

### I Heard The Owl Call My Name\*

...submitted by Paula Hansley

White was my mother's favorite color. So it is not surprising she had always wanted to see a Snowy Owl. Despite her wide-reaching travels with my father-- to all states except Alaska-- she never saw one. The owls' most southerly excursions during lemming-poor winters did not take them as far south as southern Ohio.

As we all sat at the breakfast table looking out on mother's three acres of woods two days before she died, my sister told of seeing a Snowy Owl perched on the ground by the shores of Lake Michigan.

I said "goodbye" to Mother in the hospital on Christmas day, promising to visit in April during warbler migration. She looked better than when we had taken her there the day before.



Back in Colorado the day after Christmas my husband Gary left work early, tired from the long trip to Cincinnati. As he was driving south from Boulder along Highway 93 (~3 p.m.), a large white owl flew in front of his truck. The owl was so close that Gary could clearly see its yellow eyes.

What Gary did not know is that my mother had passed away just before 5 p.m. Eastern standard time.

\*Craven, Margaret, 1973, I heard the owl call my name: New York, Doubleday.



### Have you seen these birds?

#### Species of Concern Update is Imminent

...submitted by Steve Jones

In 1998, the Boulder County Nature Association will be revising the "Boulder County Avian Species of Special Concern" list. As you know, this list helps us to protect natural areas by identifying species that may be in jeopardy and by mapping critical nesting and foraging sites. Since 1983, information on the list has helped us protect (through purchase, conservation easement, or protective management) nesting and wintering habitat for peregrine falcon, northern harrier, burrowing owl, American and least bittern, great egret, and many other species.

As part of the revision, we are soliciting information concerning species currently listed as "rare and declining," "rare and stable," or "extirpated." We would like to know of recent Boulder County breeding records (evidence of nesting) for any of the following species.

#### I - Rare and Declining

- Eared grebe
- American bittern
- Northern harrier (other than Boulder Reservoir)
- Northern bobwhite
- Long-eared owl
- Burrowing owl
- Brown thrasher
- Loggerhead shrike
- Lark bunting

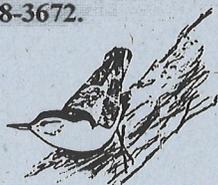
also, these candidates: Lewis' woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, willow flycatcher.

(continued on page 8)

## BCNA CALENDAR

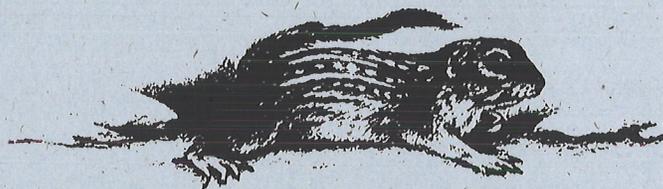
### Winter to spring

- Sat.  
Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>  
8 a.m. -  
11 a.m.
- *Hawkwatch and Potluck breakfast on Dakota Hogback.* Meet at NCAR parking lot (top, at west end of Table Mesa Dr.) and walk .5 miles to the hogback. Bring finger food (fruit, muffins, prairie dogs, voles, or rabbits, etc.) and/or a beverage to share. **Contact: Steve, 494-2468.**
- Sat.  
April 25<sup>th</sup>  
10 a.m. -
- *Raptor monitoring wrap-up meeting.* 3970-0 Colorado Ave (Wellman Creek Apts). Review of the season's efforts, and comparison of data to previous years. Bring data or mail **in advance.** Access apts. from Colorado opposite Research Park ("Casa"), but bike or carpool if possible: *very little parking.* **Contact: Holly, 415-0464.**
- Friday  
May 1<sup>st</sup>  
4:30 p.m.-
- *Dry Creek "Puppy Park" hike and picnic.* Find out why this area will be the next trails issue "battleground," and debate the pros, cons, and pro-active possibilities. Potluck picnic at 5684 Aurora Pl. (off Baseline east of 55<sup>th</sup>) at 7:00. **Contact: Linda, 543-9404.**
- May 7-10
- *Camping in Comanche Grasslands.* Possibility only—depends on interest. Bivouacking necessary to avoid occasional cowboy chaos in Cottonwood Canyon, but this would be an excellent opportunity to see lovely area and local critters at close quarters. **Contact: Linda, 543-9404.**
- Saturday  
May 9<sup>th</sup>
- *Indian Peaks Bird Count Day.* Count period is from May 2 - 17<sup>th</sup>. It is fun to have a scientific excuse to be sneaking around in the spring run-off-soaked soils, stalking wildlife, or maybe taking our last outing on snowshoes. If you do not have an assigned sector or team, **contact Bill Kaempfer, 939-8005.**
- Thursday  
May 21<sup>st</sup>  
7:00 -  
9:00 p>m.
- *BCNA Board Meeting.* "It's always nice to be among friends," as one Board member recently remarked. Relax, discuss, see the sun set from Holly's porch. **Contact: Holly, 415-0464.**
- Sunday  
June 14<sup>th</sup>
- *Indian Peaks Bird Count Day.* Count period is lengthy to accommodate the breeders who set up housekeeping late in the subalpine areas: June 1- July 12<sup>th</sup>. These data are essential for our 17<sup>th</sup> breeding season roundup. **Contact: Dave Hallock, 258-3672.**



