



On The Wing

Volume 48, Number 1

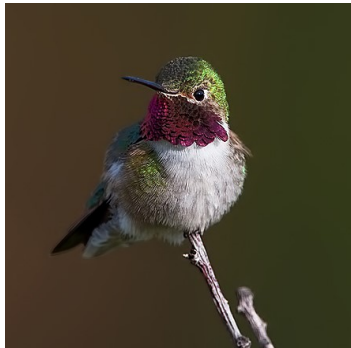
Boulder County Audubon Society Newsletter

Feb-Mar 2018

BCAS 4th Tuesday Program Series

Tuesday, February 27, 7:15 p.m.

“Western Hummingbird Partnership” - a presentation by Dr. Susan Bonfield



Broad-tailed Hummingbird
By Gerhard Assenmacher

Dr. Bonfield is the Executive Director of Environment for the Americas, which coordinates Western Hummingbird Partnership (WHP), a developing network of conservation organizations working to protect and preserve these flying gems found only in the New World. Working with partners in Canada, the United States, and Mexico, WHP strives to understand what hummingbirds need to survive in a changing world.

WHP’s multi-pronged approach to the conservation of hummingbird populations includes science-based research and monitoring, habitat restoration and enhancement, and educating the public as to how they can be a major and positive component of this endeavor. Dr. Bonfield will also talk about the evolutionary history of this avian family, featuring research by Dr. David Inouye.

Tuesday, March 27, 7:15 p.m.

“iNaturalist.org: An Interactive Presentation on an Outstanding, World-Wide, Citizen Science Project”

Presentation by Melanie Hill of Project WILD, which provides conservation education through Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Dave Sutherland, Outreach and Education Coordinator for the City of Boulder.

BEFORE YOU ATTEND: please download the iNaturalist app on your smart phones. Then, come to the presentation and learn how to use it to upload your observations. You will join tens of thousands of amateurs and professionals as part of this ambitious program to map and document the world’s biological diversity.

Melanie and Dave will explain how to take a photo that provides clear identification of an organism, and how to crop and then post it with the correct information and location. You will get to see the information that has been gleaned from this local collection of postings, including the surprises! Embedded in the matrix at iNaturalist are many sub-projects, including one for Boulder County.



You will be invited to join a good-natured challenge where Boulder vies with Fort Collins for the most entries into their respective databases. iNaturalist is a superb tool for individuals to make important contributions to a growing body of data on species distribution. Furthermore, say Melanie and Dave, you will be heartened by the response of others willing to share their knowledge and help you learn more about our wondrous natural world.

Programs continued on page 2

PLEASE SEE PAGE 6 FOR A VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE DISCONTINUATION OF OUR PAPER COPIES!

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

Field Trips Feb - Mar 2018

ANNUAL "WELCOME SPRING" HIKE AT WALDEN/SAWHILL PONDS WITH STEVE JONES

Saturday, March 24, 7:30 a.m. to approximately noon

Free. Reservations: curlwsj@comcast.net

Boulder County Audubon is privileged to again offer this hike by naturalist and educator Steve Jones, who for many years has graciously shared his wisdom and vast knowledge of the natural world with all interested. Let us come together to welcome back old bird friends and perhaps greet new ones at the Walden/Sawhill complex, where flat trails lace through several habitat types. You will stroll along marshes and ponds and into the woods along Boulder Creek.

Steve asks that all participants contribute something sweet, spicy, nurturing or passionate to share at a potluck brunch. Meet at the Cottonwood Marsh parking lot, off of 75th Street south of Jay Road, Boulder.

Boulder County Audubon Society

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Next Birds and Brews Meet-Up Group To Visit Heil Valley Ranch Open Space

Sponsored by Boulder County Audubon Society

Sunday, March 25, Birds at 4 p.m. - Brews afterwards

Leader: Pam Piombino

Free and open to all skill levels.

Let's take a leisurely stroll at the lovely Heil Valley Ranch, an ecosystem dominated by Ponderosa Pines. We will be looking for resident species including a large flock of Wild Turkeys, Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Steller's and Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays, Chickadees and Townsend's Solitaires. Mule Deer are common and with any luck, we will find the tufted Abert's Squirrels.

