

Parental Raptures

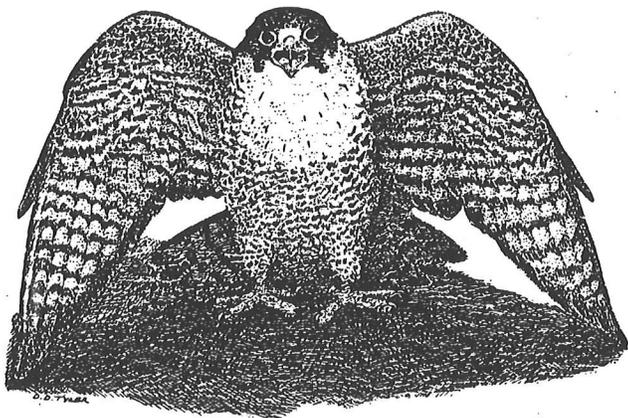
... by Liz Caile

Boulder County's sandstone foothill outcrops were the site of successful nests for three sensitive raptor species this summer. By the first week in July, golden eagle chicks, peregrine falcons and prairie falcons had fledged. Several birds were on the verge of fledging, with golden eagle young observed at the edge of their nests, in darkened plumage and with half-yellow beaks, contemplating their first flight.

BCNA volunteers kept an eye on nests, monitoring them at regular intervals from safe distances so as not to disturb the adult birds. Naturalists from Boulder County Parks and Open Space, City of Boulder Open Space and City of Boulder Mountain parks contributed to this report.

At Rabbit Mountain, two eaglets survived their 60 to 70 day passage from hatching to flying. Until the last minute for this report, volunteer coordinator Libby Henits was unsure if the nest had produced one or two young. Then, Todd Van Zandt spotted a young eagle on the nest's edge and another fledged young in the vicinity.

(cont. on page 3)



Wonderful Weeds

by Tim Hogan, *thinking out loud*

When the County Integrated Pest Management plans were being discussed early this spring, editor LVAG asked botanist Tim Hogan if BCNA had an official position on the matter. Here is his informal reply: *Ah yes, weeds!* Last year when this came up, BCNA chose to NOT take a position because it was happening very fast and we felt it was too complicated to take a quick stand. Some of us (myself included) came down (51%) in support of spraying at the particular site in question. Part of the problem is that people don't appreciate how ecologically devastating the rampant spread of non-native plants can be. In addition, the very mention of chemicals immediately arouses strong resistance (as it should).

On the other hand, based on Kirk Cunningham's [comment, and other thoughtful public reactions], I am inclined to take a very slow and cautious approach that incorporates a LOT of long term monitoring. In some cases spraying will probably still be ok, but in many cases it will not. Kirk's point about [the risks of] roadside spraying is a good one: how many of our roads follow stream courses? a lot of them. Seastadt's research is interesting and offers a wealth of insight, but as he would be the first to admit, there's a lot more we do NOT know than we do know. Certainly, burning, pulling, grazing, etc, in various combinations will work in some situations, but what combination of the three? what's the timing? where are the resources to get it all done?

(continued on page 10)

