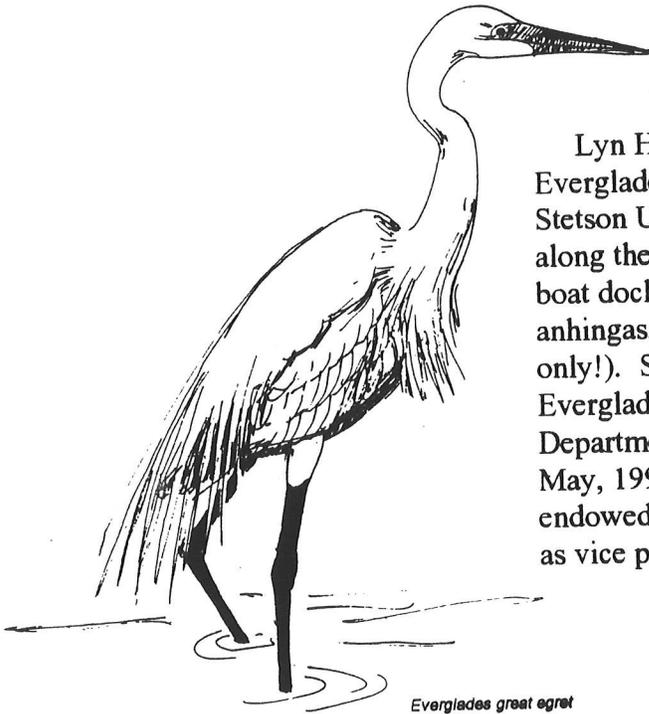


"July starts with alpine flowers at their peak and ends with the beginning of mushroom season. It smells of clover and tastes of sweet corn and juicy tomatoes. It buzzes with insects and hummingbirds, crashes with thunder, and is lit by lightning and rainbows." *



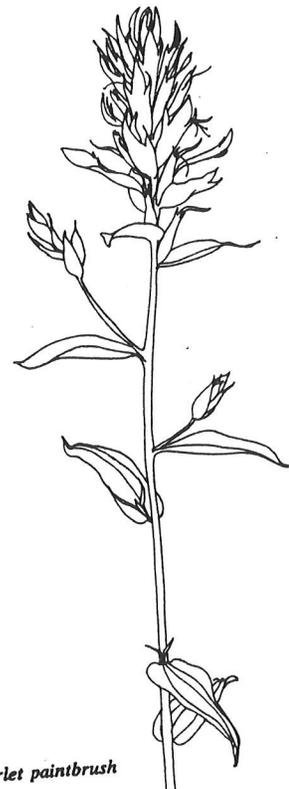
Everglades great egret

BCNA'S OWN EVERGLADES OBSERVER

Lyn Hoffmann will soon be BCNA's on the site reporter in the Everglades, since she has accepted a one year appointment at Stetson University in Florida to teach botany. Lyn's apartment along the Intercoastal Waterway in Edgewater, even has its own boat dock! She invites any BCNA traveling birders to visit to see anhingas, wood storks, manatees and alligators (from a distance, only!). She hopes to learn first hand about restoration efforts in the Everglades ecosystem. Her address will be: Lyn Hoffmann, Biology Department, Stetson University, DeLand, FL from August until May, 1995. (And yes, she says, it is THE Stetson, who generously endowed the university!) Naseem Munshi will complete Lyn's term as vice president until board elections in February.

RECORD THOSE VOLUNTEER HOURS!

BCNA's nonprofit status is based upon the number of hours volunteers donate. So, please keep a record of the hours you have contributed to various projects during the year.



Scarlet paintbrush

BCNA Summer Calendar

Friday, July 8th
6:00pm - 9:00 pm

Annual Anne White Trail Hike and Picnic

Mary Rose and Steve Jones will lead a leisurely hike up 4 Mile Canyon Creek to look for wildflowers and listen for songbirds and owls. Bring brown bag supper and water. Meet at Friends Meeting House, 1825 Upland at 6:00 pm to carpool.

Wednesday, July 13
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Vireo Field Trip

Come observe nest sites of solitary and warbling vireos (and cowbirds!) in Boulder Mt. Parks. Scott Severs and Jim Chase will explain neotropical migrants and cowbird parasitism. Meet at 6:00 at NIST (Bureau of Standards) north parking lot. Bring water, snack and binoculars. Call Scott at 541-0784 for more information.

