

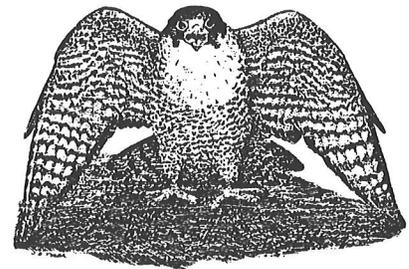
Cliff Nesting Raptors: Twitterpated Again

In recent years, much of the monitoring of Boulder's golden eagles, prairie falcons and peregrine falcons has been done by select volunteers under the aegis of one of the official agencies (Mountain Parks, Open Space, or Division of Wildlife). But BCNA, the catalyst which sparked the program, is still overseeing certain sites and keeping in close touch with it. According to BCNA's Nan Lederer: "The raptor nesting is getting off to an auspicious beginning: at least six golden eagle territories in Boulder County are active; several were on eggs as of mid-March.

"Several prairie falcons as well as pregrines are back establishing their territories. We will be out monitoring nests as the season progresses and hoping for better fledging success than last year, which saw several unexplained nest failures."

Prime areas for golden eagles are the well-known Lefthand Canyon Palisades, as well as Skunk Canyon, and a few more remote sites. For prairie falcons, Shadow and Fern Canyons are favorites. And last year's new arrivals to the Flatirons have returned again. To avoid disturbing these birds, the sensitive areas have been declared off-limits to climbing, hiking, and even unauthorized birdwatchers. The closures are temporary, until the young are fledged, around mid-summer.

"The falcons are focused on their nest sites already," says Steve Armstead, of Boulder Mountain Parks, "but the golden eagles are not yet doing anything specific except flirting and mating." Spring is here.



Raptor-philes who would like to participate in the monitoring process are welcome to call Steve Armstead at 441-3408. At the moment, interns from C.U. and other experienced birdwatchers have filled the need, but eventually there may be other openings. A scope and good hiking legs are helpful.

Spring special: Wildflower-hunting expeditions. See page 2.

Ecosystem Symposium

The fourth annual Boulder County Ecosystem Symposium was held at the Boulder Public Library on Friday, Mar. 10th. BCNA sponsors this conference to encourage dialogue among land managers, researchers, and members of the community concerned about natural areas and the preservation of native diversity. As explosive growth continues in Boulder county, the concern over development was clearly palpable among the nearly 200 participants at this year's meeting. *For summaries of the day's presentations, see page 5.*

BCNA CALENDAR - SPRING AND SUMMER

Sa. Apr. 8
8:30 a.m.-
3:30 p.m.

* ***Mt Sanitas hawk watch:***
3-mile round-trip hike part way up peak to look for migrating hawks. Optional lunch afterwards at Oasis. Meet at Mt Sanitas shelter 200 m. west of 4th & Mapleton, north side of Sunshine Canyon Rd. Led by Steve Jones (494-2468).

Th. Apr. 27
6:-8:00 p.m.

* ***Wildflowers of shales and mesas:*** Exploration of Six Mile Fold to look for early-blooming wildflowers. Meet at Beech Open Space parking lot, Hwy 36 (north) & Neva Rd. Picnic dinner optional. Leaders Elaine Hill (494-7823) & Ruth Carol Cushman.

Sa. May 6

* ***Indian Peaks Spring Bird Count:*** period for participation is May 1 - 14. Call a team leader for your favorite area, or Dave Hallock for info. (258-3672)

Th. May 11
6-8:00 p.m.

* ***Wildflowers of ponderosa pine woodlands:*** Wanderings over east slopes of Eldorado Mtn. Meet at Dowdy Draw parking lot, 2 mi. west of Hwy 93, south side of Eldorado Springs Dr. Leader Nan Lederer (447-1899). (Nan has done a thorough inventory of the flora of the area for the Col. Natl. Heritage Program, which designates Natural Areas for the state).

Wd. May 24
6-8:00 p.m.

* ***Wildflowers of foothills canyons:*** easy hike up Gregory Canyon to locate rareties as well as better-known species. Meet at Canyon parking area, far west end of Baseline Rd. Leader Tim Hogan (444-5577). (Tim has written a monograph on flora of Boulder Mtn. Park).

Sa. Jun. 10

* ***Indian Peaks Breeding Bird Count:*** period for participation is June 1 to July 16. Call as above.

also:
6:30 -
11:00 p.m.

