



An Affectionate Parody of Edgar Allan Poe's  
"The Raven"

....by Tom Laughlin



Once, upon a midnight boring, as I sat, alone and poring  
Over many a quaint and curious volume of  
electric bills,  
Suddenly there came a thumping, as of someone gently  
bumping,  
Or a pair of hamsters humping underneath my  
window sills.

Scant attention was I paying, as my thoughts were  
gently straying,  
And the stereo was playing "Greatest Hits of Ish  
Kabibble";  
All at once, a vast, unpleasant grackle, black and  
iridescent,

Flew into my chamber window like a wayward  
dirigible:  
Quoth the grackle: "Wibble, wibble!"

All unmoving, all uncaring, long he sat and watched me,  
staring  
'Til I lost all sense of bearing and my lips began to  
drizzle;  
Then that grim and grisly grackle looked at me and gave  
a cackle,

And his hoarse and croaking crackle made my very  
giblets gibble:  
Quoth the grackle: "Wibble, wibble!"

(continued on page 9)

Trails pro and con,  
Hither and yon

....by LVAG

As City Open Space wraps up its North Boulder Valley Area Management Plan—the first to be formulated systematically—and begins another (South Boulder Creek), County Parks and Open Space is conducting ongoing stakeholder discussions of trail and access issues concerning one of its premiere parcels (Hall Ranch). Trails are and have been one of the hot issues in Boulder City and County Open Space planning. We provide the following update for your consideration.

A new trail will be constructed in the North Boulder Valley area. Currently it is being called East Beech. BCNA felt that the location of this trail was ill-chosen as it generally follows the perimeter of a "Habitat Conservation Area" which had been set aside for prairie dogs and raptors. The proximity of humans and dogs (albeit leashed) to raptor hunting and perching seems to have a detrimental effect, depending on the separation distance. However, connecting Neva Road to the Boulder Valley Ranch trails has long been a connection desired by trails advocates, and O.S. staff is hoping that placing the trail on the edge of this ecosystem will have a minimal effect. *Staff has agreed to monitor impacts and consider seasonal closures if necessary.* Meanwhile, once prairie dogs have recovered from the latest epidemic of plague there, wildlife watchers may find this trail a wonderful vantage point for observation.

Near 55<sup>th</sup> St. north of the Boulder Reservoir, a second trail alignment—called Axelson—is also being considered. BCNA has been extensively involved in lobbying either for *not* constructing this one, or if it seems "necessary" (because of pressure from illicit trail creation by equestrians in the area), for constructing it with the greatest possible distance between trail and raptor perch/hunting areas.

In other trail news, a new trail will be constructed soon as an extension of the farm road currently passing through Open Space south of S. Boulder Rd. and parallel to South Boulder Creek. The extension has long  
(continued on page 6)

# BCNA CALENDAR

## Fall to winter

- Sat.  
Sept. 20
- **Indian Peaks Birdcount Day.** Count period is from Sept. 8 to 28. Each sector is covered by a "scout." Some scouts count alone, and some prefer counting with a group. If you'd like to be part of a party, call **Bill Kaempfer** to see who is looking for extra eyes & ears. Expertise not required. **Tel. 939-8005.**
- Watch  
this spot !
- **"Be there or be Square" SQUAREDANCE.** You will receive special invitation by mail. Come and bring friends. Small charge to cover cost of renting space and paying musicians. This event will replace our usual harvest moon bonfire festival. **WILD THINGS** should plan to attend; this is a sure-fire winter warmup.
- Saturday  
Oct. 4  
10:00 a.m.
- **Raptor Survey organizational meeting.** Startup planning for annual winter raptor count. Meet at 4800 Osage Dr. #11. **Contact: Holly (tel. 543-8730).**
- Sunday  
Oct. 5  
3:30 p.m.
- **Howdy hike at Hall Ranch.** Exploration and observation at one of the newest "crown jewels" of County Open Space, along the "loop trail." Gorgeous sunset and birthday champagne are free of charge. Optional supper afterwards in Lyons. Meet to carpool at Greenbriar Restaurant (on 36 north and Lefthand Canyon Rd.) or at the Hall Ranch trailhead SW of Lyons on Rt. 7 (at 4:00). **Contact: Linda, tel. 543-9404.**
- Saturday  
Oct. 25  
6:00 -  
9:00 a.m.  
MDT
- **Moonlight/sunrise hike in Skunk Canyon.** A leisurely 3-mile critter hunt and breakfast occasion (bring something to share). Meet at trailhead, top of Deer Valley Rd. and Hollyberry (take Dartmouth west to Kohler and keep going uphill). **Contact: Steve, tel.**



