



On The Wing

Volume 41, Number 3 **Boulder County Audubon Society Newsletter**

Summer 2011



BCAS benefits from fallout: dollars, not birds

For many years a local plumbing and heating company, Precision Plumbing, has held a monthly "contest" in which they receive nominations of local non-profits and choose a winner for one thousand dollars. The dual goal of this "Crazy Promotion," according to their president Tom Robichaud, is to raise the company's profile and more importantly, to be a genuine contributor to Boulder County causes in different domains.

Certainly as a recent winner (February), Boulder County Audubon will be a grateful recipient in the long line of beneficiaries of this novel concept.

The Board is currently deciding which of our projects and programs is most suited to be boosted by this generous donation.



BCAS 4th Tuesday Program May 24, 7:15 p.m.

Birds of the Pawnee Grasslands

Rob Palmer

Award winning photographer Rob Palmer will present a program on the birds of the Pawnee Grasslands, from Golden Eagles to McCown's longspurs. He will also give some tips on where to locate some of the elusive species to get your own photos. Following the Pawnee presentation, Rob will present a collection of his favorite images.

Rob Palmer has been involved with animals since he was very young. He has always had a passion for birds of prey, and has pursued that passion throughout his adult life. After being a biology teacher in the '80s and '90s, he has combined his interest in animals with his love of photography to become an award winning nature photographer.

He has received photography awards from National Wildlife Magazine, Wild Bird Magazine and the Magazine of the National Audubon Society. In addition Rob has been featured on the cover of Birders World, Living Bird and American Falconry. He has published 2 books and is the principal photographer for three other books.

<<< **On the left, Merlin, by Rob Palmer.**

Come early (6:45) and join us for:

- End of the Year Treats outside the church
- Open House of BCAS Projects & Conservation Issues
- King Soopers & Liquor Mart Coupons
- 2011 BCAS Awards
- Annual Elections



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

2011 Spring and Summer Field Trips

Saturday, May 7, 7:30am - Noon: "Spruce Gulch Restoration Site"

Join Audubon for this unique opportunity. Dr. Tim Seastedt and CU Researcher David Knochel along with Steve Jones will lead a trip up to the Left Hand Canyon (Spruce Gulch) 'restoration' site where the researchers have been studying the performance of biological controls (insects) on invasive plants such as spotted knapweed. This show-and-tell hike will be followed by an "add-on opportunity" for participants to participate in knapweed control. Additionally a visit will be made to a cheatgrass study plot where Seastedt's team is studying the effects of manipulating water availability. Participants will also get to observe wildflowers, birds, butterflies and other wildlife of Spruce Gulch. Limited to 15 people, reservations required. Contact Steve Jones, 303-494-2468, curlwsj@comcast.net. A meeting place for participants will be disclosed upon sign-up.

Saturday, May 7, 8:30am: "Roll and Stroll" South Boulder Creek trail from Marshall Road parking lot. Leaders Mary Balzer and Topher Downham from OSMP. Knowledgeable Audubon birders team up with Mary and Topher to provide this fun birdwatching experience in a variety of habitats, for people who use walkers, wheelchairs, canes, or just regular legs. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them, and personal water. Snacks provided.

Saturday, May 7, 7:00-9:30am: "Louisville North Open Space Bird Walk"

Join leader Paula Hansley for this field trip along the North Open Space Trail. Participation is limited to 15 to ensure a quality birding experience. To register contact Nimira at 303-335-4735 or nimirad@louisvilleco.gov. May is the best time to look for birds because it is the height of the migration and nesting season. In April and May, birds are singing and actively defending their territories. We will be literally surrounded by bird song, especially that of a favorite songster, the House Wren. We will see not only our resident species (i.e., House Finch, Blue Jay, Downy Woodpecker, Red-tailed Hawk, etc.), but also colorful migrants, such as the Western Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, etc. People of all abilities and ages are welcome! Bring binoculars if you have them. Meeting Location is the Keith Helart Park located at the end of Monarch Court.

