

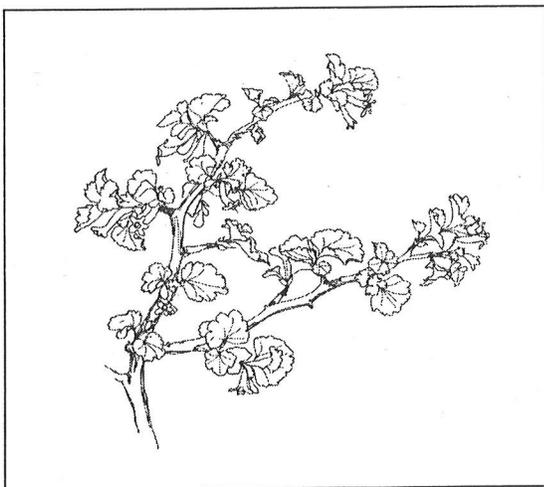
**Boulder County  
Nature Association  
Volume 18, Number 2  
Spring 2001**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Boulder County  
Avian Species of Concern**

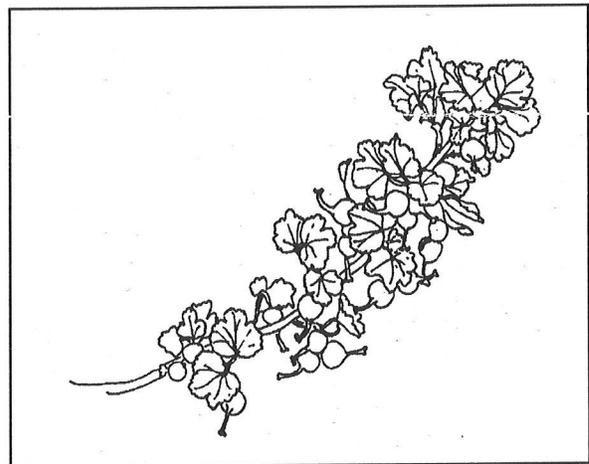
Steve Jones has scheduled a meeting at his residence on Sunday, May 6, from 4-5:30 PM, for volunteers who would like to help out with an update of the Boulder County Avian Species of Special Concern list. Volunteers are needed to visit historic nest sites of rare and declining species, including American bittern, northern harrier, burrowing owl, long-eared owl, red-headed woodpecker, and lark bunting. Steve will give volunteers directions to the sites; volunteers are asked to visit nest sites four times between May 15 and July 15 and report the results.

No previous experience with nest monitoring is necessary, and volunteers don't have to be expert birdwatchers. Field work can be done individually or in small groups, depending on how many people sign up. It should be a great opportunity to visit some lovely parts of Boulder County while helping to gather information that may save these species from local extinction. If you're interested, give Steve a call at 303 494-2468, or e-mail: [stvjones@peakpeak.com](mailto:stvjones@peakpeak.com).



**Winter Raptor Survey**

Volunteers are reminded that all winter raptor survey reports are to be mailed to Holly Devaul at the conclusion of the survey season (March 15th). Also, if anyone is interested in helping to plot selected data on county topographic maps, please contact Holly at 3970-O Colorado Ave., Boulder, CO 80303; [devaul@ucar.edu](mailto:devaul@ucar.edu) (preferred method of contact) or 303-497-2653 (work)



**In Appreciation**

Thanks to retiring BCNA Board members Scott Severs (President), Tim Hogan (Vice-President) and Mike Tupper (Secretary), who have collectively served for more than a decade on the BCNA Board. At the annual meeting new Board members were elected including Joyce Gellhorn, Steve Jones (members-at-large) and Mike Figgs (Vice-President). Members-at-large moving on to officer positions are Bruce Bland (President) and Bev Golhson (Secretary).

# BCNA Spring 2001 Calendar

**BCNA Board of Directors meeting**, April 22, 4-6 PM, at Naseem Munshi's residence 2595 N. 119<sup>th</sup> Street, Lafayette; (303) 673-0933. All members are welcome and invited to attend. The Board meeting is followed by a pot-luck dinner. Contact Bruce Bland for agenda items (303-499-8612).

May 1-14, 20<sup>th</sup> annual **Indian Peaks Spring Bird Count**. If you need an assignment or want to be responsible for a count area, contact Dave Hallock after mid-April at 303-258-3672 or [eldoradh@peakpeak.com](mailto:eldoradh@peakpeak.com).

