



On The Wing

Volume 44, Number 1

Boulder County Audubon Society Newsletter

May-Aug 2014

BCAS Program May 27, 7:15

Featuring Dave Sutherland, Boulder OSMP

After the Flood: Open Space & Mountain Parks

September's storm dropped a huge amount of rainfall onto the city's Open Space system. Water surging down creeks and hillsides washed away trails, changed ecosystems, and wrote a new chapter in the area's geology. Join OSMP naturalist Dave Sutherland for a revealing slideshow about the flood's effects on the landscape and infrastructure of Open Space, learn about post-flood recovery efforts and how you can get involved.

Dave Sutherland is an award-winning field naturalist with the city of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks department. Besides 15 years working in the Boulder area, Dave has led outdoor education programs in California, Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands. Dave is a self-professed natural science geek who uses games and activities to inspire others with his love of nature. He has been training for his job since the age of 4, when he began collecting rocks and butterflies and drawing his own bird books with crayons.



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

“STILL SOARING AT 40”

BOULDER COUNTY AUDUBON'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2014, 6—9 P.M.

**LONE HAWK FARM, 10790 NORTH 49TH STREET,
LONGMONT, CO 80503**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SCOTT WEIDENSAUL
FAMED AUTHOR AND NATURALIST**

***** Maximum, 150 GUESTS *****

Please plan on joining us for this very special evening celebrating the many and varied accomplishments of Boulder County Audubon. Enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a catered dinner and homemade desserts while catching up with past and present members of our dedicated organization. We will have book signings by our keynote speaker, Scott Weidensaul, a silent auction, a participatory icebreaker and a slide show that will take you down memory lane featuring local birds and the people who have given selflessly the last 40 years.

Current Boulder County Audubon members will receive a formal invitation in the mail. If you are not a member, contact Pam Piombino (piombino.pam@gmail.com) for an invitation.

We are delighted that noted author, naturalist and bird-bander, Scott Weidensaul, will be our keynote speaker on August 23, to help us celebrate our accomplishments over the last 40 years. In his books he explores the complexities of migration, extinction and conservation. He has published over two dozen natural history books, including the Pulitzer Prize nominated, *Living on the Wind*. His books range from those conveying an intimate knowledge of anything ornithological to dinosaurs, geology, American history and fish identification. He is active in the field as a bander, with special emphasis on hummingbirds, raptors, Northern Saw-whet and Snowy Owls, as well a noted lecturer and worldwide researcher.

BCAS will have four of his books for sale by the end of April: *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, *The Ghost With Trembling Wings: Science, Wishful Thinking and the Search for Lost Species*, *Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul*, and *Of a Feather; A Brief History of American Birding*.

Field Trips, June-August 2014

Breeding Bird Survey on a Native Prairie Restoration Site, Sunday, June 22, 2014, 7a.m.

Join leaders Petrea Mah and Steve Jones for a hike through 70 acres of a former tree farm that is being restored to native short grass prairie. The owner of this property is very interested in having us do a breeding bird survey on his property this year and to help him keep track of the changes as he works on this restoration project.

The "hedge rows" between the plots have many different native and exotic trees. This trip should be fascinating both to the botanists among us as well as to birders. After we visit this interesting restoration, we will stop at Dodd Reservoir on our way back and see the progress of the BCAS restoration project, where we are using the same protocol as the owner of the farm farther east. Trip is limited to 10 people. Bring a snack, water, sunscreen and whatever else you need for a hike. Contact Petrea Mah (petreamah@comcast.net, 303-494-4121) to sign up.

Under-eBirded Boulder County: An Introduction to eBird Field Trip, Saturday, June 28 7:30-early afternoon

What is eBird? How is this crowd-sourced citizen science helping conservation? Join Bryan Guarente, to visit under-eBirded locations in Boulder County while learning to enter your sightings into this database. Maybe you'll discover locations that you'll be anxious to visit again.. Your new skills can be applied on either a smart phone in the field or from the comfort of your own home after the field trip. Meet at 7:30 to carpool from the Niwot Park and Ride between the lanes of the Diagonal. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology initiated eBird in 2002 and it is now the largest compilation of records of bird abundance and distribution.

