

# Boulder County Nature Association



"The Boulder County Nature Association is a private, non-profit membership organization committed to preserving the natural history of our region through research, documentation, and public education."

Volume 26, Number 2  
Spring 2008

## "The Beetles Are Coming": 15th Boulder County Ecosystem Symposium

Boulder and regional scientists will discuss natural and human-induced disturbances in Front Range forests at this year's ecosystem symposium, Saturday, April 5, at the University of Colorado Ecology Department's Ramaley Auditorium.

As always, the symposium is free and open to all. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The auditorium is located in the building directly east of the main entrance to Norlin Library. Parking (\$3 all day) is available at the UMC lot on Euclid St. and the Recreation Center lot between Norlin Library and University Avenue.

The annual symposium is cosponsored by BCNA, Boulder County Audubon, Boulder Bird Club, Colorado Native Plant Society, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, and the University of Colorado.

### Schedule

8:30-8:50: Free registration, coffee/tea.

8:55: Welcome. Steve Jones, Boulder County Audubon Society/Boulder County Nature Association.

9:00: Tom Veblen, University of Colorado Geography. "Historic Range of Variability of Fire and Insects in Front Range Forests."

9:55: Jeffry Mitton, University of Colorado Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. "The Beetles Are Coming."

10:35-50: Break.

10:55: Charles Rhoades, US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station. "Studying the Watershed Effects of Mountain Pine Beetles at the Fraser Experimental Forest."

11:35: David Leatherman, "Front Range Forest Insects and Birds--Lessons Learned."

12:30-1:25: Complimentary buffet lunch.

1:30: Chad Julian, Boulder County Parks and Open Space. "Boulder County Forest Restoration and Fire: Challenges of Current Science, Entrenched Beliefs, Public Perception and Internal Processes."

2:10: Heather Swanson, Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks. "Forest Thinning and Breeding Bird Communities."

2:50: Dave Hallock, Boulder County Nature Association. "High Elevation Birds and Recent Climate Change: Are These the Good Years?"

3:30: Closing remarks. Joyce Gellhorn, Boulder County Nature Association.

## Treasures in the Woods: Eco-Stewards Report Rare Birds and Butterflies

BCNA eco-stewards reported sightings of birds, mammals, and recreationists in 24 wild areas of Boulder County during 2007. A total of 138 breeding birds were documented, along with nearly 100 butterflies.

Donn and Cathy Cook found a Snow's skipper (*Paratrytone snowi*) and a canyonland satyr (*Cyloopsis pertepida*) in Coulson Gulch, northwest of Lyons, both first observations for the North St. Vrain Canyon area. Volunteers also found calling flammulated and northern saw-whet owls in Coulson Gulch, along with a three-toed woodpecker.

Laura Osborn found a recently fledged olive-sided flycatcher in Meyers Gulch, at Walker Ranch Open Space. Laura also confirmed nesting dusky grouse, wild turkeys, western bluebirds, mountain bluebirds, and vesper sparrows at Meyers Gulch. Marty Dick confirmed nesting western and mountain bluebirds on Bald Mountain.

Nancy Neupert and Bay Roberts found a mother black bear foraging with her two cubs in the Spring

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Brook drainage of Eldorado Mountain. Elaine Hill, Carol Kampert, and Maureen Lawry observed another family of three bears in Skunk Canyon. Other mammal sightings included elk in Long Canyon and along Coal Creek east of Highway 128 (Linda Andes-Georges, Paula Hansley, Steve Jones), six white-tailed deer near the South Boulder Creek Trail (Ron Butler), a hoary bat at Pella Crossing Open Space (Todd Deininger), and Abert's squirrels at several locations.

A. D. Chesley and Wendy Stuart saw recently fledged green herons foraging with their parents at Walden Ponds in July. If accepted as a nesting confirmation, this would be the first documentation of green herons nesting in Boulder County. A.D. and Wendy also reported a solitary black-crowned night heron nest at adjacent Sawhill Ponds.

In all, Eco-Stewards devoted more than 700 hours to monitoring wildlife populations and recreational use in their adopted areas. There are dozens of additional areas suitable for adoption. If this all sounds like too much fun (it is!), consider joining us at our annual spring meeting, scheduled for Sunday, May 4, at Walker Ranch (see calendar).

