

## 2009 BCNA Volunteer Projects Summary

More than 160 volunteers devoted nearly 4000 hours to Boulder County Nature Association projects during 2009. Thank you all!! New volunteers are always welcome and appreciated. No prior experience is required, but you must be willing to spend time in the field learning on your own. Contact the project coordinator listed at the end of each description, below.

**Allegra Collister Bird Banding.** It was a fairly lackluster banding season, but volunteers put in fewer hours than usual for fall. Travel, weddings, and other activities converged this year. We caught no new species for the gulch, but did band our tenth red-eyed vireo, our fourteenth American redstart, and released, unharmed, our third rufous hummingbird since 1991. (We are not licensed to band hummingbirds.) The only species that had a noticeably high count was gray catbird at 24 banded. The previous five years we averaged 11.6 catbirds in fall. A CU student, Mysti Martin, is planing to study environmental impacts on migration and phenology in birds in a master's program. She is using data gathered from banding ACNP in her studies. 7 participants. 497 hours. Maggie Boswell (picab@qwest.net).

Participants: Virginia Dionigi, Deanna Williams, Marcel Such, Joel Such, Renee Haip, Bill Baker (weed cutting), Maggie Boswell.

**Birds of Special Concern Monitoring.** Northern harriers nested successfully within Boulder County for the first time since 2004, a lone pair fledging four young in the wetlands west of Boulder Reservoir. Bald eagles and ospreys had their most successful nesting years on record. On the downside, no one confirmed nesting for any of the following rare and declining birds: northern bobwhite, Lewis's woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, loggerhead shrike, and lark bunting. Green heron (occupied nest at Walden Ponds) and rose-breasted grosbeak (adult feeding young on Marshal Mesa) were new nesting confirmations for Boulder County. We've begun preliminary work on a 10-year update of the Boulder County avian species of special concern list. 33 participants, 500 hours. Dave Hallock and Steve Jones (curlwsj@comcast.net).

Observers reporting: Linda Andes-Georges, Dianne Andrews, Larry Arp, Mark Brennan, Alex Brown, Cathy Comstock, Linda Cooper, Sharon Daugherty, Ken DeBow, Lisa Dierauf, Carol Dozier, Dave Hallock, Paula Hansley, Sarah Hollowell, Jan

Hambrick, Steve Jones, Will Keeley, Chuck Klomp, Sandra Laursen, Petrea Mah, Adam Massey, Joy Master, Ralph Musfeldt, Betty Naughton, Christian Nunes, Linda Palmer, Chris Petrizzo, Mark Ponsor, Sue Ponsor, Susan Spaulding, Gary Stevens, Joyce Takamine, Nan Wilson.

**Coal Creek Riparian Restoration** (with Boulder County Audubon). We completed our 12th year (10th year since fencing) of monthly bird point-counts within the Coal Creek riparian corridor grazing enclosure, which extends from Superior westward to the Jefferson County line. Numbers of native shrub-nesters have nearly tripled since fencing was completed in 1999. Numbers of native cavity-nesters and tree canopy-nesters have nearly doubled. The bald eagle pair nested successfully for the fourth consecutive year, and elk continue to migrate down into the riparian corridor. 8 participants, 150 hours. Steve Jones (curlwsj@comcast.net).

Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Dianne Carter, Merrill Gilfillan, Petrea Mah, Paula Hansley, Steve Jones, Christian Nunes, Rachel Weaver.

**Ecosystem Stewardship Initiative.** With just over half of the 2009 reports in, we're seeing some interesting trends. Gray catbirds and blue-gray gnatcatchers are moving up into the mountains, hooded warblers appear to be colonizing several foothills canyons, and Cooper's hawks are nesting all over the county, including downtown Louisville and West Boulder. Noteworthy mammal sightings included a pine marten at Buttonrock Preserve, numerous elk on the plains, and black bears with cubs in several locations. To date, 29 wild areas have been adopted. 40 participants, 750 hours. Steve Jones (curlwsj@comcast.net).

2008-09 reporters/trip participants: Chris and Deb Abrahamson, Dianne Andrews, Linda Andes-Georges, Kit Basom, Greg and Genie Burch, Sean Burns, Ron Butler, Kathy Byrne, A.D. Chesley, Janet Chu, Jo Clark, Cathy Comstock, Cathy and Donn Cook, Ruth Carol Cushman, Marty and Don Dick, Libby Ellis, Paula Hansley, Elaine Hill, Steve Jones, Carol Kampert, Sandra Laursen, Maureen Lawry, Janet MacLachlan, Petrea Mah, Jeff Moline, Betty Naughton, Nancy Neupert, Laura Osborn, Bay Roberts, Jeanne Scholl, Jeanne Sobolik, Wendy Stuart, Karen Swigart.

**Field Classes.** Twelve classes were attended by approximately 120 students. The main job of the

*(Continued on page 5)*