. In February, observers saw Milbert's tortoiseshells and hoary commas also emerging from hibernation. In March checkered whites and western tailed-blues began to hatch out from their overwintering chrysalids, and they were joined in April by western pine elfins, hoary elfins, canyon bramble hairstreaks, and echo azures.

Butterflies faced a major challenge from March through early May, when 80" of the white stuff fell in Boulder, shattering previous spring snow records. Jan Chu and her crew of dedicated volunteers, who have chronicled local butterfly populations for more than a decade, noticed a downtick in butterfly numbers in May and June. Things picked up in midsummer, but numbers of butterflies per count hour were still below average for 6 of 8 survey routes at Walker Ranch, Heil Ranch, Reynolds Ranch, Caribou Ranch, Four Mile Canyon, and in the Boulder OSMP southern grasslands.

This year's Fourth of July butterfly count at Calwood, organized by Jan, was a huge success, with 51 observers seeing 72 species, including 240 Rocky Mountain parnassians, 46 western tiger swallowtails, and 288 dotted blues. Good finds included 3 striped hairstreaks, 1 arctic blue, 2 Nais metalmarks, 1 northern cloudywing, and 3 snow skippers.

Our butterflies faced another challenge in September, when a year's worth of rain (more than 17") fell on Boulder during less than a week. Just as the rains began to subside, we were astonished to see moths and butterflies flying around; and orange sulphurs, dainty sulphurs, variegated fritillaries, common buckeyes, and common checkered-skipper were flying over our grasslands and visiting our gardens through November. Through it all, we've been astonished by the resilience of our precious flying jewels.



Common Buckeye, Shanahan Ridge—Steve Jones

## Birds in the La Brea Tar Pits

Linda Andes Georges

The La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles have long been famous for their treasures of fossils of ancient creatures, mostly the large and dangerous ones (lions, dire wolves, etc.) as well as their prey. Few of us have been aware, however, that many avian fossils are found there too, including a large number of prehistoric flesh-eaters (720 vultures, for example), which dined on the large carcasses trapped in the tar pits lying under the shallow pools.

Oddly, the vultures are outnumbered by owls, which hunt live prey, and this has puzzled paleontologists. Owls hunt by night, when the tar has cooled and formed a crust. How were they trapped here? Analysis shows that the most common owls were the short-eared and burrowing owls, which--no doubt then as well as now--are diurnal. The third most-common was the great horned owl.

Apparently the latter pounce with such force that they would easily have penetrated any crust, and "thus come to a sad and sticky end."

*Condensed from "Black gold," page 85 in the Nov. 9, 2013 Economist Science & Technology section.*

Black Vulture,  
Costa Rica  
G. Oetzel





## Bears, Harriers, and the Fundamental Right to Exist

Steve Jones, BCAS president

Several Boulder County Audubon and Boulder Rights of Nature members attended a December 9 discussion, hosted by the City of Boulder, on ways to better secure trash so as not to attract so many black bears into the city. This past summer and fall, four bears were shot by Colorado Parks and Wildlife employees and two dependent cubs were exiled to Wyoming, where they probably will perish this winter. All of these bears had been living within the city and feeding on human trash.

Boulder County Audubon has advocated for new ordinances requiring that residents of the west side of Boulder have bear proof garbage cans and/or be prohibited from leaving garbage cans outside at night. We've also asked the City of Boulder to work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to eliminate the current "two strikes and you're out" policy for urban bears, which allows agency employees to shoot and kill "problem" bears after only one attempt at relocation.

Discussion at the December 9 meeting was impassioned and productive, with the vast majority of participants favoring institution of new regulations to require bear-proof trash cans throughout much of Boulder. We are confident that City Council will take constructive action on this issue very soon.

The killing of bears in Boulder highlights a wider-ranging problem with respect to wildlife and native ecosystems in Boulder County. For years we've depended on our own good will and good judgment, codified in local comprehensive plans, to protect native species. With continued population growth, along with recent court decisions giving far-ranging rights to corporations, we've seen many of our efforts to protect native ecosystems fail.