* ***Full moon flammulated owl hunt:*** hike into Boulder Mtn. Park to look for owls, glow-worms, & other oddities. Meet at Baseline Middle Sch., 20th & Baseline. Bring energy food or a picnic. Leader Randy Gietzen (530-4355).

1995 BCNA Board

President: Tim Hogan (444-5577)
V.P.: Scott Severs (442-1322)
Treasurer: Dan Murphy (499-2771)
Secretary: Mary Dick (444-0743)
Mike Figgs (447-1899)
Roger Jacoubek (449-3503)
Bev Johnson (938-8483)
Cherie Long (447-0922)
Jim McKee (494-3393)

BCNA Committee Representatives

Prairie Dogs - Randy Gietzen (530-4355)
Ind. Peaks Bird Count - Dave Hallock (258-3672)
Bldr. Cnty Land Trust - Tim Hogan (444-5577)
Field Trips - Steve Jones (494-2468)
Col. Envir. Coalition - Jim McKee (494-3393)
Bldr. Cnty Land Tr. - Naseem Munshi (673-0933)
Trails; Partners in Flight - Scott Severs (442-1322)



ISSUES AND REPORTS

Position Statement by the BCNA regarding the City of Boulder Proposed Water Pipeline

The BCNA has up to this point agreed that the aging pipeline does need replacement, and has proactively encouraged the City to identify environmental issues that must be addressed to determine impacts before a decision on routes can be recommended.

The City subsequently completed its "Community and Environmental Assessment Process," which was then reviewed by the Utilities Advisory Board. According to this analysis, there is no significant difference in impacts between the Historic Right-of-Way alternative and the Sugarloaf Road alternatives, and the HROW has no significant long-term adverse impacts on environmental resources.

At the most recent hearing on the matter, the County Commissioners were to decide whether to require the City to submit to State 1041 regulations, which would require a more thorough study of environmental impacts. Representing the BCNA at this meeting, Mike Figgs reminded the Commissioners of the following points:

1) The City's review has not yet addressed the BCNA's original concerns:

- a) professional description of specific wetland and riparian communities;
- b) ground truth of Forest Service RIS mapping
- c) analysis of forest communities, forest structure, and old growth
- d) impacts to species of concern, including willow flycatcher, flammulated owl, goshawk, and black bear]

e) Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies)

2) In addition, the City's report did not adequately develop an alternative with minimum impacts to riparian ecosystems, that is, an alternative that did not impact North Boulder Creek, Gordon Gulch, or Bummers Gulch. In this way, the City has created an artificial situation whereby the HROW appears to not have greater impacts than the two Sugarloaf Rd. alternatives.

3) The City's stated environmental policy (whereby riparian areas are to receive special protection,

consideration, and management) is inconsistent with its position on construction of the Lakewood Pipeline (which places such areas at risk, without adequate assessment of those risks).

The Commissioners voted unanimously to require a county review of environmental impacts. In addition, the BCNA will be sponsoring its own volunteer studies this spring and summer within the proposed pipeline corridor. These will be professionally conducted as described under #1 above. Contact Mike Figgs (447-1899) to help. No expertise required to be an "amateur field assistant."

Indian Peaks Four-Season Bird County Summary

The Indian Peaks Bird Counts went through their 13th year of activity in 1994. Fifty participants contributed 664 hours of volunteer field time counting birds during the four seasons. Good finds during 1994 included black-crowned night heron, horned grebe, rough-legged hawk, northern pygmy-owl, and yellow-headed blackbird. We continue to track population cycles and monitor the numbers and locations of sensitive species.

Participants in 1994 included Nancy, Auerbach, Jeff Bachant, Tina Bluefield, Earl & Barbara Bolton, Steve Borishevsky, John & Willi Brocklehurst, Alex Brown, Diane Brown, Liz Caille, Joan Clifford, Chris Current, Anne Curtis, Marty Dick, Lee & Virginia Evans, Mike Figgs, Fern Ford, Linda Georges, Dave Hallock, Marilyn Hallock, Elaine Hill, Lyn Hoffmann, Jim Holitza, Jody Horvorka, Roger Jakoubek, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Dawn Kummler, Nan Lederer, Steve Litz, Cherie Long, Dan & Samantha McBride, Merle & Sally Miller, Naseem Munshi, Nederland Elementary School Environmental Club, Carol Newman-Holitza, Betsy & Matt Phillips, Bob Ripple, Elm Sturkol, Jim Turley, Tom VanZandt.

