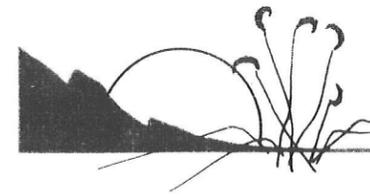


Membership Application  
Boulder County Nature Association



Boulder County Nature Association  
P.O. Box 493, Boulder, Colorado 80306

Spring 1990

Newsletter

Vol.7 No.2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Student and Senior Citizen (65 and over)	\$ 5
<input type="checkbox"/> General Member	\$ 10
<input type="checkbox"/> Family or Household	\$ 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Subscriber	\$ 30
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Trust/Subscriber (\$20 to Boulder County Land Trust)	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/> Founder (\$70 to Boulder County Land Trust)	\$ 100
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member	\$ 300
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Member	\$ 500
<input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder (\$700 to Boulder County Land Trust)	\$1000

Membership year is January 1 to December 31. Members who have joined since October 1 are considered paid through the following year. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and discounts on BCNA publications. Subscribers receive a complimentary copy of each BCNA publication that is published during the membership year. New Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department Volunteer Naturalists receive a one year free general membership. Newsletter information is available from Mike Figs (447-1899)

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

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

*A red check mark indicates that your membership has expired.*

*Printed on Recycled Paper*

*Boulder County Land Trust  
Accepts Dollaghan/Crowell Easement*

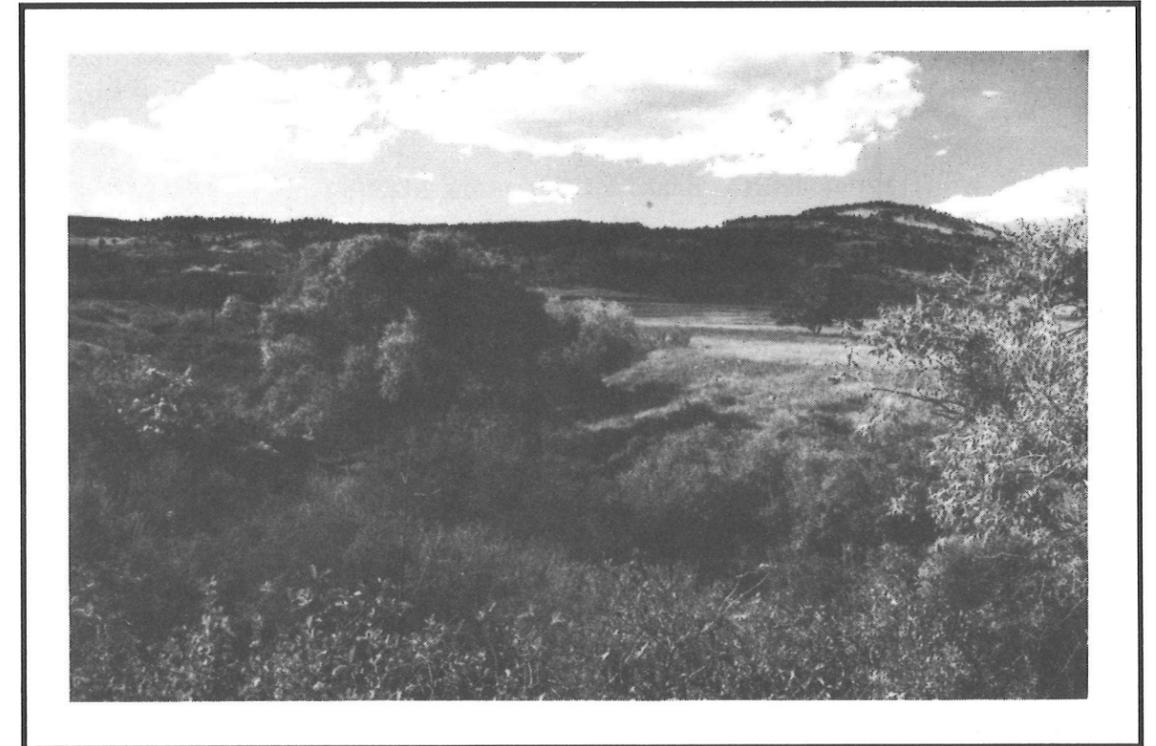


Photo of the Lykins Gulch riparian area included in the Dollaghan/Crowell Conservation Easement. Riparian habitats such as this are considered one of the most important wildlife habitats in Colorado.

