

BOULDER BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.boulderbirdclub.org>

*Dedicated to the Field Observation of
Birds Since 1947
April - June 2019*

President's letter – Spring 2019

Spring greetings fellow birders. I've volunteered to take on the duties of the club president for 2019, and I want to start off by personally thanking Carolyn Beach for her two years of enthusiastic leadership as president. I hope I can carry the torch as well.

These past winter months have offered some great outings on 1st Sundays at Walden Ponds. Ok, March was pretty cold, but Iris Sherman led 9 hearty birders anyway (yours truly not included). We also had a great turnout for the Mountain Feeders field trip to Ward and Allenspark led by Rolf Hertenstein and Emily Walker. The feeders at one house in Ward turned out to be one the most active times I've witnessed over the years with many Pine Grosbeaks, Steller's Jays, Juncos, Clark's Nutcrackers and all the Nuthatches to name a partial list. Then Allenspark treated observers to at least 55 Wild Turkeys. What a fun day! In late January it was a special treat to observe a Varied Thrush on Boulder's Bosque Ct. and as of this writing it still lingers in mid-March. Duckapalooza, led by Diane Carter and Carolyn Beach, along the south Platte River provided a pleasant morning with an interesting mating display of a pair of Barrow's Goldeneye ducks. Another nice morning was spent traveling county roads north of Boulder Reservoir ending up at Lagerman Reservoir. Many raptors were seen including the usual suspects: Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle, Rough-legged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, and American Kestrel. Of course, there were a few very cold mornings when several die-hard birders still showed up for Roadcreepers if only for a shortened outing followed by coffee together. And, if it is cold and

Boulder is fogged in then where to you go to bird? To a higher elevation like Nederland where it was blue-sky sunny and warmer. Walking around the town trails there were many American Crows, a mature Bald Eagle along Barker Reservoir and a Cassin's Finch, which was another year-bird to add to the club's list.

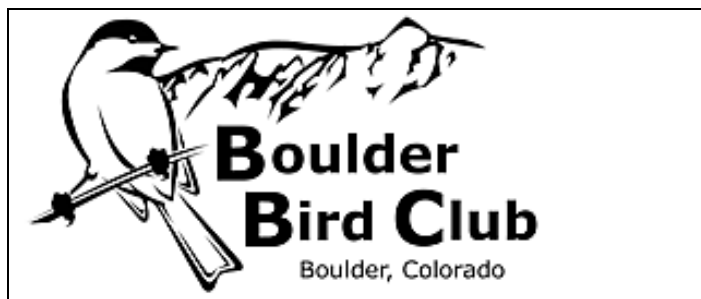
I imagine many of you are ready for some spring birds at some of our great local haunts. Roadrunners kicks off with our 5th annual Chautauqua Birding and Breakfast event led by Jane Baryames. Our new Field Trip Coordinator, Gary Baxley, has a full calendar lined up for the next three months. Please peruse the list and join those who have volunteered to lead the outings. Also, look for some special events and outings included in this newsletter. We are going to have some great birding.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on the birding trail!

Sharon Norfleet
BBC President



Varied Thrush, January 30, 2019
Bosque Court, Boulder
©Andrew Lee



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American Kestrel, Walden Ponds January 6, 2019
©Bruce Raup

SPRING FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Always be prepared for any weather during the spring. It is probably best to layer and have some rain gear available. A hat is always beneficial and shades the eyes. Bring a little cash to chip in for carpooling, if warranted, and to buy yourself a cup of coffee afterward. Most trips begin as indicated and return to the **EBRC parking lot, west of the tennis courts**, by about 11:00 am, then we head to Big Daddy's Bagels in the Meadows Shopping Center for coffee. If you can't recall the field trip schedule, please check the www.boulderbirdclub.org website.

Wednesday April 3, 2019

8:30 am

Roadcreepers meet at 8:30 am at the East Boulder Rec Center (EBRC). 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.

Sunday April 7, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY BIRDING AT WALDEN

WILDLIFE HABITAT 9:00 am to around Noon (ending time depends on the weather and the birds)

leader: Lonny Frye - 303-931-9131
lonnyfrye@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 10, 2019

8:30 am – 11:00 am

The last Roadcreepers expedition of the season will meet at 8:30 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 17, 2019
ROAD RUNNERS ANNUAL CHAUTAUQUA
BIRDING AND BREAKFAST**

**7:30 am – 11:30 am
** (NEW START TIME) ****

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

The Boulder Bird Club kicks off the 2019 *Road Runner* season on Wednesday, April 17th with our annual field trip around the Chautauqua Park area followed 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 17th AND BEGIN MEETING AT 7:30 am INSTEAD OF 8:30 am.*

**Wednesday April 24, 2019
BARR LAKE STATE PARK**

7:30 am – afternoon

leader: Peggy Gonder 303-246-0511
We will leave the Boulder area and venture farther afield to look for shorebirds, migrating gulls, 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 1, 2019
Eldorado Springs, South Mesa Trail**

7:30 am – 11:00 am
leaders: Tony & Claire Delany 303-494-8190
acdelany@live.com

We'll start at the parking lot at the north entrance to the Mesa Trail and check for early migrants, Warblers, Hummingbirds, Gnatcatchers. Meet at 7:30 am at the East Boulder Rec Center (EBRC) for carpooling.