Saturday morning, May 21: "Nesting Raptors of Boulder County"

A driving tour of Boulder County, viewing nests and young of Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Great-Horned owl, Red-tailed hawks and whatever else we can find. Email or call for time and meeting location. Mark Ponsor, m.ponsor@comcast.net, 303-530-2229

More Field Trips on page 3

Boulder Bird Club field trips, page 9

(BBC field trips and Audubon field trips are also listed on www.boulderadubon.org/trips.htm)

Boulder County Audubon Society

— Officers —

President

Petrea Mah (303)494-4121

Vice President

Steve Jones (303)494-2468

Secretary

Joan Dawson (303)494-8252

Treasurer

Chris Abrahamson (303)565-9742

— Other Board of Directors —

Linda Andes-Georges, Mary Balzer

Ray Bridge, Sharon Daugherty

Maddy Goldhawk, J.D. Birchmeier

Nancy Neupert, George Oetzel

— Standing Committees —

Conservation/Legislation

Linda Andes-Georges (303)772-3239

Programs

Steve Jones, Petrea Mah

Hospitality

Neal & Elain Thielen

Field Trips

Andrew Cowell (303)543-7504

Sue & Mark Ponsor

(s.ponsor [at comcast.net](mailto:s.ponsor@comcast.net))

Scott Severs (303)684-6430

Education

Maureen Lawry (303)499-3833

Mary Balzer (303)499-0662

Publicity

J.D. Birchmeier (303)748-1894

Bluebird Trail Coordinator

Marti Oetzel (303)543-3712

Membership

Carol McCasland (303)635-6433

Newsletter

George Oetzel (303)543-3712

Web Site

Amy Schlotthauer (303)402-0905

Audubon of Colorado Liaison

Bob Turner (303)499-2669

Christmas Bird Count Coordinator

Bill Schmoker (303)702-9589

Wildlife Inventory

Alex and Gillian Brown (303)494-3042

On the Wing © 2010 Boulder County
Audubon Society

Next issue deadline: (Sept 2011)

Field Trips, continued from page 2

Saturday, May 21 5:30am to Noon: “International Migratory Bird Day”

Wild Bird Center of Boulder, Boulder Bird Club, and Boulder County Audubon have been hosting an International Migratory Bird Day event at Walden Ponds more than 10 years. This celebration of birds and their migrations engages youth and adults in learning about our birds, their spring journeys to nesting sites, and the importance of Walden Ponds for nesting birds, as well as those taking a much-needed break before continuing north. This year, we are working with Environment for the Americas to expand our event to include a Walk on the Wild Side, a walkathon that will raise money for conservation efforts at Walden Ponds.

The walkathon will start and finish near the Cottonwood Marsh parking lot. We will set up tables for registration, refreshments, and materials from our sponsors in the area near the picnic pavilion. Approximately 8-10 tables will also be set up along the walkathon route, hosted by local non profits, to serve as both rest and education/viewing stations, where participants will learn about birds and the environment. We also intend to make this a “green” event by limiting the distribution of paper and/or plastic items.

Registration for the walkathon will take place primarily on-line, but day of the event registrants may sign up at 8 a.m. The walkathon will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will follow the 2.5 mile trail around the ponds. The walk portion of the event will end at approximately 12pm.

A *Dawn Chorus Walk* also take place at 5:30 a.m. and will conclude at 8 a.m.

Wednesday, May 25, 7 a.m. to noon. *Breeding bird survey at Meyer’s Gulch, Walker Ranch.* Join eco-steward Laura Osborn and Boulder County Wildlife Ecologist Susan Spaulding for a 3-4 mile hike up the Meyer’s Homestead Trail. This is an excellent spot to see and hear foothills birds. Breeding season birds include Olive-sided Flycatcher, Williamson’s and Red-naped Sapsuckers, bluebirds, and Red Crossbills. Meet at the Meyer’s Homestead lower parking lot at 7 a.m. or meet to carpool at the Chautauqua Ranger Cottage parking lot at 6:30 a.m. Meyer’s Homestead Trail is on the west side of Flagstaff Mountain Road approximately 7 miles from the base of Flagstaff Road. Bring a snack and be prepared for a moderate hike. For additional information contact Laura (303) 939-9273.