## ASSOCIATION VIP LIST

### and various useful contacts



### 1998 BCNA Board

Acting President: Steve Jones (494-2468)  
V.P.: Holly Devaul (415-0464)  
Treasurer: Dan Murphy (499-2771)  
Secretary: Mike Tupper (673-0933)  
Members-at-large:  
Fern Ford (449-0118)  
Cherie Long (447-0922)  
Jim McKee (494-3393)  
Dora Perry (652-0601)  
Tim Hogan (444-5577)

### Committees and Specialists

Birdbanding - Joe Harrison (772-3481)  
Boulder County Comp Plan - Mike Figgs  
Cliff-nesting raptors - Steve Armstead (441-3408), Nan Lederer, Mike Figgs (447-1899)  
Dog management issues - OPEN  
Ind. Peaks Bird Count - Dave Hallock (258-3672), Bill Kaempfer (939-8005)  
Natl. Forest Mgmt. - Tim Hogan (444-5577)  
Newsletter - Linda Andes-Georges (543-9404)  
Open Space liaisons - Jacob Smith (443-5518), Scott Severs (442-1322)  
Parties, special events - Naseem Munshi (673-0933)  
Partners in flight - Scott Severs (442-1322)  
Prairie dogs - Randy Gietzen (530-4355)  
Publications - Steve Jones (494-2468)  
Preserve Unique Magnolia - Cherie Long (447-0922)  
State/Regional Wildlife issues - Jim McKee (494-3393)  
Trails issues - Leslie Glustrom (543-0302)  
Wintering Raptors survey - Holly Devaul (415-0464), Jim McKee (494-3393), Dora Perry (652-0601)

### Another Version of NEVER GIVE UP

...submitted by Patt Dorsey

"Today's mighty oak is merely yesterday's little nut that managed to hold its ground!"



## THE RAPTOR'S EYE



*Reminders, Action options, and Mini- and maxi-reports on a variety of local conservation issues*

### Trails issues Ad Nauseam

*...compiled by LVAG*

**Official position:** At the Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> BCNA Board meeting, the 1994 Association position on trails and trail creation was reviewed. It became clear during our discussion that while many of us enjoy hiking and the access to wild things that trails provide, all of us agreed that our need to recreate and to satisfy our curiosity must be secondary to wildlife's need to exist, hunt, and procreate. (Oddly enough, most passionate trails advocates agree—as long as no specific trail is in question.)

The BCNA Board therefore decided that no change in the current position is warranted. The position is stated in full on page 10.

**Resources for trail consideration and planning:** Also available is a compilation of some of the current research and data which can (and should) be consulted when trails are being considered (either for creation or for elimination). Call Linda for a copy: 543-9404.

During recent emotional public testimony before the City Open Space Board, BCNA's objectivity in monitoring and research was called into question. This is an understandable reaction from those who disagree with some of our positions, who do not know our members personally, and who are ignorant of our methods. The Association wishes to emphasize that our research trips and data collection meetings and documents are open to the public, and that we welcome questions and participation. Key Association personnel are listed on page two and may be contacted at any time for specifics on ongoing projects and schedules.



### South Boulder Creek Area Management Plan

*...excerpts from a letter to the Open Space Board on behalf of BCNA, by Jacob Smith*

**General comments:** The City (...) needs to conduct an analysis for every significant management action (e.g., trail construction) where all of the relevant data are brought together, including vegetation mapping, habitat typing, occupied and suitable habitat for all species of concern (including all those designated in some relevant manner by the County, state, Col. Natl. Heritage Program, USFS, and USF & W), and critical plant and animal communities. *Where there are critical data gaps, the decision process needs to be delayed long enough to fill those gaps* [italics added]. It is wholly irrational to attempt to make resources decisions without (...) looking in a coordinated fashion at the basic biological data [concerning] what might be impacted and in what ways—especially when much of this data already exists.

(...) An honest [balancing of purposes] means several things. It means that the City should identify those areas of the greatest biological importance. It means that recreation [must] be concentrated in those areas thought to be least important biologically and most resistant to such activity (i.e., where the adverse impacts of recreation can be most readily and fully mitigated). Finally, it means that the sensitive and important areas be protected from adverse impacts. In general, if carefully planned, recreation and some level of habitat protection can coexist on individual Open Space parcels, but in some cases, habitat protection will preclude recreational use.

