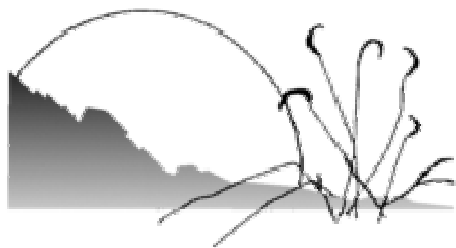


BOULDER COUNTY NATURE ASSOCIATION



Volume 22, Number 2
Spring 2005

Whither the Visitor Plan NOW ?

In the last newsletter, Steve and Scott masterfully summarized the status of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Visitor Plan that will guide the use and management of our city's lands for the next 10 years. Given recent progress, we now expect the City Council to act on the Visitor Plan in April.

What happened in February? Members of BCNA and others did a fine job writing to the Open Space Board of Trustees and speaking out at their February 23 meeting, including some who'd never before done so! The Board repeatedly referred to what they'd heard as they decided to approve the Plan with the following changes:

- ◆ Require on-trail use in Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs), the most sensitive areas, instead of just "encouraging" compliance.
- ◆ Delete Competitive Events from the Plan, because they are inappropriate on OSMP lands and there is no real demand for them.
- ◆ Support, by a vote of 3 to 2, keeping the HCA designation for the area between the Shanahan farm and South Boulder Creek and the area west of Dowdy Draw.

There was much discussion about dogs, and the Board encouraged staff to identify 'no-dog trails' all round the city to meet the clear need for them and decrease conflicts concerning dogs. In addition, they asked staff to monitor dog use and control and change regulations as necessary based on compliance or lack thereof.

What's next? The Board of Trustees' recommendations will now be reviewed by the Planning Board on March 17 to determine if the Plan complies with the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan. The Board's recommendations will be reviewed by the City Council on April 5. As always, these final decisions will be influenced by citizen input, so it is important to make your voice heard.

How can I get involved? The agendas and background memos for Planning Board and City Council meetings can be found on the Web at www.ci.boulder.co.us and at the Main Public Library. The e-mail addresses and phone numbers of members and the details about meeting times and locations can be found there as well. To speak at either meeting, it is important to arrive early and sign up for one of the 3-minute time slots.

-Karen Hollweg Feel free to contact me at:
khollweg@stanfordalumni.org or 303-494-2016.

Ecosystem Symposium Addresses Imperiled Species

"Species in Peril" is the theme of this year's Boulder County Ecosystem Symposium, Monday, April 25, at the Boulder Public Library Auditorium. The symposium, which is free and open to all, is sponsored by BCNA, Boulder County Audubon, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, and Colorado Native Plant Society. Following an introductory talk by University of Colorado ecologist Jeff Mitton, scheduled speakers will describe rare and sensitive plants, locally imperiled birds, population status of mountain lions and Preble's jumping mice, Swainson's hawk nesting success, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife's lynx recovery program. We hope you can join us for part or all of this exciting day.

- Jan Carnes, Joyce Gellhorn, Kim Graber, Steve Jones, Jim McKee, symposium organizing committee.

Symposium Schedule:

- 10:00 to 10:30 am: Free Registration, Boulder Public Library Auditorium, 9th and Canyon.
- 10:30 to 11:10 am: Jeff Mitton
Keynote talk on future threats to plants and wildlife in Boulder County.
- 11:15 to 11:40 am: Lynn Riedel
"From Peak to Prairie: Rare and Sensitive Plants and Communities of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks."
- 11:45 to 12:10 pm: Anne Ruggles and Carron Meaney
Federal listing and population status of prebles jumping mouse.
- 12:15 to 12:40 pm: Steve Jones
"Boulder County's Most Imperiled Birds."
- 12:45 to 1:55 pm: Complementary Buffet Lunch
- 2:00 to 2:25 pm: Wendy Keefover-Ring
"State of Pumas in the West: Heading Towards Overkill?"
- 2:30 to 2:55 pm: Blake Schmidt
"Nest Site Selection by Swainson's Hawks in an Urbanizing Corridor of Colorado's Northern Front Range."
- 3:00 to 3:25 pm: Tanya Shenk
"The Colorado Lynx Reintroduction Project; Have We Achieved Success?"