Sunday, July 10, 8am – Noon: “Audubon Bugs Field Trip” 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 and bug juice. No insect nets please. Meet at the Walden Ponds parking lot. Leader: Scott Severs, 303-684-6430 or email at scottsevers@gmail.com

Join in Restoring Our Dodd Reservoir Property—1st Phase Weed Reduction

Meet at Dodd Reservoir Sunday, June 5th at 2 PM for a brief training and plot assignment. Visit your plot 3 to 4 times through the summer and fall to remove blossoms from the noxious weeds. Removing the blossoms will reduce the seed bank of these weeds and allow us to take advantage of the destruction of the plants this fall by the county. Our hope is to have significant reduction in these weeds in the first year of the plan.

The end of this year and the beginning of next we hope to start replanting some natives. If all goes well at some time we will hit a “tipping point” and natural succession will begin.

If you can help contact Petrea Mah petrea-mah@comcast.net or Nancy Neupert nancyn@earthlink.net or just show up on June 5th. Meet in the Dodd Reservoir parking lot on Niwot Road around 1.25 miles east of 63rd.



Dodd Reservoir, June 2010—Petrea Mah

Adopt a Species and Enjoy a Gourmet Interlude with Nature

We had a great time dining and searching for threatened species last year during our second Species of Concern-a-thon, so please consider joining us this year. Pledges support Boulder County Audubon conservation programs, including efforts to preserve habitat for birds of special concern. Board members provide gourmet food and refreshments for each trip. Participants receive updates on nesting status of these sensitive species. Thanks for your support!!

Bald Eagle (isolated and restricted) with **Steve Jones**. Saturday, May 14, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. We'll get clear views of nesting Bald Eagles in Weld County, briefly visit a Burrowing Owl nesting colony, then continue to Barr Lake for a sumptuous brunch and a walk along the marsh boardwalk. 303-494-2468; curlewsj@comcast.net. Suggested pledge: \$45. Limited to 8 participants

Burrowing Owl (isolated and restricted) with **Petrea Mah**. Saturday, June 18, 4-9 p.m. On a summer evening we'll explore three or four Burrowing Owl colonies in Weld and Adams counties. Last year we saw more than 40 Burrowing Owls on this trip. This year's juvenile owls should be visible as they begin their fledging antics. After the owls we'll enjoy a picnic dinner at nearby Barr Lake State Park, followed by a boardwalk ramble to view songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors: 303-494-4121; petreamah@comcast.net. Suggested pledge: \$45. Limited to 10 participants

Flammulated Owl (isolated and restricted) search with **Linda Andes-Georges and Maureen Lawry**. Tuesday, June 14, 6-10:30 p.m. After a gourmet picnic at dusk, we'll stroll down a remote foothills canyon to listen for poorwills, night-hawks, and reclusive flammulated owls. We have about a 70% chance of hearing or seeing these little owls. 303-772-3239; andesgeorges@comcast.net.. Suggested pledge: \$40. Limited to 12 participants.

Barn Owl (isolated and restricted), with **Linda Andes-Georges**. Sunday, July 24, 6-10 p.m. Enjoy a catered trip to search for these ghosts of the avian world (and their young) in two locations where they are known to nest: 303-772-3239; andes-georges@comcast.net. Suggested pledge: \$40. Limited to 12 participants (several spaces available)

Wild Orchids, with Joyce Gellhorn. Saturday, July 15, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Search for several species of wild orchid in the Wild Basin area of Rocky Mountain National Park. Enjoy a catered brunch in a peaceful aspen grove along the way: 303-442-8123; jggellhorn@sprynet.com. Suggested pledge: \$40. Limited to 10 participants.

Butterfly Photography Workshop with **Steve Jones**. Saturday, July 16, 7:30 a.m. to noon. A couple of slots still are available in this workshop, which will give participants the chance to get close to fritillaries, blues, and other butterflies and capture them artistically. Bring a digital or film camera with a macro (close-up) or telephoto lens. Bagel and fruit brunch provided. 303-494-2468; curlewsj@comcast.net. Limited to 6 participants. Suggested pledge: \$35.

Climate-change Goal Unlikely Achievable

International negotiators at a United Nations-sponsored climate conference ending April 8 in Bangkok repeatedly underscored the goal of keeping the amount of global warming in this century to no more than 2°C. However, results from a Canadian government climate modeling study* suggest that "it is unlikely that warming can be limited to the 2°C target," according to the scientists who published the study.

