

2008: An Overview of the Boulder County Wildlife Inventory

2008 was a record year with 312 bird species seen in Boulder County, surpassing the previous high of 308 species in 2002. This brings us to the third year in a row with over three hundred species. Some of this is surely due to improvements in technology enabling birders to communicate with one another efficiently. This year there was a really strong spring migration that began early and continued late. No sooner had one person reported a rarity than another seemed to find something else unusual in the same location. Although May was a really good month for birdwatchers, it was April and June that broke all previous records. Many of our less usual vireos and warblers were reported. Four species were new and very exciting sightings for Boulder County. They were Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff and Louisiana Waterthrush all seen in the spring, and Slaty-backed Gull seen in November. Fortunately, many people were able to observe these birds. There seemed to be no obviously missing common birds from our list in 2008. Altogether 312 avian, 31 mammalian, 4 reptilian and 1 amphibian species were reported to the Boulder County Wildlife Inventory. This continues a trend of increased reporting of bird species but declines in the reports of mammals, amphibians and reptiles.

Reported in 2008 but not in 2007

Brown Pelican
 Little Blue Heron
 Black-bellied Plover
 Hudsonian Godwit
 White-rumped Sandpiper
 Dunlin
 Ruff
 Slaty-backed Gull
 Least Tern
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Vermillion Flycatcher
 Carolina Wren
 Bewick's Wren
 Veery
 White-eyed Vireo
 Yellow-throated Vireo
 Philadelphia Vireo

Reported in 2008 but not in 2007

Northern Parula
 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 Black-throated Gray Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 Prairie Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Louisiana Waterthrush
 Northern Waterthrush
 Hooded Warbler
 Summer Tanager
 Field Sparrow
 Black-throated Sparrow
Reported in 2007 but not in 2008
 Pacific Loon
 Red-throated Loon
 Trumpeter Swan

Reported in 2007 but not in 2008

Brant
 White-winged Scoter
 Black Scoter
 Chukar
 Ross's Gull
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Eastern Wood Pewee
 Chihuahan Raven
 Gray-cheeked Thrush
 Varied Thrush
 Black-throated Green Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Prothonotary Warbler
 Golden-crowned Sparrow
 Dickcissel
 Baltimore Oriole

Month-by-Month Avian Species Totals

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	90	90	96	89	98	103	108	122	99	101	99
February	75	97	86	91	89	95	106	112	98	96	90
March	90	120	96	97	115	100	116	105	118	98	112
April	151	137	134	155	170	150	136	159	154	147	179
May	205	221	199	203	243	211	214	201	218	170	236
June	171	164	164	153	159	155	168	161	147	164	177
July	167	150	153	132	173	113	147	137	152	153	166
August	147	139	166	125	177	111	144	152	156	151	152
September	157	165	178	146	172	145	175	154	166	164	171
October	129	118	139	124	149	102	107	141	126	126	119
November	113	101	114	118	112	113	111	105	125	121	111
December	111	114	116	118	125	115	122	123	121	123	117
Year Total	275	286	279	276	308	290	298	286	302	302	312