BCNA Spring Calendar

Sunday, April 10, 4-7 PM: BCNA board meeting and pot-luck dinner. All members are invited. Home of Michael and Jean Delaney, 5464 Raritan Place, in Boulder. 303-494-8583.

Sunday, April 17, 3-5 pm: Wintering Raptor Survey compilation at Sue Cass's house, 4560 Hanover Avenue, in Boulder. All volunteers, including those interested in signing up for next fall, are invited. Sue Cass 303-494-5345.

Monday, April 25, 10 am to 3:30 pm: Boulder County Ecosystem Symposium: "Species in Peril." Free registration begins at 10 am at the Boulder Public Library Auditorium, 9th and Canyon. See article and schedule on p. 1.

May 1-15: Indian Peaks Spring Bird Count. For information or to volunteer, contact Bill Kaempfer (Kaempfer@colorado.edu; 303-443-3175).

Friday, May 13, 7 pm: "On Ancient Wings: the Sandhill Cranes of North America." Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder, 5001 Pennsylvania Avenue, off 55th St. between Arapahoe and Baseline. Join acclaimed photographer Michael Forsberg for a spectacular sight and sound show tracking the migration and nesting ecology of cranes. Michael has traveled extensively while working on his new book on crane ecology and conservation. He will sign copies of his book after the program. Steve Jones (Stephen.jones@earthlink.net; 303-494-2468).

Saturday, May 14, 10 am-Noon: Wildflowers of Foothills Forest and Meadows. Meet at the Heil Ranch picnic shelter (turn north from Lefthand Canyon Drive about a half mile west of US 36). Jim McKee (494-3393), Sue Cass. *

Thursday, May 19, 6-9 am: Breeding Bird Survey and Forest Inventory, Foothills Coniferous Forest. Meet at the Chautauqua Ranger Cottage parking area near 9th and Baseline. Steve Jones. *

Saturday, June 18, 6-9 AM: Breeding Bird Survey, Grassland and Plains Riparian Woodland. Meet at the South Boulder Creek Trail, Marshall Road and Broadway (0.4 miles south of the Greenbrier light). Steve Jones.*

Thursday, June 23, 7 PM: "Invasive Weeds and Their Impacts on Wildlife Habitat in Boulder County," with master gardener Susan Fernald. George Reynolds Branch library community room, 3595 Table Mesa Drive (2 blocks west of Broadway opposite King Soopers). Jointly sponsored by Boulder County Audubon Society.

Saturday, July 2, 6-9 AM: Breeding Bird Survey, Foothills Coniferous Forests. Meet at the Chautauqua Ranger Cottage parking area near 9th and Baseline. Steve Jones*

* These field trips are also workshops for ecosystem stewardship volunteers. Contact Steve Jones 303-494-2468. Stephen.jones@earthlink.net.

Sightings

On January 20 Sean Burns observed a moose cow and her calf wandering through the lodgepole pines near the Sourdough Trail trailhead.

An 18-month-old trumpeter swan spent the last two weeks of December and the first part of January in one of the gravel ponds along the South Boulder Creek Trail, east of Marshall Road. The young swan seemed content to spend its days floating in openings in the ice, feeding on invertebrates and vegetation sucked up from the pond bottom. An adult trumpeter showed up on Lake Valley pond (Niwot Road) in late February.

New raptor hotspot: Sandstone ranch trail, 3 miles east of Longmont on Highway 119. A three-quarter mile trail winds through sandstone bluffs overlooking St. Vrain Creek. There's a beautiful 1880s second-empire style ranchhouse, exposed Pierre shale beds loaded with sea-shells, and a bald eagle roost one mile to the east. We saw a number of bald eagles, along with a golden eagle, a northern harrier, and a half-dozen red-tailed hawks.

Drought relief: Here are 365-day percentage of average precipitation totals for stations in Colorado and adjacent states through February 25: Boulder 140, Alamosa 95, Grand Junction 145, Pueblo 107, Cedar City (Utah) 147, Salt Lake City 115, Winslow (Arizona) 175, Albuquerque 160, Farmington 140, Goodland 113, Dodge City 127, Lander 125, Cheyenne 90, Scottsbluff 83, North Platte 105. Source: National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center Global Time Series.