BCNA CALENDAR - SUMMER TO FALL

- Sat.**
July 26
6:00 a.m.-
- **Burrowing Owl Excursion.** Half-day trip to explore places east of Boulder County for barn and burrowing owls. Meet at Scott Carpenter Park to carpool. Bring food for a mid-morning picnic. **Contacts: Randy (530-4355) or Steve (494-2468).**
- Wed.**
Aug. 6
6:30 -
8:30 p.m.
- **War on Weeds Field Trip.** Led by County IPM Coordinator Cindy Owsley. See page 10 for details. Meet west side of McCaslin Blvd & Coalton Rd. to carpool. Call ahead. **Contact: Kristine (444-1955).**
- Sun.**
Aug. 24
7:00 -
10:00 a.m.
- **Dragonflies and Damselflies.** Join Scott Severs for a walk along the Big Bluestem and S. Boulder Creek Trails to find these amazing winged predatory insects. We'll also look at some of the native grasses, and other wild things in this area of Open Space. Meet at S. Bldr Crk Trailhead on Hwy 93, 1.8 miles south of Table Mesa Dr. **Contact: Scott (541-0784).**
- Tues.**
Aug. 26
7:00.-
9:00 p.m.
- **BCNA Board Meeting.** All members welcome. Bring a drink or snack if you think better with a happy tummy. Meet at Naseem & Mike's: 2595 N. 119th St., Lafayette **Contact: Kristine (444-1955) or Mike (673-0933).**
- Sat.**
Sept. 13
3:00 p.m.-
- **Annual Greenman Sunset-Moonrise Hike and high altitude potluck.** Hike up to Caribou Mountain from Rainbow Lakes Campground for superb views and great food. Optional overnight camping at Rainbow Lakes. Meet at 3:00 at Settlers Park, or at 3:45 at the trailhead in the campground. **Contact: Randy (530-4355).**
- Date to be announced (Sept. 27?)**
- **Be There or Be Square Squaredance.** Details to follow by post. Tentative plans are for a theme potluck and called-dance, with musicians, in a Boulder location; \$5 to cover costs. **Contact: Naseem (673-0933).**



1996 BCNA Board

President: Kristine Crandall (444-1955)
V.P.: Steve Jones (494-2468)
Treasurer: Chaya Nanavati (772-3659)
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Members-at-large:
Tom Delaney (581-0478)
Fern Ford (449-0118)
Cherie Long (447-0922)
Jim McKee (494-3393)
Holly Devaul (786-0479)

Committee Representatives

Prairie dogs - Randy Gietzen (530-4355)
Ind. Peaks Bird Count - Dave Hallock (258-3672)
Bldr. Cnty Land Trust - Joe Manton (417-0948)
Field Trips - Steve Jones (494-2468)
Col. Envir. Coalition - Jim McKee (494-3393)
Trails; Partners in flight - Scott Severs (442-1322)
Newsletter - Linda Andes-Georges (543-9404)



BCNA Website

View the Association homepage on the Internet—and find the information you lost when you misplaced your newsletter. Address:

<http://www.csn.net/~randyg/bcna.html>

The Green Network

Do you have Internet access? Join the BCNA Nature-Net for rapid communication (special announcements like "Wine-tasting at Linda's place," or "Prairie dog photo party!"), and for pressuring local politicians and staffers when their intervention can benefit butterflies, birds, beebalm, etc.

To join our network, send this e-mail message to majordomo@lists.csn.net: "subscribe bcna-nature-net@csn.net." Subsequently, you will receive instructions reminding you how to use the Naturenet. Whenever you need to contact the rest of us, you will post a single message to: bcna-nature-net@csn.net. *Voila!*

Note that e-mail wastes no paper, not even the post-consumer recycled kind.

Further Netty questions? Call our tech wizard, Randy Gietzen: randyg@csn.net



THE RAPTOR'S EYE

*Reminders, Action-options
and Mini- and Maxi-reports about ongoing local issues*



Wanted: a good People-Person Love of Tame Dogs and Wild Animals a Plus

BCNA—and Boulder—need an individual fascinated with the challenges of protecting the environment while simultaneously looking for ways to accommodate the many other uses of Open Space. It's a tricky balance. Specifically, we need someone to follow the Canine Management Policy that has recently been adopted by the City. This dog management plan strives to universally address both users' desires and environmental protection in Mountain Parks and Open Space.

One aspect of the plan is the ongoing meetings of a "dog roundtable" (although like the deer, turkeys, meadowlarks and plants, dogs themselves are unrepresented) which meets every couple of months to review and suggest further refinements to the policy. Environmental interests must be represented in this forum. Do you have the desire to help Boulder County's wild things with a relatively minor time commitment? Please call Kristine Crandall at 444-1955.

BCNA Archives

Posthumous thanks to faithful archivist Wally Collins:
The BCNA collection is accumulating at Norlin Library on Campus. It lacks a few of the older issues, so anyone with originals who wants them carefully preserved should call the archives at Norlin and ask how to contribute them. The Norlin archives also includes newsletters of the DFO, Boulder Audubon Chapter, and Boulder Bird Club. Other avian-related back issues are the complete runs of Living Bird Quarterly, Birders World, Wildbird, Birdwatchers Digest, Birding, and the CFO Journal.