**Sunday May 5, 2019
FIRST SUNDAY BIRDING AT WALDEN
WILDLIFE HABITAT 8:00 am to around
11:00 am**

Leader: Janice Rogers (207)522-8044

****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 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 get hungry. Everyone welcome.

**Wednesday, May 8, 2019
Heil Valley Ranch**

7:30 am to 11:00 AM

Leader: Martin Gerra

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. Meet at East Boulder Rec at 7:30 am. We will then drive to Lefthand Canyon Rd up to Heil Valley Ranch open space. Here's a link to the trail map:
<https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/heil-valley-ranch-trail-map.pdf>

**Wednesday May 15, 2019
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.

**Wednesday May 22, 2019
Fowler/Spring Brook Trail near Eldorado
Springs**

7:30 am to 11:00 am

Leader: Emil Yappert 303-652-7302

eyappert@gmail.com

We'll start at the parking lot at the south entrance to the Mesa Trail, then carpool (parking is very limited at the trailhead) to 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.

Wednesday May 29, 2019
Meyers Gulch Open Space
7:30 am – 11:00 am

Leader: Paula Hansley 303-263-1714 redstart.paula@gmail.com
We will drive up Flagstaff Road about 7 mi to the Myers Gulch trail head. Meet at East Boulder Rec Center at 7:30 am.

Birding Trip to Crescent Lakes/Lake Ogallala, Nebraska
May 29 - 31, 2019.

Leaders - Carolyn Beach 303-443-0129 and Diane Carter 303-427-3371
Limit of leaders plus 10 people.
Three days and two nights.

Hotel is the Lewellen Lodge in Lewellen, NE. Rooms have small kitchenettes with sinks, microwaves, refrigerators and dishes. You'll need to bring your own food for breakfast and to pack a lunch on Thursday. There is one "restaurant" in town for dinner if you wish.

Day one: Make your way to the Visitor's center at Lake McConaughy by 1:00pm. We will purchase park passes and spend several hours birding at Lake Ogallala (the lake below the McConaughy damn). Then go to our hotel in Lewellen for dinner and sleep.

Day two: rise early to travel to Crescent Lakes National Wildlife Refuge where we will spend the day birding. This will be mostly a driving trip on winding dirt/sand roads. An

all-wheel drive with high clearance is recommended. We will need to car pool on this trip. Possible species include Whimbrel, Upland Sandpiper, raptors, Trumpeter Swan, close-up looks at Burrowing Owls, curlews and more.

Day three: Rise early again and head back to Lake Ogallala to do some more birding there. Almost certainly will see Orchard Orioles, Marsh Wrens, Cardinals, Bell's Vireo and more. Leave for Boulder around noon or so.

It is 3 1/2 hours to Lake Ogallala and another hour north to our hotel. We should be back in Boulder by late afternoon on Friday.

Questions: Call Carolyn or Diane at the phone numbers above. To sign up, email Diane at deecar7@gmail.com. She will also help arrange carpooling to Nebraska if you let her know you need a ride or are willing to drive.

Sunday June 2, 2019
FIRST SUNDAY BIRDING AT WALDEN WILDLIFE HABITAT

8:00 am to around 11:00 am

Leader: Rolf Hertenstein
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 5, 2019
Bobolinks, Warblers and more
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 we will stop by Baseline Reservoir to look for waterfowl. Then we will drive to the Bobolink trailhead to park and walk to Old Tale road and bird. Meet at East Boulder Rec Center at 7:30 am.

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

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 meadows and Blue Spruce, White Fir, Thin-leaf Alder and River Birch along the creeks. We will look for Red Crossbills, Mountain and Western Bluebirds and Plumbeous Vireos. Might possibly see an Abert Squirrel. Meet at East Boulder Rec Center at 7:30 am or Betasso parking lot at 8:00 AM.

Wednesday June 19, 2019

Greenlee Wildlife Preserve

7:30 am – 11:00 am

Leader: Joy Farquhar 303-386-2272

farquarjoy@gmail.com

We will carpool to Lafayette and park in the neighborhood on Salina St. Maybe we will see an elusive Sora. Meet at East Boulder Rec Center at 7:30 am.

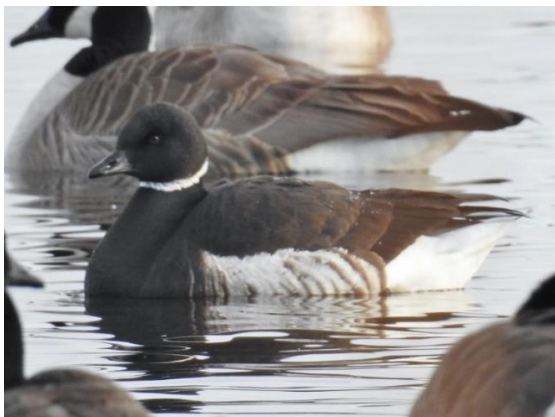
Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Stearns Lake/Carolyn Holmberg Preserve

7:30 am to 11:00 am

Leader: Iris Sherman-Boemker 303-817-9838

Start at the parking lot off S 104th St at the Rock Creek trail head and look for waterfowl. We will look for bald eagles, hawks, shore birds and passerines. Meet at East Boulder Rec Center at 7:30 am.



