



On The Wing

Volume 38, Number 3

Boulder County Audubon Society Newsletter

May-Aug 2008

State of the Birds in Boulder County IV: Habitat Specialists

The Boulder County Avian Species of Special Concern List (www.bcna.org) includes 30 species that are neither demonstrably rare nor declining but are considered "isolated or restricted." These specialists nest in a limited number of locations in the county or occupy narrow habitat niches. Boulder County Audubon (BCAS) and the Boulder County Nature Association (BCNA) maintain nesting records for about half of these birds, primarily herons, cliff-nesting raptors, and small owls.

Last month we looked at how some of the isolated or restricted raptors are doing. Much less is known about populations of other species. Here are a few that we have enough information about to suggest general trends:

Wood Duck: This cavity-nesting duck is a relatively new summer resident in eastern Colorado, having first been reported as nesting during the 1960s (Bailey and Nie-drach 1964, Kingery 1998). Boulder County populations have gradually increased since 1979. A total of 61 wood duck sightings were reported to the Boulder County Wildlife Inventory in 2006, compared to 3 sightings in 1979 and 1980 (BCAS, 1979-2007).

Ring-necked Duck: Though common during migration and winter, Ring-necked Ducks nest in small, isolated populations in the high mountains, often in beaver ponds or willow carrs (Kingery 1998). Boulder County nesting populations have remained fairly stable during the past 25 years (BCAS, 1979-2007, Hallock 2004), though a recent, short-term decline may be cause for concern.

Great Egret: Until recently the Boulder Valley Farms heronry was the only known Great Egret nest site in Colorado (Kingery 1998). In 2000-2001, the egrets packed up and moved to the new heronry east of Longmont (Janet George, pers. comm.). Recent data from the Boulder County Wildlife Inventory suggest this species may be declining locally (BCAS, 1979-2007); however, these data may simply reflect a reorientation of egret foraging areas to eastern Boulder County and Weld County.

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Help us Improve Boulder County Audubon

Please complete our questionnaire. See page 6

BCAS 4th Tuesday Program Series

May 25, 7:30 p.m.

Butterflies: Windows into Our Wilds

Steve Armstead, Jan Chu, and Natalie Robinson

Butterflies are excellent indicators of long-term climate change, habitat stability, and ecosystem quality. During the last seven years, a cadre of local scientists and volunteers have been inventorying Boulder County's diverse butterfly communities. Steve, Jan, and Natalie will show images of some of our rarest and most colorful butterflies, while explaining what these species can tell us about the state of our natural world.

Steve Armstead has worked with the City of Boulder for 17 years as a park ranger/naturalist and as a project implementation coordinator. He completed a Masters thesis at the University of Colorado in 2003 that established a butterfly monitoring program for Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP). *Jan Chu*, and associates Cathy Cook, Donn Cook, and Mike Sportiello have produced butterfly inventory reports for Boulder County Parks and Open Space and the Boulder County Nature Association. She teaches butterfly field classes and leads the annual Fourth of July butterfly count at Cal-Wood Education Center. *Natalie Robinson*, an M.S. candidate at the University of Colorado, is studying changes in butterfly populations on Boulder OSMP lands.



Anise Swallowtail

- Jan Chu

Refreshments and Socializing at 7 PM

Program at 7:30

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

** Next program, Sept. 23, see Sept. *On the Wing* **

May-June Field Trips

Sunday, May 4, 8:00am - 1:00pm

Spring Rendezvous & Volunteer Training for Eco-stewards

Leader: Steve Jones (303-494-2468)

New volunteers are most welcome. We will meet at the Meyers Gulch trailhead at Walker Ranch (8 mi. up Flagstaff Mountain Road on the right) at 8 and do a breeding bird, mammal, and recreationist survey. We'll then have a picnic lunch in the aspens. Bring a sack lunch, binoculars, rain gear, and writing implement. For information, call Steve.

