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# On The Wing

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Volume 47 Number 2

Boulder County Audubon Society Newsletter

Apr-May 2017

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## BCAS 4th Tuesday Program Series

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*Resplendent Quetzal*

**April 25, 2017, 7:15 PM**

**Dr. Christy Carello: Monitoring Avian Habitat Use, Monte Verde, Costa Rica**

Costa Rica is the only country in Latin America that is adding forest, with a strong history of protecting natural resources for both its intrinsic value and for ecotourism. Seven organizations in Costa Rica developed the Bellbird Biological Corridor in order to link the upper cloud forest to the coastal region through protection of existing habitat and reclamation agricultural land. We traveled to the region to document the use of migratory and resident birds in reclaimed cattle pasture and coffee plantations, conducting point counts and mist-netting in these reclaimed areas as well as a reference forest. We will present results of our work and show many images of the fabulous species we encountered. Dr. Carello will present this program with three of her biology students, Vinson Turco, Stacy Fuller and Kevin Dykstra.

**Christy Carello, Ph.D.** earned her bachelor's degree at the University of California, Santa Cruz and her Masters and Ph.D. at the University of Colorado Boulder. She is currently a professor in the Department of Biology at the Metropolitan State University of Denver where she teaches courses in

Biology, Ecology and Ornithology. She serves on the Colorado Field Ornithologist Board of Directors.

**May 23, 2017, 7:15 PM**

**Steve Jones: Swan Lakes**

The recovery of trumpeter swans from just a dozen or so known individuals during the 1920s to 55,000 today is one of North America's most heartening wildlife success stories. The recovery is vividly apparent in the Nebraska Sandhills, where after being extirpated during the late 19th century, trumpeters have returned to nest on several lakes named after them 130 years ago. Preservation of historic nesting and wintering areas has led to an increase in the Sandhills' trumpeter swan population from zero in 1910 to nearly 1000 today.

Steve will take us on a visit to several trumpeter swan nesting and wintering locations, including two "Swan Lakes." He will explore with us the uniqueness of the Sandhills' trumpeter swans; the wild beauty of their Sandhills' nesting sites; and the tenderness, fidelity, and courage of nesting families.



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

### Bobcats in South Boulder

By George Oetzel

We've had a number of bobcat visits to our back yard this year. On Jan 26, we had a pair, apparently mother and large child. Since then, we've seen the youngster several times. On Feb 12, it stayed in the yard for about two hours, sunning by the warm, south-facing fence, drinking from our pond, and then taking a nice nap. Many of its mannerisms were very like those we see in our much smaller indoor cat.



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**Next issue deadline:  
(May 2017 issue) Apr12.**

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



## 2017 ABA Young Birder of the Year!

### Johanna Beam

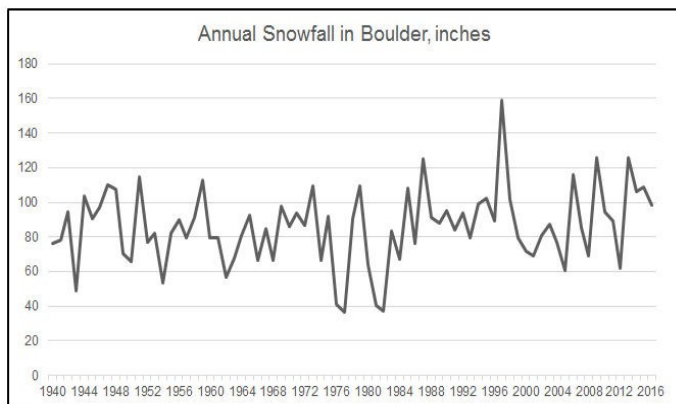
After months of dedicated work from young people across North America, our esteemed panel of judges have evaluated and tabulated the results of the 2017 ABA Young Birder of the Year Contest. We are very excited to announce the winners of this year's contest!

Your 2017 ABA Young Birder of the Year for the 14-18 age category is **18-year-old Johanna Beam from Lyons, Colorado!** Congratulations, Johanna!