The paper finds that reaching that goal would require that greenhouse emissions "ramp down to zero immediately" and that scientists deploy means, starting in 2050, to actively remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. The study relies on the first published results from the latest generation of so-called Earth System climate models, that seek to simulate the planet's oceans, land, ice, and atmosphere. The model in this study, Canadian Earth System Model 2, also incorporates updated data on volcanic eruptions, and it simulates in a more sophisticated way the biosphere's ability to take in or emit carbon.

Various scenarios for greenhouse gas concentrations for

years through 2100 were compared. In the worst case, unfortunately also seen as the most likely, the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere skyrocketed from its current level, about 390 parts per million, to 920 ppm, and global land surface temperature rose by 4.9°C above 2005 levels. But even in a scenario in which emissions cuts caused CO₂ levels to peak at 450 ppm in 2050, temperatures rose by 2.3°C by the end of the century, above the 2°C goal.

The paper's findings suggest a way to buy time while we reduce CO₂ emissions: cut emissions of short-lived gases, such as methane, that warm the atmosphere aggressively but persist in the atmosphere for decades instead of centuries, like CO₂.

Co-author Ken Denman says, "We can't give up" on emissions cuts, although it's "probably already too late" to limit warming to 2°C. "But maybe we'll have to live with 3 or 4 degrees of warming."

* Geophysical Research Letters, Vol. 38, L05805, 6 PP., 2011

Also <http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2011/04/>

BOULDER COUNTY WILDLIFE INVENTORY, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2010

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

November and December 2010 were noteworthy for the number of late migrants still being sighted. Birders were not particularly active in November resulting in only 104 bird species being recorded. However, December made up for that with a total of 117 bird species seen on a single day, 19 December, the day of the Boulder Christmas Bird Count (CBC), bringing the total number of species seen in the whole month to 138. This is a record number of species for December, and rivals some summer months. Late shorebird sightings in November included **American Avocet**, **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Red Phalarope**. Late warbler sightings included **Orange-crowned Warbler** seen in both November and December, **Hooded Warbler** seen in November and **Palm Warbler** seen in December. New species for the year included **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Ross's Goose**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Eastern Screech-Owl** and **Winter Wren**. 106 **Snow Geese**, including some blue-phase geese, were recorded in November in nine different areas, and a **Tundra Swan** was reported first at Walden Ponds in November, then at Valmont Reservoir throughout December. **Greater Scaup**, **Black Scoter**, **White-winged Scoter** and **Barrow's Goldeneye** were some of our less usual ducks. **Mandarin Duck** is an exotic species that has been seen in Boulder during the last two winters. Grebes were well reported both months with **Red-necked Grebes** being reported at both Union and Boulder Reservoirs. A **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Union Reservoir delighted many observers; this was a species last seen in 2004 and only the fourth individual reported since the wildlife inventory began in 1979. The explosion of **Eurasian Collared Doves** over the last few years continues with these birds becoming a much commoner winter sighting than **Mourning Dove**. A **White-winged Dove** seen on the Christmas Bird Count was a first December record. Unusually the Christmas Bird Count produced six owl species: **Barn Owl**, **Eastern Screech Owl**, **Great-horned Owl**, **Northern Pygmy Owl**, **Long-eared Owl** and **Northern Saw-whet Owl**. A **Say's Phoebe** seen at the end of November and the beginning of December was very late for this species. **Chihuahuan Raven** is a bird that is often hard to identify; one was positively identified in December followed by a number of possible reports. A **Pacific Wren** seen on the Christmas Bird Count was a first sighting for the year; this is a species that should be carefully monitored since its split from the slightly commoner **Winter Wren**. **Wood Thrush** was reported from a yard in Louisville in the middle of November, and a **Varied Thrush** from Longmont in late December. A **Gray Catbird** seen on the Boulder Christmas Bird Count was very unseasonable. A **Snow Bunting** seen in the Indian Peaks Wilderness area was an exciting addition to the December list, as was the **Golden-crowned Sparrow** seen on the plains.