At its March meeting the Boulder County Land Trust Advisory Board unanimously voted to accept the Dollaghan/Crowell conservation easement that will preserve and protect a plains riparian ecosystem known as "Lykins Gulch". The Boulder County Nature Association Board of Directors is scheduled to take final action on this project at its April 19 meeting.

The conservation easement will

create the Allegra Collister Nature Preserve which will protect the riparian ecosystem that includes a small perennial stream, wetlands, and mature cottonwood and box elder trees. Plains riparian ecosystems are one of the richest wildlife habitats in Colorado, in a documented state of decline, and one of the highest habitat conservation priorities of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife.

*(continued on page 4)*

## BCNA Spring Events Calendar

Note: additional activities are described under *BCNA Volunteer Activities* and *Boulder County Land Trust Update*.

### Tuesday, April 10 BCNA Spring Program: From Winter Wheat to Western Wheat(grass)--The Future of Gunbarrel Hill

The City of Boulder Open Space program has undertaken an exciting prairie restoration project on city open space land on Gunbarrel Hill. Utilizing the federal Conservation Reserve Program in cooperation with private agricultural lessees, the city intends to remove from crop production portions of city open space on Gunbarrel Hill, with the land to be returned to a native prairie condition. The program will be presented by Dick Antonio, City of Boulder Open Space Agricultural Manager.

This will be a joint meeting with the Boulder Chapter of the Colorado Native Plant Society. The meeting will be held at the Foothills Nature Center, 4201 North Broadway, in Boulder, at 7:30pm.

### Thursday, April 19 BCNA Board of Directors Meeting

At the home of Jim Knopf (494-8766), 320 Hollyberry Lane, in Boulder. 7:00pm

### April 20-22 Earth Day Weekend

Whether celebrating with the masses in town, or enjoying quiet solitude in the backcountry, enjoy your earth day weekend. There are two BCNA related activities scheduled for this weekend described under *Volunteer Activities* on page four and *Boulder County Land Trust Update* on page six.

### Saturday, May 5 Indian Peaks Spring Bird Count

High altitude bird watching in western Boulder County from ponderosa pine forests to the tundra. The spring count documents high altitude migrants and the early nesting season. To participate call Mike Figgs (447-1899) or Dave Hallock (449-3503).

### Monday, May 21 Boulder County Land Trust Advisory Board Meeting

Call Jay Reed (499-6224) or Mike Figgs (447-1899) for details

### Friday, June 15 Summer Newsletter Deadline

Send camera-ready material to Mike Figgs, 2635 Mapleton Ave. #77, Boulder, CO, 80304.

### Saturday, June 16 Indian Peak Summer Bird Count

The summer count documents the breeding bird species in western Boulder County. Count results are a key element for monitoring the populations of sensitive species. To participate call Mike Figgs (447-1899) or Dave Hallock (449-3503).



## Thank You For Supporting BCNA With Your Membership

Boulder County Nature Association membership is based upon the calendar year. If you have not sent in your membership dues for 1990, now is the time to renew. Please use the membership application on the back of this newsletter. Your mailing label notes if your membership is paid for 1990, as well as the level of membership.

Many levels of membership are available and a portion of your dues support BCNA projects including 1) volunteer projects like those described on pages three and four 2) conservation activities as described on page eight and nine, and 3) private sector land conservation through the Boulder County Land Trust, a real estate program of BCNA, as described on one, six and seven. *Thank you for your support!*

#### Subscribers

Matthew Applebaum & Joni Teter  
Sherry Barber  
Jack & Tressa Coss  
Deb Drissell  
Wendy Emrich  
Stephen Frye & Suzanne Joy  
Randy Gietzen  
Steve Jones & Nancy Dawson  
Joe Mantione  
Paul Rutigliano  
Tom & Ridi Van Zandt  
Delani Wheeler