Urban Birding: A Very Hungry Red-Tail

A mild February morning I looked out my kitchen window and saw a squirrel falling from the sky. He hit the ground running after being pursued across the roof of a three-story apartment building by an immature light phase Red-tail Hawk. After being evaded by the squirrel, the hawk perched on the edge of the roof surveying the area for about 10 minutes. We excitedly watched as it flew from the roof of the building towards a nearby flock of pigeons and caught a pigeon on a balcony. After catching the pigeon, the hawk perched on the railing watching the pigeon struggle on the balcony below.

It was comical to observe the rest of the pigeon flock. They perched on the edge of the roof craning their necks to watch the fate of their friend and the hawk's every move. After a few minutes the hawk retrieved his prey and flew down to the grass to begin eating the still struggling pigeon. A few bites later he flew with the pigeon up to another rooftop and then flew out of our sight to enjoy his meal undisturbed by us curious onlookers.

-Rebecca Hill

2004 Volunteer Projects Summary

More than 100 BCNA volunteers devoted at least 2500 hours to local conservation and research projects in 2004. If you would like to volunteer for any of these projects, contact the coordinator listed below. Don't worry about your level of expertise; all of us began this work as wide-eyed volunteers.

Allegra Collister Bird Banding: 670 hours. Joe Harrison (303-772-3481). Spring and fall bird-banding at this BCNA-managed preserve in Lykins Gulch helps us track populations of neotropical migrant song-birds. Last fall five volunteers banded 469 birds, including 144 Wilson's warblers, 43 orange-crowned warblers, and a hatch year chestnut-sided warbler. Volunteers barely avoided tripping over a large black bear in the gulch.

Avian Species of Special Concern Monitoring: 15 volunteers, 150 hours. Steve Jones (303-494-2468) and Dave Hallock (eldora@rmi.net). Osprey (6 nests) and American bitterns (5 territories) seem to be doing well. Boulder County's two bald eagle nests fledged a single young. Two northern harrier nests near Boulder Reservoir fledged at least 6 young. A lone burrowing owl nest near Boulder Reservoir fledged 3 young. We found no evidence of nesting by least bitterns, red-headed woodpeckers, northern shrikes, northern bobwhites, or brown thrashers.

Cliff-nesting Raptors: 100 hours. To volunteer, contact Lisa Dierauf (Dierauf@ci.boulder.co.us) with Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks or Mark Brennan (mbrennan@co.boulder.co.us) with Boulder County Parks and Open Space. It was a relatively good year for golden eagles and prairie falcons. Peregrine falcons nested successfully at only a couple of known sites.

Coal Creek Riparian Renaissance: 200 hours. Steve Jones (303-494-2468). Numbers of shrub-nesting and cavity-nesting birds continue to increase five years after fencing of the riparian corridor to exclude cattle. Wet conditions contributed to an increase in numbers of ground-nesters, including grasshopper sparrow and western meadowlark. We hope to submit an article summarizing our results in 2006.

Ecosystem Stewardship Initiative: Steve Jones (303-494-2468). Fifty volunteers have signed up so far for this long-term monitoring project, which will begin this spring.

Ecosystem Symposium: 12 volunteers, 100 hours. Joyce Gellhorn (303-442-8123). About 120 scientists, naturalists, and other environmentalists attended the 2004 symposium, which focused on human connections with natural systems.

Field Ecology Classes: 8 volunteers, 100 hours. Carol Kampert (303-499-3049). We offered 13 classes, including new classes on lichens, warblers, Arapaho natural history and cosmology, and Front Range geology.
Indian Peaks Bird Counts: 350 hours. Dave Hallock

(eldora@rmi.net) and Bill Kaempfer (303-939-8005). Now in its 23rd year, this is the only high-altitude four-season bird count in North America. We published a 20-year summary, written by Dave, that highlights declining and increasing species and concludes that fluctuating weather patterns have a strong influence on high mountain bird populations.

Newsletter, Nature-Net, and Web Site: 15 volunteers, 200 hours. George Oetzel, web site (303-543-3712); Rebecca Hill (303-786-0553) and Steve Jones (303-494-2468), newsletter. Visit our greatly expanded web site: www.BCNA.org.

Publications: 2 volunteers, 100 hours. Steve Jones (303-494-2468).