- Steve Jones

### Boulder County Nature Association 2007 Volunteer Projects Summary

More than 150 volunteers contributed at least 4000 hours to BCNA projects during 2007. Here's a brief summary of some of those projects. If you'd like to join up, call the contact person listed. No prior experience is required.

**Allegra Collister Bird Banding:** 7 volunteers, 480 volunteer hours. Maggie Boswell (303-684-0369). The crew completed their 17th year of bird-banding at the preserve in Lykin's Gulch, south of Lyons. 125 birds of 35 species were banded during the spring session. 17 of these birds have been banded during previous seasons.

**Avian Species of Special Concern Monitoring:** 20 volunteers, 100 volunteer hours. Dave Hallock and Steve Jones (303-494-2468). We received nearly two dozen reports from volunteers monitoring potential nest sites of species of special concern. We now have 5 bald eagle and 8 active osprey nest sites in the county. Burrowing owls, northern harriers, red-headed woodpeckers, and loggerhead shrikes are

down to two or fewer nests. American bitterns are increasing and should soon be removed from the "rare and declining" list.

**Boulder Reservoir Avian Species of Special Concern Monitoring:** 24 volunteers, 216 volunteer hours. Joy Master and Steve Jones (303-494-2468). For the fourth consecutive year, Boulder Parks and Recreation Department volunteers monitored nesting sites of northern harriers, American bitterns, burrowing owls, and osprey at Boulder Reservoir. Four bittern sites were located. A single northern harrier nest failed. No burrowing owls nested. Two osprey nests produced a total of four young.

**Cliff-nesting Raptors:** Nan Lederer (compiler and report writer). This project, initiated in 1982 by BCNA, is now in the hands of City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, and the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest. About 60 volunteers monitor 8-12 golden eagle nests and 6-8 peregrine falcon and prairie falcon nests each year. Nan distributes a summary report each year.

**Coal Creek Riparian Renaissance, with Boulder County Audubon Society:** 6 volunteers, 200 volunteer hours. Steve Jones (303-494-2468). We completed our 10th year of monitoring bird populations inside the four-mile-long Coal Creek grazing enclosure. Numbers of shrub-nesting and cavity-nesting birds have nearly doubled since fencing was completed in December 1999. Elk now graze within the study area year-round, and bald eagles have nested successfully for two consecutive years. We are (slowly) working on an article.

**Conservation and Administration:** Volunteers participated in state wildlife meetings, Boulder County Open Space public hearings, and Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks trail study meetings. 15 volunteers, 300 volunteer hours.

**Ecosystem Stewardship:** 40 volunteers, 800 volunteer hours. Steve Jones (303-494-2468). 27 wild areas have been adopted in Boulder County. Volunteers report annually on breeding bird populations, mammal observations, and recreational use. A few volunteers have also begun to carry out breeding bird point-counts and butterfly surveys. Data will be shared with local parks and open space/forest service agencies and used to better conserve natural areas.

**Ecosystem Symposium:** 15 volunteers, 200 volun-

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teer hours. Joyce Gellhorn (303-442-8123). Last year's symposium, which focused on climate change, was attended by 150 scientists and conservationists.

**Field Ecology Classes:** 6 volunteers, 100 volunteer hours. Carol Kampert (303-499-3049). We offered 12 classes which were attended by more than 110 students. Classes offered during 2007: Ptarmigan, Butterfly Gardening, Owls, Bird Song, Nebraska Sandhills, Warblers, Birds of Montane Forests, Alpine Wildflowers, Dragonflies, Microphotography, Elk and Aspen, and Raptor Ecology.

**Field Trips and Special Events:** 10 volunteers, 200 volunteer hours. 6 field trips and 3 program meetings were held. In addition, there were 5 training sessions for eco-stewards that were open to all members.

**Indian Peaks Bird Counts:** 48 volunteers, 612 volunteer hours. Dave Hallock and Bill Kaempfer (kaempfer@colorado.edu). These four-season counts have been tracking mountain bird populations for 26 years. Dave Hallock is writing a 25-year summary for publication in 2008.

**Publications:** Steve Jones (303-494-2468). 15 volunteers, 150 volunteer hours. We completed work on a bird song CD, "Dawn Chorus in the Colorado Rockies," which was created by students in the BCNA Bird Song class. Other recent publications include: Hallock, Dave. 2004. *Indian Peaks Bird Counts 20-Year Summary*; Jones, Stephen and Linda Mahoney. 2003. *Owls of Boulder County*; Hallock, Dave, and Stephen Jones. 1999. *Boulder County Avian Species of Special Concern List*. All publications are distributed free to supporting members and offered for sale at BCNA meetings and events.