The trailhead is located off of Left Hand Canyon, north and west of Boulder. Turn west off of US 36 onto Left Hand Canyon Drive (by the Greenbriar Inn). Go 7/10 of a mile, then turn right (north) onto Geer Canyon Drive. Go 1.2 miles until you see a parking area on the right. Meet at the lower parking area. Afterwards, the group will retreat to the Upslope Brewery on Lee Hill Road. Individuals pay for their own brews, but Boulder County Audubon treats all to appetizers. Let us know if you would like to borrow binoculars. Please make reservations with Ann Tagawa: anntagawa@msn.com

Programs, continued from page 1

**Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 7:15 p.m.
Bird Banding in Central America**
presentation by Joel Such

After graduating from high school in 2016, Boulder County Audubon teen naturalist program co-founder Joel Such spent five months in Belize and El Salvador banding birds for various agencies. This winter he is spending six months in Costa Rica and Colombia banding and photographing birds. Joel's presentation will include intimate photos of trogons, motmots, tropical flycatchers, and much more.



Collared Trogon
By Joel Such

On the Wing © 2012
Boulder County Audubon Society

Next issue deadline:

March 22, 2018

Contact editor via link at:

<http://www.boulderaudubon.org/on-the-wing-newsletter/>

BCAS Teen Naturalists Inventory Raptors, Conduct Breeding Bird Surveys, and Photograph Wildlife

Last fall and through the early winter, Boulder County Audubon teen naturalists inventoried raptors along the Rabbit Mountain Survey Route, counting a total of 56 eagles, hawks, and falcons during a single morning; toured the Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Foundation flight cages in Broomfield; photographed courting ducks at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt; and contributed enthusiastically to the Boulder Christmas Bird Count. Outings typically had between 12 and 17 teen naturalists participating.

2017-18 Teen Naturalists program participants include Grace Apodaca, Jasey Chandlers, Aidan Coohill, Eva Getman, Katie Hartrick, Topi and Xochi Martinez, Holden and Eliza Maxfield, Luke Pheneger, Anyll Markevich, Pablo Quezada, Owen Robertson, Joel Such, and Claire and Natalie Vantol.

In addition to their work with BCAS, many of our teen naturalists contribute to other conservation programs, including bird banding at Sombrero Marsh, ecosystem stewardship, leading field trips for various organizations, and conducting pika surveys. All are enthusiastic birdwatchers, photographers, or artists who share a deep love of nature.

Future outings will include a nature photography workshop with Bill Schmoker in April; a comprehensive breeding bird survey at the Macintosh School wetland on South Boulder Road in May and June; and a possible camping trip to the Nebraska Sandhills to photograph dancing prairie chickens in May.



Boulder County Audubon and Lafayette Eco-Arts Connections teen naturalists on Mt. Evans, September 3, 2018

To find out more about upcoming outings and see more gorgeous photos, please visit our webpage: <http://www.boulderaudubon.org/education/teen-naturalists/>. All our events are open to middle school students, high school students, and recent graduates and are always free.

And don't miss our bi-annual PowerPoint presentation at the May 22 Boulder County Audubon annual meeting, followed by a stunning program on Birds of Central America and Colombia by Teen Naturalist Program co-founder Joel Such.

For more information about the Boulder County Audubon Society's Teen Naturalists Program, contact Steve Jones at curlewsj@comcast.net

Teen Scholarship Recipients

The BCAS Education Committee is happy to announce that we have selected two local scholarship recipients, Grace Apodaca from Westminster and Pablo Quezada from Denver, for National Audubon Society's Hog Island Teen Birding Camp in Maine this summer. They will both attend the second session of the Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens program from June 17 to 22, 2018, an intensive 6-day, 5-night program on Hog Island.

As enthusiastic members of the BCAS Teen Naturalists program, Grace and Pablo are excited about the opportunity to work with some of the country's best-known birders and ornithologists on field identification, bird ecology and conservation at the camp. They're also excited about the chance to see Atlantic Puffins and other coastal species not found in Colorado. This is the eighth year that BCAS has sent teenagers to Hog Island, a tradition we hope to continue in the future to foster our young folks' interests in birding, conservation, and potential careers in the natural history field.

Funding for the scholarships is made possible by BCAS membership dues and the generous donations to BCAS from our members and supporters. Thank you!