(...) to the best of my knowledge, no member of BCNA has ever advocated an effort to return Boulder County to pre-human or even to pre-European settlement conditions. (...) We are concerned [rather] about the loss of native biological diversity across the County, and our objective is to encourage the conservation of as much of this biological diversity as possible. The does not imply the return of large expanses of the County to some sort of "primeval" condition. Rather, it implies managing particular areas, prioritized for their current

*(continued on page 6)*



## POT FRAIS AND POT POURRI

*Environmental, ecological, and culinary odds and ends*



### Indian Peaks International

A Canadian researcher recently was excited to learn about our double-decade (nearly) databank from the Indian Peaks birdcount: "Thank you for your response! This information would be very valuable, and would constitute our only long-term data set on alpine migrants. In fact, it's probably the only one out there! I'm not familiar with Colorado myself, but my supervisor Kathy Martin studies White-tailed Ptarmigan at Mt. Evans, in cooperation with Clait Braun at the Division of Wildlife. I just told her about your count data and she is very enthusiastic.

"You have a very noble project going on, and the web site is especially appealing. Keep up the good work, and we'll certainly keep in touch.

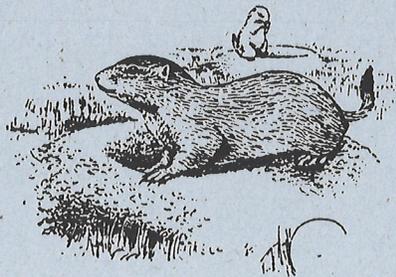
Yours, Steve Ogle, University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, BC."

### D-Day is Trails Day

On Sat. June 6th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., City Open Space and various local organizations will be building a new trail called East Beech. It will extend from the Beech Pavilion off Neva Rd. (just east of north 36) south to the Boulder Valley Ranch. In the interest of getting to know people and of checking up on the whole process, BCNA members are invited to participate.

Call ahead to register (so they'll know how much food to supply): 441-1645. Check in at 8:30 at the Beech shelter off Neva Rd., and bring gloves and a water bottle. Tools will be supplied. A trail dedication, BBQ picnic and music will finish off the day in early afternoon.

**Editor's note:** I will be in Aiken Canyon that day, but I recommend enthusiastic hard work on this project from everybody else. Seriously-- some of these trails people are really nice folks, and the picnic will be merry, although I am skeptical that the food will be up to standards established by Bibi and descendents.



Prairie-dog

### And FIDOS thinks OUR Rangers are Strict?

*...casual Internet communications during discussion of dog management in natural or wilderness areas*

*Mark Donaldson wrote:*

I've also never completely bought the "dogs severely impact wildlife" thing. PEOPLE severely impact wildlife. You are running on a manmade road through the forest for cryin' out loud. I'll assume you didn't drive to the trail head.

*LVAG's reply (layered heavily with sarcasm)::*

Cool! to return to the conversational thread on runner toughness, I just acquired a new perspective on the toughness of ultrarunners: you guys regularly run OFF the trail for little forays chasing down ptarmigan, bobolinks and pipits, mountain sheep, marmots, martens, and elk! And all this often at altitude! Wow... Of course I already know that like other wild critters, you relieve yourselves wherever necessary (sometimes even in the middle of the trail; and NO runner I know carries a pooper scooper), and that you run up to folks of all sexes (no discrimination here) and give them big sweaty/slobbery hugs. Trail runners truly are tough and friendly, unbigoted and zen, and possibly very canine. Glad I married one. And P.S. Surprise, Mark! I do often bike to the trailhead.

*An Aussie enters the discussion:* I have been following the "Dogs in the forest" line with great interest. Here in Australia we have very strict laws regarding domestic dogs in the forests, which levies heavy fines. These uncontrolled nuisances are THE major threat to our delicate native wildlife. Despite these laws we still get those individuals that think they have some self appointed exemption. As a result of ongoing problems our Forest Service have introduced new regulations (resulting in much publicity, I might add). If any of our Forest Rangers comes across a [loose] dog, they now have the right to shoot it dead without question and deal with the owner afterwards. This law also works hand in hand with a very successful Fox baiting program. [??]

Dog owners have certainly got the message because there have been no incidents since. I am not anti-dog, as I think they make ideal pets, but should be kept at home or leashed in public. If you wish to enjoy endless dog free trails, then come on down to Australia. *Kevin Cassidy, Melbourne, Australia*

## County Plants Need TLC

...submitted by Claire DeLeo

Boulder County Parks and Open Space is looking for volunteers to join the Native Plant Restoration Team. The Native Plant Restoration Team launched its efforts last year by collecting seed that was used to create new wetlands. Team members will help with seed collecting again this year, as well as transplanting native plants, maintaining restored areas, and pulling weeds. A volunteer's commitment of 12 hours each season is required (or 48 hours a year). A required one day training will take place on Saturday, April 18 from 8:30am to 3:30pm. If you like working outdoors and enjoy learning more about native plants, this would be a great on-going volunteer project for you! Call Megan at 441-1645 for an application and more information. *Application deadline is Friday, April 3.*

## How many Birdwatchers must Leave Before the Bird Appears?

...hypothesis by Greg Pasquariello

Birds are extremely sensitive to the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle which states (modified here for the purposes of this note :-)) that the act of observing changes the observation. Birds, not wanting to be observed and therefore changed, wait until the birder count reaches zero (where  $x - 1 = 0$ ). On the other hand, they are also known to apply the equation  $0 + n > 0$ . Again, not wanting to be observed, they will take advantage of the zero state to come by.