During the past two decades, northern harriers and lark buntings have ceased to nest within Boulder County. White-tailed jackrabbits have disappeared from the plains. Northern goshawks and dusky grouse are being pushed out of our foothills forests. Wintering numbers of ferruginous and rough-legged hawks have declined by more than 90%. At the same time, we've made virtually no progress toward reintroducing extirpated species, including black-footed ferret, sharp-tailed grouse, long-billed curlew, and mountain plover. All over our plains, native grasslands are being fragmented and replaced by a tree-filled landscape that looks a little like rural England. This hodgepodge landscape is a paradise for urban-adapted raccoons, red foxes, fox squirrels, Eurasian collared doves, blue jays, and European starlings--but a death zone for native species.

Last spring the Board of Directors of Boulder County Audubon voted to lend our organizational support to the

newly formed Boulder Rights of Nature group. As a first step, we worked with Boulder Rights of Nature to suggest new language in the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan that would give greater protection to native ecosystems and their species populations. Boulder County planning staff and the County planning commission accepted language that commits the County to develop conservation and reintroduction plans for all imperiled and extirpated species. However, they rejected our request that a sentence acknowledging the right of native ecosystems and their native species populations to exist be included in the Comprehensive Plan. At a meeting with planning staff, one of the county attorneys told us that he didn't even believe that native species have a right to exist.

We will continue to work toward establishing legal standing for all natural beings--not with the intent to protest whenever a single individual is killed, but so that we may represent and stand up for native species whose populations are threatened or marginalized. We'd at least like to give threatened species in Boulder County the same level of protection currently enjoyed by the very few species currently included on the Federal Endangered Species List. To learn more about this effort, visit [boulder-rightsofnature.org](http://boulder-rightsofnature.org).



*Dale Ball, Connie Holsinger at November sale*

More than 200 folks turned out for this year's November holiday sale program, a spirited and beautifully illustrated talk by Boulder photographer John Weller on exploring and conserving Antarctica's Ross Sea. Our previous record for attendance at a Boulder County Audubon monthly meeting was 150, set last year for John Vanderpoel's November program describing his Big Year. This year's holiday sale raised more than \$3000, which will help support Hog Island birding camp scholarships for local high school students along with our prairie restoration project at Dodd Reservoir. Thank you all for your generosity and enthusiasm, and please join us at a future monthly meeting!

## Many U.S. Companies Already Preparing to Pay For The Carbon They Burn

By: Terrell Johnson  
Published: December 11, 2013

A group of 29 major American companies – in industries ranging from energy and retail to entertainment and information technology – have decided they're not waiting on the federal government to take action on climate change. Instead, they've already begun to include the cost of carbon emissions in their future investment plans.

The news comes from an early December report by the British-based nonprofit group CDP, which collects information from more than 10,000 companies around the world on how they manage the costs of climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and their response to climate-related regulation.

Notably, CDP's list wasn't made up only of companies like ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips and Chevron – also included were Microsoft, Disney, Google, and Walmart Stores.

"These are some of the most profitable and valuable companies in the U.S. that are already incorporating [the cost of carbon]," Tom Carnac, CDP's president for North America, said in an interview with weather.com. "They're looking at it clearly, deciding that this is in their best business interest."

For the companies listed in the report, the carbon price estimates – which range from \$6 to \$80 per ton – reflect a belief that someday in the future, they'll be required to pay for their greenhouse gas emissions. "This is climate change as a line item," said Carnac.

That's the case for Louisiana-based Entergy, a utility company that serves some 2.8 million customers across the Gulf Coast. Jeff Williams, the company's director of climate consulting, said in an interview that Entergy began planning for a "carbon-constrained economy" as far back as 2001.

"We've got a very strong point of view on climate change," he added. "We believe it's real. We believe that we need to take action to address it."

Toward that end, the company has ramped up its power generation from nuclear and natural gas, allowing it to rely less on dirtier fuels like coal, Williams said. This has helped Entergy reduce its "CO2 intensity," the amount of carbon dioxide it emits per megawatt hour of power generation, by 44 percent between 2000 and 2012.

When it's deciding on which investments to make – "as a utility, we make very large investments in long-lived as-

sets," he added – the company games out scenarios based on what it projects the price of carbon will be years and decades into the future.

"It very much is an exercise in risk management. Identifying what potential scenarios could bring, and would our investment decisions change if that happened," Williams noted. "And if it did, what are the ways we could mitigate that risk?"

For some companies, there's a business advantage to be gained in planning for future government action on climate change. When carbon pricing becomes official, the thinking goes, they'll be ready and their competitors won't.