Wintering Raptor Survey: 45 volunteers, 500 hours. Sue calves (303-494-5345) This survey, now in its 22nd year, continues to chart steep population declines of wintering ferruginous and rough-legged hawks. Wintering bald eagles have approached record numbers in eastern Boulder County.

Front Range Mountain Lion Research

As many of you know, the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) has undertaken a lion research project on the south part of the Uncompagne Plateau. The first year of this research is well underway and I have been seeking a way to extend this to the urban interface along the front range corridor. To facilitate this I attended the winter meeting of the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society in Colorado Springs in January. The day before the meeting, they sponsored a mountain lion management symposium.

During the symposium, I spoke to staff members from the various open space departments who were attending the meeting and invited them to a short meeting after the symposium. Ken Logan (lion researcher) and others from CDOW came to the meeting and we were able to show general interest in lion research among all of the open space departments as well as CDOW. Janet George, the wildlife biologist from the Northeast Region, agreed to be the focal point for preliminary planning for this effort.

Since the meeting, Janet has found increased enthusiasm among the CDOW leadership team and will be holding meetings with other division staff to determine exactly what form they think the research should take. Following that, she will hold a meeting with open space departments and interested public(s) to see what results they expect from the research. The division will provide some preliminary funding but open space departments will have to provide financial and/or staff support as well. The Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation has also expressed interest in helping fund this research.

-Jim McKee

Allegra Collister Nature Preserve

I sometimes wonder if all the members of BCNA are really aware and appreciative of Allegra Collister Nature Preserve (ACNP), also known as Lykins Gulch. I know that very few members have viewed this special place. What is it? Where is it? Why is it? Well, it is a significant, but small, piece of protected foothills riparian wildlife habitat. It's only 8 miles north of Boulder; 7 miles due west of Longmont and situated along St. Vrain Road. It's there, and protected, because the property owner and BCNA worked together to establish a conservation easement, which secures the site, in perpetuity, as a nature sanctuary.

Who is it? It's you, all the members of BCNA. It's yours to be proud of and to preserve. How many of you have seen it? Or, enjoyed it? Or, worked to improve, protect or sustain it? There are always studies to be done, of one kind or another, that might benefit the site and contribute to our understanding and appreciation of all it has to offer. Also, necessary maintenance chores such as weeding and clean up; or, repairing fences and building bridges. ACNP needs your attention and support.

A team of bird banders has been actively observing the feathered users of the "gulch" since 1991. Additional bird banding records exist for the site all the way back to the mid 1950s; most of them logged by the site's namesake, Allegra Collister. Almost by default, the banders have become the guardians and custodians of ACNP. Their labors have helped to keep the site relatively clean and also minimize the impact of noxious weeds. Yes, it has been hard work at times. But, the reward exceeds the effort. It has been a privilege.

The City of Boulder Open Space Herbarium Volunteers have completed a study of the vegetation in the gulch. Their efforts have provided a marvelous collection of information about the existing plant communities. And, their work is an excellent example of how others can become involved. If you cannot find the time to become an "eco-system steward", perhaps you could devote a little time at the "gulch". There is an interesting array of insects, butterflies, moths, dragonflies, reptiles, small mammals and so much more. Subjects for study projects abound. Aren't you curious? Embrace the place!

Some members may have the mistaken belief that ACNP is **off limits**. Its true that the area is posted with "no trespassing" and "keep out" signs. It's also true that access is limited. See the website regarding the access protocol. For good reason, access permits have been required to enter the property. However, this does not mean that you should avoid ACNP. In fact, you are encouraged to be proactive and be involved. Member visitors, volunteers and researchers are welcome. A caveat: There is nowhere to park a vehicle at ACNP; neither on the property nor along the road. Fortunately, ACNP has a neighbor who allows several cars to park, across the road, at their driveway entrance. There is not a lot of space and everyone must be careful not to block the

driveway. An unfamiliar vehicle would require some type of BCNA identification (perhaps the "access permit") be clearly displayed in a window so that suspicions would not be aroused. And, if possible, our neighbor is grateful if advance parking information is provided so it's not necessary to investigate possible unauthorized vehicles. We respect our neighbor's concerns.