Mammals were very sparsely reported both months. Gray Fox was an unusual species for December. For the full listing of observed species go to www.boulderaudubon.org/inventory.htm.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2010 INVENTORY

David Alcock, Linda Andes-Georges, John Barr, Alan Bell, J.D. Birchmeier, Mike Blatchley, Boulder Christmas Bird Count, Kitty Brigham, Dan Brooke, Alex Brown, Gillian Brown, Carol Cushman, Todd Deininger, Gene Ellis, Ted Floyd, Peter Gent, Jeffrey Gordon, Bryan Guarente, Paula Hansley, Jack Harlan, Thomas Heinrich, Jim Hill, Robert Hill, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Michael King, Ken Kinyon, Elena Klaver, Connie Kogler, Bill Kunz, James Lamoureux, Chuck Lowrie, Marcia Marvin, Daniel Maynard, Mark Miller, Gene and Lynn Monroe, Nancy Neupert, Rudi Nuissi, Christian Nunes, Nathan Pieplow, Peter Plage, Suzi Plooster, Bill and Inez Prather, Joe Prentice, Ira Sanders, Bill Schmoker, Scott Severs, Tim Smart, Margaret Smith, Andrew Spencer, John Spencer, Marcel Such, Joyce Takamine, Cheryl Teuton, Charles Thornton-Kolbe, Mike Tupper, John Vanderpoel, David J. Waltman, Wild Bird Center, Cole Wild, Bob Zilly.

Wildscaping Class

Learn how to "wildscape" your yard with native and Colorado-adapted plants, creating mini-habitats that welcome wildlife with food, water and places to nest and rest. This class will introduce you to a wide selection of plants for Boulder wildlife gardens, and to the birds and other creatures they attract. Garden visits will be included. Class limited to 10 participants. Cost: \$75. Dates: Thursday July 7, 6-9PM; Saturday July 9, 9AM-1PM; Saturday July 18, 9AM-Noon. To register, contact Nancy Neupert at (303) 543-0228.



2010: An Overview of the Boulder County Wildlife Inventory

2010 continued the trend of the last few years of having over three hundred bird species recorded in the wildlife inventory with a total of 312 species. This equals our previous high record in 2008. Acorn Woodpecker was a new addition to the wildlife inventory. Piping Plover and Connecticut Warbler were reported for only the second time since the inventory started in 1979, and Hepatic Tanager was reported for the third time. We seem to have had a relatively poor warbler year, with some expected species, such as Nashville Warbler, being missed. Every year there seem to be some species, such as Red Phalarope, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Summer Tanager, which flip in and out of the list being seen on average every other year. Bohemian Waxwing is an irruptive species which only made this year's list by virtue of a single bird in January. The recent trend of poor reporting of mammals, reptiles and amphibians continued; we would like to encourage people to report these sightings as well as those of birds.

Reported in 2010 but not in 2009

Black Scoter
 Northern Bobwhite
 Pacific Loon
 Least Bittern
 American Golden Plover
 Piping Plover
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper
 Red Phalarope
 Black-legged Kittiwake
 Iceland Gull
 Acorn Woodpecker
 Gray Flycatcher
 Ash-throated Flycatcher
 Philadelphia Vireo
 Carolina Wren
 Wood Thrush
 Varied Thrush
 Sprague's Pipit
 Bohemian Waxwing

Reported in 2010 but not in 2009

Chestnut-collared Longspur
 Snow Bunting
 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 Prothonotary Warbler
 Connecticut Warbler
 Golden-crowned Sparrow
 Hepatic Tanager
 Summer Tanager
 Northern Cardinal
Reported in 2009 but not in 2010
 Red-throated Loon
 Chukar
 Cattle Egret
 Short-billed Dowitcher
 Mew Gull
 Glaucous-winged Gull
 Least Tern
 Caspian Tern
 Vermilion Flycatcher

Reported in 2009 but not in 2010

Great-crested Flycatcher
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
 Lapland Longspur
 Golden-winged Warbler
 Tennessee Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Black-throated Gray Warbler
 Black-throated Green Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Louisiana Waterthrush
 Kentucky Warbler
 Field Sparrow
 Scarlet Tanager
 Rusty Blackbird
 White-winged Crossbill
 Common Redpoll