Friday - Sunday, June 1-3, 2001 -- **Camping trip to Comanche National Grasslands**. We will visit and camp in the National Grasslands in Baca and Las Animas counties in southeastern Colorado. Highlights will include Picture Canyon, Carizzo Canyon, and Cottonwood Canyon. It's a great time of the year to bird there. It is strongly recommended you bring your cowboy hat and field guide to cows. We will leave early Friday morning and return Sunday night. Trip is limited to 10 people or 3 cars. Contact: Randy Gietzen at [randyg@boulder.net](mailto:randyg@boulder.net).

June 1 through July 15, 20<sup>th</sup> annual **Indian Peaks Breeding Bird Count**. If you need an assignment or want to be responsible for a count area, contact Dave Hallock after mid-April at [eldoradh@peakpeak.com](mailto:eldoradh@peakpeak.com) or 303-258-3672.

Thursday - Friday, June 21 & 22, 2001 -- **Fourth Annual Solstice Overnight Camping Trip** to Pawnee National Grasslands. We will leave Boulder early Thursday afternoon on the Solstice, and return sometime on Friday. The location will be primarily in the western section, although on Friday the Buttes might be a possible destination. Wildlife highlights in previous years included badgers, foxes, and dancing skunks. Trip is limited to 10 people or 3 cars. Contact: Randy Gietzen at [randyg@boulder.net](mailto:randyg@boulder.net).

Wednesday, July 4, annual **Cal-Wood Butterfly Count**. Contact Janet Chu for more information (303-494-1108).



**Please note: updates and spontaneous field trips will be announced on the BCNA Nature-Net, and on the BCNA web site. See details under the BCNA Directory on the inside page of the back cover of this newsletter.**

## ***Special Butterfly Event***

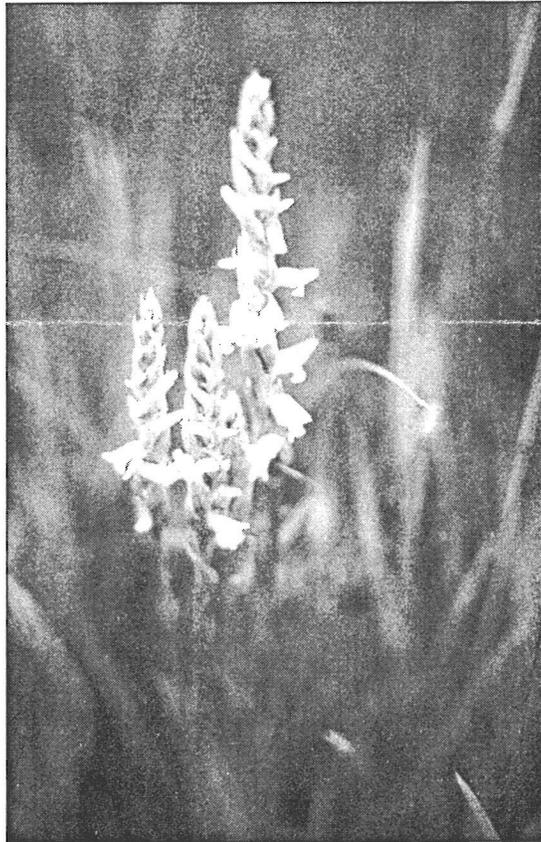
**Robert Michael Pyle** (author of *Monarch Highway*) will lead a two day field workshop on Nabokov in Colorado: Adventures with Butterflies, Bogs, & Books, on Saturday June 30 and Sunday July 1. Saturday's field trip includes habitats near Meeker Park and Columbine Lodge where Vladimir and Vera Nabokov studied butterflies. On Sunday the workshop will resume at Tolland Bog near the East Portal of the Moffat Tunnel where Nabokov went afield with Charles Remington. There will be readings from Nabokov's works, Pyle's novel-in-progress, and searches for butterflies including the Magdalena Alpine, Lustrous Copper, and Silver-bordered Fritillary. Cost \$50. Contact Janet Chu (303-494-1108) for more information and registration.

# Wildlife Management Reports

## Black-tailed Prairie Dog Update

There is a great deal of activity regarding Black-tailed Prairie Dogs in Colorado, but no significant progress on the ground beyond the ban on recreational shooting which will take effect on September 1, 2001. The aerial flight inventory will begin this spring and probably will be completed in May. This will provide a good check on the 214,000 acre estimate from the EDAW study.