### 1995 BCNA Board

President: Kristine Crandall  
 V.P.: Steve Jones (494-2468)  
 Treasurer: Chaya Nanavati (772-3659)  
 Secretary: Mike Tupper (673-0933)  
 Members-at-large:  
 Cherie Long (447-0922)  
 Jim McKee (494-3393)  
 Holly Devaul (543-8730)  
 Tom Delaney (581-2478)  
 Fern Ford (449-0118)

### Contacts and Committee Reps

Ind. Peaks Bird Count - Dave Hallock (258-3672)  
 Bodr. Cnty Land Trust - Joe Mantione (417-0948)  
 Field Trips - Steve Jones (494-2468)  
 State/regional legislative matters - Jim McKee (494-3393)  
 Partners in flight - Scott Severs (442-1322)  
 Prairie dogs - Randy Gietzen (530-4355)  
 Newsletter/Trails info - 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](mailto:majordomo@lists.csn.net): "subscribe bcna-nature-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](mailto: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](mailto:randyg@csn.net)

## THE RAPTOR'S EYE:

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



### For Noxious weeds, alas, Noxious solutions

...by LVAG

One recent August evening, a group of weed-hating plant-lovers gathered to hear what County IPM (Integrated Pest Management) director Cindy Owsley had to say about perennial weed control arguments. Cindy is on the firing line between many people with strong convictions: those who are suspicious of herbicides (like chemically sensitive Gunda Starkey, whose essay about the matter appeared in the *Daily Camera* on Sept. 7), 1960-relic chemical paranoids like your reporter; environmentalists who fear contamination of streams and aquifers, and impacts on wildlife; and on the other hand, ranchers and environmentalists who have seen landscapes transformed into wildlife-hostile weedfarms and who want to "nuke" the weed monsters before this happens to Colorado.

Nevertheless, Cindy and her team persevere in their mission to control (ob)noxious weeds in Boulder County by pulling, spraying, burning, grazing, and educating the public about risks and results. During our field trip, on a balmy summer evening as the sun set gently behind the Mickey Mouse ears, we walked over rolling rangeland where hundreds of acres had been sprayed with Tordon 22K by helicopter in May, 1996.

We discussed the concentration of herbicide used, the inspection and monitoring techniques, and the complementary methods of control which have been used here. We were able to contrast this heavily managed area with nearby patches which were not sprayed (including ½ mile borders along waterways). The difference in infestation is remarkable (sprayed areas show 85 to 95% effectiveness in knapweed removal). However the heavily infested patches may eventually spread again to the treated areas. But for the moment, native forbs and grasses are flourishing and abundant. So far, there has been no detectable water contamination.

Meanwhile, with the County's permission, professor Tim Seastadt of the University is experimenting on 92 acres of land in the same area, using only non-chemical techniques. Comparison of these methods with the IPM used by the County will provide interesting data for future weed-control planning.



### Pups in the Park

... by LVAG with information  
from Suzanne Bohan

One Saturday in September, City Open Space and the Mountain Parks jointly held a workshop for dog owners on the new Dog Management policy and on what kinds of control are now being required of them and their canine companions. A secondary goal was to "test the test" for flaws.

There were nine dog/handler participants and several spectators, and from all accounts, the spectating was lots of fun. Some of the "tests" were so challenging that one wonders if a human child could pass them (certainly some children could benefit from being leashed).

A sample of the challenges to be executed off-leash:

- Sit when petted by a friendly stranger.
- Sit when handler is greeted by a friendly stranger.
- Two-minute down "stay," with distractions.
- Recall with, and without, distractions.
- Heel with, and without, distractions.

(continued on page 5, col. 2)

## Boulder County Birdbanding Gets a Boost

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



Fall banding is in progress. The banding station was opened Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> and banding will continue as long as the weather permits; and, as long as the passage of neotropical migrants persists. At this very early stage, banding activity has been much the same as in previous seasons. No new or unusual captures have been made, nor any rare species sighted. Nevertheless, every trip to the nets is filled with high hopes, great expectations, and a sense of wonder at the spectacle of nature that we are witnessing.