Month-by-Month Avian Species Totals

| Year | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| January | 96 | 89 | 98 | 103 | 108 | 122 | 99 | 101 | 99 | 101 | 100 |
| February | 86 | 91 | 89 | 95 | 106 | 112 | 98 | 96 | 90 | 89 | 90 |
| March | 96 | 97 | 115 | 100 | 116 | 105 | 118 | 98 | 112 | 96 | 87 |
| April | 134 | 155 | 170 | 150 | 136 | 159 | 154 | 147 | 179 | 164 | 143 |
| May | 199 | 203 | 243 | 211 | 214 | 201 | 218 | 170 | 236 | 215 | 216 |
| June | 164 | 153 | 159 | 155 | 168 | 161 | 147 | 164 | 177 | 172 | 145 |
| July | 153 | 132 | 173 | 113 | 147 | 137 | 152 | 153 | 166 | 171 | 129 |
| August | 166 | 125 | 177 | 111 | 144 | 152 | 156 | 151 | 152 | 129 | 136 |
| September | 178 | 146 | 172 | 145 | 175 | 154 | 166 | 164 | 171 | 164 | 156 |
| October | 139 | 124 | 149 | 102 | 107 | 141 | 126 | 126 | 119 | 130 | 112 |
| November | 114 | 118 | 112 | 113 | 111 | 105 | 125 | 121 | 111 | 108 | 104 |
| December | 116 | 118 | 125 | 115 | 122 | 123 | 121 | 123 | 117 | 125 | 138 |
| Year Total | 279 | 276 | 308 | 290 | 298 | 286 | 302 | 302 | 312 | 310 | 312 |

Annual BCAS Board Election

Board for FY 2010-11, beginning July 1, 2010.

Accept all 12 candidates

President

 Linda Andes-Georges (303-772-3239)

Vice President

 Petrea Mah (303-494-4121)

Secretary

 Joan Dawson (303)494-8252

Treasurer

 Kitty Brigham (303)827-3157

At-large Board members

 J.D. Birchmeier Ray Bridge Sharon Daugherty William Fink Martin Gerra Maddy Goldhawk Steve Jones George Oetzel

Person _____

Position _____

Clip the ballot and mail to Boulder County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2081, Boulder, CO 80306, or vote at the May 24 meeting.

Boulder's Energy Future: Rates, Reliability and (lots of) Renewables

Ken Regelson on behalf of RenewablesYES.org

Tuesday, May 10, 6:30 p.m., REI Boulder Store
Sponsored by Boulder County Audubon Society and
Sierra Club Indian Peaks Group

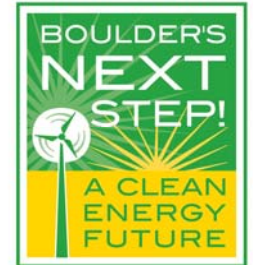
This talk will be about how far and how fast we think we can go in Boulder to a truly renewable energy economy while protecting rates and reliability.

Boulder turns out to be just the right size to develop an energy future worth getting excited about - big enough to be meaningful and scalable to other places, but small enough and well-studied-enough for us to

get our hands around. And from open-space, to BlueLines, to groundbreaking climate policies Boulder voters are politically tough enough to make change happen.

Ken is the owner of Five Star Consultants, where he helps develop, analyze, and implement the policies and programs needed to create a more sustainable energy future. Areas of expertise include the technology and policy of electric utilities, net metering, municipalization, renewable energy (RE), energy efficiency (EE), and city and state policy and programs in RE and EE. He lives and works out of a solar powered home in Boulder,

RenewablesYES.org

**Boulder County Nature Association Summer-Fall Classes**

For complete class descriptions and information about scholarships, visit www.bcna.org

Butterflies of the Front Range, Jan Chu. June 6, 13, 27. 303-494-1108; chuhouse@hotmail.com.

Identification of Summer Wildflowers, Joyce Gellhorn and Janice Forbis. July 21, 23, 30. 303-442-8123; jggellhorn@mac.com.

Colorado Hummingbirds, Steve and Debbie Bouricius. July 24. 970-434-5918; bouricii@earthlink.net.

Pika Encounter. Chris Ray. Aug. 4, 6. 303-489-8863; cray@colorado.edu.