Birds of Brainard and Long Lakes Saturday, July 12, 6 a.m.-2 p.m.

Leave the heat of the plains when you join mountain man, David Dowell, on this high elevation search for alpine birds. The marshes and willow carrs at Brainard are perfect habitat for Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows, Wilson's and McGillivray's Warblers. The pine forests should grace us with jays, flycatchers, woodpeckers and with any luck, Red Crossbills and Dusky Grouse. Bring rain gear and lunch and be prepared to hike 3-4 miles. Limited to 10. Email David, david1wx@gmail.com, to register.

Hummingbirds and a Potluck! Saturday, August 2, 8a.m.-12:30

We will start the day by meeting at the Park and Ride in Lyons (7600 Niwot Road), for a walk along Old South Road for a look at resident breeders. Birds commonly found here are Canyon Wrens, White-throated Swifts, Catbirds, Orioles and Grosbeaks. Then, it will be on to Davis's feeding stations at his beautifully located home in Spring Gulch. There, we can count on at least three species of Hummingbirds and maybe four: Broad-tailed, Rufous, Calliope and even Black-chinned. His feeders and nest boxes attract many other foothills species, including Nuthatches, Bluebirds and Pinion Jays. Bring something inspired and nutritious to share.

"Bug Safari" Sunday, August 10, 8am - Noon

Join us for a summer safari of the bug type. We'll look for dragonflies, spiders, beetles, butterflies, and other critters of the micro cosmos during the peak of their activity. Bring water, hats, cameras, and bug juice. No insect nets please. Meet at the Walden Ponds parking lot. All ages and abilities welcome. Leader: Scott Severs, 303-684-6430 scottesevers@gmail.com.

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)

On the Wing © 2014

Boulder County Audubon Society

Next issue deadline:

(Sept 2014 issue) Aug 15

Contact editor via link at:

www.boulderaudubon.org/newsletter.htm

Film Festival Celebrates Rights of All Natural Beings

"Living in Nature" is the title of the first Boulder Rights of Nature Film Festival, featuring two films by legendary documentary filmmaker Les Blank and other significant works by local and international artists. The festival, which is cosponsored by Boulder County Audubon and Boulder Rights of Nature, will take place the weekend of October 17-19 as detailed below.

Les Blank was one of the first North American filmmakers to create documentaries portraying traditional cultures through only their spoken words and music. Recently, other filmmakers have created earthy documentaries that celebrate our place within nature. This festival will showcase some of the best of these.

Groups and businesses already supporting this year's festival include Boulder County Nature Association, Colorado Native Plant Society, Sierra Club Indian Peaks Group, and Boulder Wild Bird Center. Thank you all! If you'd consider joining our growing list of individual supporters, see "Festival Supporter Package" below.

Dairy Center for the Performing Arts, 2590 Walnut St., Boulder

Friday, October 17, 7-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 18, 1-4 p.m.; 6-9 p.m.

Sunday, October 19, 1-4 p.m.; 6-9 p.m.

Individual Sessions: \$12; \$10 students

All Five Sessions: \$42; \$37 students

Ticket vouchers will be available for low-income attendees. Check <http://boulderrightsofnature.org/> as the dates approach to see what films will be shown.

Festival Supporter Package: \$100. Includes admission to all sessions, preferential seating, vintage Les Blank T-shirt or dragonfly or butterfly field guide, and invitation to "Meet the Filmmakers" wine and veggie hors d'oeuvres reception on Friday afternoon. By becoming a festival supporter you can help ensure that we get the very best films and establish a firm foundation for future festivals. Contact:

Steve Jones, Boulder County Audubon Society
3543 Smuggler Way, Boulder CO 80305
curlwsj@comcast.net; 303-494-2468

Festival steering committee: Cindy Carlisle, Ava Hamilton, Steve Jones, Yan Chun Su

Magnificent Cranes, Garrulous Grouse, and Dazzling Pre-Dawn Skies

- Steve Jones

About 40 Boulder County Audubon members and fellow travelers gathered at the old Lewellen Bridge along the North Platte River for this year's last Friday of March very peaceful and enthralling potluck supper and crane watch. The following weekend, Geoffrey Ames and I accompanied two of our teen naturalists, Cody Limber and Alex Posen, back up to Western Nebraska to photograph cranes and dancing sharp-tailed grouse (from the free public viewing blind at Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge). Here are two of Cody and Alex's photos.