**Wintering Raptor Survey:** 54 volunteers, 500 volunteer hours. Sue Cass (303-494-5345). We completed our 25th year of monitoring raptor populations on the plains of Boulder County. Ferruginous hawks and rough-legged hawks continue to decline as grassland habitat becomes more fragmented. Data are still being used by Boulder County Parks and Open Space to identify raptor concentration areas and critical wildlife habitat.

***Thank you BCNA volunteers!***

Chris and Deb Abrahamson, Linda Andes-Georges, Dianne Andrews, Bev Baker, Karen Beeman, Earl and Barbara Bolton, Maggie Boswell, Megan Bowes, John Brocklehurst, Alex Brown, Diane Brown, Gregg and Genie Burch, Sean Burns, Deidre Butler, Ron

Butler, John and Jan Carnes, Diane Carter, Sue and Alan Cass, A. D. Chesley, Jan Chu, Jo Clark, George Coffee, Cathy Comstock, Cathy and Donn Cook, Terry Cookro, Andy Cowell, Ruth Carol Cushman, Paul Culnan, Sharon Daugherty, Michael Delaney, Todd Deininger, Marty Dick, Virginia Dionigi, Sharon Dooley, Becky and Bill Eeds, Darlene and Jim Eide, Libby Ellis, Tom Erickson, Tony Esposito, Kayla Evans, Lee and Virginia Evans, Fern Ford, Mike Figgs, Laura Fisher, Dave and Peg Fletcher, Fern Ford, Janice and David Fossey, Maryanne Flynn, Joyce Gellhorn, Jean-Pierre Georges, Beverly Gholson, Kathy Gibson, Ginny Gielow, Merrill Gilfillan, Nancy Gobris, Audrey Godell, Cali Goffin, Kim Graber, Christine Guzy, Dave Hallock, Jack Haeger, Paula Hansley, Kelly Hanson, Phyllis Hasheider, Elaine Hill, Jim Holitza, Jessica Hoyt, Sonya Hueftle, Chuck Hundertmark, Ken Hughes, Linda Hughes, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Carol Kampert, Lark Latch, Will Keeley, Maureen Lawry, Nan Lederer, Evelyn Leigh, Rebecca Linn, Dave Madonna, Adam Massey, Gary Matthews, Janet McLachlan, Matthew Maclaren, Lisa McCoy, Jim McKee, Ruth McCarrison, George and Petrea Mah, Merle and Sally Miller, Jeff Mitton, Jeff Moline, Naseem Munshi, Ralph Musfeldt, Betty Naughton, Nancy Neupert, Carol Newman-Holitza, George and Marti Oetzel, Laura Osborn, Linda Palmer, Becky and Joe Pem, Mark and Sue Ponsor, Mark Pscheid, Mike Riley, Bay Roberts, Charley Rosicky, Shelley Schlender, Carol Schott, Billy Schweiger, Scott Severs, Caryl Shields, Natalie Shrewsbury, Leonard Sitongia, Jean Sobolik, Susan Spalding, Terry Stuart, Wendy Stuart, Lynn Sullivan, Dave Sutherland, Karen Swigart, Joyce Takemine, Oak Thorne, Janet Trunbule, Michael Tupper, John Vanderpoel, Tom VanZandt, Lysa and Mort Wegman-French, Tom Wilberding, Deanna Williams, Bob and Ru Wing, George Young.



**BCNA Spring Calendar**

Saturday, April 5, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Boulder County Ecosystem Symposium. See article, page 1.

Sunday, April 27, 4-6 p.m.: BCNA board meeting. All members are invited. Michael Delaney's, 5464 Raritan Pl, Boulder. 303-495-8583.

Friday, May 2, 9 a.m.: "Champion Cottonwood Field Trip." Meet at Pella Crossing to carpool to see the largest plains cottonwood in the United States. Leader, Pascale Fried. Call Carol Cushman (303-604-2250) for more information, and to reserve a space. We will spend some time birding at Pella Crossing after the cottonwood excursion. Co-sponsored by Boulder County Audubon.