Can you be counted on to contribute? Will you become a participant? Would you like to learn more about the available opportunities? Or, can you suggest a project that you might be interested in accomplishing? Come to our springtime work party and picnic. It might be the perfect occasion for you to familiarize yourself with this parcel of important habitat.

- Joe Harrison

Work Party Saturday April 23, 9am-1pm at Allegra Collister Nature Preserve.

Directions: Coming from Boulder turn right on St. Vrain Rd. Preserve is 1/4 mile east of Hwy 36 at 4560 St. Vrain Rd. Bring snacks, gloves and garden tools. We'll be weeding and doing general cleanup/trash pick up. Garbage bags provided. Contact Joe Harrison 303-772-3481 or avianpursuits@comcast.net.



Ptarmigan
Joyce Gellhorn

Thorne Ecological Institute Classes

The Thorne Natural Science School has been connecting kids to nature through hands-on environmental education for 50 years. Register for summer courses along the Front Range. Login to www.thorne-eco.org or call Thorne Ecological Institute (303) 499-3647 for a free catalog and more info.

What's Ahead for the Ptarmigan?

Over the many years of watching white-tailed ptarmigan, I have become very protective of them. Imagine my disappointment at not finding even any signs of "my birds" during the winter of 2003 after spending many years searching and observing the winter flocks near Lefthand Reservoir. Instead of finding ptarmigan, I saw telltale signs of moose—moose droppings and willows heavily browsed and trampled by large feet. Throughout that winter I kept going back again and again to check on the status of the birds, hoping that they would return, and being disappointed at not finding them. Clearly the moose had displaced the birds. I suppose I should not have been so surprised—I know that I would have let a moose push me out of my home if I were a ptarmigan.

As winter approached the following year, I was eager to find out who would inhabit the ptarmigan's favored willow habitat. Near the end of October there was just enough snow to ski and although the day was windy and I did not see any birds, I saw forms, depressions in the snow where birds roost overnight, filled with their droppings. My birds were back—I was overjoyed.

A few weeks later on a bird survey of Rainbow Lakes valley, I saw signs of moose. The moose were now occupying a different locale than in 2003, which allowed the ptarmigan to return to their previous wintering habitat. In the late 1970s, the Division of Wildlife transplanted moose, not native to Colorado, to the western slope. Finding suitable habitat, moose populations grew and they expanded their range over the Continental Divide to the Eastern Slope. In many areas moose won out in competition with other wildlife—providing another example in which introducing non-native species has had a negative impact upon native ecosystems.

A similar situation has occurred in Rocky Mountain National Park. Elk, though native, were reintroduced to the Estes Park area, after they had been hunted nearly to extinction in the early 1900s. By then, predators of elk that served to regulate their population numbers had also been eliminated. As elk populations soared, they required greater areas to forage. Many bull elk began to inhabit alpine areas during winter—areas from which they formerly migrated away. During winter, the elk's diet included more shrubs, which impacted ptarmigan populations whose mainstay in winter is willow buds. As elk populations increased, the delicate balance of alpine ecosystems became disrupted and ptarmigan populations declined.

Over the past 150 years, ptarmigan have been impacted by human activities in many ways: mining caused heavy metals to leach into wetlands, global warming has changed climates, and suitable habitat has diminished due to increased hiking and road construction in alpine areas.

One metal whose effects have been studied is cadmium, a trace metal in ore-bearing rock. As cadmium-rich water

leached from mine slag piles into wetlands, it was taken up and concentrated in willows. Ptarmigan that ate willow buds contaminated by cadmium laid fewer eggs, their eggshells were more fragile, and their young had higher mortality rates. Luckily, in some contaminated areas, ptarmigan populations have begun to rebound as mine sites have been cleaned up.

Another worry is that global warming will eventually lead to extinction of ptarmigan. These birds are efficient at keeping warm in cold climates but are unable to thrive at high temperatures. If alpine areas become too warm, ptarmigan are likely to simply die off.

Increased direct confrontation between ptarmigan and people can also negatively affect the birds. One winter day at Lefthand Reservoir I skied up over the dam and stood, admiring clouds swirling around the mountain peaks and snow patterns on the ice. Looking toward the south side of the reservoir, I saw a dog with a red pack chasing back and forth in the willows barking and barking. Suddenly, three white birds rose into the air.