City Open Space: South Boulder Creek Area Management Plan

City Open Space is slowly developing management plans for each of seven areas which compose the current and potential properties of its domain. Critical decisions are being made in these plans, especially the first ones, where precedent will be established for managing the others. For example, if part of an area has already been identified as essential habitat, or ecologically sensitive,

what, if any, recreational activities will be allowed there? Also, if we are to strive for a "balance" between recreational impacts and ecological preservation, does this mean a balance in each sector, or a balance system-wide? And what does "balance" mean in an intensely urbanized region?

The second major draft plan, now being discussed under the name "South Boulder Creek," includes Open Space lands south of Spine Rd., west of 75th, east of 47th, and north of Hwy 93 and Marshall Drive (generally conforming to the creek watershed within those limits). The BCNA representative who will follow ongoing discussions in drafting the plan over the next year will be **Jacob Smith**. Please support him with your attention to these issues in the media (and at hearings), with your input, and with your thanks.

(Rapturous raptors, continued from page 1)

A nest on the granite walls of Boulder Canyon was unsuccessful this year. Nan Lederer spotted one egg which never hatched in one of three nesting areas traditionally used by a golden eagle pair. Nests in the areas of Lefthand Palisades, Skunk Canyon, Lyons and South St. Vrain saw one eaglet close to fledging as of this report. One out of two survived in the Skunk Canyon Nest.

The Division of Wildlife banded nine peregrine falcon chicks on rock outcroppings closed to climbers, in the Mouse-ears area, on the Matron and on the Third Flatiron. Four prairie falcon chicks were initially observed in a nest near Mouse-Ears. Three were seen at the time of this report. A prairie falcon nest in Fern Canyon contained 4 chicks which were absent at the next monitoring. "We're hoping they did fledge. The pair set up at a new nest site we didn't observe at the start. They could have been ahead of schedule, fledged and left the area," said Berton Stoner, Mountain Parks. The period from hatching to fledging is about 30 days.

Some traditional nests sites were not active this year. Parks people and volunteers reported relatively good compliance with the rock climbing closures around active nests. All observers agreed it was a good year for the birds of prey being monitored for reproductive success.

CEC Report

....submitted by Jim McKee

This year's legislative session is over and, fortunately, limited damage was done in the wildlife arena. SB97-52 passed and no one was completely satisfied. It reflects, fairly well, the language of Amendment 14. Animal rights activists are unhappy because the penalties are no more severe than other Division of Wildlife penalties and because Department of Agriculture regulations apply for hardware and method of take. Department of Agriculture rules which implement the statute leave something to be desired, however, and I am sending a fax today with my comments.

HB97-1045, which would have prohibited the Division of Wildlife from adopting rules that restrict the taking of coyotes and raccoons to a specific season, among other things, failed.

HB97-1068, which would have added mule deer to the alternative livestock act, failed and DOW, not DOAg, will continue to oversee mule deer ranches.

SB97-167, authorizing a study of wolf-dog hybrids, passed. DOAg is implementing the study with representation from CEC WISC.

Right to Hunt and Fish - This House Concurrent Resolution, intended to introduce a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to hunt and fish, failed. As I noted in the last newsletter, this resolution had added language that would have severely limited the ability of the Wildlife Commission and DOW to regulate hunting and fishing and, as such, deserved to fail.

I will be attending the Wildlife Commission on July 10-11 in Snowmass. Primary issues of concern there: restrictions on contest hunting (I support severe restrictions), and whether there should be a year-round season on sport hunting of coyotes on private land. Depredating coyotes can already be hunted at any time that they are causing damage and, therefore, there is no need for a year-round sport hunting season.