Sunday July 24th
3:00pm - 5:00 pm

BCNA Summer Potluck and Board Meeting

Come explore Bald Mt. and share in the send off for Lyn Hoffmann at Marty Dick's home at 3992 Sunshine Canyon. (444-0743) We'll walk around Bald Mt at 3:00, and have a potluck at 4:00 followed by the board meeting. Everyone is welcome. See map.

Saturday, Sept. 10th
1:30pm - 11:00pm

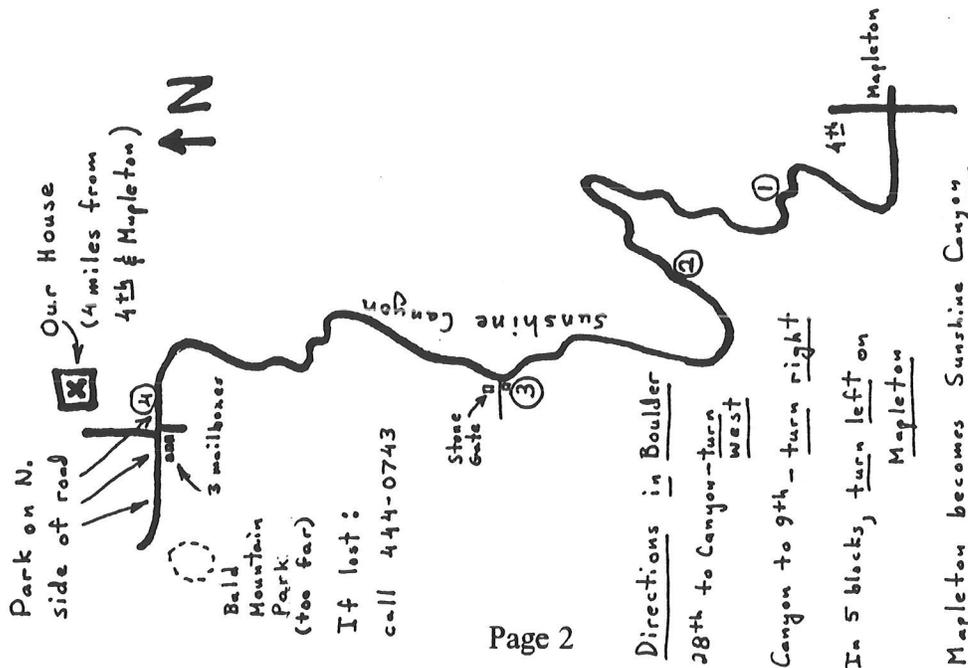
Nth Annual Green Man Memorial Hike

Join the hike up Mt. Audubon. Leave at 1:30 pm from the Open Space parking lot on the E side of Rt. 36 just north of the junction of N. Broadway and Rt. 36. Bring food and drink to share. Remember to bring your winter woolies, for it can get pretty cold at 13,000 ft.!

Saturday, Sept. 17th

Indian Peaks Fall Bird Count.

Call Dave Hallock for further information (258-3672)



A GLIMPSE OF THE GLADES

In the spring of 1993 I was in the heart of central Florida involved in a study of the endangered snail kite, known to many as the Everglade kite. When I left Colorado at the invitation of a friend, I really did not know what to expect. My only experience of the sunshine state had been as a typical tourist stuck at Disney World. So it was a chance of a lifetime to work in a river of grass known as the Everglades, which is one of the most endangered ecosystems of the world.

Snail kites are found in south Florida and also in central Florida around Orlando. Rob Bennett's research focused on the habitat requirements of the kite, and the factors that influenced the bird's distribution. Rob used radio telemetry to find clues about the movements of individual kites and areas of critical importance to them. His study gained substantial attention and funding from agencies with vested interest in the Everglades including the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Army Corps of Engineers.

I learned about the state of the Everglades system and the factors leading to its current predicament. Originally the Everglades were created by the annual flooding of Lake Okeechobee.

However, in the early part of this century, the Army Corp of Engineers erected a huge levee around the lake to control flooding, particularly during hurricanes. This cut off the natural influx of water into the system. Agriculture moved in and converted a large portion of the glades into sugarcane plantations. More levees were added in lower portions of the system to serve as water storage areas. Eventually, the ecosystem crashed after suffering from drought, pollution and conversion of habitat into agriculture and development. Wading bird population dropped to only 10% of previous levels.