"While this additional action on emission reductions is primarily seen as a risk, Walmart's early action on emission reductions represents a competitive advantage over other retailers that have not performed such projects," the Arkansas-based retail giant told CDP in the report.

Eighteen countries and the European Union have implemented some form of carbon tax and/or a cap-and-trade system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While no equivalent system exists nationwide in the U.S., some states like California have begun experimenting with carbon taxes and emissions trading in the past few years.

The relative slow pace of federal government action is striking in contrast to the measures taken by U.S. corporations – especially when the facts about climate change are still being hotly debated in Congress, as in hearings in the House of Representatives, titled "A Factual Look at the Relationship Between Climate and Weather."

Whatever the future holds, Carnac said, much of U.S. private industry is moving forward into a future where controls on carbon are the norm.

"What to me is fascinating is, they are utilizing these prices internally to drive decision making," he added. "And they're still able to make extremely profitable investments and return great value to shareholders."

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From the Weather Underground website  
<http://tinyurl.com/lfnmacd>



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on Facebook:**

<http://tiny.cc/ez7v6>

## BOULDER COUNTY WILDLIFE INVENTORY, JUNE & JULY 2013

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

One of the most exciting sightings for June was an **Eastern Meadowlark** in the grasslands to the north of Boulder. This is a difficult species to separate visually from our common **Western Meadowlarks**. The most reliable separation is by song. However, to complicate matters, **Eastern Meadowlarks** can learn **Western Meadowlark** songs, and this individual was observed and heard singing both songs. This was only the second observation of this species in the county, the previous report being in 2002 where the bird was heard by just one observer. Fortunately, this year's bird continued in the same location as it was first found, and was seen and heard by many. A second exciting observation was a **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** near Lyons. Again this was only the second observation of this species since the wildlife inventory began in 1979. The previous individual wintered in the foothills from December 1995 to May 1996. A few observers were able to see June's bird in Lyons but it did not stay around for long.

Two **Cackling Geese** observed in Longmont in June were interesting as this is the first summer report that we have had of this species. A **Least Bittern** observed at Walden Ponds was a good sighting for the month. **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were found to be breeding in Eldorado Mountain Open Space. This species is a marginal breeder in the county with no known nest sites having been found for quite a while. Three **Barn Owls**, five **Flammulated Owls**, two **Eastern Screech Owls**, two **Pygmy Owls** and two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were reported in June, along with several **Great-horned Owls**, making this a good month for owls. **Ovenbirds** are another marginal breeder, and it was a hopeful sign that four individuals were reported in the foothills and mountains this month. **White-winged Crossbills** were found in several locations in the mountains. **Dickcissels** have become much commoner in the eastern grasslands and were once again found this year.

Ducks were better reported, both on the plains and in the mountains, than in most Junes. The Indian Peaks breeding bird count (IP) helped the reporting of mountain birds. It would also be remiss not to mention Ted Floyd's "Big Day" in which he birded alone on foot without binoculars from the plains to the mountains observing a whopping 125 species. Altogether 187 bird species were reported in June. This was a record, beating last June's record 185 species.

July is often rather a slow month as both birds and birders tend to avoid the heat of the day. There were only two new sightings for the year: an **Upland Sandpiper** whose distinctive flight call was heard in the small hours of the morning over Lafayette, and a **Baltimore Oriole**, a species last seen in 2011. The **Eastern Meadowlark** continued in the grasslands to the north of Boulder. All four of our commonest hummingbirds were reported in a variety of locations; **Black-chinned Hummingbird** and **Calliope Hummingbird** have come to be expected at this time of year. **Rufous Hummingbirds** seemed to occur in greater numbers and further out on the plains than usual. Two **Black-necked Stilt** remained all month on Little Gaynor pond and may well be breeding. **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was a good sighting for the month. **Red-eyed Vireos** appear to be breeding in the very north of the county along the St. Vrain River. The **Northern Cardinal** remained in North Boulder. **Orchard Orioles** were seen at several locations. Altogether 157 bird species were reported in July; this is an average total which falls a long way short of the record 173 species seen in 2002.