#### Land Trust/Subscribers

Mac & Sandi Fraser  
Elaine & Dave Hill  
Tim Hogan  
Roger Jakoubek

#### Founders

Cindy Carlisle & Baine Kerr  
Ann & David Getches  
David & Melinda Harrison  
Midge Korczak & Hal Osteen  
Jim Morris  
Nan Lederer & Mike Figgs  
Bob & Phyllis Ripple  
Richard Thompson  
Brian & Wendy Underhill

#### Life Members

Lee & Virginia Evans  
Bill Kaempfer  
Rocky Mountain Nature Association  
Gilbert White

#### Stakeholder

Southwestern Portland Cement Company

### *Boulder County Nature Association Board of Directors*

#### President

Jim Knopf--1990

#### Vice-President

#### Treasurer

Roger Jakoubek--1991

#### Secretary

Mike Figgs--1991

#### Directors-

Rich Smith--1990  
Earl Bolton--1990  
Mike Sanders--1990  
Steve Jones--1991  
Randy Gietzen--1991

### *Boulder County Land Trust Advisory Board*

#### President

Jay Reed--1990

#### Vice-President

John Gooding--1990

#### Treasurer

William H. Kaempfer--1990

#### Secretary

Mike Figgs--1991

#### Directors-

John Firor--1991  
Mac Fraser--1990  
Falice Furst--1991  
Jim Knopf--1991  
Midge Korczak--1990  
Lee Rozaklis--1990  
Craig Tribolet--1991  
Bob Walker--1990  
Kay Wilson--1991

## Habitats of Boulder County: Libraries

An understanding of the natural history of Boulder County has always benefited from the contributions of amateur naturalists. An outstanding amateur ornithologist and historical personality of Boulder County naturalists is Denis Gale, who worked the mountains and plains of the northern Front Range from 1883 to 1893.

Gale spent early adulthood in the lumber business in Quebec, where travels in the Canadian wilds sharpened his interest in the natural world. At forty, Gale pursued an art career, in Albany and in Philadelphia, where he became an art critic of note, leading to numerous appointments, including the charge of the United States Art Exhibit in Paris in 1878. In 1881 he became interested in mining at Gold Hill in the mountains of Boulder County, and began yearly visits to Colorado, usually from April through November.

However, his natural history interests quickly came to the fore, and Gale became a tireless field worker, traveling mostly by foot. Gale would typically walk from Boulder to Gold Hill and the next day on to Ward or back to Boulder, carefully making ornithological observations along the way. Field work took place under all weather conditions, such as his observations of nesting Clark's nutcrackers during the harsh mountain spring seasons. He traveled as far north as the Cache la Poudre "stopping wherever night overtook him and welcome at any ranch house". Incredibly, his field activities took place from the age of 55 to 65 (take heart, aging baby boomers!), and he was finally slowed by a gunshot wound to the knee after which he could no longer climb steep mountain slopes.

Gale recorded his field work in personal notebooks, and along with his oological (egg) collections these notebooks became the foundation for his work with many famous nineteenth century naturalists. Charles Bendire's *Life History of North American Birds* draws in part from Gale's accounts of twenty two species. Gale's work was widely published in *The Auk*, *The Condor*, and *Bird Lore*. Upon his death, that portion of Gale's collection not already sent to the Smithsonian Institution was purchased by Simon Guggenheim and donated to the University of Colorado Museum.

As one delves into natural history records for Boulder County, Gale's work becomes increasingly significant. His description of golden eagle nests became the backbone for Malcolm Jollie's baseline dissertation on nesting territories in the Northern Front Range in 1943. Workers at the University of Colorado--Henderson, Betts, and Anderson--drew extensively from Gale's notes for their Boulder County bird lists compiled during the first half of this century, as did Alfred Bailey and Robert Niedrach in *Birds of Colorado*.

After Gale's death, Professor Junius Henderson completed in 1907 two annotated copies of Gale's notebooks; the carbon copy he kept, the other along with the original was deposited with the University of Colorado. Nearly eighty years later only Henderson's original typed copy could be located, which was in the protection of the Norlin Library Rare Books Room. In spite of good care, this copy had become seriously dilapidated.