Snail kites also suffered as their traditional deepwater foraging areas were drained. This resulted in the loss of the apple snail, the main prey of the kite because it can only survive in places with consistently deep water. The system now depends mainly on rainwater although some water is released into the glades from Lake Okeechobee by a series of water control structures. The kites often abandon the Everglades during drought years and move to Lake Okeechobee and other central Florida lakes and marshes which support apple snails with a year round water supply. Unfortunately these lakes also suffer from pollution from nutrient rich effluent released from sugarcane plantations, citrus groves, and dairy farms. It causes algae blooms that choke the lakes, making it impossible for snails and fish to reproduce successfully.

Now Everglades National Park and the Army Corp of Engineers have initiated projects to return more water to the original drainage and to the park. A great deal of political infighting and opposition from agriculture must be overcome to save the remaining portions of the Everglades. Unfortunately, few Floridians seem to have an interest in the wild areas of the state, and environmentalism is a foreign concept to most of the population. Hopefully, these factors can be overcome and the unique wildlife and plant species in the Everglades can be preserved.

Scott Severs

"White pelicans can be seen at Panama Reservoir, Teller Lakes and Union Reservoir." *

BOULDER COUNTY LAND TRUST

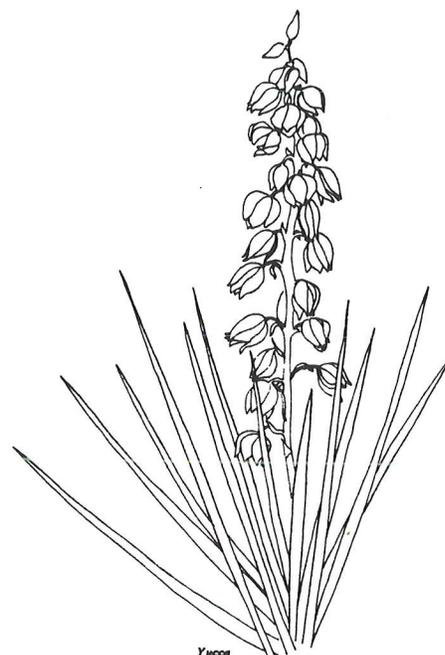
The Boulder County Land Trust ("BCLT") was organized in 1988 as the land acquisition/protection division of the Boulder County Nature Association. A land trust is a nonprofit organization that facilitates the conservation of privately held land for the purpose of protecting natural, scenic, agricultural or historic lands. BCLT has focused primarily on preserving sites important to wildlife and ecological processes. BCLT's Board of Directors is appointed by the BCNA Board of Directors. All land acquisition and preservation efforts initiated by BCLT are reviewed and voted on by the BCNA Board.

There are number of ways BCLT works with property owners to protect land. One common method is the conservation easement which is a legal contract between the nonprofit organization and the landowner. The easement protects land in perpetuity and remains with the property and protects it after the ownership of the land is transferred to future owners. Through a conservation easement, the landowner permanently gives up certain rights. The restrictions on the current and all future landowners' use of the property could include the prohibition of some or all of the following: construction of buildings or roads, alteration of natural features, mining, hunting, vegetation harvesting, or subdivision of the property. The BCLT land trust becomes the owner of the easement and is responsible for its enforcement. Often an endowment is established to pay for the cost of this monitoring.

In many cases, the donation of a conservation easement provides the landowner with certain federal tax benefits, including income tax deductions and reduced inheritance taxes. Additionally, the landowner's property taxes may decrease because the land can no longer be assessed as developable land.

Other preservation methods include bargain sales (a sale to the land trust at a below market value for which the seller may receive a tax deduction similar to a charitable contribution), agreements for limited development (which allows for minimal development with some land remaining open), cooperative projects with public land agencies, or outright donations of land.

Private land protection by land trusts offers property owners an alternative to selling lands to government agencies with public use or access. For some landowners this option reduces their tax liabilities and allows them to keep their land undeveloped without having to sell it. Conservation easements are a good way for private landowners to ensure their land will remain undeveloped after they have sold it or passed it on to their heirs. BCLT fills an important niche in preserving and improving the ecosystem in Boulder County and the surrounding areas. If you would like more information call Alice Madden (494-1099) or Joe Mantione (441-3270 / 499-5764).



JAMES PEAK (EAST PORTAL) WILDERNESS AREA?

The wild lands of the South Boulder Creek watershed above the East Portal of the Moffat Tunnel have been a highly valued backyard wilderness for many Boulder area residents. Many skiers and hikers using the trails to Heart Lake and Forest Lakes may not know that critical portions of this land are privately owned and that none of the surrounding land is protected as wilderness. However, for the first time, it is possible to protect the entire area. The private landholder is currently willing to sell to the Forest Service. In addition, the Forest Service is assessing the James Peak area surrounding the private lands for wilderness designation. You can help influence the outcome of these events by writing to elected officials and to the Forest Service.