And like a damn fool, I volunteered for yet another assignment. I am now representing CEC WISC on the steering committee for the April 1998 Thorne Wildlife Symposium in Glenwood Springs. The theme of the symposium will be "The Impact of Recreation on Wildlife". Although the symposium is directed toward wildlife management professionals, we are hoping that many others, interested in wildlife, will attend. So mark your calendar for April 19-22, 1998.

PUMA (Preserve Unique Magnolia Association) with the help of a number of BCNA and Audubon volunteers is well into a summer of field work in preparation for drafting a Magnolia Area Environmental Protection Plan. Modeled on a similar plan prepared by the citizens of Eldora, PUMA is inventorying and documenting our natural and historical resources in order to proactively recommend actions needed to protect them. Plant inventory, breeding bird census, butterfly identification, and other wildlife studies are part of this summer's work.

Besides this major thrust, PUMA has been active through the winter and spring in planning meetings with Denver water board concerning the issues involved in the relicensing of Gross Reservoir. We have also been working with the County and USFS to ameliorate abuses on County Road 68J between Flagstaff Rd. and the Magnolia area.

Irresponsible 4 wheel drivers have created many spur roads--often onto private property--and have left litter, created erosion, and produced excessive noise (shooting, etc.). In May PUMA members met with the above agencies for a work day, setting signs, and closing off the spur roads. The County is scheduled to further close these by bouldering. PUMA members will monitor the success of these efforts in preventing further abuse.

There will be a Third Annual Thistle Pull. These efforts in one or two properties in our area are designed to attack some obvious problem areas and to alert our community about the noxious weed problems and their possible solutions. We appreciate the help of the BCNA as an organization and as individuals. Special thanks to Scott Severs, Mike Figgs, Steve Jones, Dave Hallock, Elaine Hill, Carol Cushman, Janet Chu, Pam Piombino, Barbara Beale, Tom Delaney, Maggie Boswell, Marti Dick, Naseem Munshi, Mike Tupper, Bill Kaempfer, Paula Hansley, Inger and Alan Bell. Apologies if anyone has inadvertently been omitted.

PUMA now has a web page (choose "Environment" and then "Organizations" and finally PUMA. Address: <http://www.peaknet.org>



Allegra Collister Nature Area

Spring 1997 Birdbanding Season

....Submitted by Joe Harrison, Virginia Dionigi
and Tony Esposito

The Spring 1997 season started slowly and ended with a rush. Rain delays were frequent. ACNA was opened May 3rd and closed June 4th. Banding took place on 25 days, and nets were open for a total of 114 hours. 497 birds of 52 different species were captured, evaluated, studied, and banded.

May 28th was our busiest day with 69 birds banded. On May 29th there were 50. And on May 30th, another 54. These three days produced almost 35% of the season's total!

Did Yellow Warbler '119 return? Well... We want to believe that he did. Either he finally learned how to avoid capture, or we weren't there when he passed through. We will be on the alert again in Spring of '98 in the hope that '119 will pay us a visit then.

Surprisingly, it was a record season for Yellow Warblers. 84 were banded. Compared to previous seasons, that is an unexpected and very unusual increase.

There were also record highs for Lincoln's Sparrow (63), Bullock's Oriole (31), Mountain White-crowned Sparrow (25), and Gray Catbird (22).

Four species were banded for the first time at ACNA: Eastern Wood Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Summer Tanager. Going to the nets and finding the surprise bird always creates some excitement, and keeps us going back again and again.



There were no reports of birds banded at ACNA being recovered at other locations. 27 birds banded in previous years did return and were recaptured at ACNA. Amazingly, one of these returns was a Yellow Warbler that was originally banded on 5/31/92 as an "after second year" male. He would be more than seven years old now! Not bad for a brightly feathered and handsome creature weighing in at only 10 grams.

Thanks to the support and generosity of BCNA, we celebrate the conclusion of another successful banding season. And we again prepare for the next ones: our data bank grows and the information becomes more and more meaningful for us all.