## Weather & Climate 2016

George Oetzel

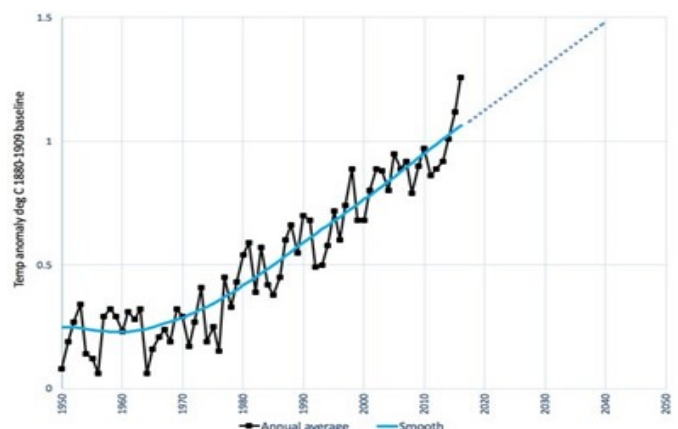


Many politicians these days deny the existence of climate change, or at least insist that humanity has no role in causing it. However, evidence for its occurrence and its effects continues to accumulate. Coastal flooding in the eastern U.S. often makes the news these days. Because of reduced ice coverage in the Arctic, polar bears are spending more time hunting on land (NY Times science section recently). Much of southwestern Africa has been gripped by drought for the past several years, causing starvation, as Nicholas Kristoff observed first hand (NY Times, Jan 6). Articles in Science Magazine (Dec 23) indicate that parts of the ocean are developing anoxia, and that scientists are increasingly worried about food production if the

current trends continue.

Long-term trends are harder to spot in local Boulder data. Steve Jones (curlwsj@comcast.net) showed that Sha nahan Ridge got less snow in 2016 than in the previous three years. Looking at NOAA long-term data, over 1940-2016, the 100" in 2016 was above the average of about 87 inches.

Because the temperature recording station has changed a few times, it isn't possible to make a similar comparison of temperature records. Even if suitable data were available, comparison between Boulder and global records and global data would not make sense, because Boulder represents a very small area with huge variability, in contrast with averages made from global data.



**Field Trips & Events April-August, 2017****BIG DAY with BILL KAEMPFER**

Saturday, May 6, 2017 6 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Free, no reservations required, but you MUST carpool and MUST stay for the duration of the trip until late afternoon.**

This date in May provides participants with the opportunity to find returning breeders, late wintering birds as well as many shorebirds and ducks on their way north to breed. Who knows what rarities will be spied as you visit many productive habitats given the exceptional skills of Bill?

Please meet promptly at 6 a.m. at the Meadows Shopping Center in front of the Rite-Aid Pharmacy, by Mohawk and Baseline. Bring sun protection, food for snacks and/or lunch, water and other beverages.. Dress in layers as you will experience lots of temperature changes. Wear sturdy footwear and be ready for some hiking. Please have a full tank of gas if you will volunteer to drive. Passengers should plan on paying the drivers \$.12 per mile to cover their expenses. **Again, this is an all day trip and you will have to car pool, but expect 100+ species for your day of hard birding!**

**Pella Crossing Reborn with Phil McNichols**

Sunday, May 14, 2017, 7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Free, reservations: [pmcnichols@comcast.net](mailto:pmcnichols@comcast.net)

Join Phil, a Boulder County Volunteer Naturalist, to celebrate spring and the reopening of Pella Crossing, which was severely damaged by the floods in September, 2012. Boulder County is in the process of rebuilding the ponds and trails, so this group will be amongst the first visitors.

This outing is for all ages and skill levels of birding. Meet at the Pella Crossing parking lot, just south of Hygiene on the east side of 75<sup>th</sup> Street. Wear comfortable shoes and bring binoculars and scopes if you have them. Boulder County Audubon has binoculars to lend if you need them; tell Phil when you make your reservation.

**Riparian Rendezvous: Old Saint Vrain Road and Red Gulch with Carl Starace**

Free, Friday, May 19, 2017, 7:30 -11 a.m.