I attended meetings in Fort Collins on February 28, 29, and March 1 and in Denver on March 10 and 11. The Fort Collins meeting was sponsored by various government agencies and by EDAW. The primary focus of this meeting was the management of prairie dogs within front range cities and counties. And we learned, among other things that when colonies are totally surrounded and contained by residential development, streets, etc. that the area of the colony is quickly denuded of vegetation. Likewise, a colony of this type has little genetic diversity (among prairie dogs) and little species diversity. The Denver meeting was a "Prairie Dog Summit," hosted by Rocky Mountain Animal Defense (RMAD). The focus of this meeting, as you might expect, was how to prevent the destruction of prairie dogs along the Front Range. In addition to lawsuits, this coalition will try to persuade developers to preserve land for prairie dogs and to provide migration corridors within urban/suburban communities for genetic interchange. They also hope to persuade the U.S. Forest Service to accept prairie dog relocation onto the Pawnee National Grassland.



Private Landowner Incentive meetings are continuing and appeared to be making significant progress with landowner participation. However a meeting with landowners in Baca and Bent counties seemed to elicit a great deal of hostility toward CDOW personnel and concerns/conditions which indicated a general opposition to the program in those counties. It is appropriate to keep in mind, however that there was similar opposition to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) initially. At this point there is \$600,000 in capital funding

available for the program with three years to expend the funds, thus relieving some of the time pressure. The next landowner incentive meeting is March 26 in Colorado Springs and, presumably, representatives from Bent and Baca counties will also be present. Various options for resolving this, apparent, stalemate include meetings with Bent and Baca county commissioners, pursuing relocation in other counties, or possibly going back to the idea of just relocating on State Land Board parcels.

And, finally, House Bill 1350, concerning "Destructive Rodent Pests," and their relocation within a county was held over to March 19 and, at this time, I

have no further information regarding its fate. The current version of the bill did not require county commissioner approval, but rather notification and a thirty-day waiting period. Such a waiting period might well lead a developer to destroy rather than relocate prairie dogs.--Jim McKee

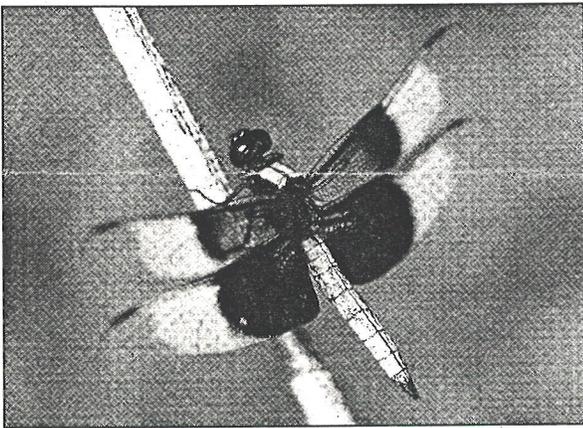
# Tools for Education

## Books

### ***Dragonflies Through Binoculars***

A Field Guide to Dragonflies of North America; Sidney W. Dunkel; 2000; 266 pages, \$29.95; Oxford University Press.

There is no excuse now for putting off learning the *Odonata* with the publication of this, the first field guide to the 307 North American species of dragonflies. (No need for naturalist's angst, only 60 species or so are found in Colorado, with about half that number commonly found in Boulder County.) All but 14 of the 307 species are illustrated by one or more color photographs. Not to worry--the 14 species not illustrated are similar or virtually identical to those species that are illustrated. Many species have not previously had published photographs.



The field guide is designed to allow identification without capture. In addition to the excellent color photographs, the text for each species includes range maps, diagnostic identification features, similar species, habitat, season, and general comments. The introduction includes discussion of dragonfly biology, habitats, conservation, and photography. In all ways, the publication is similar to the best field guides available for birds and butterflies.

*Dragonflies Through Binoculars* is available at the Wild Bird Center at 1641 28<sup>th</sup> St. in Boulder (303-442-1322). You may also want to check out *Butterflies Through Binoculars: A Field Guide to Butterflies of Western North America*; Jeffrey Glassberg; \$29.95 Oxford University Press.

## Web Sites

### **Colorado Bat Society**

The Society's web site is at [www.COLORADOBATS.ORG](http://www.COLORADOBATS.ORG). In addition to staying up to date on local chapter news and events, there are links to species lists, other bat organizations, bat books for kids, and information on bat houses. Available with a membership is *The Chiropteran*, the Society's newsletter.