Allegra Collister Nature Area

(a.k.a. Lykins Gulch):

ACCESS PROTOCOL

It is clear that the Allegra Collister Nature Area holds an attraction for many birds, and other creatures too. Because of its value as a study site for a variety of disciplines, the BCNA has negotiated for, and administers, a conservation easement for this critical habitat. **It is private property.** It is important that the landowner's wishes be respected, and the intent of the agreement honored. Written permission must be obtained prior to entering the property. Access will be limited. Only those who are conducting pre-approved studies, or who are performing planned maintenance activities, will be allowed routine entry.

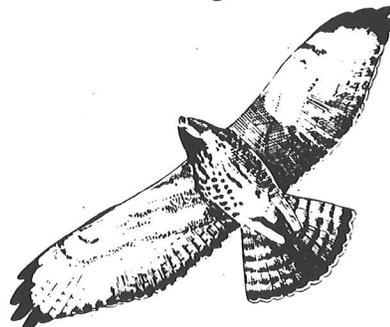
Dinosaur Ridge (Morrison) Hawkwatch Records

....by Tony Leukering

On April 16th, 1997, we shattered the old one-day record of 532 set *on the same date* in 1995. We "scored" an incredible 996 birds with four species being in triple digits (Turkey vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel). We also had a Short-eared Owl fly by late in the afternoon/evening.

Another interesting phenomenon we witnessed that evening was the departure of thousands of Am. Robins from the woodland nearby (mostly to the west) on their way north. Flocks started rising from the trees about 5:30 or so and it continued until after the sun set.

May 28th was evidently good on the Hawkwatch. Brian Sullivan counted 220 birds with an amazing 21 Broad-winged Hawks!! That's about a regular season's worth of BWHAs in one day. Most of the birds were eye-level and close to the ridge.



The Flora of Boulder County

....by Tim Hogan

Extending from the short grass prairies of the Great Plains to the alpine tundra of the Continental Divide, Boulder County enjoys a wealth of landscape types. The County covers approximately 750 square miles, rising from 5,000 feet on the eastern plains to 14,000 feet along its western border. A variety of natural habitats including grasslands, riparian zones, woodlands, forests, and alpine tundra represent an assemblage of habitats that is matched by a diversity of plants and animals that make the County their home.

One thousand five hundred and thirty eight (1,538) species of vascular plants found in 135 families and 667 genera are documented from Boulder County. These species account for one half of the flowering plants known from the entire state of Colorado. This number is only slightly less than the entire flora of Alaska.

One reason so many species are known from the County is because Boulder has been well studied by botanists over the years. But the more important reasons are ecological. The easternmost extension of the Continental Divide in North America is along the Indian Peaks. Within a very short horizontal distance, one can experience a range of floristic regions that would be found on a walk from Mexico to the Arctic.

Precipitation extends from 12 inches on the plains to over 40 inches in the moist forests of the subalpine zone. Substrates range from geologically young glacial deposits, to shales and sandstones deposited by ancient seas and winds, to some of the oldest granites on the continent.

Sheltered foothill canyons where the plains meet the mountains offer refuge for a number of eastern woodland and prairie plants. Many of the broad alpine ridges along the Divide escaped the most recent glacial scouring and serve as another type of refuge for rare alpine species.

Boulder County's rich floristic heritage is harbored in prairie wetlands and pockets of native grasslands on the plains, in open meadows and forests of ponderosa pine in the middle mountains, among old growth spruce/fir forests near treeline, and upon expanses of windswept tundra where the mountains meet the sky.

Our flora is not only quantitatively abundant, it is also qualitatively rich. A number of rare, threatened, and

endangered plants occur here. The lady's tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) and Bell's twinpod (*Physaria bellii*) are federally listed, while many other species are of special concern. Some plants that are common in the Boulder area, such as the sunflower (*Helianthus pumilus*) and the low penstemon (*Penstemon virens*), are found nowhere else in the world beyond the southern Rockies--they are endemic. Other species found in Boulder County are at the edge of their range and therefore represent an important element of that species's genetic diversity. The northernmost occurrence of pericome (*Pericome caudata*), a southwestern species, is on screes in the Boulder Mountain Park. Also found in the Park is the southernmost locality for paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*).