BCNA has received official notice from Boulder County Scientific & Cultural Facilities District that certain funds have been approved pertinent to the grant application that was submitted earlier this year.

These funds will enable the birdbanding studies to slip into the mainstream of current technology. Pencils, erasers, and piles of paper will be replaced by a laptop computer. We look forward to experiencing: Real time data entry! Instant access to historical records! Technical resources at our fingertips! Reports submitted on floppy disk! Data converted to charts and graphs! Statistics! Trends!

An exciting step that is long overdue. Call one of us and come to witness the old system still in action, soon to be "extinct."

### 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.

### Birds of Prey Foundation: First to know the Bad News

....by LVAG with information from  
Sigrid Noll Ueblacker

American kestrels had a very bad summer this year, as the Rehabilitation Center was the first to find out, beginning in June. Indeed, on June 20<sup>th</sup>, the Center received forty kestrels and one screech owl with cases of triconomiasis; several weeks later only nine had survived. Treatment was difficult, as the bug proved resistant to several of the most effective drugs.

Director Sigrid Ueblacker volunteered to collect data from other rehabilitation centers (such as the one at Ft. Collins and at Pueblo, as well as Greenwood in Longmont). Sick birds were coming from as far away as Castle Rock, Parker, Lakewood, and Colorado Springs by mid-July.

Strangely, a similar epidemic had been recorded in Arizona in 1996.

But nature is resilient. As this reporter explored Doudy Draw after dawn on a late summer day, three kestrels were frolicking among the shrubs on the eastern hillside. Like the prairie dogs who lived through the plague of 1996, those energetic survivors will go on to begin the new, stronger generation.

## Where the Elk and the Black bear Roam

Our friends from the Preserve Unique Magnolia Assoc. remind us that a relatively (must we emphasize the *relatively*?) un-impacted area of the County is now undergoing evaluation concerning expansion of recreation (boating, biking, 4w-driving, hiking). The area in question surrounds Gross Reservoir. The Denver Water Board has been gathering public input concerning management of the Reservoir for several months. Trail users and 4wd users are pushing hard for more trails and off-road use; and the draft plan allows for more than 80 boats on the water at one time!

The consultant which the Water Board hired to do a resource inventory submitted findings with many strange anomalies which jump to the eye of people who know the area well. (After months of anecdotal study, PUMA began conducting long-term systematic transects of their nearby area in June). The report contained, for example, inventory of very few cavity-nesting birds, mentioned the wrong migrating elk herd, neglected to mention the number of hours of observation in the field (over a period of a very few days), etc. (BCNA members are familiar with the quality of this sort of work after our experience with the expensive consultants hired to inventory the City water pipeline alignment habitats). In brief, the Water Board does NOT have all information necessary to decide whether more recreation will have significant negative impacts on this *relatively* wild area.

If you think that this may not bode well for the charismatica megafauna, as well as for the little quiet ones, which currently use the Gross Reservoir area as a refuge, please **attend the last public meeting at 6-9:00 pm on Thurs., September 18<sup>th</sup> and speak up. Location of the meeting is the Holiday Inn on 28<sup>th</sup> St. in north Boulder. Wear your fake bear fur and a Davy Crockett raccoon hat. Call Cherie Long for more information: 447-0922.**

### South Boulder Creek Area Management Plan

City Open Space has "finished" the North Boulder Valley Area Management Plan and has begun the plan for South Boulder Creek. While certain elements of the former will continue to be refined (ongoing wildlife inventory and monitoring) and others implemented (rangeland management, trail construction), the broad policy for the area has been established. Now the same procedure has been set in motion for the area more or less defined by 47<sup>th</sup> and S. Broadway (on the west), 75<sup>th</sup> St. (on the east), Marshall Dr. (south) and Six-mile Reservoir (north).