### CONTRIBUTORS TO THE JUNE and JULY INVENTORIES

Lowell Baumunk, Alan Bell, J.D. Birchmeier, Maggie Boswell, Kat Bradley-Bennett, Kitty Brigham, Alex & Gillian Brown, Peter Burke, Eric De Fonso, David Dowell, Ted Floyd, Paula Hansley, Jack Harlan, Chuck Hundertmark, Indian Peaks Breeding bird Count, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Michael King, James Lamoureux, Petrea Mah, Sara Mayer, Meredith Miles, Mark Miller, Steve Miodinow, Lynn Monroe, Michael Morton, Sharon Norfleet, Christian Nunes, Laura Osborn, Arvind Panjabi, Beth Partin, Pam Piombino, Joe Roller, Joel Such, Cheryl Teuton, Oakleigh Thorne, John Tumasonis, John Vanderpoel, Peggy Wait, David J. Waltman, Wild Bird Center, Dan Zmolek.



Dicksissel — Bill Schmoker

<http://schmoker.org/BirdPics/>



## Birds at Your Feeder Provide Clues to Scientists

*Help track disease affecting House Finches*

*Ithaca, N.Y.*—House Finches may be found at feeders across much of North America and if you see these little birds, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology would like to know about it. Scientists specifically want to know if the birds you see appear healthy or if they have redness and swelling around the eyes—signs of a bacterial disease (*Mycoplasma gallisepticum*) that first appeared in 1994 and is now found in House Finch populations from coast to coast.

This special push to track both sick and healthy House Finches is being carried out through the Cornell Lab's Project Feeder Watch, an annual winter survey of feeder birds that runs from November through April. New participants are invited to sign up



*The eyes of this female House Finch are swollen by disease. Photo by Dan Fleming.*

to help at [www.FeederWatch.org](http://www.FeederWatch.org). Making the correct ID is important, so there's additional help provided in distinguishing among similar species, such as the Purple Finch and Cassin's Finch.

"House finches are providing a unique window into disease dynamics," says Wesley Hochachka, Assistant Director of Bird Populations Studies at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "We want to understand how this disease is spreading, if cases are more or less severe than they used to be, and how the birds' immune systems are adapting to fight this threat." Though this disease does not affect people, understanding how it's transmitted provides insight into how human diseases are spread.

House Finch eye disease first appeared in the eastern United States and arrived in parts of the West in 2003. There is evidence suggesting that western bacteria could cause more severe disease now than in the past

"Collecting reports from western states is especially important because the disease is still spreading there," says FeederWatch project leader Emma Greig. "We hope to encourage participation in states such as Utah, Colorado, and Nevada, because the data they provide are extremely valuable."

Via email from [www.cornell.edu](http://www.cornell.edu), Nov 26, 2013

## Victory! Getting the Lead Out

From National Audubon

Audubon heralded a major conservation victory that will have repercussions throughout the country when California Governor Jerry Brown signed historic legislation last month that will require hunters to use non-lead ammunition. The bill, championed by Audubon California, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Humane Society of the United States, will eliminate what nationally-renowned scientists say is the number one source of unregulated lead left in our environment.

The danger of lead from ammunition has been known to conservationists at least since 1894, when Audubon founder George Bird Grinnell noted that waterfowl could be poisoned by lead shot left behind by hunters. That prediction proved true, but it wasn't until 1991 that the federal government banned the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting.

Audubon California was initially drawn into the fight over lead ammunition in the mid-2000s as research emerged showing that lead poisoning was the greatest threat to the recovery of the endangered California Condor. In 2007, Audubon was successful in banning the use of lead ammunition in the condor's range. Nevertheless, lead from ammunition continued to poison the great birds—and additional research showed that the risk of poisoning extended to more than 130 species of birds and other wildlife.

The issue took on an even greater urgency as research emerged showing the risk of lead ammunition to human health. A joint study by the Centers for Disease Control and the North Dakota Department of Public Health found that people who consumed meat hunted with lead ammunition had significantly higher levels of lead in their blood.

Although polling conducted by Audubon California and its partners earlier in the year showed that voters favored requiring nonlead ammunition for hunting by a 2:1 margin, the bill nonetheless faced heated opposition from gun advocates. Assembly Bill 711 calls for a gradual phase-out of lead ammunition through 2019.

Audubon hopes this victory can become a model for other state efforts across the country.

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North Dakota Dept of Health  
*Blood Lead Level Study Results*  
<http://tinyurl.com/kqmutn>

## Misguided Policy Jeopardizes Bald and Golden Eagles

Audubon strongly opposes the recent short-sighted decision by the Department of Interior to allow 30-year permits for killing Bald and Golden Eagles at wind installations. There are no scientifically defensible conservation measures in place to reduce eagle kills, and the Department of the Interior has few resources to monitor projects, so the 30-year rule locks the agency on to a road of compounded mistakes and needless eagle deaths.