Other denizens of our flora extend back into deep time. There is fossil evidence of Oregon grape (*Mahonia repens*) and waxflower (*Jamesia americana*) that documents their occurrence in our area from 50 million years ago.

We are fortunate to live amidst such a rich and varied flora--a flora with roots in the Tertiary and with branches that reach across continents. The protection of natural areas serves to preserve the evolutionary lineages and the ecological habitats upon which our native plants depends.



[A Checklist of Vascular Plants of Boulder County, Colorado by Curator Emeritus William A. Weber has been recently published by the University of Colorado Museum. Along with a complete list of the Boulder flora, the publication includes a discussion on principal habitats, floristic zonation, weeds, historical plant geography, special floristic patterns, and the significance of anthropogenic change on the flora. The checklist is #16 in the Natural History Inventory of Colorado series and can be purchased for \$5.00 at the University of Colorado Museum.]

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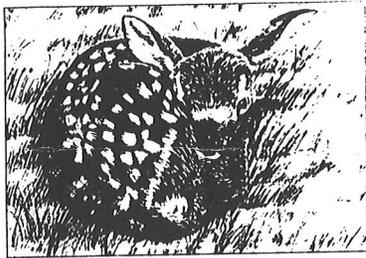
Environmental, ecological, social, and culinary odds and ends

In fond memory of Walter Collins

Anecdote posted by Wally on the Internet chatgroup, Cobirds:

A beginning birder came running up with the report of a flock of Ross's Geese in the plowed field just to the south of the building. I went back with him, looked carefully at the birds, and began gently and kindly to explain to him the finer differences in identification between the Ross's and the Snow Goose. I was finally able to lead him to his own conclusion that he was seeing Snow Geese, not Ross's. I was so proud of my teaching prowess.

About the time I was patting myself on the back most vigorously, I suddenly realized that the whole small flock were decoys.



Dear Wildlife

...by Elaine Hill

The wildlife in my back yard makes coming home an adventure. Baby mammals rate very high on the cuteness scale. A mother deer was licking her wobbly baby fawn in our yard yesterday. We watched it fall and wobble up the slope in our back yard. It sat down in our grass and stayed there. Those first steps in life must be exhausting. When the rain started my female instincts wanted to take an umbrella to the little baby in the grass. The mother moved to shelter under trees for fifteen minutes. Then she did the most amazing thing. She went back to the fawn and stood over it for the remainder of the short thundershower. I trust that the fawn is strong enough by now to get under a tree and out of this rain. Surely this charming little fawn will not be a pest in my garden. Today the mother is in the front yard and I can assume the fawn is hidden in the tall grass again. The mother is being very good today. She is eating the tree leaves that came down in the hard rains - cleaning up the yard.

Creature feature: Game birds

.....collected by LVAG from CO-birds, a Colorado chat group on the Internet

We were at the Rockies last game of the season yesterday. For several innings, we observed a Kestrel darting back and forth over the field. It would sit on the lights and then venture over the playing field every few minutes. We thought that perhaps the resident pigeons were the prey. Finally, we realized that the Kestrel would fly out only when a ball was popped up very high over the infield! It would fly straight toward the highest point that the ball reached, then hover as the ball fell to the waiting infielder. One can only imagine what this adventuresome bird thought the baseball was... [from Paula Hansley, 9/30/96].

I also have Common Grackle and Black-crowned Night Heron on my Coors Field list. One grackle sat in left field for several innings; even Ellis Burks came over to look at it (a potential birder?). [Bill Kaempfer, 9/30/96].

My Coors field list: Mallard, Common Nighthawk, DC Cormorant, Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Rock Dove, Great Blue Heron, Grackel, squirrel, and... big cat. [Doug Allen, 10/1/96]

The Kestrels often gain a few extra hunting hours in the light of Coors field, eating large moths attracted in by the lights. They even seem to have territories, as I've seen one Kestrel drive others away from a particular light bank. [Scott Severs, 10/1/96].