Working with Nora Quinlan, Head of Special Collections at Norlin, Nan Lederer arranged to have the notebooks copied on microfilm, from which a master copy was made. After cleaning up the master, including retyping several pages that reproduced poorly, ten copies were made so that now there are twelve copies plus the microfilm. The project was funded through BCNA publications.

The ultimate value of Gale's work is the documentation of bird life in Boulder County and the northern Front Range 100 years ago. Gale recorded nine golden eagle breeding territories, including Bear Canyon in the Boulder Mountain Parks, Lefthand Palisades, Little Thompson, and Horsetooth Mountain, all of which are active today. His accounts of nesting birds give us clues to their increasing, stable, or declining populations. In particular, the habitat descriptions for prairie and riparian habitat species have assisted in determining causes of population declines.

Perhaps much of the field work sponsored by BCNA will be this significant 100 years from now when we may be collectively remembered as the Denis Gale of the 1980's.--Mike Figgs

## BCNA Volunteer Activities

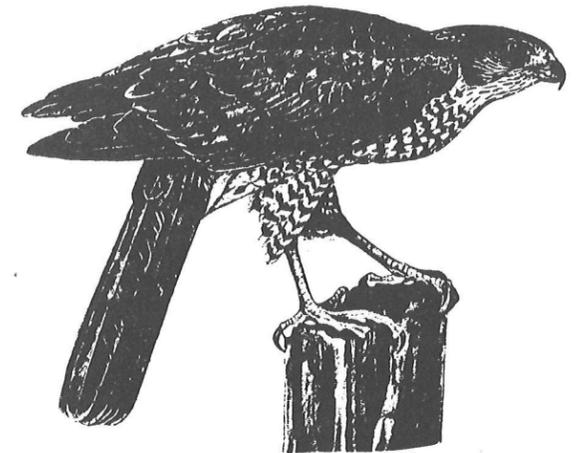
### Adopt-a-Species

The Adopt-a-Species program is developing a corps of committed volunteers to monitor wildlife populations and become advocates for wildlife in Boulder County.

Thirteen volunteers attended the first meeting of the adopt-a-species project on March 5. Twenty-five volunteers have already signed up to represent a species threatened or endangered in Boulder County. Species already represented include golden eagle, prairie falcon, burrowing owl, river otter, badger, black bear, and...believe it or not...Kentucky bluegrass has been adopted by one of our resident court jesters. Species not yet spoken for include bobcat, long-eared owl, willow flycatcher, and bog orchid.

Our next meeting will be Thursday evening, May 24, at Walden Ponds, at 6:00pm. The meeting will include a tour of Walden and Sawhill and a discussion of how to observe wildlife.

If you would like to get involved with this project and meet a wonderful group of folks, give me a call at 494-2468.--Steve Jones



### Cliff Nesting Birds of Prey

Spring is here! Mabel, the ancient golden eagle, is on the nest again in Skunk Canyon for the eighth consecutive year. Other golden eagles are nesting in Lefthand Canyon and South St. Vrain Canyon; prairie falcons are nesting on the Third Flatiron. One of the BCNA rites of spring is the annual monitoring of eagle and falcon nest sites.

The increase in rock-climbing activity into areas of the Boulder Mountain Parks that were previously little-used has caused concern that the falcons may be subject to a great deal more disturbance than they have been up to now. We need to document how much disturbance there is and how much the birds can tolerate, so that effective protective management plans can be applied. A request for volunteers by the Mountain Park Rangers drew 37 people, most of whom have been asked to search for and monitor prairie falcon nests in the Mountain Park.

Regarding organizational matters, we now have a computer data base for recording nest site monitoring and other important sightings. Participants may now call in their sightings, rather than record everything on the onerous monitoring forms we have used in years past. Just call in your report and leave a message on the answering machine, stating the date, time, duration of observation, nesting activity, and other relevant information. And we will be revising the golden eagle publication, but will now probably wait until the 1990 field season is completed.--Nan Lederer 447-1899

## *BCNA Volunteer Activities*

### *Cry of the Crane*

*a project of Dance For Diversity*

BCNA is co-sponsoring this educational event which communicates about endangered species using an artistic medium. We need volunteers to help with logistics of performances--operate lights and slide projector, stage crew, ushers--field trip logistics, organizational aspects--mailings, phone calls--and having lots of fun. We have a scholarship fund and need four more participants in the workshop/field trip to reach our goal of having 14 dancers matching the current population of 14 whoopers in our fly way. Come join the effort; you'll learn about the crane's situation. We invite you to cry out for the cranes. Please contact Melinda Harrison (442-3026) if you have any questions.