Brant, Stearns Lake, ©Jane Baryames

Did you know?

Every year, the Boulder Bird Club Board allocates donations to various associations related to birds. Last December, the BBC Board made donations to the following:

- Cal-Wood Education Center
- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
- e-bird Cornell
- Colorado Avian Research and Rehabilitation Institute

We welcome any other suggestions for a Boulder Bird Club donation at year's end. Send your ideas to Nancy Ries Morrison bbclubmembership@gmail.com

Welcome, new BBC members!

- Barbara Brown – Longmont
- Megan Day – Lafayette
- Vivian and Rob Dullien – Boulder
- Antonia Fowler – Anchorage
- Mary King - Boulder
- Ali Laird – Boulder
- Ellen Raff – Arvada
- Liz Roberson – Boulder
- Noah Rott – Boulder
- Jay Rowler – Boulder
- Stephanie White – Arvada

Recently BBC members Janice Rogers and Jane Baryames went on a birding trip to **New Zealand**. You are invited to attend a viewing of their photos from this trip on **Saturday, May 4th** from 1:00pm to 2:30pm at the George Reynolds Branch Library, 3595 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder. Parking is free, and everyone is welcome to attend!

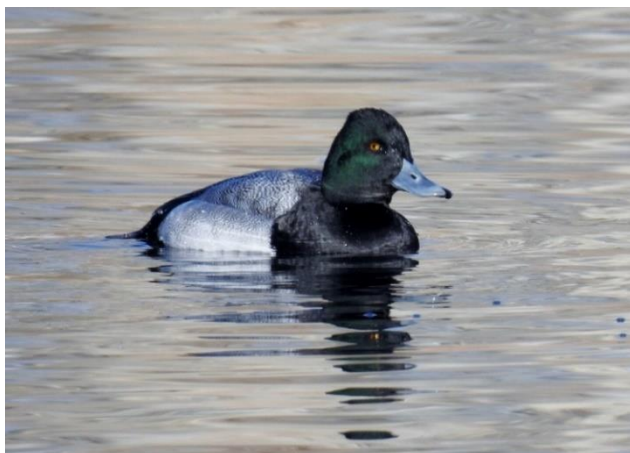


Our annual Spring Meeting is scheduled for **April 28th** from 6 – 9pm at the Rocky Mountain Fire District Station at 4390 Eldorado Springs Drive in Eldorado Springs. **Bryan Guarente** will present **“Where the Weather Takes Us”**: Each spring and fall a cascade of hormones triggered by changing day length lures migrant birds like a Siren’s song toward the poles or equator. This period, called Zugunruhe (migratory restlessness), is the basis of bird migrations. Is it a misfortune that this migratory drive coincides with some of the most violent weather systems, or is it perhaps instead a gift when seen through the eyes of an efficiency seeking, meteorologist-bird? In fact, the frenzied flow of high- and low-pressure weather systems, typical of spring and fall and found in the mid-latitudes (30° to 60°) gives rise to the winds that fuel migration. Understanding weather and how big-picture weather systems affect bird movements can be useful tools for birders seeking rarities, fall-outs and other exciting migratory phenomena. Bring your internet-enabled device to participate in the quizzes during this talk.

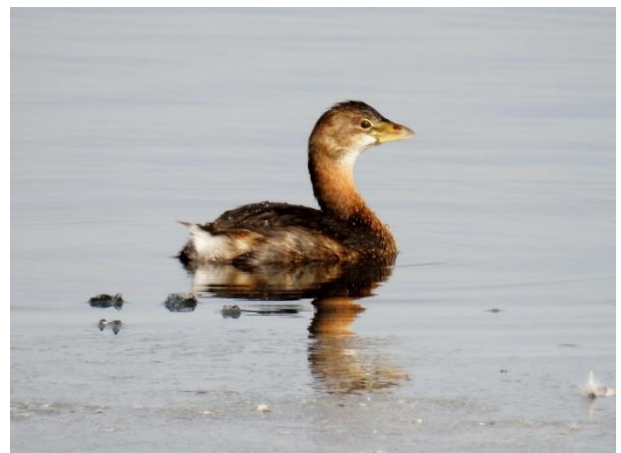
We’ll enjoy desserts after his talk. You won’t want to miss it!



Barrow's Goldeneye displaying
S. Platte Duckapalooza
January 29, 2019 ©Tony Delany



Lesser Scaup
Confluence Park
December 26, 2018 ©Jane Baryames



Pied-billed Grebe
Milavec Reservoir, Frederick
January 9, 2019 ©Jane Baryames