How else can you explain "You should have just been here..."?

### Artwork credits

- p.1 Carl James Freeman: snowy owl
  - p.2 *Do Not Disturb*. Margery Facklam. Sierra Club, 1989: 13-striped ground squirrel
  - p.3 *Falcon Flight*. Ada & Frank Brown. Delacorte, 1978: falcon head
  - p.4 *Mammals of Colorado*. Hugo Rodeck. U. of Co., 1967: prairie dogs
  - p.5 unknown children's book: fawn
  - p.7 Carl James Freeman: feathers and cottontail
  - p.9 *Mammals of Colorado*: black bears
  - p.10 *La Hulotte* (French children's magazine): falcon head
- All others public domain or LVAG

## 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.



## BCNA Research Grants

BCNA will budget a portion of its vast treasury © to fund research projects on a first-come, first-served basis during 1998. Research should involve natural resources in Boulder County. Previous grants, for example, have supported research on the impacts of development on solitary vireo reproduction, on corvid predation of songbirds, and on old-growth forest inventories. Currently, many County and City agencies need careful research to help formulate management policies. City Open Space, for example, needs research relating to the impacts (or lack of impacts) of recreational activities on ecosystems and species. Other needed research concerns "pest management:" the effects of weed-control treatments on Bell's twinpod and on needle-and-thread grassland communities, or the effects of diffuse knapweed infestations on Bell's twinpod, etc. A typical BCNA award is for about \$250. Recipients agree to provide the Association with a written summary of their research results, and to participate in our symposia when appropriate. Contributions to the newsletter are also appreciated. Those interested in applying for a grant should send a short (3-5 page) proposal describing their research project to: Steve Jones, 3543 Smuggler Way, Boulder 80303. The Board will consider proposals in early spring.

## 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>

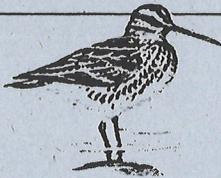
## The Green Network

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 staffpersons 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)



**(South Boulder Creek AMP, cont. from page 3)** conservation value or their restoration potential, to support as much of the native flora, fauna, and natural processes as possible, in the context of an urbanized and suburbanized environment. In practice, this amounts to advocating full protection for an extremely small proportion of the land base and of Open Space holdings.

**Dry Creek area:** (...) Nearly all of the proponents of constructing the trail connection at Dry Creek who spoke last night claimed that they valued environmental protection as an Open Space management objective. At the same time, however, nearly all made unequivocal calls for the trail connection. Yet, curiously, this entire discussion occurred entirely *outside* the context of an assessment of the conservation value of this area. If there is any sincerity to trail proponent claims that protecting important habitat areas from recreational impacts (...), it is nonsensical to clamor for a trail connection *before* a credible assessment of the ecological importance of the area occurs.

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## Beautiful Butterflies



...submitted by Janet Chu

Lovely lepidoptera, nectaring in the Front Range, are waiting to be discovered!

The North American Butterfly Assoc. is holding its 3<sup>rd</sup> biennial meeting in Golden, CO on June 11-14, 1998. (Association members do not net, catch or keep butterflies, but only observe them with binoculars). The meeting begins Thurs. evening at the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster. Morning field trips on the following days should provide an exciting mix of western and eastern species in the nearby foothills, high plains, and riparian areas. Afternoon workshops will cover topics such as photography, identification, gardening, Colorado habitats, and conservation.

Registration includes gala banquets on Friday and Saturday nights with guest speakers Dr. Richard Beidelman and Dr. Jeffrey Glassberg. Field trip leaders include Dr. Robert Michael Pyle, Andrew Warren, Bart Brinkman, assisted by Josie Quick-Carleno, Carol Cushman, and Jan Chu. Field trip sites include White Ranch Park, Golden Gate Canyon, Mt. Zion, Apex Park, Roxborough State Park, and Tinytown.

Conference cost for full participation is \$145 (includes lunches, two banquets, field trips, workshops). For non-members the cost is \$170 (include the year's membership). Visit the website for the registration form (<http://www.naba.org/meeting.html>); or call Josie at 303/316-8965, or email Jan at [chuffy@juno.com](mailto:chuffy@juno.com).

## Wanted: a Good People-Person Love of Tame Dogs and Wild animals a Plus

We are pleased to announce that we have found a Trails representative (Leslie Glustrom), but sorry to announce that this does not let the rest of you off the hook. We are still in need of an individual fascinated with the challenges of preserving the natural environment while accommodating our canine friends and the people they own and love. It's a delicate balance.