Dazzling Dragonflies. Scott Severs. Aug. 10, 14. 303-684-6430; scottesevers@gmail.com.

Wild Mushrooms. Jennifer Frazer. Aug. 11, 13, 27. 303-549-8276; ranatrafusca@yahoo.com.

Grassland Ecology. Steve Jones. Aug. 18, 20; Sept. 20-21. 303-494-2468; curlewsj@comcast.net.



CATS INDOORS!
THE CAMPAIGN FOR SAVER BIRDS & CATS

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND WILDLIFE

- ◆ Cats with bells on their collars still kill wildlife.
- ◆ Even well-fed cats kill wildlife.
- ◆ Cat-injured wildlife seldom survive, even if they escape.
- ◆ Outdoor cats are exposed to many hazards, including cars, disease, and parasites

Protect cats, birds, and other wildlife by keeping cats indoors!

Has Peak Oil Arrived?

Oil experts predicted five years ago that non-OPEC oil production might peak within 10 years. It now appears that they may have been optimistic, as non-OPEC oil production has remained flat since 2004, in spite of a near-tripling of the price of oil. And many of those same experts, as well as some major oil companies, don't see it increasing again—ever. In their view, it's stuck on a plateau near the present level of production for another decade or so before starting to decline.

Non-OPEC oil production, which currently accounts for about 60% of world output, stagnated at about 40 million barrels a day in 2004 after rising from a plateau in the early 1990s induced by a low price for oil. Normally, one would expect that the increase from the earlier plateau price of around \$35/barrel to today's level around \$100 would encourage more production, but that hasn't occurred.

The problem, all agree, has been increasing difficulties extracting conventional oil. That's the easiest oil to get at, oil that freely flows out of a well of its own accord or with a minimum of encouragement, such as pumping it out or pushing it out with water. Production of conventional oil from any well or field, or even a larger region, typically increases, peaks, and then goes into decline. Production from the United States, once the world's largest oil producer, peaked in 1970 as rising output from newly discovered fields failed to compensate for declines in old fields. Mexico's production peaked in 2004. North Sea production peaked in 1999, just 28 years after starting up.

If oil prices remain high, optimists think that the inevitably rising world demand will be met through increased OPEC production and still underdeveloped fields such as offshore Brazil and Kazakhstan, plus other sources such as liquids obtained from natural gas.

Perhaps the most sobering outcome of a continuing non-OPEC plateau might be reminding everyone that even planet-scale resources have their limits. Perhaps it is worth rereading the 2005 book by J. H. Kunstler, *The Long Emergency*.

Paraphrased from *Peak Oil Production May Already Be Here*, Science Magazine, 25 March 2011, pp1510-1511, G. Oetzel

Evening Grosbeak Surprise in 2011 GBBC*

- Cornell Ornithology Lab news release, April 4, 2011

GBBC participants also reported a surprising increase in the number of Evening Grosbeaks this year—the highest number of observations ever for this species during the count and an increase that isn't simply attributable to greater GBBC participation. A closer look finds this upturn especially marked in the northwestern U.S. and in Canada. This uptick is also supported by data entered so far this season from Project FeederWatch, a winter-long citizen-science project from the Cornell Lab and Bird Studies Canada. FeederWatch data have shown sharp declines in Evening Grosbeaks over the past two decades for unknown reasons. Future counts may reveal if this year's increase in GBBC grosbeak reports is a one-time fluctuation or part of a long-term trend.

A total of 92,206 checklists were reported in the GBBC this year. Nationwide, 596 species were observed, and 148 were found in Colorado.

* Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb 18-21



Red-naped Sapsucker, Meyers Gulch

July 5, 2010, G. Oetzel

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 and Mar-Apr issues of *On the Wing* are mailed only to BCAS Supporting Members who request them. The electronic edition, available online, usually includes extra articles.