Saturday, May 10

International Migratory Bird Day at Walden Ponds

Dawn chorus walk begins at 5:30am. Other walks and general events are 7:30 - 11:30am. This year's theme is Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats, and People. Migratory birds travel long distances between breeding and non-breeding sites throughout the Western Hemisphere. In 2008, IMBD will explore the birds that make these fantastic journeys, the habitats on which they depend, and the people who are important to the conservation of birds and their habitats along the way. Please carpool to Walden Ponds as there is limited parking.

Wednesday, May 28, 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Breeding Bird Survey in Meyers Gulch

Leaders: Laura Osborn (303-939-9273) and Steve Jones (303-494-2468)

Laura and Steve will lead a breeding bird survey in Meyers Gulch, at Walker Ranch. During the past two years, we've documented more than 65 potential breeding species. Meet at the Meyers Gulch trailhead at 6 or at the Chautauqua Ranger Cottage parking area (just south of 9th and Baseline) at 5:40 to carpool.

Saturday June 7, 7:30 a.m. to Noon.

Walden/Sawhill Ponds Breeding Bird Survey.

Leaders: Alex and Gillian Brown (303-494-3042) Alexander.Brown@Colorado.EDU

A field trip in the Browns' Niwot-CW Breeding Bird Atlas Priority block -- this block includes the NW portion of Walden-Sawhill. The trip will focus on watching bird behavior and looking at the different Atlas criteria on how to evaluate breeding behavior. Meet at Cottonwood Marsh parking area at Walden Ponds.

Wednesday-Thursday, 5:00 p.m. June 11 to 1 p.m. June 12

Breeding bird and butterfly survey in Coulson Gulch.

Camp in lovely Coulson Gulch, northwest of Lyons, while working on eco-steward and Breeding Bird Atlas surveys. Contact Steve Jones (stephen.jones@earthlink.net; 303-494-2468) to reserve a space.

Saturday June 14, 8:00 a.m. to Mid-afternoon.

Rocky Mountain National Park

Leaders: Wayne and Dianna Johnston (303-682-5662) wjohnston@att.net

This will be an easy walk on the Upper Beaver Meadows trail looking for primary and secondary cavity nesting birds. Parks pass needed. Meet at 8:00am at the Beaver Meadows visitor center, plan for a 3/4 day trip and bring lunch.

Boulder County Audubon Society

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Vice President

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Newsletter & Membership

George Oetzel (303)543-3712

Web Site

Amy Schlotthauer (303)402-0905

Christmas Bird Count Coordinator

Bill Schmoker (303)702-9589

Wildlife Inventory

On the Wing © 2008

Boulder County Audubon Society

On the Wing — five issues annually:

Jan, March, May, Sept, and Nov.

Next issue:

Deadline for materials for the Sept 2008 issue is Fri., Aug 15. To contact the editor, use the link in <http://www.boulderaudubon.org/newsletter.htm>

State of the Birds IV—continued from page 1

Great Blue Heron: For at least two decades the only known Great Blue Heron nesting site in Boulder County was the rookery at Boulder Valley Farm (along Boulder Creek east of 75th St.). This rookery supported up to 205 nests during the 1990s (Janet George, pers. comm.). In 2000-2001, many of the herons moved to a rookery east of Longmont and southwest of Union Reservoir. By 2005 only 99 Great Blue Heron nests remained in the Boulder Valley Farm rookery, but three new rookeries had become established along North St. Vrain Creek west of Hygiene (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory 2006). Last spring, yet another rookery cropped up in a farm pond along State Highway 93, just south of Boulder.

Bushtit: Bushtits have nested in lower Shadow Canyon during 2006 (Paula Hansley, pers. comm.). There was only one prior nesting report in the Boulder Mountain Park, by Louise Herring on Enchanted Mesa in 1956 (Hansley and Jones 2000). Increased shrub growth in foothills canyons that have been protected from livestock grazing may be providing nesting habitat for this locally uncommon species.

Gray Catbird: Considered uncommon in Boulder County as recently as the 1980s (BCAS 1988), Gray Catbirds have proliferated in foothills canyons where shrub thickets are protected from livestock grazing (BCAS 1979-2007). Similar increases in numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Yellow-breasted Chats, and Blue Grosbeaks have occurred in these areas (BCAS, 2007).