---submitted by Dave Hallock

ISSUES AND REPORTS, cont.

BCNA Research Grants

BCNA has budgeted \$750 to fund research projects on a first come, first serve basis during 1995. Research should involve natural resources in Boulder County. Previous grants have supported research on the impacts of development on solitary vireo reproduction, corvid predation of songbirds, and old-growth forest inventories. A typical award is for about \$250.

Recipients agree to provide BCNA with a written summary of their research results. Presentations at BCNA's annual symposium and newsletter articles are also appreciated. Those interested in applying should send a short (3 - 5 page) proposal describing their research project to: Tim Hogan, 911 Pennsylvania, Boulder 80302. The Board will consider proposals at their quarterly meetings. The next meeting is Friday, May 19th.



We can work together, fur Pete's sake: CEC Wildlife Issue Steering Committee

The Furbearer Stakeholder and Steering Committees have agreed on three basic questions around which to structure the furbearer dialogue. They are as follows:

- * How do we maintain healthy, sustainable furbearers?
- * How do we protect other non-furbearer species?
- * What are acceptable methods for addressing the above?

There is general agreement on about 80% of the policy statements proposed, with regard to the first two questions. We have just begun to address the third question concerning methods. I believe that we will end up with three proposals in this area. One each from the Colorado Trappers Assoc. and from Animal Rights Mobilization will probably be unacceptable to 75 to 80% of the participants.

It is hoped that a middle-of-the-road proposal from agricultural interests, CEC, and DOW advisors from Colorado State Univ. will be supported by most of the other participants. This proposal would allow animal damage control trapping provided the (more humane) proposed international (ISO 10990) trapping standards are followed. Seasons would be closed on some furbearers now trapped and limited on others. Conservative guidelines regarding populations would be used to determine which species could be trapped, when, and in what areas of the state.

---submitted by Jim McKee

Ecosystem Plan Adopted into Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan

On Wed., Mar. 22nd, the Boulder County Planning Commission approved amendments to the county Comprehensive Plan that incorporates the BCNA Ecosystem Plan. The plan uses concepts from conservation biology and landscape ecology. It maps a system of habitat core areas, called Environmental Conservation Areas (ECA's), which are interconnected by riparian and animal movement corridors. The 13 designated ECA's include the largest blocks of land in the county that are relatively natural and undeveloped. They cover nearly half of the county and are considered to be the "best of what's left" of our natural landscape. The plan will be used by the county to influence land-use decisions, land management plans, and Open Space acquisitions. The plan was originally drafted by BCNA members in 1984. BCNA has used the plan to influence public acquisitions and private sector land-saving actions. We are hopeful that much of the plan will be incorporated into the update of the Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest Plan.

Special thanks go to Mike Figgs, Dave Hallock, Steve Jones, and Tim Hogan for developing the plan, revising it over the years and seeing it through the county and Forest Service plan revisions. We also wish to thank the following people who took part in a county-sponsored task force that developed the final version of the plan: Roz McClellan, Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project; Pete Fogg, Boulder Cnty Land Use Dept.; Bill Anthony, Bob Allison and John Oppenlander, Bldr. Dist. of the U.S. Forest Service; Chris Koster and Patt Dorsey, Col. Div. of Wildlife; Rich Koopmann and Jeff Moline, Bldr. Cnty Parks & Open Space; Chris Pague, Col. Natl. Heritage Program; Dave Kuntz and Bev Johnson, City of Boulder Open Space; Ann Wichmann, City of /Bldr Mnt. Parks; Craig Jones, Col. State Forest Service; Betsy Neely, Col. Chapter of the Nature Conservancy; Larry Gamble, Rocky Mtn. Natl. Park. ---submitted by Dave Hallock

ISSUES AND REPORTS, cont.

(Ecosystem Symposium, cont. from page 1.)

Dave Hallock, a resource planner with County Open Space, and one of the primary organizers of the symposium, opened the day with the question, "What Have We Done, and Where are We Going?" After drawing a picture of what Boulder may have been like before European settlement, Dave presented an historical overview of the changes that have occurred since 1859 when miners established the first permanent settlements in the area. Not only have species been extirpated, but native prairie has been reduced to 10% of its original extent, the structure of our montane forests has been drastically altered, and riparian habitat and processes have been undermined. Current trends indicate that wildlife communities are shifting toward assemblages dominated by those species that can take advantage of human-dominated landscapes.