**Earth Day Outdoors Performance:** April 22, Waneka Lake Park, Lafayette, 12noon  
**Boulder Creek Festival Workshop:** May 24-27  
**Boulder Creek Festival Performance:** May 27, Charlotte Irey, 7pm.

### *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas*

Boulderites are encouraged to participate in the 1990 field season. The Atlas Steering Committee set a goal of starting 500 new blocks and completing 250. In contrast, with our massive effort so far we have started 567 blocks, and completed 177. We've set a big goal--we need your help.

Those field workers who have accepted field assignments, but have not begun field work, are urged to get out in the field this year. If you have accepted an assignment and cannot conduct field work, please call Bill Kaempfer, the Boulder Regional Coordinator (h:939-8005, w:492-4486), in order for Bill to designate other field workers to cover these assignments that are not being worked. If you have questions regarding the Atlas, contact your Regional Coordinator. Join us in one of our training sessions to brush up on field work procedures.

**April 5 Training Session: Discussion of Breeding and Habitat Codes.**  
 7:00pm Zoology Dept., Denver Museum of Natural History (use employee/volunteer entrance, easternmost door, north side).

**April 8 Training Field Trip**  
 7:00am Meet at Denver Museum of Natural History, north parking lot.

**June 1-3 Baca County Atlas Rendezvous**  
 Stay at the Division of Wildlife cabin at Two Buttes Reservoir and work on nearby blocks. Meals will be furnished, bring your sleeping bag. Register with Beth Dillon (1228 W. Myrtle, Fort Collins, CO 80521;h:490-2610, w: 484-2836), or Steve Jones.

**June 30 High Plains Atlas Rendezvous**  
 Join Steve Jones for a day of birdwatching on two BCNA Atlas blocks near Fort Morgan. We'll divide into two teams, one for each block, and hold a scavenger hunt of sorts to see which team can find the most species. Call Steve at 494-2468 for more information.



North St. Vrain Creek Canyon from Cook Mountain. North Sheep Mountain is on the right, South Sheep Mountain is on the left. Portions of the privately owned Sheep Mountain Ranch are in the center background, from the canyon bottom up to and including much of the open slopes behind North Sheep Mountain. This ranch is proposed for acquisition by the US Forest Service, and congress has appropriated funds for the purchase. The North Sheep Mountain dam would have been between North and South Sheep Mountains and been over 500 feet high, half the height of the canyon. North Sheep Mountain is winter range for bighorn sheep. South Sheep Mountain harbors a golden eagle nest.

### *Boulder County Comprehensive Plan Environmental Resources Element*

The five year review and update of the Plan continues. Of particular interest to BCNA members is the proposed addition of wetlands 10 acres or larger and significant riparian areas to the Environmental Resources Element, thus strengthening protection for these critical ecosystems. Dave Hallock in the Parks and Open Space Department is overseeing the development of the Environmental Resources Element.

### *City of Boulder Tributary Greenways Program*

Public hearings for adoption of the greenways tributary master plan will take place before the Trails Committee on April 5 and at the joint meeting of the Open Space Board of Trustees and Parks and Recreation Board on April 12. BCNA is working for riparian and wetland restoration to be included in the project. Requiring trails construction and alignment to avoid sensitive habitats is also a major issue. Call Jim Knopf (494-8766) for details.

## Boulder County Conservation Report

### Decision Time for North St. Vrain Creek

Public hearings on the latest draft Wild and Scenic River Proposal for North St. Vrain Creek are now underway and scheduled for Boulder on April 5, and Allenspark on April 7.

The current draft legislative proposal prepared by the North St. Vrain Advisory Committee directs governmental agencies to manage the lands within the proposed designated corridor for the outstanding natural and scenic characteristics of the creek. The federal government would be prohibited from financing or permitting dam construction on this section of the creek.