The 30,000 acre area being considered for wilderness designation includes 13,294 foot James Peak as well as numerous high lakes including Crater and Arapaho Lakes. The James Peak Roadless Area spans the last unprotected fragment of the Front Range's high peaks between Wyoming and Berthoud Pass. In fact, it serves as the missing link in a larger system of protected reserves running the length of Colorado. North of James Peak, the Indian Peaks Wilderness, Rocky Mountain National Park, and Rawah Wilderness provide for a half million acre wild area. South of James Peak, several small wilderness area (Vasquez Peak, Byers Peak, and Ptarmigan Peak) leapfrog to the million-acre-plus protected areas of central Colorado, including Eagles Nest, Holy Cross, and Maroon Bells. Conservation biologists advocate a system of "core reserves" (especially wilderness areas) connected by minimally developed corridors. This way, species such as lynx, pine marten and wolverine which require vast undeveloped habitat, can thrive far into the future. Preservation of James Peak is key to protecting this much larger ecological system.

The 1,280-acre private parcel at East Portal near Rollinsville has been owned by the Toll family for many decades. The Tolls are ardent backpackers, climbers, and conservationists and for many years have permitted public foot traffic across their property. Now, the Tolls have graciously signed a contract with the Wilderness Land Trust, a non-profit land conservation organization, to make the property available for purchase by the Forest Service. Its appraised value is \$1.4 million, and the President's recent budget request includes funds for the purchase of the East Portal tract. Congressman David Skaggs (D-Boulder) sits on the key House Interior appropriations subcommittee, which allocates funds for Forest Service land acquisition. He needs to hear from constituents that public ownership of the East Portal tract is greatly desired.

In addition, the Forest Service is currently revising its 10-year management plan for the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. They will be evaluating roadless areas and making recommendations for additional wilderness designations. The Tolls are particularly interested in selling the East Portal tract so it would be included within a larger, protected James Peak Wilderness Area. James Peak deserves designation as wilderness and the East Portal purchase both enhances the wilderness and removes a potential management conflict with private property.

Write to Congressman David Skaggs at House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.
Copy letters to Senators Hank Brown and Ben Nighthorse Campbell at U.S. Senate, D.C. 20510.
Write the Forest Service at District Ranger Bill Anthony, Forest Service, 2995 Baseline Road, Boulder, CO 80303.

COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION WILDLIFE ISSUES

The Wildlife Issues Steering Committee of the CEC includes representatives from area environmental groups. It meets the second Wednesday of the month from 6-9 PM. If you wish further information call Jim McKee (494-3393) who is the BCNA representative.

The 1993 accomplishments of the committee include:

Lobbied successfully for emergency restriction on trapping the last known kit fox population in Colorado.

Helped defeat proposals to the Wildlife Commission and the state legislature to allow falconers to take peregrine falcons from the wild to hold in captivity, breed, and sell the offspring.

Helped defeat the proposed Seven Utes Ski resort in North Park.

Helped defeat HB 1030, which would have overturned Amendment 10 and reinstated spring black bear hunting and the use of bait and dogs.

Represented environmental community in the Division of Wildlife's Mount Evans Stakeholders meetings to help determine the future of wildlife management on Mount Evans.

1994 issues include:

Working with the Division of Wildlife to develop a sound furbearer management plan which will provide greater protection to furbearers in Colorado

Working to identify and appoint environmentally sensitive candidates to the Colorado Wildlife Commission. Trying to increase communication and cooperation among wildlife activists in Colorado.

Working to obtain additional funding for non-game wildlife species in Colorado. This includes GOCO funds and other approaches such as endangered species automobile license plates which could be purchased voluntarily and would provide more funding for non-game management.

Jim McKee

"The Perseid meteor shower, possibly the best of the year, peaks around August 12.. Look to the north (from Flagstaff Mountain or Bald Mountain) and you may see as many as sixty meteors per hour." *

LAKWOOD PIPELINE

BCNA submitted extensive comments to the City of Boulder Public Works Department concerning the Lakewood Pipeline Environmental Report. Although BCNA agreed that a new pipeline is needed it cannot choose a preferred route down Boulder Canyon until additional information is provided.