Bobolink: We still don't know whether Bobolinks nested in the Boulder Valley prior to Euro-American settlement (Thompson and Strauch 1986). Most observed nests have been in irrigated hay meadows. However, with increased protection of floodplains on City of Boulder and Boulder County open space, breeding pairs have been moving into native tallgrass prairies and the number of nesting pairs has increased (BCAS 1979-2007). During the 2005 nesting season, volunteers observed 175 bobolinks on City of Boulder open space (Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, unpublished data). Bobolinks also nest in floodplains grasslands along North Saint Vrain Creek.

Other non-rare Boulder County species listed as "isolated and restricted" include: Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night-Heron, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Three-toed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Scrub-Jay, Pygmy Nuthatch, American Dipper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Brown-capped Rosy Finch, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Boulder County nesting data exist for only a few of these species. Future monitoring of breeding populations of these habitat specialists will contribute to our understanding of natural processes in Front Range ecosystems and our efforts to conserve wildlife habitat. So if anyone's looking for a worthwhile research project, here's an opportunity.

State of the Birds IV—Literature Cited

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Great Egret at Walden Ponds — Bill Schmoker

<http://www.schmoker.org/BirdPics/index.html>

BOULDER COUNTY WILDLIFE INVENTORY, DEC. 2007 – JAN. 2008

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

One measure of the severity of winter is the amount of open water in the county. Valmont Reservoir stays open all winter because of heating from the power plant. In hard winters all the water birds for many miles congregate there, and are absent from the rest of the county. December and January 2008 did not appear to be as severe as many, for other reservoirs had patches of open water for most of the time. A few of our less usual diving ducks, a **White-winged Scoter** and two **Long-tailed Ducks** lingered on Baseline Reservoir into early December. A **Surf Scoter** seen on Valmont on the Boulder Christmas Bird Count (BCBC) was a new sighting for the year. December was a particularly good month for gulls with several thousand returning to Valmont each night. A **Mew Gull** was the first report of that species for 2007. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen both months. Valmont continues to be a winter haven for **Double-crested Cormorant** and **Black-crowned Night Heron**; both these species did not historically winter in Boulder County.

Other species which were new for the year in December were **Long-eared Owl** and **Lapland Longspur**. In fact **Long-eared Owls** were seen in three different locations during the Boulder Christmas Bird Count totaling eight birds. Unusual sightings that were seen both months included **Northern Mockingbird**, **American Pipit**, **Swamp Sparrow** and **Black Rosy Finch**. It should also be mentioned that **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen both months; this hawk is becoming increasingly difficult to find and only two birds were reported throughout 2007. A **Vesper Sparrow** seen on December 1 was a very late sighting. **Bohemian Waxwing** is an irruptive winter species which tends to be either present in large numbers or altogether absent. This year, flocks of **Bohemian Waxwings** numbering hundreds were seen all over the county. Mixed in with these flocks would be the occasional **Cedar Waxwing**. These very pretty birds delighted many observers and we received numerous reports of them. A **White-winged Dove** was an unusual winter sighting. Numbers of **Eurasian Collared Doves** (32 in December) continue to increase, and have now outnumbered winter sightings of **Mourning Doves** (26 in December). The Indian Peaks Winter Bird Count (IP) took place towards the end of January. This count never produces many species, but did increase the number of mountain birds seen in January.

Altogether 123 bird species were reported in December and 99 species in January. These are very respectable totals although they break no records. For the full listing of sighted species go to www.boulderaudubon.org/inventory.htm

Global Warming Forum — Taking Action in Your Community

Saturday, May 31, 8:30 registration, program 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

SPONSOR: Audubon Society of Greater Denver and Colorado Audubon

FEE: (includes lunch and materials) Pre-register \$12; at the door \$15 (pre-register before 5:00 pm, Thursday, May 29 to receive \$12 rate)

REGISTRATION: call 303-973-9530 or use link at www.denveraudubon.org/classes2.htm#globalwarming

LOCATION: American Mountaineering Center (710 10th Avenue, Golden, CO - plenty of free parking)

PROGRAM:

National Audubon Slide Show: The Forecast for Birds, Biodiversity and People

Climate Change Impacts in the West


State and Federal Legislation

Local Community Actions


Taking Action in YOUR Community - "How to Toolkit"

KEYNOTE: Roger Puhlwarty, PhD., NOAA Climate Change Expert

Picture Quiz by Susie Mottashed
Answers on page 9



A



B

A. A very common bird seen in flocks year around in Colorado, in city parks and elsewhere. Very protective of mate and offspring.