My ptarmigan—what was the dog doing disturbing my birds? I felt anger rise in my throat. Where was the dog's owner? Why didn't they control their dog?

I skied over, found lots of ptarmigan tracks and finally saw three birds huddled next to a krummholz tree. I watched them for a while and skied on. The dog came back toward me, scaring two more birds to fly. I tried to catch the dog but it bounded away. Then I heard voices, and skied until I found a couple packing up their camp. They had spent the night in the forest near the willow areas the ptarmigan use during winter.

Controlling my anger, I told the campers I was conducting a survey and asked them how many ptarmigan they had seen.

"What's a ptarmigan?" they asked.

"Did you see any white birds?" I replied.

"Oh, yeah. We didn't know any birds would be here in winter," they answered.

I told the couple about my study and explained to them that their dog in flushing the birds and making them fly was putting undue stress upon the ptarmigan. "These birds are living on the edge. They stay warm in winter by eating willow buds which are nutritious, by roosting in the snow, and by walking rather than flying to conserve energy."

The couple, even without my prompting, put their dog on a leash and thanked me. We said our good-byes and I went on to ski around the reservoir to look for more birds and they went homeward. I can only hope the couple gained a greater understanding and appreciation for my favorite birds.

-Joyce Gellhorn

April Fools PAGE

Prairie Dog Plan Sparks Controversy

A controversial plan for a development north of Boulder met with stiff resistance last Thursday during a meeting of the County Planning Commission. Opponents say that the development would destroy prime habitat for some of Boulder's favorite critters: humans or *homo sapiens sapiens*. The development plan, put forth by the Prairie Dog Homebuilders Association (PDHA) would entail bulldozing over a large area of human habitat, called a "subdivision," to put in a new colony.

Bill Smith, a spokesman for the PDHA, said opponents were "just trying to keep prairie dogs low on the food chain." He said that an independent consultant had conducted an extensive review and found that the damage to wildlife would be minimal. The results of that review, submitted in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), were challenged by wildlife enthusiast Craig Johnson.

"The EIS states that the humans in that subdivision could easily relocate to other suburbs," Johnson said at the Planning Commission meeting, "But we've heard that same thing every time a new prairie dog colony is put in. Pretty soon the humans are going to be relocated out of our county completely!"

And that has many Coloradoans upset, including Sarah Jackson, a professor at the University of Boulder. "Humans are a keystone species for the suburban habitat," Jackson said, "As the subdivisions are plowed over, you're going to see a lot of other species affected. We've already seen large declines in pigeons, European Starlings, cats, and dogs in other areas where there has been fragmentation of the human's habitat."

The PDHA doesn't agree. "You have literally thousands of humans in Boulder County," Smith countered, "By losing just one small subdivision, we'll be able to see the addition of 112 prairie dog dwellings to our county. Those 112 family groups of prairie dogs will boost the sagging county revenue considerably and lead to a better quality of life for everyone."

While some residents at the meeting disputed that, claiming their own prairie dog town property values would decline, others agreed with Smith. "I have to commute for 45 minutes each day to get from my

town to where I work," Samantha Yarrow said Thursday, "We need more housing closer to Boulder." Others complained that the human subdivisions are unsightly, saying "Wherever there are humans, all you see are barren patches of ground filled with concrete, asphalt, or Kentucky Blue Grass cut down to about two inches high. What kind of self-respecting prairie dog would eat that?"

As the debate rages around them, the County Commissioners will have to come up with the best solution for all Boulder County residents. And that has them with their heads in their paws.

-Keric Hill



Activists from the Prairie Dog Homebuilders Association lobby for a higher position in the food chain.

Photo: Steve Jones

Wise Guise

**White as winter is pthe ptarmigan
When snow is on pthe ground
But when pthe weather's warm again
His feathered coat is grayed and browned
He's pthe ghost of pthe ptundra in January
An impersonator of rocks in Oct.
He's a grouse most extraordinary...
In fact, he's pthe cock
on pthe ptop of pthe rock!**

-Ruth Carol Cushman

Spring Natural Events Calendar

Early April: Swainson's hawks arrive from Argentina, and burrowing owls from New Mexico and northern Mexico. Prairie falcons and peregrine falcons lay their eggs on flat, recessed ledges in the Flatirons. Pasque flowers bloom in profusion on Enchanted Mesa.