Specifically, our “dog rep” will become acquainted with the Canine Management Policy that was adopted by the City a year ago, attend the occasional Dog Roundtable meeting (maybe one or two a year), and serve as liaison on dog matters to the City and County Open Space Depts. Call Steve (494-2468) or Linda (543-9404).

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## MOVING ON

*Goodbye to some dear friends*

Following on the heels of our goodbye to Tom Goldhawk and Wally Collins last year, we have lately lost other dear, long-time supporters:

**Bibi Munshi**, the mother of Naseem and the “borrowed” mother of many of the rest of us, is much missed already. Over the years the Munshi residence in eastern Boulder County has been the main social center for BCNA functions. Bibi’s friendly smile and tremendous culinary skills always made these gatherings a time to remember.

**Liz Caile** died very recently, a victim of cancer. She had been an active participant and an area leader on the Indian Peaks Bird Counts. She lived just off the Peak-to-Peak highway near Ward, which was within the “Mountain Research Station” area of the birdcount. She often hiked and skied in this area and had a strong interest in all the natural things around her.

In the Nederland area Liz was best known as a reporter and columnist for *The Mountaineer*. She began working there in 1978. Her articles generally focused on the environment and politics. She was very active in the Mountain Forum for peace. She wrote about the inter-relationships between all living things, and she often expressed a frustration about a world that seemed focused on always having more and going faster. She enjoyed the simple pleasure of life, and her lifestyle was also based on simplicity and conservation. She “walked the walk” of an environmentalist better than most. She could certainly “talk the talk” through her writing. She enjoyed taking walks throughout the county, and spending time observing and feeling nature. She was a respected lay-ecologist and had a special feeling for Boulder County, having first moved here in 1947.

Her family asks that we remember Liz by taking a walk, climb, ski or snowshoe in a beautiful place.

**Mildred (Cressy) Graff** was perhaps less well known to some of us. She was one of the first Boulder County Volunteer Naturalists. In 1975 she began presenting programs on pond studies, wildlife, Native Americans, and late 19<sup>th</sup> century County life, and her energy never flagged for over twenty years. Think of her and renew your own spirit as the spring peepers begin to sing again.

### Just an Au Revoir

Here are some of our friends who have gone just across the mountains or the sea.

**Kristine Crandall**, our 1997 President and an active member since she came to Boulder in 1993, now will be percolating in one of her other home places, Aspen. One of her first casual notes back to Boulder related: “Yes, we’re ‘in,’ getting more so by the day... That first week was wonderful, though, not being in office mode made great opportunity to selectively unpack, take in the feeling of being here, explore outdoors, and read and write. Now the computer is back up to normal operation, so... it’s like I just picked work up, plopped it back down, and continue on my merry way. Certainly miss Boulder, but honestly am busy enough and absorbing so much that haven’t had much time to get nostalgic yet.

of deer, and much more exploring to do. I just drove up the Frying Pan Valley a couple of days ago, first time in over ten years. Really pretty. And I love my place so much...it truly feels like it was meant for me.’ *Address: P.O. Box 977, Basalt CO 81621.*

**Pam Piombino**, whom we “shared” with BC Audubon, is now in Stavanger, Norway with her husband and son. In her first letter she crowed that the family had finally unpacked and that “I have climbed Mount Cardboard and planted the Piombino flag on top!” She is astonished at how fast the day length changes at that latitude, and enjoys feeding the Blue, Coal and Great Tits, Green Finch, Robin, Tree Sparrow, Chaffinch, Brambling, Great Northern Spotted Woodpecker, Hooded Crow, etc. Ask for her new idea for her Birdathon team name. *Address: Hans Gudes Vei 28, 4023 Stavanger, Norway. Email: ppiombino@eazy.net.*

Lots of birdies here...I’m up to 18 species for the neighborhood, including spotted towhee (tons), bald eagle, scrub jay (many tons), Clark’s nutcracker, pine siskin, Cassin’s finch, juncos, chickadees, etc. Bighorn sheep are around, lots



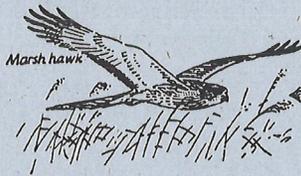
(Have you seen? continued from page 1)

## White Rocks/Ertl Farm/Teller Farm Trail Notes

...by LVAG

### III - Rare and Stable

Least bittern  
Great egret (other than Boulder Valley Farm)  
Peregrine falcon (other than Boulder Mt. Park and Eldorado Mt.)  
Common barn owl (other than White Rocks and County Line Rd.)  
Black swift  
Least flycatcher  
Bank swallow (other than Sawhill Ponds)  
Veery  
Northern mockingbird  
Sage thrasher  
Chestnut-sided warbler  
American restart  
Ovenbird



### IV - Extirpated

Barrow's goldeneye  
Mountain plover  
Long-billed curlew  
Sharp-tailed grouse

### VI - Adventive and Rare

Bald eagle (other than St. Vrain Creek east of Lyons)  
Osprey (other than Boulder, Valmont, and Lagerman Reservoirs)  
Marsh wren  
Orchard oriole

Send recent Boulder County breeding records for any of the above species to Steve Jones, 3543 Smuggler Way, Boulder, CO 80303. Please include dates, locations, and nesting behavior observed (such as nest with eggs, occupied nest, feeding fledglings, recently fledged young). Thanks for your help.