Audubon strongly supports properly-sited wind energy as a solution to what is no doubt the greatest threat to birds and people — climate change. We need to deploy renewable energy sources aggressively and use conventional sources more efficiently if we are to meet that challenge. To that end, Audubon has a long history of involvement in wind-wildlife interaction issues, including efforts to develop state guidelines for wind development in California, Washington, Pennsylvania, and New York; working cooperatively to improve the siting, design, and management of wind facilities across the country; and extensive chapter involvement that has led the way in communities across the country as they consider local or state-wide energy projects.

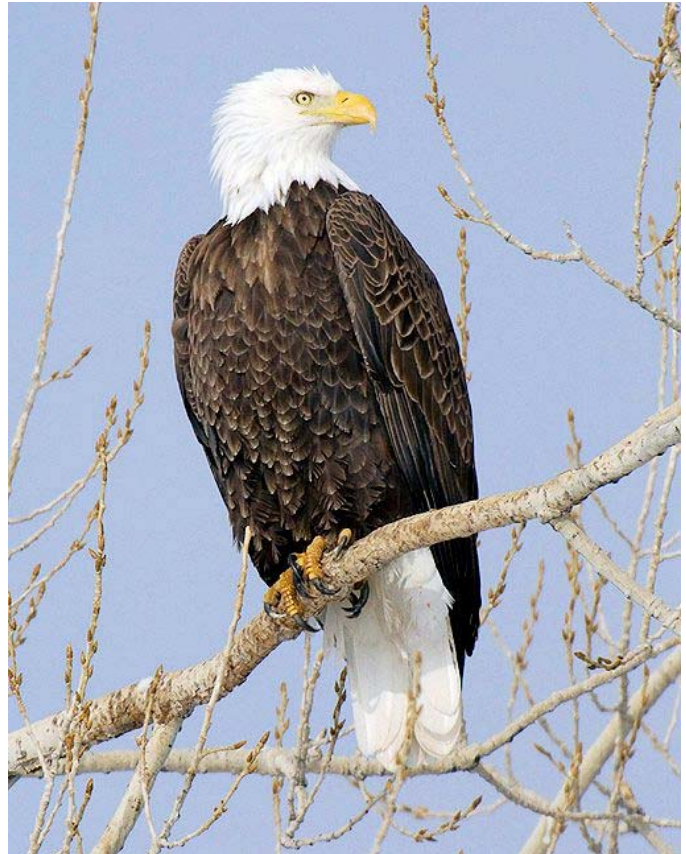
As the voice of birds, Audubon will continue to advocate that birds and conservation have to be central to energy siting. Wind development and eagle conservation can co-exist. Such a compromise was struck earlier this year when Audubon worked with the wind industry and a few other leading green groups to develop a workable permitting process that included eagle conservation as a fundamental tenet. For the first time, we were proposing Endangered Species Act-like protections for birds subject to harm by wind farms. The agreement reached with our NGO partners and the wind industry created a win-win and was in keeping with Audubon's best traditions and values.

Unfortunately, the Department of Interior walked away from this potentially game-changing deal—and instead moved forward with a 30-year rule that weakens protections for our national bird. We will continue to challenge the Interior Department on their commitment to monitor and enforce current bird protection laws including the

Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. We have called on Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to reverse this disastrous policy, and we are exploring all options to challenge the Department's eagle-killing rule.

December 2013 Audubon Advisory newsletter

(Write Secretary Jewell: <http://tinyurl.com/nqfq4ou>)



Bald Eagle — Bill Schmoker

<http://schmoker.org/BirdPics/>

### Become a Supporting Member of Boulder Audubon

We get very little return from National Audubon dues and have to rely primarily on local funding to support Boulder County Audubon society activities. Supporting memberships are just \$20 annually. You can join online or download a printable form to send with your check. Visit <http://www.boulderaudubon.org/about.htm#membership>.

Paper copies of the Nov-Dec, Jan-Feb, and Mar-Apr issues of *On the Wing* are mailed only to BCAS Supporting Members who request them. The electronic edition, available online, has color pictures and usually includes extra articles.