Jim Benedict from the Center for Mountain Archeology gave a talk on "Prehistoric Hunter-gatherers in the Greater Indian Peaks Ecosystem: Adaptations and Impacts." With stunning slides, Jim traced the yearly migration of early Native Americans as they moved from their winter camps in the Boulder area, over into North and Middle Parks for the summer, and, as autumn descended, travelled back over the mountains through present day Rocky Mountain Natl. Park and the Indian Peaks. While these peoples had an impact on the environment, the rate and scale of that impact was dramatically increased with the arrival of the horse in about AD 1700 and the emergence of a market economy based on the trade of hides and robes in the early 1800s. By 1858, when the first white settlers arrived here, the county had already experienced a century and a half of ecological upheaval.

Fragmentation is viewed by many conservation biologists as one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. *Sharon Collinge from the Harvard Univ. School of Landscape Architecture and the Univ. of Colorado Museum reported on "Habitat Fragmentation and Biological Diversity: Perspectives from a Boulder County Grassland."* Sharon based her presentation on the research she has conducted over the past three years on Open

Space grasslands in the southeastern part of the county. Her work, employing an elegant design that analyzed the effect of different patterns of fragmentation on insect species, provides some of the first experimental evidence for changes in biological diversity as a direct result of changes in the spatial structure of the habitat.

Amphibian populations have experienced a dramatic decline across the world over the last twenty years. Because the decline is occurring in a wide variety of habitats and in such a relatively short time, anthropogenic factors are assumed to be the cause. *Dr. Cindy Carey from the Univ. of Colorado* addressed this global issue through the lens of her local research on "Declines and Extinctions of Boreal toad Populations in Colorado." Of about 200 known populations in the 1970's, only six known breeding population remain in Colorado. Dr. Carey's research is focusing on the hypothesis that the synergistic effect of different environmental abuses have resulted in a weakening of the immune system of Colorado's montane amphibians, making them vulnerable to lethal infections.

Rocky Mountain Natl. Park is viewed by many Boulder residents as a counterweight to the pressures of the Denver metropolitan area. Two of the speakers demonstrated that all is not well in our local National Park. *Jeff Connors* spoke about "Human Impacts Related to Wildlife Feeding in Rocky Mtn. Natl. Park." With nearly 3.1 million visitors a year, many popular viewpoints in the Park have become virtual urban zoos. The Park Service will be emphasizing education and increasing law enforcement in order to avoid such incidents as occurred recently when two coyotes had to be killed as a result of becoming habituated to humans. Don't feed the wildlife!

Therese Johnson, in her presentation entitled "The Co-existence of People and Elk: Research in Rocky Mtn. Natl. Park," outlined an ambitious project currently taking place. Over the next five years, in collaboration with the Natl. Biological Service, the Park will be conducting research on elk with the

ISSUES AND REPORTS, cont.

(cont. from page 5)

objectives of obtaining an accurate elk census, understanding associated ecological dynamics, and developing vegetation management goals for the Park. This research is an important step toward understanding one of Boulder County's most charismatic megafauna and providing insight into what role the absence of native predators may have on elk populations and habitat.

Clint Miller of the City of Boulder Open Space reported on the "Environmental Impacts of Passive Recreational Trails." Whereas resource managers have traditionally viewed recreational use as relatively benign, there is a growing body of evidence that the cumulative impact of hikers, bikers, dogs, and horses is having a deleterious effect on native species and habitats. In a far-reaching overview, Clint described many of these impacts and some of the management alternatives that may ameliorate the harm caused by 1.3 million annual visitors to City Open Space. This was a timely presentation, given the current controversy over dogs and trail closures, and illustrated very well some of the incremental ways in which we can "love a place to death."

Trails Committee Report

The February meeting was held after a two-month hiatus. Dick Lyman and Ann Wichman of Mountain Parks gave an update of the work done on trails in 1994, and of the plans for 1995.

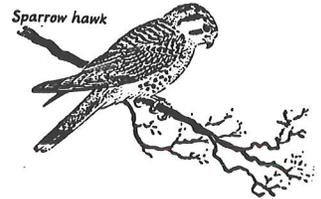
Notably, repairs have been made on the trail to the First and Second Flatirons (to be completed this year), and with a clearly defined path in place, the "stay-on-the-trail ethic" will be emphasized.