---

### **Mini Grant available for Raptor Research in Boulder County**

ECOS Communications, a small natural history interpretation company, has awarded BCNA a \$150 research grant. One of five donations that ECOS is awarding this year, the contribution corresponds to the company's mission to raise environmental awareness and appreciation of wildlife.

ECOS has intended the grant to be used for raptor monitoring research and education preferably in Eldorado Canyon State Park. But if you have a worthwhile wildlife study occurring in Boulder County, there may be some flexibility in the grant requirements.

To apply, please send a proposal to:

Scott Severs  
2905 E. Aurora Ave. #118  
Boulder, CO 80303  
303-541-0784  
[rostrhamus@aol.com](mailto:rostrhamus@aol.com)

The grant will be awarded based on the contribution of the research to the education and knowledge of Boulder County wildlife and wildlife.

# ***Tools for Research and Management Effects of Recreation on Rocky Mountain Wildlife***

The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society has compiled and reviewed over 1,300 scientific studies and produced a report *Effects of Recreation on Rocky Mountain Wildlife: A Review for Montana*. The report and associated bibliography are available online in PDF format at [www.montanatws.org](http://www.montanatws.org). The report is derived from the extensive bibliography and is broken into chapters including amphibians and reptiles, birds, small mammals, ungulates, carnivores, domestic dogs, vegetation, and several appendices. The following is excerpted from the report introduction:

"This project was not based on an assumption that recreation is inherently detrimental to wildlife...Rather it was undertaken with the recognition that any type of recreation activity or development, when uninformed, underplanned, underdesigned, inappropriately located, or unmanaged can result in substantial, detrimental effects to natural resources...The advent and growing popularity of recreational pursuits that are based on personal challenges and competition, including so-called "extreme" sports, require space, challenging terrain...However, they do not require the presence of wildlife nor that wildlife populations are healthy or that ecosystems are intact and

functional. A societal emphasis on recreation as the primary use of public lands has highlighted the significance of potential effects of recreation development, including cumulative effects. The fact that outdoor recreation is dispersed across large areas has contributed to a long-standing assumption that recreation activity has little environmental impact compared to extractive uses of natural resources. However, effects of recreation can be extensive for the very reason that they have been traditionally thought to be diluted, namely, recreationists are dispersed across large areas...Recreation that is not...dependent upon wildlife in any major way cannot be assumed to have been planned, implemented, or conducted in a manner that is sensitive to wildlife values.

---

## ***Lynx Status***

Lynx are alive and well in Colorado. Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) biologists are still tracking 50 of the 96 lynx released in the San Juan Mountains over the past two years. Approximately 30 of the transplanted lynx died from a variety of causes including starvation, gunshot wounds, and being hit by automobiles. For one reason or another, the radio collars on six males have not been detected in over a year and the radio collar on another animal may have slipped off. Of most concern is the death of four lynx from sylvatic plague. Like the prairie dog and the black-footed ferret, the lynx have no natural immunity to plague. Although we don't know the vector for plague in the lynx' high altitude habitat, rodents, perhaps pine squirrels, are suspected. The rest have clearly learned to hunt and are finding adequate prey. Mortality normally exceeds 50% in the first year of a carnivore reintroduction because of the specific habitat needs of predators. The lower than expected mortality rate for lynx is seen as an encouraging sign at this early stage in the reintroduction effort. Although they are still waiting for the first signs of young, CDOW biologists are pleased with the over-all progress of the lynx transplant. If young are born this year, we would expect to see them in May or June.--Jim McKee



# Book Review

## **The View from Bald Hill: Thirty Years in an Arizona Grassland** by Carl E. Bock and Jane H. Bock

Carl and Jane Bock need no introduction to the Boulder County ecological community. As biology professors at the University of Colorado, they have been involved in numerous local research projects, sat as advisors on many boards providing important input to local land managers, and have been regular contributors to the BCNA sponsored Ecosystem Symposium.

One of their most interesting research ventures has taken place on the Sonoita Plains of southeastern Arizona at the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch. For 30 years they have studied the ecology of this 7,800 acre ranch, whose grasslands have not been subjected to cattle grazing since the late 1960s.