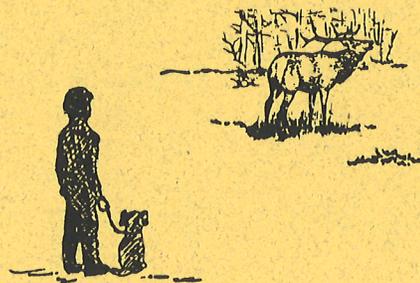
Staff has been compiling a resource inventory and in May held a preliminary briefing to inform the public about the process. *On Sept. 24 there will be an Open House at the Municipal Bldg. (4:30 to 6:00) to receive citizen suggestions and learn about concerns.* The draft inventory report of the area's resources has been completed and will be available for signout at libraries and O.S. offices.

The BCNA representative who will keep an eye on the process and keep us informed is Jacob Smith (email [jsmith@sobek.colorado.edu](mailto:jsmith@sobek.colorado.edu)).

*(PUPS IN THE PARK, continued from page 3)*

However the "trail of terror" was by far the most difficult part. Dogs were asked to walk off leash (arm's distance from the handler) down a narrow trail past a jogger, a strange dog tied to a tree (no contact with either jogger or dog was permitted), past a dog-toy tied to a bush, down another trail, past a stuffed howling coyote hidden in the tall grass near the trail, past a rock decorated with a few fragrant Egg McMuffins, up to a picnic table. The dog was to stay with the owner when a stranger stepped out from behind a tree and activated a bright green croaking frog toy. Then the dog and handler were to retrace steps past food and coyote once again.

Results? One Egg McMuffin casualty, and several pooches succumbing to the reflex-reaction of being spooked and of growling at the unexpected sight of the stranger. FIDOS participants were off to a good start. If only the "bad" owners attended these things...





## Cowbird Parasitism on Plumbeous Vireos An ongoing research project

...by Jameson Chace

Under the direction of Dr. Alex Cruz, a number of students at the University of Colorado have explored the impacts of the brood parasitic Brown-headed Cowbird on species that accept cowbird eggs (hosts) laid in their nests, often to the detriment of the hosts own offspring.

Cowbirds have bred in Boulder County since before the first records of explorers to the region, thus unlike other regions of the US where cowbirds have recently expanded, here in Boulder we need to find ways to live with our native cowbirds without diminishing the current diversity of songbirds. The Boulder County Nature Association has supported my work that I completed in 1995 under the guidance of Dr. Alex Cruz on the impacts of cowbirds and nest predators on the plumbeous Solitary Vireo population. I would like to describe some of my findings and report on some new directions that we are taking.

In 1993 and 1994, with the help of Scott Severs, I studied the factors affecting the plumbeous Solitary Vireo population breeding in the ponderosa pine foothills of Boulder County. 81 nests were found and monitored of which nearly 25% were only parasitized by cowbirds, 25% were only preyed upon, and another 25% were both parasitized and preyed upon. Over the two years the 81 vireo nesting attempts fledged 64 vireos and 18 cowbirds. We examined habitat variables around each nest site in an attempt to determine landscape parameters that might increase the probability of nest success. *Nests further from roads and residential areas were less likely to be preyed upon. This finding ties in nicely with David Craig's work on nest predators, in which he has shown that Steller's Jays increase in abundance in regions of higher human disturbance.*

We found that cowbird parasitism was linked with distance to nearest canopy opening, whether natural or caused by human activities. Female cowbirds may be the premier nest finders, often sitting in trees observing host nesting behavior while searching for as many as 40 nests in which they will lay one of their eggs. They monitor nests so that their laying is synchronized with host clutch initiation. Openings in the canopy probably

give cowbirds a better vantage point to observe nests and potential host behavior.

Despite the strong, and annually consistent, impacts of predation and parasitism the vireo population has maintained its current size for over a decade of observation by Dr. Cruz and his students. The reproductive output of the few successful nesting attempts may be great enough to offset the impacts of predators, cowbirds, and other sources of mortality. Alternatively, the population in Boulder County may be incapable of replacing itself but maintains a stable size through the influx of vireos from more productive regions.

The Open Space program has protected a wonderfully diverse ecosystem, however the impacts of an increasing adjacent human population may reduce the functioning ability of the vireo population to maintain its size within the protected forests through increased abundance of predators and cowbirds gaining access to nest sites. Such impacts are nearly imperceptible compared to issues such as habitat loss, but may be just as important. We will continue to evaluate this situation in Boulder County by examining other songbird species. Cathy Bechtoldt, Dan Evans, and John Walsh joined our team this year as they monitored shrubland species such as Spotted Towhees and Black-headed Grosbeaks, and other ponderosa pine forest breeders such as the Western Wood-pewee, Western Tanager, Chipping Sparrow, and Warbling Vireo. Through this research we hope to find ways to minimize the impacts of human disturbance on nesting songbird populations in Boulder County.