— Carol Kampert and Carol McCasland, BCAS Education Committee

DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR Camp Colorado Birding Camp Scholarship IS MARCH 1

This \$1295 scholarship covers lodging costs, meals, and transportation costs throughout this seven-day camp at Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, CO. Camp Colorado is sponsored by the American Birding Association. Application deadline for this scholarship is March 1, 2018. Applicants must be 13-18 years old. Please visit <http://www.boulderaudubon.org/hog-island-teen-birding-camp-scholarships/> to apply for this scholarship.



Green-winged Teal at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt
by Eva Getman



Hooded Merganser at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt
by Holden Maxfield



Common Wood Nymph by Anyll Markevich



Rufous Hummingbird by Vienna Walker



Sharp-tailed Grouse
Nebraska Sandhills
by Joel Such



Snowy Owl at Boulder Reservoir
by Owen Robertson

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Indian-Grass by Grace Apodaca

Note to OTW Readers: The following notice is adapted from one that was sent out by the National Audubon Society. This alarming change in government policy is of vital importance to all birders.

Department of the Interior Guts Enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

In December, the Department of the Interior released an interpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that eliminates its ability to hold industries accountable for bird deaths. Reversing decades of practice by administrations under both political parties, this legal opinion drastically limits the law and puts hundreds of species of birds at greater risk.

This attack on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act comes at a time when we are celebrating the Year of the Bird, honoring the one-hundredth anniversary of this visionary law. Passed in 1918 with leadership from Audubon and chapters across the nation, the MBTA protects nearly all of our country's native birds from being killed without a permit.

For decades, the law has been applied to protect birds from industrial impacts as well. Millions of birds die from preventable causes such as oil waste pits, oil spills, electric transmission lines, and more. The MBTA provides a critical incentive for industries to implement common sense practices that save birds' lives. It also ensures that responsible parties are held accountable for events that kill significant numbers of birds. For instance, if this interpretation had been in place after the Gulf oil spill, BP would have been off the hook for killing one million birds and would not have been required to pay a \$100 million fine that is helping restore bird habitat.

This is not a partisan issue. The opinion has been strongly criticized by former high-ranking officials in the Department of the Interior under both Democratic and Republican administrations. This move will put more than 1,000 species of birds at risk.

What can you do? Write, email and call Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke as well as your representatives in Congress to let them know you strongly object to this change in policy. In addition, it helps to write a letter to the editors of our local papers. Please note that birding contributes an estimated \$41 billion to the American economy annually.

A Mystery Bird in the Field

Late in December 2017, Boulder Audubon got an intriguing email from a local birder, John Hoffman, about a dead bird he'd seen under a tree near the IBM campus in Boulder. The pictures John sent instantly caught our interest, as it was obviously a passerine that looked like those which had migrated south already.

We sent the pictures around our bird-expert-circuit, and Bill Schmoker replied that he'd like to get the bird's remains to the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History collection for analysis. John said that he couldn't return to IBM for a few days, but told Bill exactly where the bird was, under a tree. A snowstorm was coming, and Bill didn't delay in getting out there to find the bird, which he did, thanks to John's explicit directions and some intensive gridding in the gathering snow.

The bird carcass was ferried to the CU Museum of Natural History where it is awaiting identification. We have an idea of what it might be. DO YOU? Wait for another edition of this newsletter for the big reveal once we get an ID! And thanks to John and Bill for their dedication in advancing Citizen Science!

If you find a dead bird, consider donating it to the CU Museum of Natural History to add to their extensive collection. <https://www.colorado.edu/cumuseum/research-collections/vertebrates/donations-salvage>



Photo by John Hoffman

Have you renewed your supporting membership to Boulder County Audubon for 2018? Please visit our membership page at <http://www.boulderaudubon.org/about-us/#membership> and renew today! We depend on your support for our programs.



Follow
Boulder County Audubon
on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/BoulderAudubon

Mystery Bat Species Becomes First Breeding Record for Boulder

One July day last summer, BCAS member Donna Nespoli of Colorado Native Bird Care and Conservation (CNBCC) got a call from City of Boulder Animal Control about a bat emergency.

An officer from Animal Control told her that a tree had been cut down in Boulder and a bat with two babies fell to the ground. Donna is state-licensed to treat injured and/or orphaned bats, and she took in the distressed bat family at CNBCC. She noticed right away they looked different than any bat she has ever seen.