Boulder Bird Club field trips

Saturday, April 23, 7:30am to 2:30pm: “Jim Hamm with Christie Owens and DFO” Meet at 7:30 AM at Jim Hamm Nature Center parking lot for a joint walk with DFO members and nearby resident expert Chris Owens. Bring sun-screen, lunch, water and expect to see some early migrants. Call Christie at 303-422-3728 or christie-owens2@me.com. (Jim Hamm Nature Area, 1701 E. County Line Road, Longmont)

Sunday, May 1, 8:00 to 11:00am: “First Sunday Birding at Walden Ponds” Meet at 8:00 AM at Cottonwood Marsh at Walden Wildlife Habitat. Dress for variable weather as Spring can be unpredictable. Leader: Cara Stiles, cara_stiles@comcast.net

Sunday May 22, 8:30am to 3:00pm: “Birding the Hills and Waterways of Lyons with Davis”

Meet at the Lyons Park'n'Ride (4th and Main) at 8:30 and bird Old South Rd for breeding Canyon Wren, Cordilleran Flycatcher, etc. Possible side trips to Pella Crossing and other local bodies of water. Great trip for young birders to enjoy. Then head up to the Davis porch for sack lunch and observation of his 3 dozen nesting boxes and feeders. Bring your lunch and water and be prepared for an easy walk and a nice morning with some great birders. Davis at 303-823-5332 or davis@greenspeedisp.net

Sunday, June 5, 8:00 to 11:00am: “First Sunday Birding at Walden Ponds” Meet at 8:00 AM at Cottonwood Marsh at Walden Wildlife Habitat. Dress for variable weather as Spring can be unpredictable. Leaders: Sharon Norfleet and Gary Baxley 303-666-5894 gebsmn@gmail.com

Saturday, June 18, 7:00am to 1:00pm: “Birding Golden Gate Park”

Meet at 7 a.m. at the East Boulder Rec Center, west end of main parking lot to car pool to Golden Gate State Park. Return around 1 p.m. One of the gems of our local State Parks system and loaded with breeding birds. Find sapsucker, nuthatch, swallow and flycatcher nests. See the birds, learn their calls and see the nests with a leader who can teach you "to bird by ear". We will take short hikes (<1/4 mi) through different habitats in the park and eat lunch at Bootleg Bottom. Drivers need State Park pass or pay daily fee from car pool fees. Bring lunch, binoculars, hats, bug juice, and be prepared for weather. Leader: Paula Hansley 720-890-2628 or email plhansley@yahoo.com

Sunday June 19th 2011 6:00 AM: “Early Morning Birding with Ted Floyd at White Rocks”

Join expert Ted Floyd in observing and listening for birds along the White Rocks trail to Boulder Creek and to the meadows above. This trip will begin at 6AM sharp at the White Rocks Trail Head (off of Valmont Road between 75th and 95th) and will involve a few miles of brisk walking. For those who wish to listen for night singing passerines and owls, please contact Ted by email to take part in the pre-dawn version. Ted Floyd is the editor of Birding magazine and the author of the Smithsonian birding guide. For more information and to register for the bird walk, contact ted-floyd57@hotmail.com

Sunday, June 26, 8:30am to 1:00pm: “Cal-Wood with Jan Chu” Western and Mountain Bluebirds, Blue Butterflies Azures and Silvery Blues fly at the Cal-Wood Education Center, Jamestown. Spring moisture will bring the blossoms and insects, plenty to eat for the bluebirds. We are having this enjoyable bird walk somewhat later to take advantage of the plethora of butterflies in early summer. Of course, bird watching will be equally encouraged as we hike down towards the cool stream. Bring a butterfly guide if you have one, binoculars, sun and rain protection, lunch and water. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Safeway Store, north parking lot Iris and 28th Street to carpool. The drive is about 50 minutes each way. Cal-Wood is a 1,000 acre montane meadow and ponderosa pine forest which is preserved with a Conservation Easement, so it is isolated, unique and protected. Young people are welcome. Leave Cal-Wood, by 1:00 PM. Leader: Jan Chu, 303-494-1108 or email at chuhouse@hotmail.com

The Wednesday BBC Roadrunners Birders start the new season on **Wednesday April 20th**. Leave at 7:30 a.m. sharp each Wednesday morning to bird a local "hotspot" and return at approximately 10:30 a.m. (11:30 on May 25) Meet at East Boulder Recreation Center at west end of the parking lot, 5660 Sioux Drive, off 55th St. between So. Boulder and Baseline Roads. Carpool is .50¢ to \$1.00. No reservations needed - just show up. Bring binoculars, snack, & water. Dress for the weather.