A main issue addressed was the number of key assumptions based upon file searches and literature review rather than on site-specific original research. BCNA recommended specific studies of populations of goshawks, flammulated owls, elk, black bear, and both the jetta arctic and two banded skipper butterflies. Old growth forests should be mapped and avoided and only native vegetation and grasses should be used for vegetation. Riparian ecosystems on all routes should be carefully studied.

Hopefully a Federal Environmental Impact Statement will address these issues. Until the results of these studies are available BCNA cannot support a preferred route.

NORTH ST. VRAIN WATERSHED

Many BCNA members have been involved in the seven year (so far) process to protect the North St. Vrain. Progress, although slow, is occurring. Mike Figgs traveled to Washington, D.C. May 17th to deliver the following testimony to the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands; Natural Resources Committee on H.B. 1716:

My name is Mike Figgs, and I have served on the North St. Vrain Advisory Committee, and its various subcommittees, since the beginning of the committee. I have represented the Boulder County Nature Association (BCNA) on this committee. I am also a property owner in the North St. Vrain watershed, the property being approximately one third of a mile north of North St. Vrain Creek, in the Wild Basin area.

BCNA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the scientific study and protection of the outstanding historical and natural features of Boulder County. BCNA works with federal, state, county and municipal agencies to designate critical wildlife and vegetation habitats.

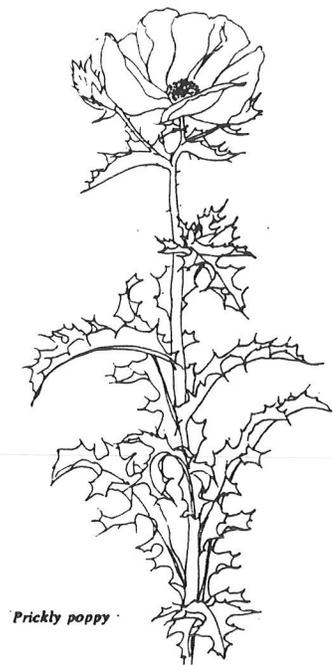
I have been working since 1983 to secure special land use designations for the North St. Vrain Canyon above Ralph Price Reservoir. This area has few roads, no major water diversions or water impoundment, a limited amount of development, good to excellent water quality, and contains outstanding aquatic habitat for fish. The cumulative effect of these features is a scenic creek corridor that has an essentially unregulated water flow on the main stem and undeveloped stream banks located close to the Denver metro area. The rugged and undeveloped nature of the public lands in the creek corridor provide excellent wildlife habitat, and the entire corridor is an important component in the regional integrated ecological reserve systems being developed by federal agencies and county government. These qualities also provide for outstanding primitive recreational opportunities such as hiking, camping, hunting, and viewing of scenery.

BCNA supports the legislation before this committee today, prohibiting dam construction on this portion of the creek. The Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest, in the preferred alternative of the Forest Plan Revision, proposed to designate most of the North St. Vrain Canyon as a Research Natural Area. The National Park Service has administratively endorsed wilderness designation in most of the Wild Basin area of Rocky Mountain National Park. Boulder County will be designating the North St. Vrain Canyon as an Environmental Conservation Area in the next update of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan, which designation bestows the highest level of protection by means of local regulatory authority on private lands. The cumulative result of these designations coupled with the proposed legislation will provide a baseline of adequate recognition and natural resource protection for the North St. Vrain watershed above Ralph Price Reservoir.

Just as important as protecting this watershed has been the process engaged by the North St. Vrain Advisory Committee. For seven years this committee has worked to develop consensus on methods to protect North St. Vrain Creek, without the various constituencies feeling compromised or their interest fundamentally damaged. This process has been successful and now serves as a guide for my work on subsequent natural resource issues. Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

On June 16th the subcommittee forwarded HB 1716 to the full committee for consideration. No date has been set for its presentation on the House floor.

(In July look for) ..."paintbrush and Parry's primrose bloom in alpine meadows, larkspur and monkshood lower down on the mountains, and prickly poppy and sunflowers on the plains." *



BOULDER COUNTY TRAILS

Jim Knopf and Scott Severs represent BCNA on the City of Boulder Trails Committee. The Trails Committee was formed in 1983 to examine the need, location, impacts, and construction of trails in Boulder. Its findings are reported to the city boards that are responsible for the trails program. Other organizations represented on the committee include Boulder County Audubon, Boulder County Horsemen's Association, Boulder Off-Road Alliance, Boulder Road Runners, Boulder Velo Club, Colorado Mountain Club, and Sierra Club. In an effort to assist Jim and Scott, the BCNA board recently adopted the following position statement on trails in Boulder County.