Donna contacted Leslie Sturges, a veteran bat rehabilitator in Virginia. She suggested they appeared to be tri-colored bats, also called Eastern Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavans*). However, this seemed unlikely because only three tri-colored bats had ever been found before in Colorado, one female in the late 1980's near Greeley in Larimer County, and two other specimens in Boulder County -- a female near Wonderland Lake in 2004, and a male near Twin Lakes in 2012. Since 1989, wildlife biologists have suspected tri-colored bats have been moving westward into Colorado, but no evidence of breeding had been found before this year.

Donna contacted Rick Adams, a bat biologist and professor at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, who confirmed they were indeed tri-colored bats. This marks the first discovery of a breeding female of this species in Colorado. In September 2017, after the female with young were brought in to CNBCC, a male tri-color bat was found in Hygiene which also came into CNBCC for rehab. It was later released at the site where it was found. Unfortunately, the mother bat and babies did not survive – the injuries they suffered in the fall were too great.

"Finding a breeding female tri-colored bat is suggestive of a new resident species in Boulder County, raising the county number from nine to 10, and the state number from 18 to 19," Rick wrote in response to emailed questions about the bats. He also noted "More data will be required to firmly consider PESU (tri-colored bat) a reproductive population in Colorado."



CNBCC takes in about 50 bats in distress each year. Bats are in peril all across America from a human-introduced fungus called white nose syndrome which has killed millions of bats. This is one reason it is important to save every single bat.

Call a wildlife rehabilitator if you find a bat except in the case of a bat bite, in which case Animal Control must be called because of the potential for rabies infection. Also seek immediate medical attention for yourself! While most bats are healthy and do not carry the virus that causes rabies, the disease does occur in bats, as it can in all mammals. If bitten, it's far better to be safe and not take the chance.

For more info on how to help bats, go to <http://coloradonativebird.org/injuredorphaned-bat.html>. Donna can be contacted at donna@coloradonativebird.org.

To all our BCAS *On the Wing* readers:

This issue marks our last print edition of *On the Wing*. BCAS is moving to an electronic version you can view online, and that will be available in pdf form you can print at home if you prefer to read from actual paper. In the interest of saving trees as well as postage and printing costs, we are discontinuing mailing out the quarterly newsletter. Please note – you can always access *On the Wing* online, including pdf versions of past editions. As a matter of fact, the online version has been available for some time now, with longer articles, added information, and even more stunning photos – check it out if you haven't already done so, on the BCAS webpage:

<http://www.boulderaudubon.org/on-the-wing-newsletter/>

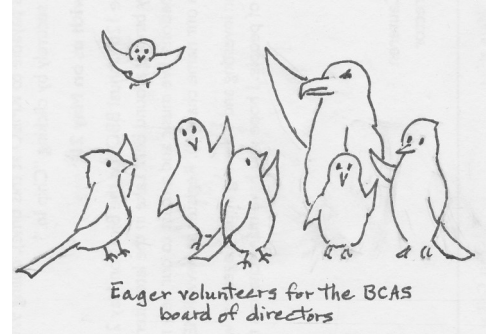
Going forward, we will continue to keep you updated on news from your local Audubon chapter, including important activities and upcoming events. We hope you enjoy the online edition, and knowing it's another small step in helping the planet.

Boulder County Audubon Society Volunteer Opportunities and Board positions

In order to continue our programs, field trips, teen naturalists group, environmental activism and monitoring for local agencies, participation from our membership is critical. Even small commitments can make a difference (leading a casual birdwalk for events like International Migratory Bird Day or other festivals; making sure the Christmas Bird Count has food for its compilation dinner; or picking up our mail downtown -- ALL are tasks that come to mind). Please call one of the board members or send an email to find out what you can do!

Meanwhile, our thanks to those of you we can always count on to help or donate—or both.

And - In May, our chapter conducts its annual elections for the Board of Directors. We are currently very short of active board members (we have eight, but need ten to twelve), a few committee chairs and a half dozen volunteers (see the Want Ads below and on page 8).



HELP!!! HELP!!! HELP!!!