B. Widespread and common on lakes, ponds and marshes across most of North America. Stocky with big lobed feet for walking across floating vegetation and are useful for swimming. I have a black head and neck, ivory colored forehead shield with a reddish upper edge, a whitish bill with a dark band near the tip and a slate gray body.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE DECEMBER 2007 AND JANUARY 2008 INVENTORY

Dianne Andrews, Alan Bell, Brock Bowles, John Breitsch, Alex & Gillian Brown, Kari Cohen, Todd Deinger, Ted Floyd, Steve Frye, Peter Gent, Randy Gietzen, Paula Hansley, Jack Harlan, Thomas Heinrich, Greg Joder, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Steve Larson, Sharon Leahy, Dave Leatherman, Carolyn Mahaklan, Joe Mammoser, Gene and Lynn Monroe, Sharon Norfleet, Christian Nunes, George Oetzel, Laura Osborn, Beth Partin, Nathan Pieplow, Bill Schmoker, Scott Severson, Andrew Spencer, Wendy Sydhow, Walter Szeliga, Joyce Takamine, Pamela Tarrall, John Tumasonis, David J. Waltman, Wild Bird Center.

2007: An Overview of the Boulder County Wildlife Inventory

2007 broke no records for the number of species seen in any one month, and had a poor spring migration with only 170 bird species seen in May which is over seventy species less than the record number in May 2002. From this I thought that we were unlikely to have a memorable year. It is therefore with some surprise that I report that 2007 had the second highest number of bird species observed since the wildlife inventory began in 1979, tying for second place with 2006. The cause of this continued increase in bird species is unclear, although it could be partly due to better reporting of rarities. Three species were new for the wildlife inventory: Ross's Gull, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Sedge Wren. A Long-tailed Jaeger was strictly a first report for the county, although a previous sighting at Union Reservoir had been included in the wildlife inventory. The last three birds mentioned were seen by many observers who joyfully added them to their Boulder County life-list. The bird that should have been seen but was missed was Northern Waterthrush. Mourning Warbler was a particularly unusual warbler. Altogether 302 avian, 31 mammalian, 3 reptilian and 2 amphibian species were reported to the Boulder County Wildlife Inventory.

Reported in 2007 but not in 2006

Brant
 White-winged Scoter
 Red-throated Loon
 Short-billed Dowitcher
 Red Phalarope
 Long-tailed Jaeger
 Ross's Gull
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 Lewis' Woodpecker
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Chihuahuan Raven
 Sedge Wren
 Gray-cheeked Thrush
 Bell's Vireo
 Tennessee Warbler
 Magnolia Warbler
 Black-throated Green Warbler

Reported in 2007 but not in 2006

American Redstart
 Prothonotary Warbler
 Mourning Warbler
 Scarlet Tanager
 Rusty Blackbird
 Baltimore Oriole
 Orchard Oriole
 White-winged Crossbill

Reported in 2006 but not in 2007

Yellow-billed Loon
 Brown Pelican
 Yellow-crowned Night Heron
 Swallow-tailed Kite
 Gyrfalcon
 Black-bellied Plover
 Ruddy Turnstone
 White-rumped Sandpiper

Reported in 2006 but not in 2007

Glaucous-winged Gull
 Arctic Tern
 Least Tern
 Cassin's Kingbird
 Eastern Phoebe
 Carolina Wren
 Curve-billed Thrasher
 Blue-winged Warbler
 Northern Parula
 Black throated Blue Warbler
 Black-throated Gray Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Northern Waterthrush
 Canada Warbler
 Eastern Towhee
 Black-throated Sparrow
 Chestnut-collared Longspur

