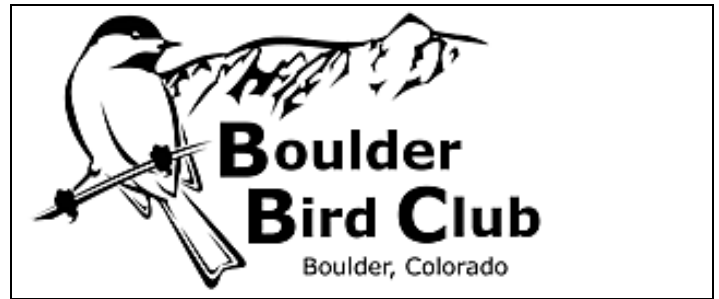


BOULDER BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.boulderbirdclub.org>

*Dedicated to the Field Observation of
Birds Since 1947
April - June 2018*



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President's letter – Spring 2018

Coming soon to a field, forest, marsh near you. SPRING MIGRANTS!

The winter months are often dismal birding on the Front Range and, even though the weather hasn't been terrible this winter, the birds are still hard to find. About this time of year, most red-blooded birders are getting excited about the return of spring migrants and even a flock of Robins can get us excited.

Well the Robins are back, the Chickadees are nest-building and the waterfowl are getting "frisky". We're spotting Meadowlarks and the Marsh Wrens are starting to call, and I've even seen a couple of Turkey Vultures soaring overhead. Those are early signs that spring is just around the corner and the Bluebirds, Warblers and Orioles must be nearly here.

With the dawning of April, the Boulder Bird Club kicks off its spring season with what has become an annual event: birding at Chautauqua followed by brunch at the Dining Hall. Mark your calendars for April 11th and set your alarm for one hour earlier since this will be the kick-off of our Road Runners season. It's a fun event and the food has been delicious in past years as I expect it will be again this year.

Our annual Spring Meeting is scheduled for April 29th from 6 – 9pm at the Rocky Mountain Fire District Station at 4390 Eldorado Springs Drive in Eldorado Springs. Scott Rashid will present "Little Mountain Owls" with lots of fun photos and hoots of our little friends to entertain us. We'll enjoy desserts after his talk. You won't want to miss it! I hope all of you will join the Boulder Bird Club Road Runners for a Wednesday field trip or a First Sunday at Walden sometime this spring and summer. We'll look forward to seeing you.

HAPPY BIRDING!

Carolyn Beach



SPRING FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Although the average daily high temperature in Boulder in April is 63°F and May's average high is 72°F, spring is a highly variable season in the Rockies. Winter snows can reappear at any time (this must be even more confusing to the birds than it is to us). Our spring birding season starts with the waterfowl migration, followed by shorebirds, and then the return of our resident warblers, buntings, longspurs, and vireos, sprinkled with migrating landbirds on their way north. We have tried to put together a trip schedule which will give us a good chance of seeing all of these.

Bring a little money to chip in for carpooling if warranted, and to buy yourself a cup of coffee afterward. Most trips return to the EBRC parking lot by 11:00 am, then we head to Big Daddy's Bagels in the Meadowood Shopping Center for coffee. If you can't recall the field trip schedule, check the www.boulderbirdclub.org site.

Here's the Spring Field Trip line-up:

Sunday April 1, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY BIRDING AT WALDEN WILDLIFE HABITAT 9:00 am to around 11:30 am (ending time depends on the weather and the birds)

leaders: Gary Baxley and Sharon Norfleet
720-273-5689 gebsmn@gmail.com

Meet at the Cottonwood Marsh parking lot at the end of the Walden Ponds Road, off 75th just south of Jay. This should be a good day for ducks, with shorebirds a possibility as well. Dress for whatever the weather may be. Bring binoculars, a scope if you'd like, something to drink, and a snack if you think you'll get hungry. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday April 4, 2018

8:30 am

Roadcreepers meet at 8:30 am at the East Boulder Rec Center (NW corner of the main parking lot). We will discuss and choose the destination in a more-or-less democratic manner once we get there and organize car pools. Those who so desire will get together

for coffee afterwards at Big Daddy's Bagel's in the nearby Meadows Shopping Center.