I had a nice surprise yesterday while walking my dogs around the neighborhood during the halftime of the Bronco game: a Prothonotary Warbler! ...In 21 months I had only seen one species of warbler in my neighborhood [2 miles south of Cherry Creek SP]: yellow-rumped. Yesterday and today I had Wilson's Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, and the Prothonotary. [Dave Quesenberry, 9/30/96].



Be there or Be Square

Circle the last weekend in September on your calendar. On one of those days (arrangements are still being confirmed) you are going to be wearing your cowboy hat and/or big skirts to a hoe-down. Mike Tupper and Naseem Munshi are presently planning a gen-yoo-wine square dance with live (as opposed to deadful) musicians and a caller; venue still to be chosen (but close to Boulder). All BCNA members and guests are invited. There will be a small fee to cover costs. You will be notified by mail about the potluck food theme; past BCNA potlucks have been indescribably delicious (with thoughtful individuals providing both HOT and BLAND dishes to accommodate all tastes). Y'all come STOMP with us!

Pollo Pibil

....submitted by Steve Jones

This is a Mayan dish popular in the Yucatan region of Mexico. This version is a free adaptation which may resemble the original:

Ingredients:

A chicken
Some cilantro
Some limes (1-2)
Some tomatoes (2-3)
Some onion (1/2)
Some garlic (2-3)
Some green chilies
Some olive oil

Directions:

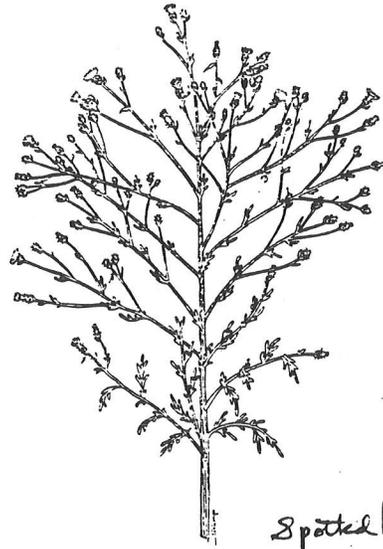
Marinate chicken in lime juice and olive oil. Then wrap everything up in corn husks. Place in a buttered casserole dish and bake at about 325 degrees for an hour or so. Eat.

Return of the Wildflowers: A Celebration of Ecological Restoration.

July 26 and 27, 1997.

Back for its second year, the Return of the Wildflowers Festival celebrates the glory of the restoration of Colorado native flowers to Breckenridge, Colorado. This two day festival includes tours of the Blue River Walkway project focusing on points of botanical and ecological interest and showing how displaced native flora have been brought back to their former state of grace. Throughout the weekend enjoy wildflower/ecosystem tours of local meadows and forests, mini sidewalk seminars, an art show, native plant and seed sales, music inspired by nature, and a schedule of kids activities all their own. Nominal fee for tours. For more information call 970-547-3100.

(Wonderful weeds, cont. from page 1)



I'm not too sanguine about weed-pulls on anywhere near the scale that's necessary. Heck Linda, I don't know. Riding my bike up Sunshine Canyon last spring I watched the road graders work the shoulders for a week. Perfect preparation for knapweed I thought, and sure enough, this year there are young rosettes everywhere along those shoulders. We need to fight hard to protect every site that harbors native vegetation, and work with all the tools at hand to keep the weeds at bay.

BCNA does not have an official weed position at this time.

Integrated Weed Management Fieldtrip

On Wednesday August 6th, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, Cindy Owsley, the Weed Management Coordinator for Boulder County, will show interested BCNA members what is happening with integrated weed management in the Superior area. She will discuss biological control, restoration, grazing, aerial spraying, and other approaches used to tackle the army of weeds that have invaded Boulder County. This is an excellent opportunity to see for yourself how weed-infested areas compare with areas that have been treated with one or more of these prescribed strategies.

We will meet on the west side of McCaslin Boulevard at Coalton Road (at the gate) and carpool from there. Please call Kristine Crandall (444-1955) if you would like to attend, so we make sure we plan to accommodate all that are interested.

This is No Job for a Man

...transmitted by Pam Piombino

Today's New York Times has an article about Alaskan crab fishermen in the Aleutian Islands, "where bald eagles are as common as gulls". Seems that after years of high profits, crab prices have fallen drastically.