Month-by-Month Avian Species Totals for the Decade

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Averages
January	90	90	96	89	98	103	108	122	99	101	99.6
February	75	97	86	91	89	95	106	112	98	96	94.5
March	90	120	96	97	115	100	116	105	118	98	105.5
April	151	137	134	155	170	150	136	159	154	147	149.3
May	205	221	199	203	243	211	214	201	218	170	208.5
June	171	164	164	153	159	155	168	161	147	164	160.6
July	167	150	153	132	173	113	147	137	152	153	147.7
August	147	139	166	125	177	111	144	152	156	151	146.8
September	157	165	178	146	172	145	175	154	166	164	162.2
October	129	118	139	124	149	102	107	141	126	126	126.1
November	113	101	114	118	112	113	111	105	125	121	113.3
December	111	114	116	118	125	115	122	123	121	123	118.8
Year Total	275	286	279	276	308	290	298	286	302	302	290.2

Boulder County Audubon Society (BCAS) Member Survey

The Board wants your feedback about (1) the programming BCAS has offered, and (2) the direction BCAS should be pursuing on conservation issues. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions. We need your feedback to make BCAS more responsive to your needs and desires. Thank you for your assistance.

Please mail your response to: **BCAS, P.O. Box 2081, Boulder, CO 80306**

Online alternative version of the survey: <http://www.boulderaudubon.org/survey>

Membership

1) How long have you been a member of the

National Audubon Society 0-2 years 2-5 years more than 5 years not a member

Boulder Local chapter 0-2 years 2-5 years more than 5 years not a member

Both National and Local 0-2 years 2-5 years more than 5 years

2) Where do you live?

City _____ ZIP _____

3) Sex: Female Male

4) Age range? Under 35 35-49 50-64 65 or over

5) Are you also a member of ?

Boulder County Nature Association

Boulder Bird Club Colorado Mountain Club

Sierra Club Colorado Environmental Coalition

Other (please specify) _____

6) What is your level of birding knowledge?

Beginning birder

Intermediate birder (Basic knowledge of local birds)

Experienced birder (Familiar with bird families and general bird identification)

Advanced birder (Extensive knowledge of bird families and bird identification; identify birds by song)

7) Do you participate in?

Christmas Bird Count Great Backyard Bird Count Indian Peaks Bird Count

Programming

8) How many times each year do you attend the monthly programs?

5 or more 3 or 4 1 or 2 None

9) Would like to see more programs on the following topics (check all that apply):

Attracting birds to my yard, bird feeding

Scientific study/education (e.g., bird counts, bird banding, bird research, etc.)

General conservation, ecology, habitat preservation, sustainability

Local birds and birding locations

National birds and birding locations

International birds and birding locations

Butterflies, plants, dragonflies, mammals, other non-bird topics

Unable to attend

Other _____

Continued next page

Field Trips

- 10) How many times per year do you attend the BCAS field trips?
 1 or 2 times 3 or 4 times 5 or more times None
- 11) Would like to see more field trips on the following topics (check all that apply):
- Ecosystem life zone specific (grasslands, alpine, etc.)
 - Field trips outside of Boulder County
(examples: Pawnee Buttes, Pinyon Canyon, Platte River, Sandhill Crane sites)
 - Bird banding
 - Habitat management
 - Wildlife rehabilitation
 - More field trips for the "mobility-challenged", or on wheelchair-accessible trails
 - Beginning birding class
 - Advanced bird identification, including bird songs
 - Boulder County Master Birder courses for certification