*(TRAILS, continued from page 1)*

been requested by trail advocates as a means of connecting the trails network in the east with bike corridors on Marshall and Broadway, and with the Mesa trail area (via Big Bluestem or others). The new connector, which will be more or less perpendicular to the current trail (that is, east—west) passes through the Flatirons property now owned by the University, and crosses a tiny wetlands (this will be effected by construction of boardwalks). The wetlands impact study now underway has not revealed presence of sensitive species. *The advantage of building a trail here is that it will prevent any pressure to construct one in the nearby South Boulder Creek riparian area instead.*

# POT FRAIS AND POT POURRI

*Environmental, ecological, social, and culinary odds and ends*

## Counting hummers by the hundreds

....compiled by LVAG  
from Cobirds listserv

I have a hard time distinguishing female broad-tailed hummingbirds from juveniles, and both of those from their rufous counterparts; and in certain lights a BT looks like a black-chinned, and so forth. So I have been impressed not only by the identification skills that fellow Colorado birders mention so casually, but even more impressed by their ability to *count* these miniature F16s. Recently I asked them how they do it. Here is a selection of replies, in case you want to try counting hummers yourself.

*The tongue-in-cheek method* (I think): First you count all small flashes by ten, square the observed ones, and subtract by 3. (Van Truan, Pueblo)

*The pounds-per-square-inch method*: Rough calculations can be made by keeping track of the pounds of sugar used and knowing the caloric value of sugar and the metabolic rate of the birds. Or to simplify, count slightly over 500 birds per gallon of sugar-water. (Steve Bouricius, Grand Junction and Peaceful Valley)

*The fisherman's estimate method*: if your feeders are being visited by streams of birds (vs. being successfully defended by a single bird), then counts of birds visible at one time are likely under-estimates by a factor of 5 - 10 times (so if you see 25 at once, then you really have 125 to 250 birds). (Van Remsen, Louisiana)

*The "I've seen you before somewhere" method*: Figure out the frequency with which a few individually marked/banded birds appear and compare or extrapolate with visitation by unmarked birds during the same interval for a total count. (Van Remsen—says all these methods give roughly the same results).

*The Super Vision method*: Pay close attention to the proportions of species, ages, and sexes at the feeder(s) at any one time. Count these individuals (write it down). Count the individuals that have distinguishing marks. Count perched birds in the vicinity. Add it up. Take into account the amount of time that individuals spend at the feeder. Recognize that the numbers are far greater than what you think you have seen. (Tony Leukering, Barr Lake)

## Counting owls by the dozens

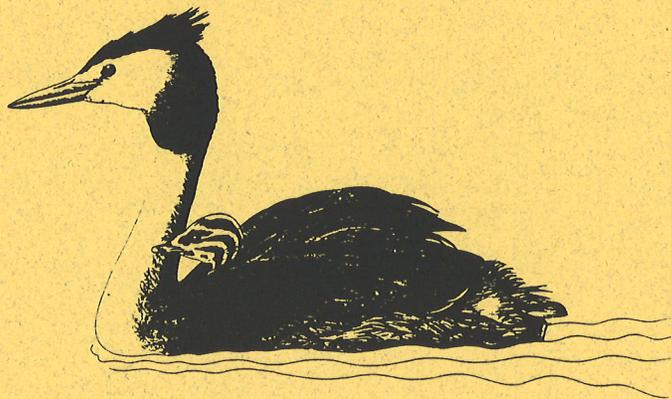
....by LVAG from data  
supplied by Steve Jones

BCNA members who did not participate in the High Plains Field Trip on July 26<sup>th</sup> missed a singular excursion, and a lot of fun. Within a stone's throw of DIA, we saw quantities of wonderful wildlife, and picnicked in the shade of a country lane.

High on the list of most interesting was the herd of pronghorn antelope: several were nursing mothers with young. Other mammals who wandered through our day were coyote, cottontail rabbit, black-tailed prairie dog, and vole.