### Junco Gumbo

Migrating juncos of all types are passing through Boulder County these days, all in a mood for love. Their songs are sweet to ears long reduced to admiring the winter starlings' song. Make them happy:

Buy generic peanut butter in five pound plastic containers; mix equal portion of snowcap lard and peanut butter (i.e., two cups), melt at low heat, add 2 cups cheap flour, 2 cups cheap cornmeal, 2 cups cheap oats (optional), and two Tbsp. cheap hot sauce (or cheyenne pepper) to keep the squirrels away. Add more flour to thicken. Spoon mixture into the bottoms of 1/2 gal milk cartons you've saved for this purpose (cut to about 2" deep); cool mixture and store in the freezer. To use, take off the milk carton, place the frozen blocks in suet cages or place in orange or other mesh bag to "serve."

(from Dave Elwonger on Cobirds listserv)

Almost any time of year, this lovely portion of City Open Space offers the wanderer relative peace (it has bikes but on the north end, no dogs), superb views of the back-country snow peaks, and wildlife migrations, nestings, comings and goings. Sometimes the year for BCNA both ends and begins at this place. Randy Gietzen led a Solstice walk there in December, and Steve Jones led a jolly New Year's hike in January.

I, unlucky enough to miss those outings, was lucky enough to at least do a solo run there in mid-January, seeing the following:

- gazillions of waterfowl, most of them headed for the Culver Ponds (better viewed from 95<sup>th</sup> St.);
- 3 great blue herons asleep under a shrubby tree;
- bald eagle in vigorous flight toward Culver, and perhaps a goose breakfast;
- prairie falcon in a spindly sapling close by, too cold to move away from me;
- kestrel eating dessert (last half of a vole);
- meadowlarks (at 19 F., not happy campers);
- kingfishers (always a sentinel beside the bridge);
- flocks of tree sparrows;
- coyote which bolted from 30 ft away, scaring me too; it sped across my path, jumped a fence, scooted down to the pond and then skate-jogged across the ice, pausing frequently to take a long look back at me
- a couple of red-tailed hawks side by side in a snag overlooking the prairie dog village (on the Teller Farms section), no doubt divvying up the buffet in sight.

### Black Bears and Gumbo

Black bears are waking up now too. One of them was recently seen foraging for early spring breakfast in the foothills near the city. Here's a tallish tale about bear cousins in Louisiana:

In Southern Louisiana, we have real bounty of black bears. The proximity of sugar cane fields, human trash and other food sources in the swampy lowlands creates a bear-friendly habitat. This is particularly true in the "islands" (salt domes) due south of where I live. My friend Mark is the above ground plant manager for Morton Salt on Weak's Island and is, therefore,

(continued on page 9)

## Roads in National Forests

...passed along by Alice Guthrie

The Forest Service has announced that the comment period for the proposed roadbuilding moratorium has been extended until March 30. The moratorium, and the long-term forest road policy revision provides a unique opportunity to put the brakes on the Forest Service's long-standing policy of fragmenting roadless areas with unnecessary roads. The more roads that are closed and revegetated, and the fewer roads that are built, the more protected our public lands will be in the Southern Rockies. This is YOUR opportunity to influence an important policy regarding management of YOUR public lands!

Colorado's Rio Grande, Arapaho-Roosevelt and Routt National Forests, as well as Alaska's Tongass and the forests of the Pacific northwest are exempted from the road building moratorium. We must let the administration know that all forests should be included in the road building moratorium and that all roadless areas of 1,000 acres or more should be included.

The Administration's draft policy explicitly exempts up to half of the national forests in Colorado, leaving the roadless areas in three, of Colorado's six national forests unprotected. Specifically, the policy excludes:

- Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest (1.3 million acres, including 38 inventoried roadless areas totaling roughly 327,000 acres);
- Rio Grande National Forest (1.85 million acres, including 53 inventoried roadless areas totaling 530,722 acres);
- Routt National Forest (1.13 million acres of including 32 inventoried roadless areas totaling 501,906 acres).

Because of the exemptions in the Administration's policy, up to half of the currently proposed timber sales in roadless areas in Colorado may be allowed to proceed (based on available details of the policy).

Full protection of Colorado's national forest roadless areas is a very reasonable and scientifically based goal, which would only have had a small effect on logging levels. According to the Forest Service's Regional Office, in FY 95 and FY 96, only six percent of the timber cut from National Forests in Region 2 was from roadless areas.