 - Other birding classes or other suggestions: _____

Communications

- 12) What parts of ***On The Wing*** do you usually read?
- Program Information Wildlife Inventories Field Trip Information
 - Articles about Birds Articles about volunteer activities
 - Articles about Energy and Global Warming
 - Articles about conservation: local or CO topics National or global topics
 - I don't read *On the Wing*
- 13) Should *On The Wing* enhance or de-emphasize some of those areas? Other suggestions?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 14) There is a paperless *On the Wing* option.
- Keep sending the paper copy
 - Sign me up and send me email when the new issue is online. I've provided my email on the last page.
 - Please don't send paper copy or email.
- 15) How often do you visit the web site **www.boulderaudubon.org**?
- Weekly Monthly Never
- 16) In the last year, have you used the web site for:
- Reading *On The Wing* Program and event information
 - Wildlife inventories Learning about conservation issues
 - Birding destinations Bluebird nestbox program
 - Education programs, Colorado Wildscapes, Audubon Adventures sponsorship
- 17) Suggestions for changing the web site?
- _____
- _____

Continued next page

Conservation Action Issues

18) On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = not important & 10 = very important), how would you rank the following issues of importance to you

- ___ Local trails issues (development, pets, off-trail uses)
- ___ Green house gas emissions reduction
- ___ Ecosystem preservation
- ___ Important Bird Areas
- ___ Gunnison and other grouse protection
- ___ restricting military expansion in Piñon Canyon

General Observations

What do you like and/or dislike about BCAS?

Is there a project, initiative or issue you would like to see BCAS champion?

Do you have any further comments on how we can improve BCAS?

Optional Information

If you wish, please provide your name and contact information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email _____

BCNA Class Schedule

The Boulder County Nature Association (BCNA) offers scholarships of up to \$60 to cover most of class tuition. For more information, or to register, visit www.bcna.org.

Bird Sketching: Susie Mottashed

No prior sketching experience is necessary to enjoy and succeed in making quick sketches of birds. Topics covered include bird anatomy, proportion, perspective, and color values.

Thursday, June 19, 6:30-9 p.m.

Saturday, June 21, 8-11 a.m.

Pika Encounter: Chris Ray

Because pika are threatened by climate change, learning about their status here and worldwide is important. Visiting pika habitats in the field will provide an opportunity to photograph them foraging and storing food.

Thursday, July 24, 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, July 26, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Exploring Colorado Hummingbirds: Steve Bouricius

Using a private location where hummingbirds are attracted to flowers and feeders in concentrated numbers, we will get a close-up look to identify hummingbirds and see banding in action.

Sunday, July 20, 7:30 to 2 p.m.

Bats of Boulder County: Rick Adams

Investigate the natural history of these enigmatic mammals by delving into their ecology, physiology, morphology, and behavior. See bats up close and personal by conducting fieldwork with mist nets and night-vision camcorders.

Friday, August 8, 6:30-9 p.m.

Saturday, August 9, 7-11 p.m.

Dazzling Dragonflies and Damselflies of Boulder County: Scott Severs

Learn about the distinguishing characteristics of numerous Odonata species, focusing on local species. Discover where and when to look for these jewel-like insects, and how to best approach them for observation and photography.

Wednesday, August 13, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 17, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Natural World of the Arapaho: Andy Cowell

Explore Arapaho perceptions of the natural world of the Colorado Front Range and Great Plains. Learn beliefs about creation, cosmology, relationships to the flora and fauna as sources of power, and the idea of "ecological consciousness" in Arapaho culture.

Tuesday, September 2, 7-9 p.m.

Thursday, September 4, 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, September 6, 9 a.m. to noon

Save Piñon Canyon

Joan Dawson

"It's not like any other place in this part of the country." Piñon Canyon is filled with historic, archaeological and natural treasures like Native American petroglyphs, a section of the old Santa Fe Trail, habitats for many bird, mammal and aquatic species which are waning in Colorado, and huge ranches which have belonged to Colorado families for several generations. It's also beautiful.

The U. S. Army sees it as an ideal training ground, resembling areas in Iraq and Pakistan, and they would like to obtain up to five million acres, the entire south-east corner of Colorado, for this purpose with increased troop numbers at Ft. Carson. The natural treasures, habitats, water and soil would be impacted beyond repair.

At the end of 2007 after work by Rep. John Salazar and Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, President Bush signed into law an amendment stating no further Federal funds would be spent during 2008 to take over the area. Recently, however, the army hired a large public relations firm in Pueblo for \$500,000 to convince ranchers that surrendering their land is in their own best interests to support the military and to increase the economic well-being of that part of the state.