Saturday, May 3, 8-10 a.m.: Roll and Stroll - A Birding Excursion for the Mobility-Challenged and Everyone Else! Join other birders using wheelchairs, strollers, walkers, or just plain legs, for a relaxed tour Sawhill Ponds, located off 75th St. between Valmont and Jay roads. Meet at the information gazebo at Sawhill Ponds in a few minutes before 8. Sponsored by Boulder County Audubon. Leaders: Mary Balzer (marybalzer@qwest.net), Scott Severs, and Topher Downham.

Sunday, May 4, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Ecosystem Stewardship volunteer training and rendezvous at Walker Ranch. New and old volunteers are welcome at this annual spring gathering. We'll do a breeding bird and mammal survey, then picnic among the aspens. Bring binoculars, rain gear, and a sack lunch. Meet at the Meyers Gulch trailhead (on the right, 8 miles up Flagstaff Mountain Road) at 8, or the Chautauqua Ranger Cottage parking area to carpool at 7:40. Call Steve Jones (303-494-2468) for more information.

Tuesday, May 13: Breeding Bird Atlas block party, 6-10 a.m.: Here's a chance to learn and practice breeding bird atlas techniques while helping to complete work on the Boulder atlas block. A few remaining Boulder County blocks will be available for adoption. Meet at the Gregory Canyon parking area, at the west end of Baseline Road. For information, call Steve Jones (303-494-2468).

Wednesday, May 28, 6-10 a.m.: Breeding bird survey at Walker Ranch. Steve Jones (303-494-2468) and Laura Osborn will lead this early morning survey at one of Boulder County's birding hotspots. Laura has documented more than 65 breeding species here, including Williamson's sapsucker, olive-sided flycatcher, western bluebird, and red crossbill. Meet at the Meyers Gulch picnic area (on the right, 8 miles up Flagstaff Mountain Road) at 6 or at the Chautauqua Ranger

**BCNA Board of Directors**

President.....Sue Cass 303-494-5345  
Vice President.....Kim Graber 303-494-7971  
Treasurer.....Michael Delaney 303-494-8583  
Secretary.....Natalie Shrewsbury 303-494-6102

Carol Kampert 303-499-3049  
Mort Wegman-French 303-543-0150  
A.D. Chesley 303-938-8150  
Jan Carnes 303-827-3024

**Committees and Contacts**

-*Avian Species of Special Concern:*  
Dave Hallock (dheldora@rmi.net) and  
Steve Jones (stephen.jones@earthlink.net)

-*Ecosystem Stewardship:*  
Steve Jones (303-494-2468)

- *Education:*  
Carol Schott (303-530-9108) and  
Carol Kampert (303-499-3049)

- *Indian Peaks Bird Counts:*  
Dave Hallock (303-258-3672) and  
Bill Kaempfer (303-939-8005)

- *Membership*  
A.D. Chesley (303-938-8150)

- *Newsletter*  
Scott Severs (303-684-6430)  
Steve Jones (303-494-2468) and  
George Oetzel (303-543-3712)

- *Publications:*  
Steve Jones (303-494-2468)

- *State and Regional Wildlife Issues:*  
Jim McKee (303-651-2414)

- *Website:*  
George Oetzel (303-543-3712)

- *Wintering Raptor Survey:*  
Sue Cass (303-494-5345)  
and Jim McKee (303-651-2414)

cottage parking area to carpool at 5:40.

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

### Wild Women and Wild Flowers

June 30 - July 2, 2008, Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center, Allenspark, CO: Women, join us on an adventure to find and identify wildflowers in three different life zones,...montane, subalpine and alpine, and to explore the important connections between flowers and butterflies. For those of you who enjoy birding, there will be optional early morning and early evening guided bird walks. Evening programs on wildflowers, birds and butterflies will help prepare you for interpretive walks on the following day. Participants must be able to walk 1 to 1 1/2 miles at elevations of 8,500 to 11,000 feet. The cost of \$188.00 per person is based on quadruple occupancy and includes lodging, all meals and transportation by campus van to off-site locations. Instructors and interpretive naturalists include Zelma Hall, Sue Cass, Cathy Cook and Terri Anderson. For additional information and/or to register: [www.highlandscamp.org](http://www.highlandscamp.org) or Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center, PO Box 66, Allenspark, CO, 303-747-2888.



### Call for Proposals

BCNA is pleased to offer research funding by giving small grants for projects consistent with our mission.