"The prices are killing us," said a boat captain who would not allow his name to be used. "The only future in fishing is taking Audubon people out to look at stupid ducks."

Housing Exchanges

..., by Marj Swies

I once watched a nest ["change hands"] in Boulder County near Haystack Mountain. The chronology went like this:

year 1 - red-tailed hawk
year 2 - red-tails
year 3- great horned owl; red-tails made new nest about 80 feet away
year 4 - great horned owl in red-tails' second nest; no red-tails that year
year 5 - great horned owls in 2nd nest; redtails built 3rd nest across the road
year 6 - no great horned owl; no redtail; Canada geese nested in original redtail nest!

In every nest a minimum of one fledging successfully reared. I can't help but wonder if the great horned owls didn't help themselves to some redtail chicks along the way.



Smelly Joke

As spring migration approached, two elderly vultures doubted they could make the trip north, so they decided to go by airplane.

When they checked their baggage, the attendant noticed that they were carrying two dead armadillos. "Do you wish to check the armadillos through as luggage?" she asked.

"No, thanks," replied the vultures. "They're carrion."

Quick Outrageous Quote

Overheard during a BCNA discussion on the Greenways trail program:

"People who move here from Los Angeles think the Boulder Creek bike path is a wilderness."

And a P.S. on Greenways

Bolstering the argument of the Transportation staff that "restored" riparian areas with cement trails in them are a great improvement over their previous condition (sometimes "natural," sometimes greatly altered by urban use), the professional environmental consultant concludes that the 13 species of birds sighted is a sign of good health (for an urban setting, anyway). Which 13 species might they have been? You guess. If you get all 13 right, the editor owes you a cupcake.

Answer below:

[sic].
Black-crowned night heron (good find), Canada goose, Mallard, Mourning dove, Barn swallow, Blue jay, Black-billed magpie, House wren, American robin, European Starling, House sparrow, Common grackle, House Finch, Common flicker, and Pine grosbeak

Roadrunners can't Jump

Cobirder (Internet) Brian Percival recounts having seen roadrunners waiting in ambush under hummingbird feeders. The game plan? The frog-and-fly technique: when you spot a hummer, you jump up and grab 'im. This eyewitness incident occurred in Portal, Arizona.

Sunrise and Moonset over Green Mountain (Post-equinox)

...by LVAG

On March 23rd, a group of BCNA treehuggers rose very early and climbed Green Mountain (west approach) as the moon set over the Indian Peaks. When we reached the top and began to prepare our gourmet breakfast, the sun was rising over a distant Barr Lake mirror.

Besides sharing omelets and chapatis, gruel and chai tea, strawberries and hot chocolate, we shared stories and silence, and the song of the solitaire. Spiritually refreshed, we descended on Boulder again, ready for "real life."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BOULDER COUNTY NATURE ASSOCIATION

Name _____

Address _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Student or senior citizen (65 and over)	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> General member	15
<input type="checkbox"/> Family or household	20
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	30
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Trust/subscriber (\$20 to Bldr Cnty 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 Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Members who have joined since October 1 are considered paid through the following year. Members receive a quarterly newsletter. Supporting members also receive a complimentary copy of each BCNA publication that is published during the membership year. New Boulder County Parks and Open Space Dept. Volunteer Naturalists receive a one-year general membership. Please make check payable to "Boulder County Nature Association" or "BCNA," P.O. Box 493, Boulder, CO 80306.

Extra copies of the newsletter are sometimes available at the *Wild Bird Center*, or from the editor. To submit BCNA-related material to the editor, e-mail to andes@rmi.net, or send a 3.5-in. disk in Word, DOS-text or ASCII text to Linda Andes-Georges, 5684 Aurora Pl., Boulder CO 80303. Typed copy is also accepted.

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Artwork in this issue:
Carl James Freeman: p. 2 col 2; p. 4
p. 9 col 1
Margy Sanham: p. 1, col. 2, p. 8, p. 12
David Sibley: p. 7