Strong grass-roots opposition has arisen in that area. The Pueblo County Commissioners recently issued a resolution opposing this expansion. Both an overview and suggested actions are on www.pinoncanyon.com. Archives from The Denver Post and the Pueblo Chieftain also contain additional information.

This may be a battle we can win. Please write and call your senators, representatives and candidates regularly to encourage their firm opposition to this. Your response will be logged as For or Against; emails receive much less attention, so letters and phone calls are more powerful.

Important people to contact include:

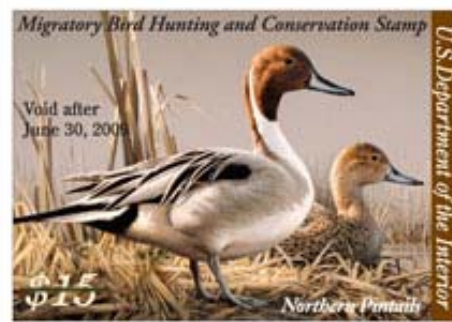
Senator Wayne Allard, Senator Ken Salazar
Congressman Mark Udall, Congressman John Salazar
Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (interested in property rights.), and Congresswoman Diana DeGette.

An easy way to write these people might be through the "Write your Representative" website:
<https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml>



Picture Quiz Answers

B: American Coot
A: Canada Goose



Support Wetland Conservation

Chris Abrahamson, G. Oetzel, and
<http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/>

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps," are pictorial stamps produced by the U.S. Postal Service for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. They are not valid for postage. Originally created in 1934 as the federal licenses required for hunting migratory waterfowl, Federal Duck Stamps have a much larger purpose today.

Sales of the Duck Stamp generate approximately \$25 million annually to fund acquiring wetland habitat through the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since the inception of the Duck Stamp in 1934, sale proceeds have generated \$670 million which has been used to purchase or lease 5.2 million acres in all 50 states. In Colorado, 2.4 million stamps have been sold since 1934. The Alamosa NWR, the Arapahoe NWR, the Browns Park NWR, and the Monte Vista NWR have all been funded in part by Federal Duck Stamp sales. Understandably, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has been called one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated and is a highly effective way to conserve America's natural resources.

The cost of the stamp is \$15.00, and 98% of the sales proceeds go directly to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to assist in funding acquisitions. Besides serving as a hunting license and a conservation tool, a current year's Federal Duck Stamp also serves as an entrance pass for National Wildlife Refuges where admission is normally charged. Duck Stamps and the products that bear duck stamp images are also popular collector items.

The 2008-2009 Migratory Bird and Conservation Stamp goes on sale June 27, 2008 at the US Post Office and select sporting goods stores. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Federal Duck Stamp as it is commonly known. Wildlife artist Joe Hautman of Minnesota won the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest from among 250 entries with his depiction of a pair of Northern Pintails resting on reeds. Mr. Hautman also won in 1992 with his painting of a Spectacled Eider in flight and in 2002 with his rendering of a group of Black Scoters.

The Cantabile Singers

present "Songs of Nature"

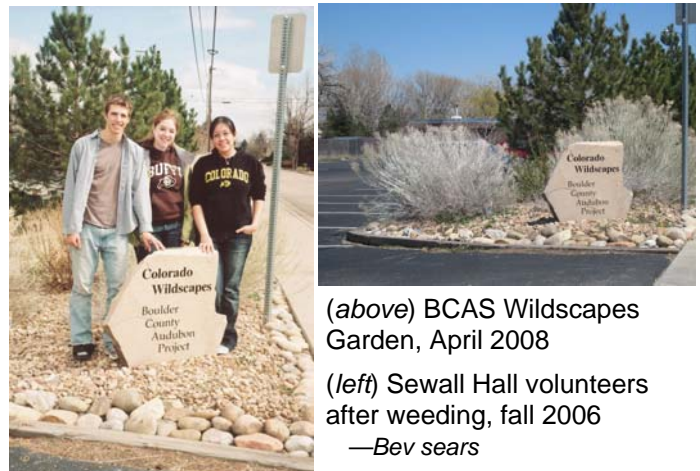
The Cantabile Singers, directed by Robert Farr, will perform "Songs of Nature" on Saturday, May 17 at 7:30 and Sunday May 18 at 4:00 pm at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 3700 Baseline Road in Boulder.