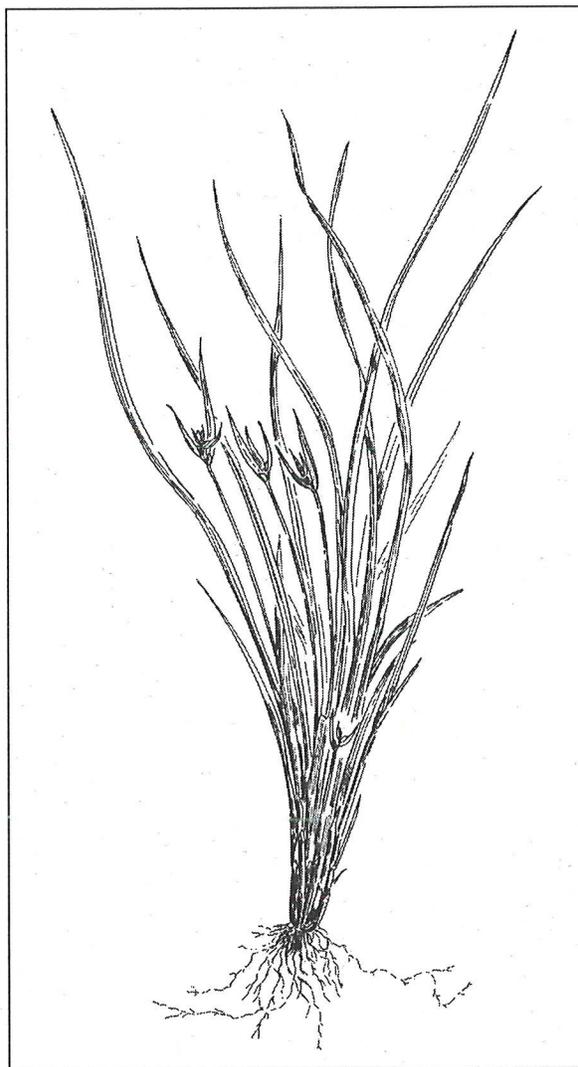
*The View from Bald Hill* is a summary of their observations throughout the 30 years. While much of what is presented is based on scientific research, the book has really been written for non-scientists, including naturalists and land stewards. The book is a nice combination of data, personalized accounts, thoughts and feelings which make for pleasurable yet informative reading, what the writer of the book's forward calls "science with a heart."

Observations and issues touched upon in the book are numerous in subject and varied in scale. They deal with native versus exotic grasses, grazed versus ungrazed grasslands, and suburbanized versus natural landscapes. Fire, rain and climate change are some of the processes discussed that influence ecological cycles, trends and events. And many of the stories are told through the research findings on a host of organisms, including bunchgrass lizards, Mojave rattlesnakes, Mexican jays, acorn woodpeckers, plains lovegrass, cotton rats, grasshoppers, deer mice, coyotes, and a variety of sparrows.

The beauty of the research ranch is it provides a control area with which to compare ecological change with a surrounding landscape that is

generally grazed by livestock. The 30 year time perspective is also significant. Many range managers feel that a lack of grazing is just as bad as overgrazing to native grasslands. In this book the Bocks present information about an ungrazed site where many native grasses and related organisms appear to be flourishing. As they appropriately state:

"Certain ranchers and range managers have predicted that grasslands on the Research Ranch will degrade over time without some sort of essential stimulation provided by livestock. Perhaps they are right. Our goal is to monitor post-grazing ecological changes, whatever they are. If the sanctuary eventually becomes as barren as a strip mall parking lot, then our studies will have documented the importance of livestock in sustaining the southwestern plains. But don't bet on it."--Dave Hallock



## **BCNA Directory Committees and Contacts**

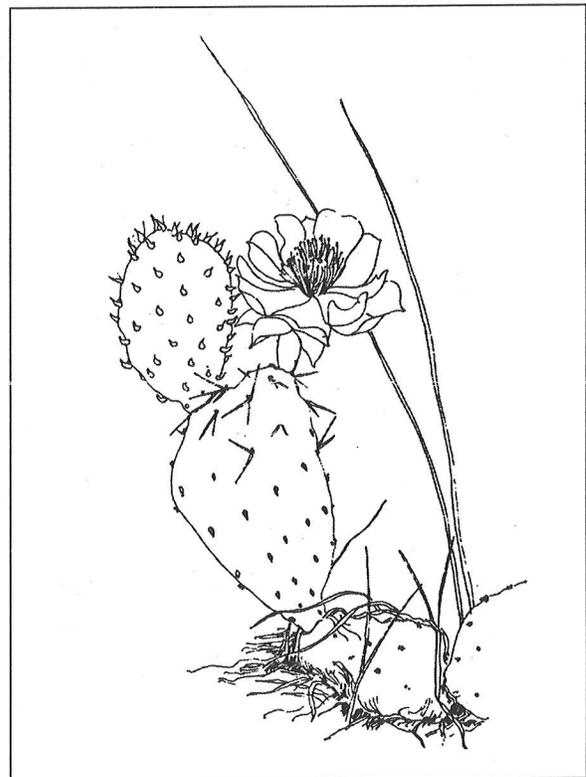
Allegra Collister Nature Preserve and  
Birdbanding Site--Joe Harrison 303-772-  
3481  
Cliff Nesting Raptors--Nan Lederer 303-447-  
1899  
Education Committee--Naseem Munshi 303-  
673-0933  
Indian Peaks Bird Counts--Dave Hallock 303-  
258-3672 or Bill Kaempfer 939-8005  
National Forest Management--Tim Hogan 303-  
444-5577  
Newsletter--Mike Figgs 303-447-1899  
Open Space Liaisons--Jacob Smith 303-443-  
5518, Scott Severs 303-442-1322  
Parties, Special Events--Naseem Munshi 303-  
673-0933  
State and Regional Wildlife Issues--Jim McKee  
303-494-3393  
Winter Raptor Survey--Holly Devaul 303-415-  
0464