Old Saint Vrain Rd., on the southwest side of Lyons, is well known as a superb migrant trap. You will walk approximately 2 miles along the South Saint Vrain River and look for warblers, thrushes, woodpeckers, flycatchers and tanagers. Flocks of Bushtits are common and expect to hear the lovely song of the Canyon Wren. Gray Catbirds and White-throated Swifts are in residence and the group should see some raptor species. There always seems to be a rarity or two along this stretch of riparian.

Carpool from the Rest Room facilities at Sandstone Park in the center of downtown Lyons. This is a half day trip; bring the usual; sun and insect protection, sturdy shoes, water and snacks.

**International Migratory Bird Day Celebration at Walden Ponds**

In Partnership with Environment for the Americas

Saturday, May 20, 2017 8 a.m.-12, Free

Please come and Walk on the Wild Side as we welcome back our migratory bird populations on this festive day. This is a family affair, when Boulder County Audubon volunteers will host an education station with games for children and guided bird walks on the hour, starting at 8:30. Bring your bird ID questions!

## **Field Trips & Events April-August, 2017 (continued)**

### **Prairie Dogs: Habits, Habitats and Humor with Maureen Lawry**

Sunday, May 21, 2017, 9:30 a.m.-11:30, Free

Meet Prairie Dog expert, Maureen Lawry, for an informative morning of Prairie Dog viewing and information. Maureen will inform you why these fascinating animals are a, "keystone" species, how they communicate and talk about their conservation needs and status.

Maureen is a master puppeteer and has taken her acclaimed Prairie Dog Puppet Show around the western states, educating children and their parents. Please meet at the picnic shelter at Rabbit Mountain, at the end of N. 55<sup>th</sup> Street, north and east of Lyons, off of Rte. 66. Bring sun protection, water and snacks.

### **Birds and Brews with Balzer, Tagawa and Jones**

Sunday, May 21, 2017, 4:30 p.m.

Join our Birds and Brews group for an afternoon walk around the Sawhill Ponds. During this migratory period, folks will see many species, resplendent in breeding plumages. Afterwards, the group will head to the Upslope Brewery Taproom, 1898 South Flatiron Court. Boulder County Audubon will provide snacks. Participants must buy their own beer.

Details will be announced on Twitter, Meet-Up, Face-Book and on our website: BoulderAudubon.org

### **Spring Sparrow Roundup: From Low to High Elevations**

Leader: Eric DeFonso ([yoericd@gmail.com](mailto:yoericd@gmail.com))

Date: Sunday, June 11, 2017. Free, limited to 12 participants (3 cars)

Time: 6am-midday (1-2pm perhaps)

Join worldwide birder, Eric DeFonso, on this fun birding quest to find, identify, and appreciate our delightful variety of charming but often confusing sparrows and towhees. We will travel from the high plains to the high mountains to take joy in emberizids ranging from the common (like Song and Chipping Sparrow and Spotted Towhee) to the less common (like Grasshopper, Savannah, and Fox Sparrows and Green-tailed Towhee) to the possibly rare (like Brewer's and Cassin's). We will listen for their often sweet, varied and complicated songs, and learn their associations between habitats and elevations.

We'll meet bright and early (in order to allow us to hear more glorious lowland sparrow songs) at 6am in the northeast corner of the East Boulder Community Center, Sioux Drive, Boulder. Please be prepared to carpool. Bring sun protection, food for snacks and/or lunch, water and other beverages. Dress in layers as you may experience lots of temperature changes. Wear sturdy and comfy shoes in case we do some hiking. Also, please have a full tank of gas if you will volunteer to drive. Passengers should plan on paying the drivers \$.12 per mile to cover their expenses. Contact the leader directly at [yoericd@gmail.com](mailto:yoericd@gmail.com) to participate and coordinate.

### **Colorado Field Ornithologists Annual Convention**

Thursday, June 1-Monday, June 5

Steamboat Springs, CO

Information: <http://cobirds.org/cfo/conventions/next.aspx>

## **Field Trips & Events April-August, 2017 (continued)**

### **White Rocks Open Space**

Leader: Carl Starace

Friday, June 16, 2017

Free, no reservation necessary

Time: 8 a.m.