The concerts celebrate nature through works by Copland, Finzi, Thompson, Dvorak and others. Combining music and information, the group will sing of birds, whales and even grasshoppers to raise awareness for animal preservation. Boulder-area nature organizations including Boulder County Audubon Society, Boulder Parks and Open Space and Wild Earth Guardians will participate with lectures and live demonstrations.

The Cantabile Singers, a 35-voice ensemble, performs music from classical to jazz, gospel and folk.

Adult tickets are \$10. Students/seniors are \$8. For information or reservations visit: <http://bouldercantabile.org> or call 303-499-8502.

This program is funded in part by the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).



(above) BCAS Wildscapes Garden, April 2008

(left) Sewall Hall volunteers after weeding, fall 2006

—Bev sears

BCAS Wildscapes Garden

As part of a 1-credit course, CU students at Sewall Hall choose community organizations to learn about and help with three hours of volunteer work. When several students chose to work with BCAS, Steve Jones and Bev Sears found productive ways to put them to use.

Our Wildscapes Garden at the Unitarian Universalist Church requires periodic weeding, of course. That was an ideal way for one small group to spend their volunteer hours. Others joined Steve Jones for a winter raptor survey and a bird and mammal survey in Long Canyon for the ecosystem stewardship project.

BCAS volunteers have taken over the weeding this year. Be sure to come early to the May chapter meeting to see how the garden has grown.

Board members for FY 2009

Each year at the May Chapter meeting, we hold elections to select the officers and board members for the coming fiscal year (July-June). We are always seeking people with interest in the board or committees.

Board meetings are open; the schedule is subject to change. Contact any board member (see page 2 of any issue of OTW) for the time and location of the next meeting. Vote at the meeting or mail your ballot to BCAS, P.O. Box 2081, Boulder, CO 80306

Boulder County Audubon Society Board Ballot for FY 2009

Accept all candidates
President

Linda Andes-Georges
Vice president

Neal Thielen
Secretary

Joan Dawson
Treasurer

Mary Balzer
Members at large

Chris Abrahamson

J.D. Birchmeier

Angela Borland

Maddy Goldhawk

Deb Henson

Steve Jones

George Oetzel

GROCERY COUPONS SUPPORT BCAS

Every time you buy food (or wine or beer), you could be supporting this chapter and its goals of backyard habitat creation, school-room programs for kids, and protection of important bird areas in our own county.

Cards and certificates are used exactly like cash. You are whisked through the check-out line as though you were handing over greenbacks. Every \$100 you spend puts \$5 or \$10 into the BCAS piggybank for our local chapter needs at no cost to you.

Our friendly coupon sales contacts :
Maureen Lawry, tel. 303 499 3833, Bev Sears, tel. 303 499 4751, or Linda Andes-Georges, tel. 303 772 3239

Coupons are always available at chapter meetings, the fourth Tues. of each month. Bring your checkbook!

If you would like to receive your coupons or cards through the mail, we will double-enclose them and post them after receiving your check. A number of people are now doing this regularly. Use the order form below.

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Make checks payable to Boulder County Audubon Society and mail to BCAS Coupons, 2385 Vassar Dr, Boulder, CO 80305-5726

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Wood Duck — Bill Schmoker
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See page 6

Program May 27
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into Our Wilds**

Steve Armstead, Jan Chu,
and Natalie Robinson



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Join Your Local Chapter! (or Renew Membership)

Local memberships are an important part of the support that makes this newsletter and our other activities possible. We get very little return from national memberships. (NAS membership is not required for membership in the local chapter.)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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To join or renew both BCAS and NAS, please duplicate the form and send separately.

- \$20 Annual Boulder County Audubon membership
 - \$ _____ Additional contribution
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Mail to: Boulder County Audubon Society
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