Cranes at sunrise, Clear Creek Wildlife Area
Alex Posen.



Cody Limber
in grouse blind



Dancing sharp-tailed grouse. — Cody Limber.

Paying Farmers to Welcome Birds

California's Central Valley was once one of North America's most productive wildlife habitats, a 450-mile-long expanse marbled with meandering streams and lush wetlands that provided an ideal stop for migratory shorebirds on their annual journeys from South America and Mexico to the Arctic and back.

Of the wetlands that existed before the valley was settled, about 95 percent are gone, and the number of migratory birds has declined drastically. But now an unusual alliance of conservationists, bird watchers and farmers has joined in an innovative plan to restore essential habitat for the migrating birds.

The program, called BirdReturns, is financed by the Nature Conservancy and uses data from eBird, the pioneering citizen science project that asks birders to record sightings on a smartphone app and send the information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in upstate New York.

Using data from the Central Valley, eBird can generate maps showing where species congregate in the remaining wetlands. Then, by overlaying those maps on aerial views of existing surface water, it can show where the birds' need for increased habitat is greatest.

The BirdReturns program then pays rice farmers in the birds' flight path to keep their fields flooded with irrigation water from the Sacramento River as migrating flocks arrive. The prices are determined by a reverse auction, in which farmers bid for leases. Because the program pays for only several weeks of water instead of buying the habitat, the sums are modest; the Nature Conservancy does not disclose bids because that might affect future auctions.

Conservationists at BirdReturns hope to increase the number of shorebirds that stop in the Central Valley to 400,000 from current levels of 170,000. BirdReturns is an example of the growing movement called reconciliation ecology, in which ecosystems dominated by humans are managed to increase biodiversity.

(see <http://tinyurl.com/pkeeppt> for New York Times article)



Latest Climate-change News

In its latest reports the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that decades of foot-dragging by political leaders had propelled humanity into a critical situation, with greenhouse emissions rising faster than ever. While it remains technically possible to keep planetary warming to a tolerable level, only an intensive push over the next 15 years to bring those emissions under control can achieve the goal, according to the committee.

There is some good news, however. Measures like tougher building codes and efficiency standards for cars and trucks can save energy and reduce emissions without harming people's quality of life. Also, the costs of solar and wind energy are falling rapidly, so that deployment on a large scale is becoming practical.

The emissions problem continues to grow, with atmospheric CO₂ rising twice as fast currently as at the end of the 20th century. Some countries, like China, are adding coal-fired power plants faster than more developed countries are reducing emissions.

There has been abundant press coverage of some of the consequences expected from this continuing trend. Sea-level rise is a concern for millions by the end of the century, and it's a current problem for some low-lying islands. Persistent drought is expected in a number of areas, such as the American Southwest. There is still some debate about the effect on major storms, though there are reasons to think increased heat should have an influence. Water availability in the West will be affected by the shorter snow season and consequent reduced water storage in snow.

In Colorado, the lower elevation parts of ski areas will be affected, and the already shrinking habitat for the pika may vanish entirely. The distributions of many species of plants and animals are already changing and can be expected to change further.

Maize (corn) and soybean crops may experience a significant decrease in crop yield as climate change brings extreme heat waves, while wheat might experience an increase as carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases, according to researchers from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, United Kingdom.

Of course, there are still many people who deny that climate change is a result of human activities, such as burning fossil fuels or even that it's actually occurring. One politician apparently said something to the effect, "It snowed at my house in April. Surely there's no such thing as global warming." (Of course, it always snows in April in Boulder.)