One of the objectives of the trip was to find and observe burrowing owls, which—once common—are now rare to non-existent in Boulder County. We located a number of prairie dog towns with multi-generational owl families, and spent hours watching them watch us. We were probably getting the best of the bargain, as we stood around with our binoculars while they went on doing more interesting owl things.

The trip "netted" a record number of raptors for BCNA one-day trips (77), but among other interesting species, we also saw black-crowned night heron (over Cherryvale Rd.!), common barn owl (sleeping peacefully at his door), loggerhead shrike, blue grosbeak, Bullock's oriole, marsh wren, and most enchantingly, a Western grebe with a grebeling on its back.



## How to Find a Mountain Lion

....by LVAG

The surprising answer to this question is: don't do any of the logical things, which are the ones your investigative reporter tried first. Taking a calculated (well, OK, not so well calculated) risk, several of us have been putting ourselves in harm's way for some time in our attempt to spot these elusive beasts.

We all know where they hang out. They are prowling around Walker Ranch and Gross Reservoir (see article page 5), up on Magnolia Road, in north Boulder Creek canyon, along the Ann U. White trail, and on Shanahan Ridge. A few years ago, they were acquiring a taste for the terriers near Viele Lake. At any rate, you figure that if you haunt these places at dawn and at dusk, your chances are pretty good of eventually bumping into one. You take company with you, and a can of the big-time pepper spray just in case you and the cat don't agree on the purpose of the field trip.

Nearly a year of puma-hunting went by with nary a tailtip in view. Pawprints but no claws. Scat but no cat.

Then I got smart. I went on a Boulder Bird Club outing to Phantom Canyon north of Ft. Collins (a Nature Conservancy holding, guided trips only). It was a big jolly group, slow and pretty noisy. It was noon. It was hot. It was of course the perfect way to find a lion. We saw two.

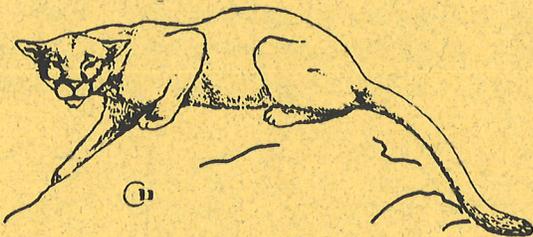


Figure 34. Mountain Lion or Puma

The first was probably sunning on a ledge below us as we chattered our way down the trail. Disturbed, she appeared and looked up at us in a rather grouchy fashion before moving downhill to join a second adult. The two of them wandered into the rocks further along in the canyon and were then lost to sight. Awed, our group stood and watched for many long minutes. No one had thought to take a picture. Some things are better treasured in the mind.

## Artwork credits

Skunk, p. 2: *On the forest edge*, by Carol Lerner  
Owl eyes, p. 3: Carl James Freeman  
Photo, p. 3: Haydee Georges w/brother Pierre  
(leashed)

Elk, p. 6: Carl James Freeman  
Grebe, p.7: *La Hulotte* advertisement  
Puma, p.8: *Mammals of Colorado*, by Hugo Rodeck  
Owls, cover: Carl James Freeman  
Plant drawings: Margy Lanham  
All others public domain or LVAG

## Preserving Habitat The Brainstorming Corner, Part I

....by LVAG  
compiled from Cobird postings

Another subject that has been tossed back and forth in the Cobirds forum has been that of how to protect wildlife-friendly habitat. Many of us are zealous but ignorant; and some who are well-informed are paralyzed by the complexity of it all. We'll begin a series of selections of these thoughts, which you may find inspiring:

*Adopt a park:* During my recent too-brief visit to the Denver area, I was impressed once again by the quantity and quality of parks that have been established... I saw lots of unfulfilled potential for good habitat management and a number of mistakes, probably by people with good intentions... These parks will assume increasing importance as bird factories as wildlands are replaced by humanscape.

Does DFO, CFO, or any of the local conservation organizations have official advisory panels that try to have input into these critical refuges?.. Perhaps local birders with the backing of their local groups could become semi-official advisors to the managers, watchdogs, so to speak. Leave a dead tree here, re-route a path there, get Boy Scouts to make nest-boxes, stop mowing, let nature take its course...

