

**BOULDER BIRD CLUB  
NEWSLETTER**

<http://www.boulderbirdclub.org>

***Dedicated to the Field Observation  
of Birds Since 1947  
April – June 2020***

***President's letter – Spring 2020***

Our joy of birding, nature, being outdoors and socializing has been upended these recent weeks. It is important that each of us do what is necessary to get through this pandemic of COVID-19. Go birding alone, or with your spouse, housemate, partner, etc., but be sure to practice social distancing while out in the public. A good way to keep in contact with other members is to share what you see through electronic pictures or social media. Keeping connected is healthy.

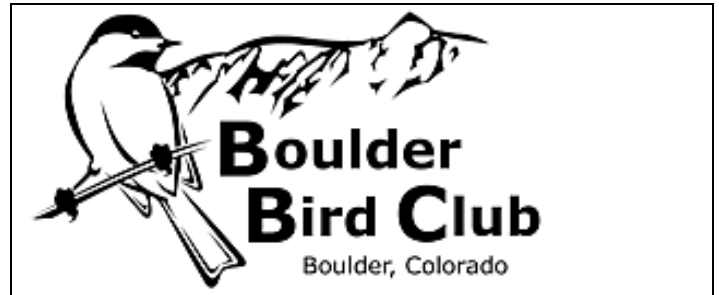
On a more upbeat note, the BBC had some enjoyable bird walks over the winter. There were cooperatively perched Prairie Falcons at Stearns Lake and White Rocks. A few Roadcreepers outings were cold and abbreviated, but we TRY anyway. One Wednesday Roadcreepers searched for Mountain Bluebirds at the Boulder Valley Ranch Sage Trail and we were successful. Then, we paid the price walking back against a strong head wind. Whew!

February's 1st Sunday at Walden Ponds was unusually warm (hot?) with a large turnout of BBC birders, as well as the general public enjoying the beautiful morning. Yes, we had a great bird walk, but here is a warning: Park only in the designated parking spaces at the Cottonwood Marsh Trailhead. If you park anywhere else you may be ticketed by the park rangers. It happened to some of our members, so things have changed with parking at Walden and probably other open space trailheads. Arrive early. March's 1st Sunday was cold and overcast, but many braved the conditions and were treated with a flyover of a Golden Eagle immediately followed by approximately 38 Sandhill Cranes that were probably a mile above. Thanks to the leaders on these outings.

I'll miss our group outings during this unprecedented time but will do my best to enjoy the outdoors observing the birds' spring behavior.

Everyone, stay safe, stay well.

Sharon Norfleet  
BBC President



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## **ATTENTION!**

**All Boulder Bird Club activities are cancelled through the month of April.** When government agencies determine we no longer need to practice social distancing in response to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, we will resume our field trips. Please stay tuned for updates!

In the meantime, go out and enjoy the spring migration on your own. Feel free to share your April experiences and photos online by posting to the Boulder Bird Club Google Group!

To sign in to Google Groups  
<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!overview>  
Click My Groups.  
Choose a group.  
At the top, click New topic.  
Enter your message.  
Click Post.

### ***Here's the Spring Field Trip line-up (tentative):***

**Sunday May 3, 2020**  
**FIRST SUNDAY BIRDING AT WALDEN WILDLIFE HABITAT 8:00 am to around 11:00 am**

Leader: Paula Hansley  
303-263-1714 [redstart.paula@gmail.com](mailto:redstart.paula@gmail.com)

**\*\*NOTE NEW "SUMMER HOURS" STARTING TIME OF 8:00 am Sunday\*\***  
Meet at the Cottonwood Marsh parking lot at the end of the Walden Ponds Road, off 75th

just south of Jay. Do not park along Walden Ponds Road. 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 May 6, 2020**  
**Pawnee Grasslands**  
**7:30 am to 11:00 AM**

Leader: Kevin Clark  
[kclark1029@hotmail.com](mailto:kclark1029@hotmail.com)

We'll head to the Pawnee Grasslands to target shortgrass prairie residents such as McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs and Grasshopper and Cassin's Sparrows. This is our only trip where we are guaranteed to see our State Bird, the Lark Bunting. Boulder area people meet at the usual place at 7:30 am. Longmont area people meet on the East side of the Walmart parking lot in Longmont at 7:45 am., then proceed and rendezvous with the Boulder people at the Crow Valley Campground, where we'll start the morning by searching for migrants. We will then head north and east in a search of the two Longspurs. Bring a lunch and plenty to drink. This will be a longer Wednesday trip than usual, but we should return by 2:30 pm.

**Wednesday May 13, 2020**  
**Skunk Canyon Trail**  
**7:30 am - 11:00 am**

Leader: Jane Baryames 303-910-0293  
[janeb1952@gmail.com](mailto: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 20, 2020**  
**Fowler/Spring Brook Trail near Eldorado Springs**  
**7:30 am to 11:00 am**

Leader: Martin Gerra [mgerra3@yahoo.com](mailto:mgerra3@yahoo.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 27, 2020  
Myers Gulch Open Space  
7:30 am – 11:00 am**

Leader: Dick Pautsch  
303-818-5711 [rjpautsch@gmail.com](mailto:rjpautsch@gmail.com)  
We will drive up Flagstaff Road about 7 miles to the Myers Gulch trail head. Meet at East Boulder Rec Center at 7:30 am.



*Great Blue Heron with ducks, White Rocks Trail*



*Female Mountain Bluebird, Sage Trail*

**Birding Trip to Crescent Lakes/Lake Ogallala, Nebraska**

**June 3, 4 and return on June 5, 2020**

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 McConaughey by 1:00pm. We will purchase park passes and spend several hours birding at Lake Ogallala (the lake below the McConaughey 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 carpool 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](mailto: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.



**Wednesday June 3, 2020 Bobolinks, Warblers and more**

7:30 am – 11:00 am

leader: Dick Pautsch 303-818-5711

[rjpautsch@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Sunday June 7, 2020**

**FIRST SUNDAY BIRDING AT WALDEN WILDLIFE HABITAT**

8:00 am to around 11:00 am

Leader: Iris Sherman-Boemker 303-817-9838

Meet at the Cottonwood Marsh parking lot at the end of the Walden Ponds Road, off 75th just south of Jay. Do not park along Walden Ponds Road. 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.



*Redhead*

**Wednesday June 10, 2020**

**Betasso Preserve**

7:30 am – 11:00 am

leaders: Gary Baxley/Sharon Norfleet 720

244 4980 [maeedw3017@gmail.com](mailto:maeedw3017@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 17, 2020 Greenlee Wildlife Preserve**

7:30 am – 11:00 am

Leader: Martin Gerra [mgerra3@yahoo.com](mailto:mgerra3@yahoo.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 24, 2020**

**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.

The annual Spring Meeting 2020, usually held in late April or early May, will not be occurring this year.



*Prairie Falcon*

Welcome, new members! Hope to see you soon!

Jay Berger and Maureen Ivy, Lafayette  
Andy Bingle and Maria Kopecky, Boulder

Linda Manchester, Boulder

Rick Myers, Boulder

Anonymous, Boulder

Donna Sichko, Boulder