The White Rocks trail is one of Boulder's premier bird watching areas. With habitats that vary from grasslands to riparian and foothill shrub, a wide variety of birds can be expected. Bald Eagles nest on the property as do Ospreys and Great Horned Owls. Waterfowl glide on the many ponds as herons hunt the edges. Warblers, vireos and flycatchers give voices to the trees and sparrows find nesting habitat in the grasses.

Meet at the White Rocks Trail parking area on Valmont Road, between 75<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup>. Bring sun protection, food for snacks and/or lunch, water and other beverages. Wear sturdy footwear and be ready for some moderate hiking.

### **Colorado Native Plant Society Garden Tour**

In Partnership w/Boulder County Audubon and Audubon Rockies

Saturday, July 1, 2017

Time: 8 a.m –noon

Tickets: \$20 members, \$30 non-members

Information: <https://conps.org/mfm-event-calendar/#!event/register/2017/7/1/native-plant-garden-tour-boulder-area>

You will be hearing more and more buzz (as in the only way to garden for native pollinators) about the benefits of landscaping with tough, climate adapted and water thrifty native plants. On this garden tour, you will come to appreciate the wide variety of stunning plants that are local and to see how these master gardeners have arranged them to please the eye and help the natural world thrive.

### **North American Butterfly Association Counts**

Sunday, July 2, Gilpin Count

Contact: Wynn Whyman: [wynn4@comcast.net](mailto:wynn4@comcast.net)

Tuesday, July 4, Calwood Count

Contact: Jan Chu: 303 494 1108

These counts are an opportunity to visit some lovely natural areas and spend the day counting butterfly species. The tallies are then sent off to the North American Butterfly Association's data base, which tracks butterfly population trends throughout North America.

Both experienced lepidopterist fans and beginners are welcome to participate. The fee is a modest \$3.

## **Field Trips & Events April-August, 2017 (continued)**

### **Birdwatching, Caribou Ranch Open Space**

Leader: Carl Starace

Friday, July 7, 2017

Free, no reservations necessary

Time: 8 a.m.-noon

On this trip, avid birdwatcher and enthusiastic leader, Carl Starace will take the group to this higher elevation locale. Caribou Ranch, located to the north of Nederland, had varied habitats which include forest, meadows and wetlands. The target birds include Red Crossbills, Red-naped and Williamson's Sapsuckers, Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Townsend's Solitaire, Black-chinned Hummingbird and perhaps Three-toed Woodpeckers. Elk and moose breed at Caribou and are distinct possibilities.

Meet at Eben Fine Park at the west end of Arapaho Avenue to carpool. Be prepared for cool and windy weather with sun and insect protection, water, snacks and sturdy shoes for a fair amount of walking. Passengers should plan on paying the drivers \$.12 per mile to cover their expenses.

### **National Audubon 2017 Convention, Park City, Utah**

July 13-17, 2017

This year's convention will bring together NAS staff and Chapter activists from all over North America. Conventions are a superb opportunity to learn from the professional NAS staff. You will network with other Chapters, learn of their activities, successes, failures, share resources, ideas, strategies and most of all, to be inspired.

For more information: [www.audubonconvention.org](http://www.audubonconvention.org)

### **2 Waneka Lake Family Birding Days**

In Partnership with Lafayette Open Space Department

Sunday, August 6, 2017

Sunday, September 3, 2017

Free: No reservation necessary

Time: 1-3 p.m.

Boulder County Audubon volunteers will be on hand to take visitors on bird walks around this lovely natural area. We have guide books and binoculars to share. Children most welcome!!

Waneka Lake Park is located on Caria Drive, in Lafayette, CO.

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<http://tiny.cc/ez7v6>

Boulder County Audubon Society

*On The Wing*



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*www.boulderaudubon.org*

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We get very little return from National Audubon dues and have to rely primarily on local funding to support Boulder County Audubon Society activities.

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