The designated corridor begins above Ralph Price Reservoir (Button Rock dam), continues upstream through the North St. Vrain Canyon, through private land along Colorado Highway 7, and includes the headwaters of the creek in Wild Basin in Rocky Mountain National Park.

The draft proposal also stipulates protections for private property owners including:

- continuation of Boulder County land use regulations in the designated corridor on private lands within Roosevelt National Forest (local regulatory authority is typically superseded by the federal government)
- continuation of current county zoning regulations and development rights
- restriction of federal condemnation powers
- creation of a North St. Vrain Advisory Commission to work with county, state, and federal governmental agencies in cooperatively implementing the management of the designated corridor.

The water subcommittee continues to negotiate water language concerning federal reserved water rights that is satisfactory to both upper St. Vrain Basin water users and the environmental community. Negotiators have agreed to date that the creek will have a federal reserve water right sufficient to assure natural flows, and that some additional, future water development should be allowed on Rock, Horse, Cabin, and Dry St. Vrain Creeks, all tributaries to the main stem.

### How You Can Participate in the North St. Vrain Proposal

Please write a brief note to Congressman Skaggs and the Boulder County Commissioners thanking them for sponsoring the North St. Vrain Advisory Committee and write in support of the Wild and Scenic proposal, stressing the two or three points of most importance to you.

If you are a property owner in the Allenspark--Meeker Park--Tahosa Valley area, please note it in your letter.

Address correspondence to:  
N. St. Vrain Advisory Committee  
c/o Board Of County Commissioners  
P.O. Box 471  
Boulder, CO 80306

Outstanding natural features of the North St. Vrain Creek corridor include:

- habitat for bighorn sheep
- critical elk winter range
- largest remaining montane willow carr in the Front Range, a critical wetland habitat for wildlife.
- habitat for the federally threatened Greenback Cutthroat Trout and Wild Trout Stream designation
- roadless foothill canyon and RARE II wilderness study unit
- rare plant species and communities

The Wild and Scenic designation was proposed by local environmental groups in response to a proposed study of the North Sheep Mountain dam by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority and St. Vrain and Lefthand Water Conservancy District.

Call Mike Figgs (447-1899), who serves on the North St. Vrain Advisory Committee, for additional details.

## Life as a Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department Volunteer Naturalist: Part I

I am one of nine new volunteer naturalists being trained this year to offer nature education programs to the people of Boulder County. We are a diverse group, including computer programmers, preschool teachers, and artists, who share a love of nature and an interest in leading hikes and presenting talks and workshops to foster appreciation of our area's natural history. We'll also have the opportunity to participate in research projects being conducted by the county.

We have spent every Saturday morning since the beginning of March in training sessions. These cover a wide spectrum of activities: watching slide shows on local flora and fauna; being led around blindfolded to experience nature through hearing, smell and touch; discussing theories about teaching methods; role-playing situations such as what to do if an incessant talker disrupts a program. The training period continues until May 5; we are eagerly and nervously awaiting the chance to create and present our own programs.