Grants are available in two categories:

The Ken Evenson Memorial Grant, up to \$1,000, is available specifically for research on our native cats. One grant may be awarded.

General BCNA grants, up to \$1,000, fund projects that will add to our understanding of the natural history of Boulder County or will augment the existing documentation of the county's ecosystems. Past projects include a scientific survey of butterflies, a study of bat species and their ecological requirements, and a comparison of flora and fauna adjacent to trails that allow dogs and don't allow dogs, among many others. Exceptional proposals may be considered for funding at a slightly higher level. Three or four grants are available in 2008.

Proposals should include a detailed methodology, timeline, a complete budget (including other funding sources if applicable), and be limited to five pages. Note that no institutional overhead is allowed. Individuals at institutions requiring overhead can apply as independent scholars. Successful applicants sign a contract specifying that they will complete the project in 2008 and share the results with BCNA.

Applications should be submitted not later than Monday, March 31, either to the BCNA post office box or electronically to [michael.delaney@colorado.edu](mailto:michael.delaney@colorado.edu)

Boulder County Nature Association  
P.O. Box 493  
Boulder CO 80306

### Help Monitor Birds of Special Concern at Boulder Reservoir

Steve Jones will lead a workshop on the morning of Saturday, April 12, for those who would like to help out with monitoring of nesting northern harriers, American bitterns, osprey, and burrowing owls. We're asking for a commitment of at least two hours per month, April-July. For more information contact Mary Malley at the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department: [malley@m@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:malley@m@bouldercolorado.gov)

**Photo Credits** Page 3: Black Bear yearling, Steve Jones; Page 5: Harlan's Hawk and Red-winged Blackbird, Steve Jones; Page 6: Common Poorwill, Scott Severs; Page 7: Common Nighthawk, Scott Severs.

### Volunteers Needed for Nightjar Survey

Nightjars are among the most enigmatic group of birds in the world. Little is known about the basic aspects of their life history, such as habitat requirements, demographics, and population density because of the difficulty in studying their nocturnal lifestyle. In recent years, conservationists and the general public have come to share the general sense that populations of Nightjars are declining throughout North America. However, there have not been large-scale or long-term monitoring programs designed to survey this group of birds when they are active at night. It is critical to gain insight into the precise scale, location, and magnitude of population changes if we are to plot a course of conservation for these species.

In the spring of 2007, The Center for Conservation Biology constructed the Nightjar Survey Network to begin the process of collecting data on the population distribution and population trends of Nightjars across broad regions of the United States. The Network was initially introduced into the southeast and is being expanded in 2008 to provide coverage throughout the contiguous United States.

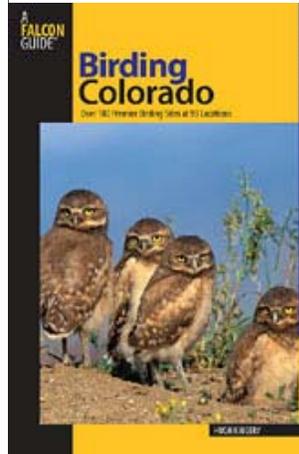
The Nightjar Survey Network relies on volunteer participation by conservation-minded citizens, biologists, and other like-minded groups to adopt and conduct survey routes. Surveys are conducted much like the United States and Canada Breeding Bird Surveys except for important modifications to accommodate the biology of Nightjars. Nocturnal behaviors of Nightjars are strongly influenced by moonlight. Activities such as calling and foraging increase under bright moonlight and breeding may be directly tied to the lunar schedule. The Nightjar Survey Network was designed to take advantage of this life history trait by restricting surveys to bright moonlit nights. This protocol substantially improves the accuracy and precision of surveys by reducing the systematic errors associated with moonlight and will further act to strengthen the statistical power needed to draw conclusions from collected data.

Visit the U.S Nightjar Survey Network Website to examine location of routes, register for the survey, view instructions, download data sheets, and see results. Please consider adopting a Nightjar Survey Route, your participation is vital to the success of the Network.

**UNITED STATES NIGHTJAR SURVEY NETWORK,**  
<http://www.ccb-wm.org/nightjars.htm>

### On the Bookshelf

#### ***Birding Colorado:* Over 180 Premier Birding Sites at 93 Locations**



by Hugh E. Kingery  
 Price: \$19.95  
 ISBN: 0-7627-3960-6  
 Publisher: Falcon

From prairies to peaktops, Colorado attracts an intriguing mix of birds, from Mountain Plovers to Rosy-Finches and Lazuli Buntings to Black Swifts. Birders from all over the country visit Colorado to see western and prairie specialties in scenic splendor. *Birding Colorado*

lists likely birds at each site. A 15-page Appendix lists status and distribution of all the species recorded in the state.