BOULDER COUNTY WILDLIFE INVENTORY, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2013

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

November 2013 was notable for a batch of unusual warblers. **Northern Parula**, **Pine Warbler** (last seen in 2004) and **Bay-breasted Warbler** (last seen in 2002), were all seen in the same tree in an office park in north Boulder. Entomologist Dave Leatherman took samples of the pine needles on this particular tree and found that they were crawling in aphids, a favorite food of warblers. The **Bay-breasted Warbler** was seen first and stayed around for a couple of weeks to be observed by numerous birders. While birders were looking for the **Bay-breasted Warbler**, the other two species were spotted. An additional **Pine Warbler**, definitely not the same bird, had been seen earlier in the month along the creek path in east Boulder. To add to the unusual warblers, a **Palm Warbler** (first of the year) was seen for a couple of days in Lafayette and an **Ovenbird** visited a backyard in Longmont. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was a much more expected November sighting.

Three species of diving duck were new sightings for the year: **White-winged Scoter**, **Long-tailed Duck** and **Barrow's Goldeneye**. November is traditionally the best month for observing loons, and a **Pacific Loon** was also a new species for the year. **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Snow Goose** and **Ross's Goose** were all seen in a variety of locations within the county. Gulls were well reported with the most exciting species being the **Little Gull** which was first reported in the Longmont area at the end of October. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were present in fair numbers. A **Barn Swallow** seen on the 18th was an unusually late sighting. November ended with a total of 107 bird species reported to the wildlife inventory. This was lower than it might have been because of a lack of reporting of some common birds. Notable gaps were Red-breasted Nuthatch, Spotted Towhee and Red Crossbill.

December is always dominated by the Boulder Christmas Bird Count which provides excellent coverage of a fifteen mile diameter circle centered on Boulder. This allows for good coverage of plains, foothills and mountain birds. The only new species for the year was **Long-eared Owl**, three of which were seen on the Christmas count. However, there were many unusual or unseasonable sightings. A **Say's Phoebe** seen on the 1st at Union Reservoir was a very late sighting. **Sandhill Cranes** were reported as flying over at the beginning of the month. A **Red-necked Grebe** lingered into December on Lagerman Reservoir. **Mourning Dove**, **American Pipit** and **Great-tailed Grackle** are all birds that were once considered abnormal December sightings, but are now seen most winters. The water of Valmont Reservoir is warmed by outflow from the power station and stays open when all other water is frozen. For several years it has provided reliable December sightings of such birds as **Black-crowned Night Heron** and **Double-crested Cormorant** as well as a good selection of gulls. A **Great Black-backed Gull** was the most unusual gull sighting of the month. A **Ruddy Duck** seen on Valmont on the 8th was a late sighting. The **Ovenbird** continued in Longmont for the first week of the month. The **Golden-crowned Sparrow**, which has wintered near the Teller Lakes parking lot for the last few years, was once again observed. The **Northern Cardinal** continued in north Boulder for the second consecutive year. Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen on private land east of Sawhill Ponds at the end of the month. Altogether 125 bird species were reported in December. This was a respectable total, but nowhere near the record 138 species seen in 2010.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER INVENTORIES

John Barr, Maureen Blackford, Boulder Christmas Bird Count, Kat Bradley-Bennett, Kitty Brigham, Alex & Gillian Brown, Mark Chavez, Alan Contreras, Raymond E Davis, Eric De Fonso, David Dowell, Lisa Edwards, Ted Floyd, Peter Gent, Bryan Guarente, Rolf Hertenstein, Chuck Hundertmark, Dave Hyde, Candice Johnson, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Kevin Keirn, Doug Kibbe, Chris Knight, Nick Komar, Dave Leatherman, Mark Miller, Mark Minner-Lee, Steve Miodinow, Larry Modesitt, Lynn Monroe, Nick Moore, Donna Nespoli, Christian Nunes, Laura Osborn, Beth Partin, Pam Piombino, Bill Prather, Scott Rashid, Joe Roller, Nancy Ryne, Ira Sanders, Bill Schmoker, Dick Schottler, Scott Severs, Cathy Sheeter, Steve Skinner, Debra Sparr, Carl Starace, Joel Such, Sally Swain, Russ Thompson, John Tumasonis, John Vanderpoel, David J Waltman, Tom Wilberding, Wild Bird Center, Gary Witt.