Debbie Ritter presented the 1995 Greenways Work Plan. The highlights include completion of Bear Creek from Martin to Mohawk, of the Wonderland Creek from North Goose to Valmont, and the S. Boulder Creek to East Bldr Community Center and Pearl Parkway trails.

"Effects of Forest Fragmentation at Ski Areas on Breeding Neotropical Bird Guilds", presented by *biologist Richard Thompson*, ended the first part of the day. Supported by convincing data, Rick demonstrated a dramatic loss of forest-interior and old-growth-dependent songbirds as forests are cut for ski trails and lifts. With a 50% loss of spruce-fir forest, all obligate forest-interior birds are eliminated from the conifer community. Such a result not only affects the disturbed area, but also leads to a diminishment of biodiversity across the larger landscape. As fragmentation continues in Boulder county, the implications of the data did not go unnoticed by symposium participants.

The second part of the day was then concluded with two concurrent panels: "Boulder County in the Year 2050," and "Loving the Land to Death: Recreational Impacts in Natural Areas." It is a compliment to the panelists and the audience that people were actively engaged in discussions and conversations even as they exited the auditorium and conference rooms.

---submitted by *Tim Hogan*



In March, the Transportation Dept. announced construction of a new trail connecting Hanover to Tantra Dr. Mike Adams presented the 1995 plan for Open Space, including more work along South Bldr Crk Trail between the new bridge and S. Bldr Rd., repairs to paths at: Mt. Sanitas, Dowdy Draw, Big Bluestem, Foothills, and East Boulder.

The idea of "adoption of a trail" by various interested groups gained impetus. More discussion on this at the April meeting. Also at that time, members of the group will propose specific field trip sites. Field trips will be more numerous and regular, in order to expose members to repairs effected, damages incurred, and sites to protect.

---submitted by *LVAG & Alison Richards*

POT-FRAIS AND POT-POURRI

The Mt. Elbert Lodge Weekend: Fruit basket turn-over ... in the snow

The comings and goings of the members of the 1995 Mt Elbert Expedition were more complicated and unpredictable than an upset anthill, but according to the intrepid survivors, it was a worthwhile adventure.

Since reservations for our group in the 100-year-old stage stop inn have always been a little off (too many or too few), this weekend was at least classic in that respect: reservations were made for 14, but due to illnesses far and near, and other mishaps, only 9 people were in the group that gathered on Saturday. Those nine, while missing the company of the rest of us, did however enjoy the lodging options which opened up.

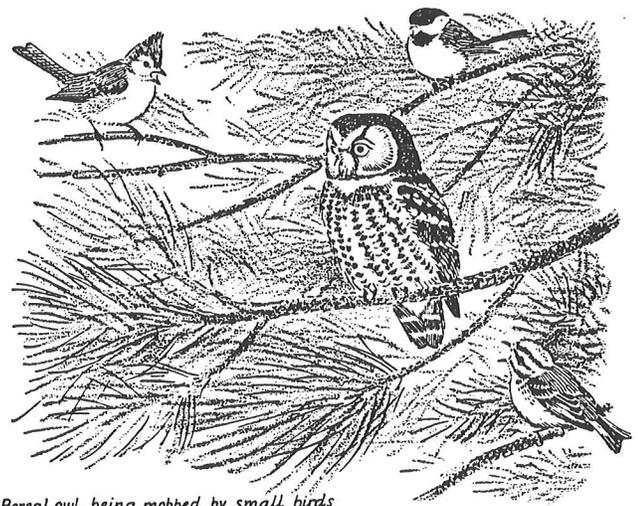
This year, depending on when you left to go up, or come back, your trip was a more or less harrowing experience. Those who left at the "wrong" time, either coming or going, found themselves in the middle of various white-knuckle driving conditions: blizzards, or white-outs, or avalanches. Sometimes this meant simply waiting in your car for 6 to 8 hours until a pass opened up ("If you play that Lyle Lovett tape one more time I'm going to strangle you!"). Sometimes it meant driving your 4WD in 2nd gear for miles with your two companions leaning out open windows on opposite sides of the car, serving as your "antennae" so you wouldn't run off the side of the road. Sometimes it meant never stopping for a driver-change or a pipi-break because you would be rear-ended in a wink.

The positive side of all this was the fresh, deep new powder where, most years, good snow is just a bit scarce, since the Lodge is in the rainshadow of two fourteeners. In fact, this time the snow was so deep that making track was quite a challenge; and after sinking chest-deep in the white stuff at the creek four miles up the south fork, and thrashing around off the trail in the willows, the Saturday skiers turned back.

