

## 2009: An Overview of the Boulder County Wildlife Inventory

As 2008 was a record year, it might be expected that 2009 would be disappointing by comparison. However, the total number of 310 bird species was only two less than in 2008, and made this the second highest year in our records. This brings us to the fourth year in a row with over three hundred species; some of this must be due to improvements in technology but some is probably also be due to the increased numbers of birders looking for rare species. The only new bird for the wildlife inventory in 2009 was a Mandarin Duck found on the Christmas Bird Count, which as an exotic does not contribute to the county list. This year's sightings of Black Phoebe, Cassin's Sparrow and McCown's Longspur were each only the second report for the inventory since it started in 1979. Red-headed Woodpecker used to breed in the county, but two sightings in 2007 after an absence of five years and two further sightings in 2009 gives some hope for this species in Boulder County. Bohemian Waxwing was not reported in 2009; this irruptive species had been reported in the thousands during the spring of 2008. Otherwise, there were no obviously missing common birds from our list in 2009. The recent trend of poor reporting of mammals, reptiles and amphibians continued with only 28 mammalian, 8 reptilian and 3 amphibian species reported.

<b>Reported in 2009 but not in 2008</b>	<b>Reported in 2009 but not in 2008</b>	<b>Reported in 2008 but not in 2009</b>
Red-throated Loon	Kentucky Warbler	Gray Flycatcher
White-winged Scoter	Dickcissel	Ash-throated Flycatcher
Chukar	Cassin's Sparrow	Carolina Wren
Upland Sandpiper	Sage Sparrow	Bewick's Wren
Glaucous-winged Gull	McCown's Longspur	Sedge Wren
Red-headed Woodpecker	Common Redpoll	Bohemian Waxwing
Black Phoebe	<b>Reported in 2008 but not in 2009</b>	White-eyed Vireo
Eastern Phoebe	Brown Pelican	Yellow-throated Vireo
Great-crested Flycatcher	Northern Bobwhite	Philadelphia Vireo
Cassin's Kingbird	Hudsonian Godwit	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Dunlin	Yellow-throated Warbler
Chihuahuan Raven	Ruff	Prairie Warbler
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Red Phalarope	Mourning Warbler
Golden-winged Warbler	Long-tailed Jaeger	Summer Tanager
Black-throated Green Warbler	Iceland Gull	Black-throated Sparrow
Palm Warbler	Slaty-backed Gull	

### Month-by-Month Avian Species Totals

<b>Year</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
January	90	96	89	98	103	108	122	99	101	99	101
February	97	86	91	89	95	106	112	98	96	90	89
March	120	96	97	115	100	116	105	118	98	112	96
April	137	134	155	170	150	136	159	154	147	179	164
May	221	199	203	243	211	214	201	218	170	236	215
June	164	164	153	159	155	168	161	147	164	177	172
July	150	153	132	173	113	147	137	152	153	166	171
August	139	166	125	177	111	144	152	156	151	152	129
September	165	178	146	172	145	175	154	166	164	171	164
October	118	139	124	149	102	107	141	126	126	119	130
November	101	114	118	112	113	111	105	125	121	111	108
December	114	116	118	125	115	122	123	121	123	117	125
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>310</b>