Ruddy Duck—G. Oetzel



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<http://tiny.cc/ez7v6>

2013: An Overview of the Boulder County Wildlife Inventory

Since 2013 was a “Big Year” for Boulder County, some predicted that with so many birders out searching the county, 2013 was likely to be a record year. However, we failed to reach the record of 320 species seen in 2011 by one species. The reason for this was twofold: May was a poor month for migrating warblers, and the September floods affected birders’ access to many prime spots during fall migration. In spite of this, 2013 had some really good finds including a batch of unusual warblers. Smith’s Longspur was a new bird for the wildlife inventory. Perhaps the most surprising birds to be missed were Hooded Warbler, a marginal breeder in the county, and Glaucous Gull. Reporting to the wildlife inventory was generally patchy, but sightings taken from both COBIRDS and e-bird helped to make up for this. Both March and June had a record number of sightings, while October was unusually poor.

<i>Reported in 2013 but not in 2012</i>	<i>Reported in 2013 but not in 2012</i>	<i>Reported in 2013 but not in 2012</i>
Northern Bobwhite	Veery	Glaucous Gull
Least Bittern	Sprague’s Pipit	Least Tern
Mountain Plover	Smith’s Longspur	Caspian Tern
Whimbrel	Magnolia Warbler	Pomarine Jaeger
Sanderling	Black-throated Green Warbler	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Little Gull	Yellow-throated Warbler	Anna’s Hummingbird
Great Black-backed Gull	Pine Warbler	Eastern Wood-Pewee
Common Tern	Bay-breasted Warbler	White-eyed Vireo
Arctic Tern	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	Wood Thrush
Short-eared Owl	Baltimore Oriole	Varied Thrush
Boreal Owl	<i>Reported in 2012 but not in 2013</i>	Snow Bunting
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Trumpeter Swan	Worm-eating Warbler
Gray Flycatcher	Surf Scoter	Mourning Warbler
Black Phoebe	Chukar	Hooded Warbler
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Red-throated Loon	Field Sparrow
Philadelphia Vireo	American Golden Plover	Summer Tanager

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
January	103	108	122	99	101	99	101	100	103	102	104
February	95	106	112	98	96	90	89	90	96	101	105
March	100	116	105	118	98	112	96	87	108	110	132
April	150	136	159	154	147	179	164	143	164	153	170
May	211	214	201	218	170	236	215	216	219	195	220
June	155	168	161	147	164	177	172	145	185	181	187
July	113	147	137	152	153	166	171	129	118	147	157
August	111	144	152	156	151	152	129	136	122	132	131
September	145	175	154	166	164	171	164	156	158	181	160
October	102	107	141	126	126	119	130	112	112	132	96
November	113	111	105	125	121	111	108	104	108	125	107
December	115	122	123	121	123	117	125	138	127	129	125
Year Total	290	298	286	302	302	312	310	312	320	314	319

STILL SOARING AT 40**You can Help****Donate items for the silent auction**

- Books, outdoor gear, bird-watching equipment
- Personalized birding field trip
- A few days at your vacation property
- Other things or services that might interest people

Volunteer!

Join one of our committees to help to make this a stellar event? Publicity, food, silent auction displays, decorations, welcoming, set-up and check out for auction items could all use more enthusiastic helpers. We have lots of opportunities for you to contribute from now until the night of the event. Please call Pam Piombino at 303 776 1939 (try first) or 435 210 8019.

Before the May meeting ...

On Tuesday, May 27 at 5:00 p.m., join us for upkeep on The Wes Sears Memorial Gardens. Wes was the backbone and engine of Boulder County Audubon for many years and by keeping the gardens lovely we honor his work and habitat restoration with our wildscapes projects.

These xeriscape gardens on the border of the Unitarian Universalist Church will sparkle after we finish.

We will then share a simple catered meal at about 6:30, followed by the evening program. Bev Sears will be on hand for moral support and management.

Contact Kristen Marshall (marshall@indra.com) for information or just show up with trimmers, rakes, shovels and gloves.

**Help us Go Green
with paperless mailings!**

Boulder County Audubon sends out program reminders, field trip updates, newsletters and conservation news to members via email. Don't miss out! Not to fear, we will not sell or distribute your email address.

Those who have requested paper mailings with their chapter membership will still receive newsletters by mail.