Take this book along as you visit treeless prairies in Pawnee National Grassland; cottonwood stream bottoms along the major rivers that rise in Colorado (North and South Platte, Republican, Arkansas, Rio Grande, San Juan, Colorado, and Yampa/Green); pinyon-clad mesas of southeastern and western Colorado; chasms, mesas, and mountains in four national parks (Black Canyon, Great Sand Dunes, Mesa Verde, and Rocky Mountain); marshes, ponds, and streams in four national wildlife refuges (Arapaho, Browns Park, Alamosa, and Monte Vista); incomparable mountain, mesa, and prairie highways and byways. Or simply use it for a day or two during a ski vacation, family outing, or urban visit.



### Common Nighthawk; The Nocturnal Flycatcher

Late afternoon and evening hikes in the foothills during summer provide a pleasant change from the hot temperatures of the midday sun. While some animals are settling down for the night, others are just beginning their day. Crickets commence their incessant chirping, spiders emerge from dark hideaways, and owls begin searching for waking mice and voles. Just before the sun falls behind the divide, a nasal peerrnt emanates from above. A quick scan of the air, and a swallow-like bird bounces across the sky catching insects and calling frequently, a common nighthawk.

Not truly a hawk, nighthawks share more in common with their relatives the whip-poor-wills, which together make up a family of birds called the nightjars. Members of the nightjar family have gaping mouths to scoop insects out of the air. This wide mouth led to a myth that they drank milk from the udders of goats and the family was once collectively known as the goatsuckers. Today the family name is derived from the jarring notes of their calls. Additionally, members of this group are covered with marvelous cryptically-colored feathers marbled with grays, browns, and tans helpful in concealing them from predators, as most species nest on the ground.

Not entirely nocturnal, nighthawks tend to be crepuscular, most active in the twilight hours of dawn and dusk, a common trait of the nightjar family. Foraging at these times allows nighthawks to take advantage of a bounty of moths, beetles, and other flying insects unavailable to birds hunting during the daylight hours. Pursuing insects on the wing enables nighthawks to catch great numbers of insects in a short period of time.

When viewed from below, common nighthawks are shaped much like swallows, with long pointed wings adapted for an aerial lifestyle. Distinctive white patches out towards the tip of the dark wings identify nighthawks in the air. A white throat patch and band across the tail set apart the male from the female.

As spring days lengthen into summer, male nighthawks perform spectacular courtship dives in the midst of their consorts. While the female rests on a



nearby tree, a male nighthawk circles high above, calling frequently...peerrnt...peerrnt...peerrnt... Finally his flight stalls like a small plane and he begins to plummet at his mate sitting below. At the bottom of the dive he pulls up and the wind whistles through the outer flight feathers of his wings producing a whooshing sound...v r r rroommm. The booming sound reminds me of some wacky sound in a Warner Brothers cartoon I may have watched as a kid.

In late May, June or July, females produce two light gray eggs speckled with browns. Nighthawks have no nest, but rather lay their eggs on gravelly soils. Occasionally, flat gravel roof tops host nest sites for the nighthawk. If the nest area becomes too hot for the eggs and young, nighthawks have been known to move them to a cooler spot. Additionally, adult nighthawks feign injury to draw coyotes and other ground searching predators away from the nest. The male brings food to the female which incubates the eggs for about 20 days. The young will fly and forage on their own about 3 weeks later.

In Colorado, common nighthawks occur in open habitats from border to border. In our area they especially like open ponderosa pine woodlands edging mountain meadows. Good places to see foraging and displaying nighthawks include Betasso Preserve, Bald Mountain, and Walker Ranch. In the fall, sizable flocks of nighthawks gather along the Dakota Hogback for their trip to South America, a sure sign that summer's end is approaching.

- Scott Severs

# 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	\$40
_____ Founder	\$100
_____ Life Member	\$300
_____ Corporate	\$500

- \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to General Research Grants
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to Evenson Big Cat Research Grants
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to General Research Fund

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  
Boulder, CO 80306