Another stroke of good luck was the wonderfully balanced potluck on Saturday night, in spite of the absence of one third of the planned participants (although it began hesitantly, with a lonely bottle of wine and a pie on the table). All of the essentials for efficient recovery of ski-energy were eventually united.

And for those "unlucky" enough to be turned back by the closure of I-70 on Sunday, there was still a pay-off: a gorgeous moonlight night for skiing back at the Lodge, in total solitude.

Old-timers will be interested to learn that the road to Independence Pass, often used by skiers and showshoers, this year received its first avalanche ever: the snowslide took out a number of trees and buried some parked cars. *--submitted by LVAG*



Boreal owl being mobbed by small birds

Raptor Migration

A highlight of spring migration in Boulder County is the flight of thousands of eagles, hawks, and falcons over the Front Range foothills during the first two weeks of April. From our [summits] you can see... many species take advantage of the strong thermals... on warm spring days.

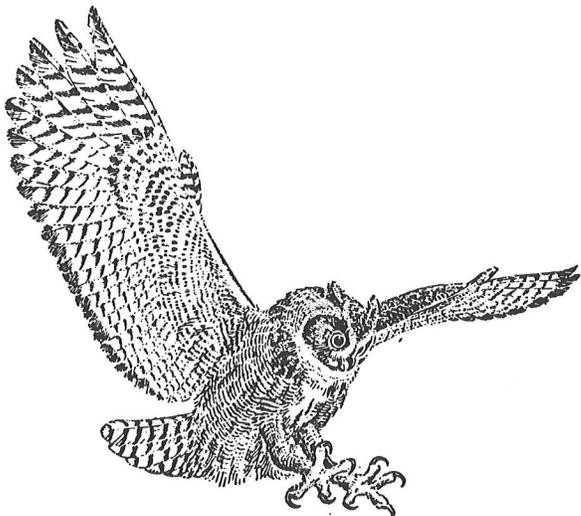
POT-FRAIS AND POT-POURRI

BCNA Abroad

Members of the Association are often active in varying educational forums. Here are those we know about:

Jim Knopf, a landscape architect, teaches xeriscape classes for the Bldr. Valley School District, Denver Botanic Gardens, and the Denver and Boulder Water Depts. The names of the courses reveal something of Jim's character: "Good grief--it's gorgeous" is a case in point.

Steve Jones, author, teacher and wildlife-watcher extraordinaire, will be teaching "Owls and other nesting raptors" this spring for the Bdr. Valley School District. Steve is an arid-country-optimist, since he advises bringing raingear on all his field trips.



Are you about to become extinct?

Remember that all memberships are for the calendar year (check the label on your newsletter: if it says 1994, you are about to join this mouse in rodent heaven).

See back page for a reminder of all the benefits you enjoy as a member.



Treasurer's Report

BCNA had income and expenses of about \$2300 each in 1994. Income is mostly from dues (\$1600) and dues of associate members (\$350). Interest, sales of publications, and other income totalled about \$350. In addition, BCNA collected \$330 for the Boulder County Land Trust from members who paid dues at the subscriber level and up. The largest expenses were the newsletter (about \$450), support for bird studies conducted by BCNA (about \$400), the annual ecosystem conference organized by the association (\$300), administration (\$250), and insurance (\$200). BCNA also gave \$250 in small grants, often to graduate students, to support scientific research on natural areas in the county.

Besides its own money, BCNA handles money for some related programs. These include the county volunteer naturalists program and the Walker Ranch volunteer program. 1994 saw three other joint projects as well: a program to study natural areas near Eldora, a program to study natural areas near the Arapaho Ranch; and bird banding at Likens Gulch. About \$4000 passed through BCNA accounts in 1994 for these five programs.

At the end of 1994, BCNA had bank accounts containing about \$4700 in money belonging to joint programs and about \$5400 of its own money. Approximately \$2500 has been allocated to 1995 programs; the remainder is a buffer to avoid cash flow problems and to serve as a reserve for new expenses. Income for 1995 is projected to remain near \$2300 and expenses to rise to about \$2500. Because of the buffer, the small projected deficit is not a problem. ---submitted by *Dan Murphy*

Malling America

It was tougher than the war, tougher than the Yankee Brigadier Chalmers and his artillery... But it wasn't tougher than the ringing of a cash register bell. It had to go ...so that a sprawling octopus covering the country... can dispense, in cut-rate bargain lots, bananas and toilet paper. They call this progress. But they don't say where it's going; also there are some of us who would like the chance to say whether or not we want the ride.