### **BCNA Online**

BCNA's online access includes 1) a web site: <http://www.bcna.org>, which posts the newsletter, publications, research results, and other BCNA related information; the web site is regularly updated and includes the latest information for the BCNA calendar and classes; 2) e-mail: [mail@bcna.org](mailto:mail@bcna.org); and 3) the BCNA nature-net. To post messages on the nature net, send them to: [nature-net@egroups.com](mailto:nature-net@egroups.com), and for subscribing: [join-nature-net@egroups.com](mailto:join-nature-net@egroups.com). The nature net is a source of late breaking news and in depth discussions on issues of interest to BCNA members. If you have questions regarding online access, please contact Randy Gietzen at [randyg@boulder.net](mailto:randyg@boulder.net).

## **2001 BCNA Board of Directors**

President: Bruce Bland 303-499-8612  
Vice-President: Mike Figgs 303-447-1899  
Treasurer: Rachel Lee 303-544-1755  
Secretary: Bev Gholson 303-440-5225  
Members-at-large:  
Joyce Gellhorn 303-442-8123  
Steve Jones 303-494-2468  
Joan Ray 303-444-5011  
Naseem Munshi 303-673-0933  
Jacob Smith 303-247-0998



### **Artwork Credits, Acknowledgements, Etc.**

Page 1 wax currant (*Ribes cereum*) in flower (left column) and fruit (right column) by Margy Lanham. Page 2: Red Admiral on thistle by Nan Lederer. Page 3: Ute ladies-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) by Nan Lederer. Page 4: Widow Skimmer by Sidney W. Dunkel from *Dragonflies Through Binoculars*. Page 5: Abert's Squirrels by Colorado Division of Wildlife. Page 6: Rocky Mountain sedge (*Carex saximontana*) from *Manual of Carices of the Rocky Mountains and Colorado Basin* by USDA Forest Service. Page 7: plains pricklypear (*Opuntia polyacantha*) by Margy Lanham.

## **Membership Application for Boulder County Nature Association**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

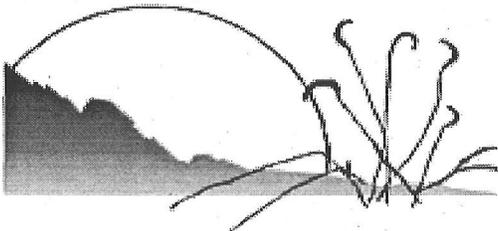
Phone, Fax or E-mail Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

---

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"/> Subscriber	50
<input type="checkbox"/> Founder	100
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member	300
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	500
<input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder	1000

Membership year is January 1 to December 31. Members who have joined since October 1 are considered paid through the following year. Members receive a quarterly newsletter. Supporting members (and above) also receive a complimentary copy of each BCNA publication that is published during the membership year. Please make check payable to "Boulder County Nature Association" or "BCNA" and mail to P.O. Box 493, Boulder, CO 80306.

Extra copies of the newsletter are available from the editor or sometimes at the Wild Bird Center. To submit BCNA-related material to the editor, e-mail to [m.figgs@prodigy.net](mailto:m.figgs@prodigy.net) or send a 3.5" or zip disk to Mike Figgs, 2635 Mapleton Ave. #77, Boulder, CO 80304.



**Boulder County Nature Association**  
**P.O. Box 493**  
**Boulder, CO 80306**