Please send us your current email address if you haven't already done so. Email Donna at bouldercountyaudubonmembership@outlook.com and request to be added to our email list. Then, please add this email to your contact list.

BCAS Board for Fiscal 2015**Officers: Vote for one in each category****President:**

___ Pam Piombino

Vice-President:

___ Connie Holsinger

Secretary:

___ Open

Treasurer:

___ Carol McCasland

Directors: Vote for up to seven

___ Dale Ball

___ Mary Balzer

___ Raymond Bridge

___ Sharon Daugherty

___ Donna Nespoli

___ George Oetzel

___ Ann Tagawa

___ (Write-in) _____

Cut out and fill in the ballot and mail to BCAS, P.O. Box 2081, Boulder, CO 80306. Ballots will also be available at the May 27 program meeting.

Likeable crew seeks note-taker

The BCAS board election looms. This one is far more fun than national politics: much jolliness and no bitter buzzwords! The current board asks that any of you who might be willing to join us consider this option: one of our most important but least onerous jobs is open, and we must fill it: SECRETARY for the Board.

This task currently entails attending meetings several times per year, usually lasting about two hours at someone's house; taking notes (with the help of everyone in attendance); sending the notes out electronically in draft form shortly after the meeting; and then sending the 2nd draft shortly before the next meeting.

The basic duties probably amount to about 4 hours, five (or maybe a few more) times a year. To volunteer, contact Petrea Mah (petreamah@comcast.net).

Colorado Native Bird Care and Conservation:

A New Nonprofit to Help Native Wildlife

By Sharon Daugherty and Linda Andes-Georges

Spring is almost here and the staff at Colorado Native Bird Care and Conservation (CNBCC) are stocking up on food and medicine to prepare for the annual arrival of orphaned babies and injured wildlife. CNBCC is a Colorado non-profit that educates the public about the threats posed to wild birds and offers ways to help reduce these threats, both within their communities and in their own backyards. CNBCC also provides for the rescue, care, and rehabilitation of injured or orphaned birds so that they may be returned to the wild. CNBCC can provide help to wild birds from the greater Lyons area.

The goal of wildlife rehabilitation is to provide professional care to sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals so that they ultimately can be returned to their natural habitat. Wildlife rehabilitation is not an attempt to turn wild animals into pets. Rehabilitators work with veterinarians to assess injuries and illnesses, but unless licensed by the USFWS and the state, they cannot provide long term care of wildlife.

Thousands of inquiries from the public in Colorado are filtered through Internet searches and through the CO Department of Parks and Wildlife in order to reach wildlife rehabbers every year. Animal Control Services and good Samaritans bring these wild multitudes to rehab centers across the state. Without the rehabbers, calls from the public would not be attended to and wild animals in need of medical attention would have nowhere to go.

Due to the important differences between wild animals and domestic animals, rehabilitators need extensive knowledge about each species in care, including natural history, nutritional requirements, behavioral issues, and caging considerations. Wildlife rehabilitators at CNBCC are state and federally licensed to temporarily possess and care for wild birds.¹

Linda Andes George says of her experience last year with a Say's Phoebe: " 'Our' Say's phoebes came back for their sixth year on the eave ledges of our house. One of the phoebes—dubbed Henry the precocious—fell out of the nest and we found him on the ground with fishing line entangling his leg and wing. The line had grown into

his leg as he developed—it probably was used as nest building material. Still totally dependent on his mother, Henry needed urgent care fast. We felt lucky that we knew where to find a trained and licensed wildlife rehabber, and we rushed him to Donna Nespoli (currently serving on our BCAS board), who removed the line from his flesh, treated him with antibiotics and supportive care and was ready to deliver him back to us to join his family, within 24 hours. The re-entry seemed to go well. Although it was late August and migration loomed, three nestlings survived to go south, just in time."

Donna, a founder of CNBCC, says, "Every encounter with the public is a unique and valuable experience to exchange information that will help future animals. When the public has an interaction with a sick or injured wild animal, they usually do not know what to do. Every call I get is not only a chance to rescue an animal but also to educate the public, potentially saving more than just the one animal in question. If I accept a bird into rehab and don't educate that person on how to coexist with and prevent unnecessary bird deaths in the future, I feel I have not fulfilled my mission."