Parallel to this would be establishing an official program to monitor [wildlife] populations in each park... a list-keeper for [wildlife]... making reasonable estimates of the breeding populations through saturation coverage... Wouldn't you love to see a survey result from your favorite spot from, say, 1940! Or even 1960.

...these ideas from Van Remsen of Louisiana, formerly of Denver. See December issue for ideas from others

## H2O - Where does it Go?

...by Bill Kaempfer on Cobirds

Yesterday I was talking to Bill Prather on the shores of Union Reservoir. He mentioned plans to raise the level of Union by some huge amount, which would take out eight houses, and give Bill one great yardlist, as the northwest corner would end up lapping his back porch.

The reason for this enlargement is to allow enough storage to maintain downstream flow in the St. Vrain (and S. Platte) to compensate for the water Longmont takes out and uses from mountain sources of the St. Vrain.

The point of this is that not only is water stored for urban and agricultural use, but for flow maintenance, too. But, as an economist, I should point out that most agricultural water, especially in a high plains state like Colorado, is grotesquely subsidized. In other words, we should still be growing bison and prairie chickens on the plains, not corn and wheat.

### New Birding Program on PBS and Websites

Authors and birding personalities Don and Lillian Stokes have taped segments for a new PBS program, *Birdwatch*, which should begin airing around Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. The series has been set up in "magazine" format (something like the *Victory Garden*), with material on identification, travel, conservation, backyard birds, birdbanding study, etc. One of their prototype programs (last year) featured scenes from Boulder, with overvoiced commentary by familiar voices such as that of BCNA's Jim Knopf.

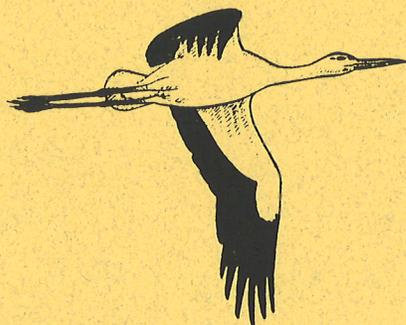
An interview of the Stokes can be found at <http://www.birdwatching.com/birdingtips.html>

### What our Cats teach us

*from the Hope Health Letter 5/96*

Stretch often—with your whole body. Remember to play. Stay very clean. Never lose your ability to be excited by something new. When someone does something nice for you, remember to purr.

\*\*\*\*\*



### Ultralight Pilot to Give Cranes Lesson in flight

...from *Daily Camera* 8/12/97  
article by Katy Human "On Ecology"

*It's Fly Away Home, The Sequel:*

Coloradans may glimpse an odd sight in the sky this fall: seven young Whooping cranes trailing behind a man in an ultralight airplane. The cranes, now being tutored in flight by Kent Clegg on his Idaho ranch, have "imprinted" on the rancher. "They think he's mom," explained Tom Bauer, spokesman for the USFS&W in Albuquerque, N.M.

Clegg plans to lead the young birds from Idaho to a winter home in New Mexico this fall, passing through Colorado's San Luis Valley sometime in October.... With the species close to extinction, the USF & W is resorting to desperate measures. On July 27, they designated the Rocky Mountain population of cranes as "experimental" – a label that allows scientists to use novel measures with the seven young birds slated for reintroduction into the area.

The main experiment is in learning. "Migration for [whooping cranes] is totally learned," Granillo said. Since the young Whooping cranes were born to captive parents, someone else needs to teach them to fly south for the winter.

Clegg's the man. Over the last two years, he has tested his technique on non-endangered Sandhill cranes... During the last two autumns, young Sandhill cranes raised in Idaho obediently followed Clegg's plane down to the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge south of Albuquerque. Today, they seem to be doing well on their own... So now it's time for the Whooping cranes...  
*Bon voyage, little ones.*

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BOULDER COUNTY NATURE ASSOCIATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

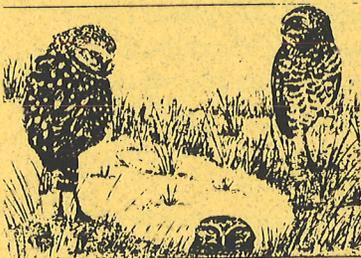
Address \_\_\_\_\_

<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](mailto: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.

**Boulder County Nature Association  
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*Bedstraw*