What is at stake is our last remaining unprotected wild areas, in particular lower-elevation lands that are

underrepresented in the National Wilderness Preservation System, many of which provide key wildlife habitat and movement corridors. There is an estimated 4 million acres of unprotected roadless lands on National Forests in Colorado, out of a total of 14 million acres of National Forest land.

The policy is a mixed bag. It goes part way toward protecting roadless areas, but fails to fulfill President Clinton's promise that roadless areas be managed through science, not politics.

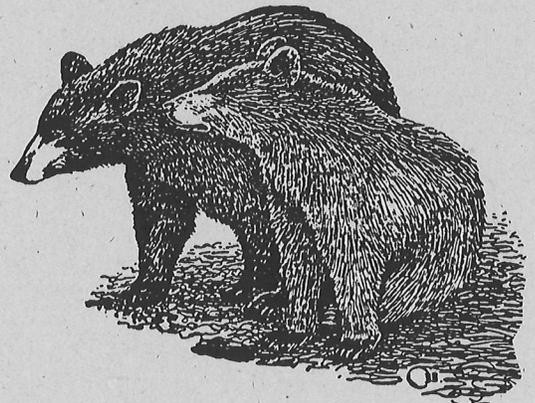
Please phone the local USFS office and ask about Open Houses and the key people who need to hear our opinions.

### *(Bear Gumbo continued from page 8)*

responsible for keeping employees safe without disturbing the bears and their habitat more than is already being done. The DNR approved the use of pepper spray for employees that might run into bears.

One night a security guard was bent over his desk doing paperwork (probably napping) when, out of the corner of his eyes he saw/sensed someone standing over his desk. Thinking it was a fellow guard he continued his paperwork. When he finished he looked up and saw that a black bear had walked in through the open door of his guard shack. He pulled his pepper spray and fired on the bear. It went away. A short time later the bear was back, holding up a few freshly-killed nutria (they look like muskrats on steroids.) Evidently he wanted the guard to spray them. It seems that the local Cajuns aren't the only ones who like their food spicy.

*(Editor's disclaimer: readers must decide for themselves at what point the story becomes a tall tale).*



## BCNA Position Statement on Trails in Boulder County

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

- (1) It is essential that native habitats be preserved. The trail system should not be expanded at the expense of native species. While recognizing the support that bikeways and footpaths enjoy from the recreational community, BCNA is opposed to the proliferation of paths through an ever-growing number of natural areas in Boulder County.
- (2) Unfragmented areas free from human disturbance are essential for many wildlife species. No trails should be constructed in Environmental Conservation Areas (core areas) or critical habitat linkages (corridors).
- (3) When paths are constructed, it is critical that only native species be used for restoration. Restoration can never return a site to its native condition; therefore, minimal disturbance should occur during construction so as to preserve the natural integrity of the site. The paths should be placed well away from streams; in most cases, a **minimum** of 100 meters is suggested.
- (4) A public review process should be an integral part of any plans for additions to the trail system. Organizations such as BCNA, Boulder Audubon, and the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Sierra Club should have an opportunity to comment on proposed trails. *(Adopted May 15, 1994)*

### Birds of Prey Foundation

...by LVAG

Begging your pardon for emphasizing birds over grasses, soils, wildflowers, big fauna, and other BCNA clients in this issue, but the editor would like to draw attention to a really fine program that always needs funds, helpers, and media attention. The Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center is entering its 16th year of service to the community and to the charismatic feathered predators that nest here or pass through.

Director Sigrid Ueblacker and her tireless team of volunteers deserve our thanks: they not only act as

nurses for the nestlings and fledglings, as doctors for the wounded, as maintenance engineers for the large rural complex, and as cooks for picky, grouchy patients, but they even have to run bingo games to keep the place going! This is a remarkable endeavor.

The December 1997 newsletter was so outstanding that this discriminating reviewer has re-read it with pleasure at least three times. The anecdotes were touching, sometimes uplifting, sometimes tragic, and the writing was exceptional. Support the Foundation and receive the news— I recommend the investment.



Sample

by Raptor Rehabilitation intern,  
Ming

[Describes the Intensive Care Unit as “a quaint gray building with a ubiquitous smell of mice and laundry.”] My biggest role was to know nothing and say “wow” at everything that came up... For bird lovers, seeing such a high concentration of birds at one time results in a dazed euphoria that lasts for hours... Apart from the ICU lies the farm which houses the flight cages, the crown jewels of Sigrid’s efforts. They are enormous wooden structures of mind-boggling proportions... The final goal and culmination of all activities at the center is to return a strong and healthy bird back to the wild. It’s hard not to anthropomorphize in these situations, because one almost feels as if a brief vicarious moment has been shared—that feeling of a captive bird that suddenly finds the cage door open, with the prairie stretching off as far as it can see... In all likelihood, the bird probably has windspeed, its flight angle, and a dead rat on its mind...