Wednesday April 11, 2018 ROAD RUNNERS ANNUAL CHAUTAUQUA BIRDING AND BREAKFAST

7:30 am – 11:30 am

Leader: Jane Baryames 303-910-0293
janeb1952@gmail.com

The Boulder Bird Club kicks off the 2018 Road Runner season on Wednesday, April 11th with our annual field trip around the Chautauqua Park area following by a late breakfast in the Dining Hall. Meet at **7:30 am sharp** at the northwest corner of the parking lot of the East Boulder Recreation Center (5660 Sioux Dr, Boulder, CO 80303) for carpooling, or at **7:45 am** in front of the Chautauqua Dining Hall. Remember to bring money for your breakfast. Hope you can join us!

****NOTE: WE WILL SWITCH TO OUR SPRING/SUMMER SCHEDULE ON THE 11th AND BEGIN MEETING AT 7:30 am INSTEAD OF 8:30 am.**

Wednesday April 18, 2018

7:30 am – 11:00 am

The last Roadcreepers expedition of the season will meet at 7:30 am at the East Boulder Rec Center, and decide where to go for the morning, followed by coffee at Big Daddy's. We could find some migrating shorebirds.

Wednesday April 25, 2018

BARR LAKE STATE PARK

7:30 am – afternoon

leader: Carolyn Beach 303-443-0129
clbeach415@earthlink.net

We will leave the Boulder area and venture farther afield to look for shorebirds, migrating gulls and terns, and grebes. Meet at East Boulder Rec at 7:30, or at the Nature Center at Barr Lake State Park at 8:30 (at the end of the park road from the park entrance on Piccadilly Road). We should try and car pool with members who have State Park Passes. Since this is a longer drive, please be willing to chip in on car expenses.*

Wednesday May 2, 2018

Skunk Canyon Trail

7:30 am – 11:00 am

leader: Jane Baryames 303-910-0293

janeb1952@gmail.com

Jane will lead us up Skunk Canyon to view the newly arrived residents of our foothills scrub habitat, who should be singing, courting, and beginning nesting activities. The riparian area along the creek should hold some interesting migrants.

Sunday May 6, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY BIRDING AT WALDEN WILDLIFE HABITAT 8:00 am to around 11:00 am

Leader: Elena Klaver elena@indra.com

****NOTE NEW "SUMMER HOURS"**

STARTING TIME OF 8:00 am

We'll see migrants, arriving residents, and should find some shorebirds. The entrance to Walden Pond is off of 75th, just south of Jay Road and north of Valmont Road where Boulder Creek crosses 75th. Meet at Cottonwood Marsh parking lot at 8:00 am, bird until 11 am or so. Bring binoculars, a scope if you like, something to drink and a snack if you think you'll be hungry. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt

7:30 am

Leader: Jim Fischer 303-345-7209

Jim will take us to one of his favorite birding spots. The riparian habitat of the Greenbelt should be excellent for migrating and resident landbirds at the beginning of May. This will be a good opportunity for some birding-by-ear practice. We will carpool from East Boulder Rec Center at 7:30 am to Prospect Park and meet Jim at the far end of the Prospect Park parking lot at 8:15 am.

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Heil Valley Ranch and nearby Lyons sites

7:30 am

leader: Rolf Hertenstein

We'll move up a bit in elevation and visit an excellent Boulder County Park which includes

a good variety of habitats. We'll scan any holes we see in the Ponderosa pines for Saw-whet Owls, which were recently discovered to nest at Heil, and who should have some new young owls by now. Meet at East Boulder Rec at 7:30. We will then drive to rendezvous with Rolf at the Greenbriar Inn parking lot at Hwy 36 and Lefthand Canyon Rd. If time permits, we can then look for Golden Eagles along the cliffs above Lyons, and Wild Turkeys near the intersection of Red Gulch Road on the Old South St. Vrain Road.

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Hereford Ranch (just east of Cheyenne, Wyoming, plus other Cheyenne sites.)

7:30 am - afternoon

leader: Dick Pautsch 303-818-5711

rjpautsch@gmail.com

Dick Pautsch will take us north to Hereford Ranch, an exceptional spring migrant spot (and a really neat place). On the way home, we will check the short-grass prairie south of Cheyenne for Longspurs and sparrows (and maybe even a Lark Bunting). Since this is a longer drive, please be willing to chip in on car expenses. *

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Eldorado Springs, Goshawk Ridge near Ashram

7:30 am – 11:00 am

leader: Tony Delany 303-494-8190

acdelany@live.com

We'll start at the parking lot at the south entrance to the Mesa Trail to check for early migrants, then carpool to trailhead just south of the Ashram, where we'll walk the Waterboard road to a point below the hogback where the Lewis's Woodpeckers have nested in past years. We'll scan the skies for the Golden Eagles and falcons that nest in the area and for White-throated Swifts (and, if we're really lucky, we might even see a Northern Goshawk on Goshawk Ridge). Meet at East Boulder Rec Center at 7:30 am, or at the South Mesa Trailhead parking lot at 8:00 am.