April 24: Full moon rises at 8:34 MDT
Ice Breaking in the River (Arapaho)
Green Grass (Pawnee)
When the Geese Lay Their Eggs (Cheyenne)

Early May: "Wild" asparagus is ripe for picking. Abert's squirrels perform their "mating bouts" in the pines. First prairie dog young appear above ground. Orange arnica carpets greening meadows in the foothills.

May 23: Full moon rises at 8:43 MDT
When Ponies Shed Their Shaggy Hair (Arapaho)
Planting (Lakota)
When the Horses Get Fat (Cheyenne)

Early June: Mule deer fawns are born in urban gardens. Burrowing owl young appear above ground. Look for a spectacular conjunction of Venus, Saturn, and Mercury above the western horizon throughout the month. The three planets group closest together on June 24.

June 21: Summer Solstice. On the longest day of the year, when the powers of nature are at their height, bonfires are built and leaped over to promote fertility, health, and love. Traditional midsummer herbs, including verbena, chamomile, rose, and lavender, are collected and used as incense.

June 22: Full moon rises at 8:47 MDT
Rose (Pawnee)
Yellow-Flower (Osage)
Strawberry (Ojibwa)

Bat Discovery Program at the Denver Zoo

Bat enthusiasts of all ages are invited to "Bat Discovery," a free program on Saturday, April 9, 2:30-4:30 pm at the Denver Zoo in the Gates Center in Norgren Hall.

This program was developed by teacher/naturalist W. Perry Conway of Aerie Nature Series. The program features bat photography from around the world, bat specimens, and original music. Dr. Rick Adams from the University of Northern Colorado will also speak about his current bat research along the Front Range. Dr. Adams is author of *Bats of the Rocky Mountain West*. Attendees will be able to buy tickets to the Zoo after the program for \$5.

This program is sponsored by the Colorado Bat Society and Colorado Division of Wildlife. Carron Meaney, 303-444-2299 or meaney@colorado.edu

BCNA Board of Directors

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Vice President....Sue Cass (303-494-5345)
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Barbara Hawke (303-527-1819)
Carol Kampert (303-499-3049)
Jim McKee (303-494-3393)

Committees and Contacts

- *Allegra Collister Birdbanding Site:*
Joe Harrison (303-772-3481).
- *Education:*
Carol McLaren (303-530-9108) and
Carol Kampert (303-499-3049).
- *Indian Peaks Bird Counts:*
Dave Hallock (303-258-3672) and
Bill Kaempfer (303-939-8005).
- *National Forest Management:*
Tim Hogan (303-444-5577).
- *Newsletter:*
Rebecca Hill (303-786-0553),
rebecca.hill@gmail.com
and Steve Jones (303-4942468)
- *Website:*
George Oetzel (303-543-3712).
- *Publications:*
Steve Jones (303-494-2468).
- *State and Regional Wildlife Issues:*
Jim McKee (303-494-3393).
- *Wintering Raptor Survey:*
Sue Cass (303-494-5345) and Jim McKee

BCNA Publications Available

Hallock, Dave. 2004. Indian Peaks four season bird counts, twenty-year summary. 20 pages including a 20 graphs and charts. \$3.

Jones, Stephen, and Linda Mahoney. 2003. Owls of Boulder County. 52 pages including 20 black-and-white illustrations. \$6.50.

To order, write or e-mail Steve Jones, 3543 Smuggler Way, Boulder, CO 80305; stephen.jones@earthlink.net. Please add \$1.50 for shipping costs.

Support the Boulder County Nature Association

Name _____

Address _____

Phone and/or E-mail (optional) _____

Type of Membership:

_____ Student/Senior (65 or over)	\$15
_____ General Member	\$20
_____ Family or Household	\$30
_____ Supporter	\$50
_____ Founder	\$100
_____ Life Member	\$300
_____ Corporate	\$500

The membership year is January 1 to December 31. Those who join after October 1 are considered members in good standing through the following year. All members receive this quarterly newsletter. Supporter-level members and higher also receive a complimentary copy of each BCNA publication.

Please make checks payable to "Boulder County Nature Association" or "BCNA" and mail to: P.O. Box 493, Boulder, CO 80306.

Boulder County Nature Association
P.O. Box 493
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