On my last day at the Foundation I was photographing in the hawk cage, when a Swainson’s hawk came charging at me full steam, intent on improving my facial characteristics. Armed with nothing but my tripod and camera, I tried fending off its repeated attacks with clumsy blocks and jabs. I felt like a fool, and the bird knew it. I was scared out of my mind and miserably happy. Just four months ago, I had resolved to volunteer without a good reason why, and here I was, fighting a crazed bird with my camera equipment in ways that probably voided the warranty. Whatever my reason for volunteering had been, it had obviously been the right one.

## Seeing Well

Nobody sees a flower, really—it is so small—we haven't time, and to see takes time, like to have a friend takes time.  
*Georgia O'Keefe*



## The Spring Flicker Thing

...a collection of advice on dealing with drummers,  
 from the *Cobirds* listserv

*Tom Hablitzel:* [First Tom suggest tacking pinwheels to the siding of your house to discourage hole-creation. Later, he adds:] Prior to the pinwheels I mentioned in the posting the other day, we did have a flicker who nested in the wall of the house. I built and put up a flicker house right over the hole he had drilled. He loved it. The next morning I looked up and he was in it looking down at me with great appreciation. Unfortunately the starlings outnumbered him and his partner, and they were soon driven from the house. He made several other feeble attempts at holes in other parts of the house and finally moved out to a house I had put in a big tree.

*Richard Bunn:* When I moved into my current home, five species were nesting in the walls. Of course, I knew there would be trouble before I bought the place when I discovered a Hairy Woodpecker flying around in what would soon be my attic. Anyway, I've tried everything to stop all the wood carving, but nothing seems to work. I've had a dozen bird houses in my yard for years and not a one has every had a bird in it. I did however learn that if I just let the birds be, they reuse the same holes. I also found a painter that patches all the holes for a hundred bucks when he paints the place.

*Chuck Otte:* Drumming woodpeckers is not only annoying, it is, as several have pointed out, potentially damaging to a structure. If you don't mind having your house turned in to an avian tenement that's fine, but most homeowners aren't so understanding. One technique that I have had homeowners try with pretty good success is very similiar to the pin wheels already mentioned. Strips of mylar ribbon, tacked up to an area seem to work very well. If you have a dying mylar balloon from some recent holiday or event (like Valentine's Day) just cut it up into strips and hang them around. Since drumming is pretty seasonal the strips can usually be removed in late May or June if they are unsightly.

*Rich Levad:* Another approach to Flicker's drilling into houses would be that of a homeowner near Fruita. He just let them drill. They put holes near the peaks of three gables in his house. Last year, one was home to a pair a Flickers, a second hosted a family of Kestrels, and the third was inhabited by Western Screech-Owls.

*Suzi Plooster:* We have experienced all of the flicker problems that people have talked about. We've also tried most of the suggestions. Some work tolerably well for a period of time. However, for the last five years we have not experienced any problems with the flickers drilling holes in our walls. I think that we have discovered the solution. It seems that a good coat of new paint or stain does the trick... The birds seem to hate the smell associated with new paint and stain...

*Steve Frye (of Wild Bird Center):* None of these "scarecrow techniques" work on a consistant basis. If they have been working for you, that's great, but we find that they are not reliable. Other techniques such as sticky foot which you apply below the hole the flickers have started does work to stop the flicker from continuing to excavate the hole. However, the flickers will just move over a bit and start a new hole. So covering the hole with metal or using sticky foot just promotes multiple holes in your house. The solution that worked best for our customers is to put up a nesting box on or near where the flickers have started to excavate. This solution makes biological sense to me, the flickers are trying to nest so you give them a nesting box and they leave your house alone. One of the keys to flicker acceptance of your box is to stuff it completely full of fine wood shavings like hamster bedding. The flickers will then dig out the shavings making them feel that they have made their own hole. Placement of the box should be where they are making holes in your house if possible. One box is enough to protect even a large house. After the flickers set up the box they will defend your house against other flickers excavating.

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BOULDER COUNTY NATURE ASSOCIATION

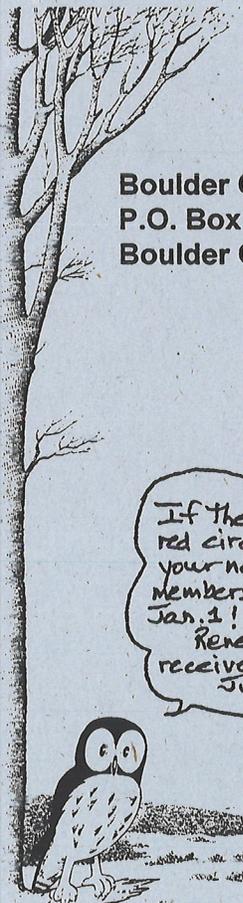
Name \_\_\_\_\_

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," address below.

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  
P.O. Box 493  
Boulder CO 80306**

If there is a  
red circle around  
your name, your  
membership expired  
Jan. 1!  
Renew quickly to  
receive the  
July issue!