Examples of the numerous calls received daily from the public are:

- How to eliminate nuisance issues and coexist with wildlife (like a house-hammering woodpecker or a trash-foraging raccoon).
- How to reduce preventable deaths to birds due to anthropogenic causes, such as domestic pet predation, window strikes, and bird feeder related disease outbreaks.
- How to reunite baby wildlife with their parents.
- How not to kidnap fledgling birds, an unfortunate and all too common occurrence . . . the unflighted period in fledgling altricial birds and newly hatched precocial birds is a normal part of their life cycle. Often the public misinterprets this as injury or abandonment.
- Reinforcement of the Federal Migratory Bird Act, an act that protects most birds from harm.

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.

Continued on page 9

- Reinforcement of the Federal Migratory Bird Act, an act that protects most birds from harm.
- How not to interfere in natural (non-pet animal) predator/prey interactions.
- How to create safe, clean backyard habitat for animals.

"Saving one bird at a time and trying to educate the public is the least I can do to try to make up for what we have done as humans to the habitat and to the animals directly." Donna says, " For example, hundred of millions of birds die in collisions with man-made structures every year, according to statistics from American Bird Conservancy. On a local level, what can I do? As a licensed rehabber, I get a call about a bird that has hit a window . . . in addition to caring for and releasing that bird back to the wild, I can educate that household about bird window strikes and provide them with UV protection stickers for their windows. This could save dozens of birds in that household's lifetime. And what if I educate one household per week? It will all add up to saving more birds."

You can donate to help Colorado Native Bird Care and Conservation achieve their goals of education and the rescue, rehabilitation, and release by making a tax-deductible donation at

<http://www.coloradonativebird.org/donate.html>

Find CNBCC on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/coloradonativebird> and on

Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/CONativeBird>

1 National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association



This Hermit Thrush was admitted to a rehabilitation center on February 3, 2013 after being bitten by a pet cat. The bird required a round of antibiotics and supportive care.

Photo courtesy of Native Songbird Care.

Dusty Colorado Snowpack

Climate models have predicted that the U.S southwest will become drier. A side effect that we are already observing is a lot of dust on the winter snowpack. An article in the Boulder Weekly (<http://tinyurl.com/kjzg3ca>) highlights the observations.

"The San Juan Mountains often feel the brunt of the dust events, but a recent surge of desert air brought a thick layer as far north as Summit County at the end of March. If you've been skiing in the high country lately and noticed the pinkish snow, no need to check your goggles. It's red-rock dust from your favorite mountain bike trail in Moab, and the strongest storms can drop up to 419 pounds of dust per acre atop the mountain snow.

The darker-colored snow melts faster — much faster — than an unsullied surface. In recent years, peak runoff has come up to six weeks earlier than average, causing headaches for reservoir operators and ranchers trying to time irrigation of their fields."

The CO Water Conservation Board (CWCB) site has links to several reports that go far beyond the effects of dirty snow. (<http://tinyurl.com/lv25nyf>). Highlights include these climate projections for Colorado's water resources.

- Current climate models project that Colorado will warm by 2.5°F by 2025 and 4°F by 2050. Summers are likely to warm more than winters.
- Warmer temperatures will affect evaporation rates in our rivers, streams and reservoirs, perhaps making less water available for beneficial use.
- A projected seasonal shift in precipitation may result in more mid-winter precipitation throughout the state and, in some areas, a decrease in late spring and summer precipitation.
- Lower elevation snowpack (below 8200 ft.) is likely to decline, with modest declines projected for high elevation snowpack (above 8200 ft.).
- The timing of runoff is projected to shift earlier in the spring, which may reduce late summer stream flows. These changes will probably occur regardless of changes in precipitation.

A one-page fact sheet referenced on the CWCB site says, "Throughout the West, less frequent and less severe drought conditions have occurred during the 20th century than revealed in the paleoclimate records over the last 1000 years.

Precipitation variations are the main driver of drought in Colorado and low Lake Powell inflows, including the drought of 2000–07, and these variations are consistent with the natural variability observed in long-term and paleoclimate records. "