---by William Faulkner, concerning the destruction of a historic courthouse in Mississippi in order to build a shopping center.

POT FRAIS AND POT-POURRI, cont.

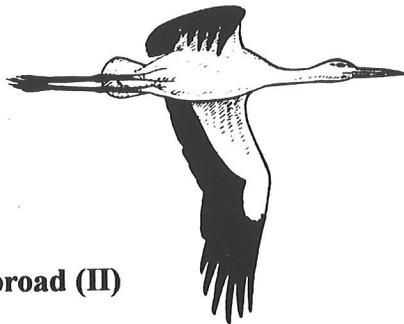
A Recommended Expotition, as Pooh would say

FOR APRIL EXPLORATION: ROCK CREEK FARM.

This working farm is part of Boulder County's Open Space and dates back to 1864 when Lafayette and Mary Miller ran a stage station and a roadhouse here as well as a farm. Many of the buildings date to 1933 when W.S. Stearns operated a dairy farm. Most of the 1,128 acres are leased, but 3.5 miles of trails are fenced off from the agricultural pastures. The trails meander past grazing cattle and prairie dogs, along the creek, and across the Stearns Lake dam. The lake is stocked with tiger muskie and channel catfish and is a good place to see waterbirds, including early avocets. Great horned owls and Swainson's hawks often nest in the cottonwoods, and hawks and eagles soar overhead. The cilantro-like fragrance of blue mustard pervades this pastoral scene.

The farm is located northwest of Broomfield at the intersection of Dillon Rd. and South 104th St. There are two parking areas and trail heads: one on Dillon Rd. 0.3 miles east of the intersection; the other on 104th St. adjacent to Stearns Lake. A trail connects the two roads, and there are two loop trails along old farm roads with panoramic views of snow-covered mountains.

Unless otherwise indicated, quotes and text about Boulder County are from the Boulder County Nature Almanac by Ruth Carol Cushman, Stephen R. Jones, and Jim Knopf (Pruett, 1993).



BCNA Abroad (II)

Toward the end of March, sandhill crane migration peaks near the Platte River in Nebraska. Thousands of sandhills, a few whoopers, and almost as many birdwatchers congregate there to admire each other. Just kidding. The cranes, having more important things to do, ignore the tourists, who are limited in number and discreetly tucked away in blinds for viewing and photographing. Ask Scott Severs (at the Wild Bird Center on 28th St.) what it was like this year.

Big Grass

Northern Tallgrass Prairie

I would be converted to a religion of grass. *Sleep the winter away and rise headlong each spring. Sinck deep roots. Conserve water. Respect and nourish your neighbors and never let trees gain the upper hand.* Such are the tenets and dogmas. As for the practice-- *grow lush in order to be devoured or caressed, stiffen in sweet elegance, invent startling seeds--* those also make sense. *Bow beneath the arm of fire. Connect underground. Provide. Provide. Be lovely and do no harm.*

---by Louise Erdrich in the Mar./Apr '95
Nature Conservancy Magazine

Quick Quotes

According to some recent surveys, close to half of America's citizens do not believe in the reality of evolution.

---from review by Phillip Johnson of
The Beak of the Finch, by Jonathan
Winter (Knopf, 1994)

The Coffeepot Paradox

Thought from the editor: one has to have a sense of humor about these things; if not, madness lurks. There we were, all of us earnest volunteers, doing our best to organize an environmentally sensitive, even "healthy" seminar, with recycled paper abstracts (weren't they?), and whole wheat no-fat bagels... and yet, in spite of our best intentions, little inconsistencies would insist on creeping in. My first one hit me as I righteously planned to attend on my bike--and then was asked to bring the 50-cup coffeepots. I considered doing this on a bike, just to make a statement, but found I had no backpack that even came close to that kind of volume of containment. I ended by making, not one, but two car trips into town, all for the sake of the coffeepots.

And there was poor Tim, vainly attempting to find non-styrofoam coffeecups to quench the thirst of the multitudes (even Alfalfa's failed us there). In our hearts, purists all, and yet it was not to be. One has to be willing to savor the irony, and to keep trying.

**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
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Boulder, CO 80306



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