Position Statement of BCNA on Trails in Boulder County

With increasing growth in the Boulder Valley, natural areas and Open Space are increasingly threatened. These habitats are critical for the preservation of native plants and animals. The Boulder County Nature Association feels that the welfare of these species should be given due consideration in the planning and implementation of future bikeways and footpaths.

(1) It is essential that native habitats be preserved. The trail system should not be expanded at the expense of native species. While recognizing the support that bikeways and footpaths enjoy from the recreational community, BCNA is opposed to the proliferation of paths through an ever-growing number of natural areas in Boulder County.

(2) Unfragmented areas free from human disturbance are essential for many wildlife species. No trails should be constructed in Environmental Conservation Areas (core areas) or critical habitat linkages (corridors).

(3) When paths are constructed, it is critical that only native species be used for restoration. Restoration can never return a site to its native condition; therefore, minimal disturbance should occur during construction to preserve the natural integrity of the site. The paths should be placed well away from streams; in most cases a MINIMUM of 100 meters is suggested.

(4) A public review process should be an integral part of any plans for additions to the trail system. Organizations such as BCNA, Boulder Audubon, and the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Sierra Club should have an opportunity to comment on proposed trails.

Tim Hogan

PRAIRIE PATRONS

The BCNA prairie has benefited from the generosity of several individuals. In the spring of 1993 Mark and Robin Phillips of Phillips Seeding and Reclamation of Lafayette plowed twice and also provided bulk seed, all at a reduced cost.

In the spring of 1994 Don Eversoll of Beauty beyond Belief Wildflower Seed in Ft. Collins donated a small amount of native seed for BCNA members to nurture until the seedlings are planted in the spring of 1995.

BCNA appreciates these donations and also the weeding, seeding, planting and mowing done by our own volunteers. The prairie is growing, slowly but surely!

"Finding the first fringed gentian always brings a touch of sadness. It means that summer is shifting into autumn." *



Blue gentian

FERRUGINOUS HAWKS

Breeding bird survey data from the regional office of the National Audubon Society actually shows a slight increase nationwide (not statistically significant) in the number of breeding pairs of ferruginous hawks between 1982 and 1992. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife office in Denver did not support listing the ferruginous hawk as either endangered or threatened in 1992. They do not feel there were any additional data available to cause them to change their position. Since the total number of breeding pairs is less than 2,000, by some reports, and the total number of individuals is less than 10,000, some believe this would support a "threatened" status.

Michael Golumbowski, a CU graduate student, is using BCNA wintering raptor census data along with his own data in his master's thesis *The Impact of Development on Prairie Colonies and Wintering Ferruginous Hawks*. Contact Jim McKee (494-3393) to see a copy.

Jim McKee

* All information is from the July or August chapters in *The Boulder County Nature Almanac* by Ruth Carol Cushman, Stephen R. Jones and Jim Knopf published in 1993 by Pruett Press.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
BOULDER COUNTY NATURE ASSOCIATION**

Name _____

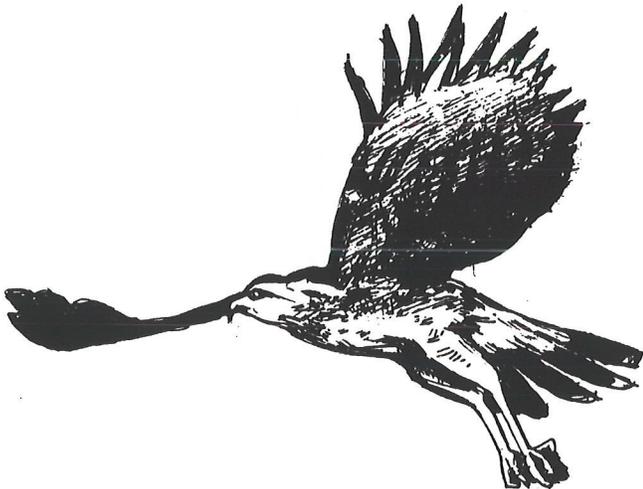
Address _____

_____ Student and Senior Citizen (65 and over)	\$10
_____ General Member	\$15
_____ Family or Household	\$20
_____ Supporter	\$30
_____ Land Trust/Subscriber (\$20 to Boulder County Land Trust)	\$50
_____ Founder (\$70 to Boulder County Land Trust)	\$100
_____ Life Member	\$300
_____ Corporate Member	\$500
_____ 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 Marty Dick (444-0743) or Elaine Hill (494-7873). WHY NOT RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1994 TODAY?

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



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