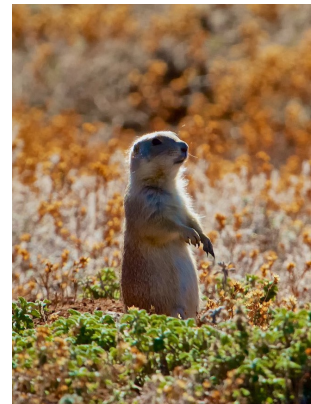
Boulder County Audubon Society, a local chapter of the National Audubon Society, is a local environmental organization that you can support with great effect by filling a small job for us. See the selection below! Contact us (information below) to initiate a no-commitment conversation. We will welcome you.

Grant Writer

If “Grant Writer” is to you an unknown bird, read on:

This person is the equivalent of a Mad Man (as in the TV series), but an environmentally astute one. Or at least, that’s the ideal.

Grant-Writer is one of the most valued posts in any non-profit: GWs like to be active without being obliged to do any of the other weird things that the officers and field trip leaders have to do. This person would probably prefer to write and work quietly in her/his burrow, coming out when necessary to observe the others and listen to their priorities; then s/he may go back to the important work researching, re-writing, and generally making the tribe look worthy of funding by the Funding gods. GWs must be very punctual vis-à-vis deadlines, write well, and love to brag.



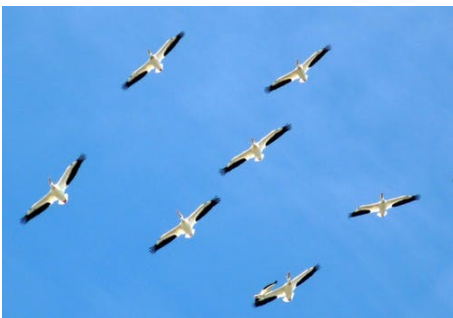
Prairie Dog with Bright Idea

We would be happy to train you, for free. After a year with us (just when you’re becoming a real ace at this) we would let you out of the burrow to explore elsewhere, but by then you will love us too much to leave. Please inquire: Call Linda at 720-668-5214 or Carol at 303-635-6433.

Website Manager

BCAS is looking for a Wordpress specialist, upon which our website depends. Are you familiar with Wordpress? Can you spare about an hour a week to keep our website up to date? We will send you the “feed,” and worship at your feet. Think about it – and get in touch quickly.

Contact Pat Billig at 303-499-8085 or email p.billing@comcast.net for details.



All in Place

SEE MORE WANT ADS on page 8!

Want Ads, continued from Page 7

Social Media Maven

Do you like to keep in touch with your world? Are you a warm person with the gift of diplomacy -- that is, people-wrangling? If so, we'd like to talk (or email, text, chat, or FaceTime) with you!

We need someone who can collaborate with our Board of Directors and outreach specialists to communicate BCAS information updates through social media. Some familiarity with basic tools would be necessary: Constant Contact for email outreach, and also Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc. Great food, exposure to wonderful naturalists and a supportive Board of Directors are guaranteed. Also much fun and creativity. Contact Pat Billig at 303-499-8085



A Social Penguin



Good Spotting, Photo by Bill Schmoker

Wanted: Legal and/or Accounting Professional Insight

Crossing t's, dotting i's, and putting 2 and 2 together – BCAS once in a while needs some outside expertise.

We've found that occasionally some issues come up with BCAS that we lay-environmental folk on the Board would like to make sure is, shall we say, "cricket". We'd like to be able to ask simple questions of a lawyer or a CPA, depending on the topic, to inform our decisions. Do any of you have expertise to share? And we promise, we're talking about really minimal questions! If you'd like to contribute your insight to BCAS, please email Pat Billig at p.billig@comcast.net or Cindy Cornelius at cindynrama@yahoo.com.

Archivist

Do you enjoy collecting and labeling and organizing? Have you learned how to use Excel spreadsheets, or would you like to learn (for personal or professional reasons)? We have the job for you: Archivist – all electronic! The current archivist is growing old and feeble (and authors this note). She would like to train someone for the job: 1 to 2 hours a week is the average time required to tuck our records away. Call Linda for details: 720-668-5214.



Filing things away carefully, Photo by Woody Green

Boulder County Audubon Society

On The Wing



P.O. Box 2081

Boulder, CO 80306

www.boulderaudubon.org

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

\$25/year for ____ years, _____ Additional contribution. Total \$ _____

Life Membership, \$300 _____

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