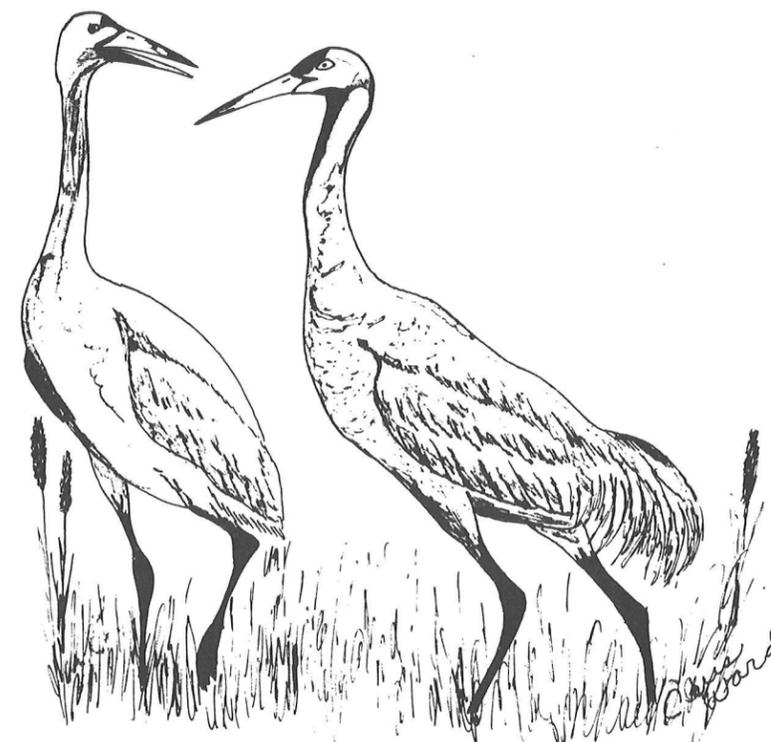
--Nan Lederer

### Welcome to the 1990 Class of Volunteer Naturalists

Eve Best  
Carol Kleiner  
Mike O'Flaherty

Bob Dellapina  
Nan Lederer  
Sheri Pepper

Paul Jedamus  
Linda Miller  
Colleen Welch



## Boulder County Land Trust Update

### *BCLT Accepts Easement* (continued from page 1)

The Lykins Gulch site, located three miles south of Lyons, is a particularly valuable riparian and wetland habitat. Allegra Collister, now deceased, banded birds at the site for more than 25 years, and documented the occurrence of more than 100 species of resident and migrant birds.

The preserve will be named in Allegra's memory, in recognition of the outstanding contributions she made to the understanding of the natural history of Boulder County. Allegra was associated with the Foothills Audubon Club located in Berthoud, and the club members are well versed in the birding history and significance of the site. Craig Williams, an employee at the Southwestern cement plant near Lyons, continued Allegra's work for a number of years.

The conservation easement, which will be granted in perpetuity, is approximately eight acres in size and one-half mile in length. Under the terms of the deed, prohibited uses include:

- residential, commercial, or industrial development
- commercial feedlots
- grazing of livestock
- mining and oil and gas drilling
- cutting and gathering of firewood
- hunting, and discharge of firearms
- billboards
- dumping of refuse
- any change, impairment, or disturbance of natural and scenic features within the easement boundaries.

### *How You Can Participate*

A fence building party is scheduled for Saturday, April 21 at 10:00am. The goal is to restore and erect fences on the periphery of the preserve to exclude livestock from the riparian area.

The dedication ceremony will be held at the site on Saturday, May 12 at 1:00pm. Boulder County Nature Association members and supporters are invited.

Support the Boulder County Land Trust. If desired, contributions may be earmarked for the Allegra Collister Nature Preserve endowment fund.

To reach the site, turn on St. Vrain Road off of US Highway 36 (two miles north of Nelson Road, eight miles north of Boulder). The preserve is on the north side of St. Vrain Road, one-half mile east of the highway. Signs will be posted at the site for the fence party and dedication ceremony.

Call Mike Figgs at 447-1899 or Jay Reed at 499-6224 for additional information.

The Boulder County Nature Association will assume the responsibility for monitoring and enforcement of the terms of the easement, for which an endowment fund has been created.

The conservation easement is named for the Foothills Industrial Properties partners, grantors of the easement. Mike Dollaghan resides with his family in Boulder County near Hygiene, and Bill Crowell, Mike's business partner, resides in the San Francisco Bay area in Redwood city.



BCNA expresses its appreciation to the numerous individuals and organizations that have, and will be, contributing to the project including:

- Boulder Audubon Society--\$1000 contribution to the endowment fund for property management purposes, volunteer work
- Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department--establishment of the public interest in the project, as required by Internal Revenue Service regulations governing nonprofit corporations
- Drexel Barrell, Inc.--donation, in part, of property survey
- Foothills Audubon Club--volunteer field work

- Foothills Industrial Properties--grantor of the easement

- Isaacson, Rosenbaum, Woods & Levy P.C.--donation of legal services to Boulder County Nature Association, including negotiating the terms of and drafting the Deed of Conservation Easement

- LREP, Inc.--donation of services facilitating the creation of the easement

- Southwestern Portland Cement Company--\$2000 donation to easement endowment fund

- WBLA, Inc.--donation of services on water rights issues

- Western Ecosystems, Inc.--donation of services to compile ecological baseline inventory.