Sunday June 3, 2018
FIRST SUNDAY BIRDING AT WALDEN
WILDLIFE HABITAT 8:00 am to around
11:00 am

Leader: Peggy Gonder 303-246-0511
peggy.gonder@gonderpr.com

Our local breeding birds should be singing and beginning to nest. Meet at the Cottonwood Marsh parking lot at the end of the Walden Ponds Road, off 75th just south of Jay. Bring binoculars, clothes to match the weather, something to drink and a snack if you think you'll get hungry. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday, June 6, 2018
Bobolinks, Warblers and Dickcissels
7:30 am – 11:00 am

leader: Dick Pautsch 303-818-5711
rjpautsch@gmail.com

We'll begin by looking for Bobolinks and Savannah Sparrows at the Boulder Open Space headquarters off Cherryvale near South Boulder Road, then drive to Greenlee Preserve for migrants and summer nesting birds. On the way home, we'll walk the meadows of Teller Ranch to check for Dickcissels.

Wednesday, June 13, 2018
Betasso Preserve
7:30 am – 11:00 am

leaders: Gary Baxley and Sharon Norfleet
720-273-5689
gebsmn@gmail.com

We will bird one of the BBC's favorite Ponderosa Pine habitats, which also features mountain meadow and Blue Spruce, White Fir, Thinleaf Alder and River Birch along the creeks.

Wednesday June 20, 2018
Golden Ponds in Longmont and Pella Crossing

7:30 am – 11:00 am

leader: Kevin Clark
kclark1029@hotmail.com

We'll visit two Longmont area parks with good wetland habitat and compare them to see which one is birdiest! Meet at 7:30am at

East Boulder Rec Center, or 8am at the Golden Ponds parking lot.

Wednesday, June 27, 2018
Realization Point Trailhead (Tenderfoot Loop Trail)

7:30 am – 11:00 am

co-leaders:

Diane Carter 303-427-3371
deecar7@gmail.com

and

Paula Hansley 303-263-1714
redstart.paula@gmail.com

We will be driving up Flagstaff Road to Realization Point Trailhead to hike the Tenderfoot Loop Trail. It is about three miles with one short, steep stretch that might warrant walking sticks. We will travel through various habitats hoping to find a few species of warblers, both towhees, nuthatches, maybe some flyover siskins, and various other foothills species.

If you are on Facebook, check out the "Boulder Bird Club" page, for photos from BBC trips and more.



The 2018 CFO Convention will be headquartered in Longmont this year! May 17-20, 2018. Here's a link to the Colorado Field Ornithologists website with info about the convention:
<https://cobirds.org/CFO/Conventions/Next.a.spx>

"Mountain Plover! Williamson's Sapsucker! Baird's Sparrow! Migrants galore! Rarities guaranteed!" Some of the field trips will give members an opportunity to visit spots not on this year's BBC field trip list (like Pawnee Grasslands).



*Clark's Nutcracker, Allenspark
1/3/18, ©Carolyn Beach*



*male and female Lesser Scaup, Confluence Park
3/14/18, ©Jane Baryames*



*White-breasted Nuthatch, South Boulder Creek
2/14/18, ©Jane Baryames*



*Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Confluence Park 3/14/18,
Tony Delaney*



Snowy Owl, January 2018, © Nancy Morrison



*female Wood Duck, Confluence Park
3/14/18, ©Carolyn Beach*

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Barn Owl babies, © Carolyn Beach

***A WORD ON CAR POOL EXPENSES FROM YOUR EDITOR:**

Many birding groups suggest passengers should offer the driver 30 cents a mile times the number of miles round-trip divided by the number of people in the car to defray expenses. I would hate to see someone miss a long-distance field trip because they couldn’t afford the car pool fee. Therefore, it is my opinion we should be willing to negotiate car pool expense on an individual basis with the drivers. I would suggest \$5 per person on our trip to Barr Lake, and \$10 per person on our trip to Hereford Ranch near Cheyenne.

FYI: Our Boulder Bird Club is a social group and we have not applied for the non-profit designation due to paperwork and fees required. Therefore, BBC dues and contributions are not tax deductible.