



Boulder Bird Club Newsletter

January, February, March 2026

Dedicated to the Field Observation of Birds since 1947

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Table of Contents

- 1) Letter from the President
- 2) Notes from the Editor
- 3) Members and Officers
- 4) Guest Articles: Will this be a Redpoll year?
Richard Pautsch; Species Seer Award, Richard Pautsch
- 5) Christmas Bird Count
- 6) Birding trips by club members
- 7) Photos
- 8) Upcoming Field trips
- 9) Membership form

Letter from the President

Winter 2026

Only four months until April and Spring Migration! Actually, let's say three months because (fingers crossed) we'll see some Mountain Bluebirds come through the Boulder area in March. I freely admit I am a "fair-weather" birder (to my detriment) as storms often bring in plenty of diverse bird species. I can encourage all of you to bundle up and get out there to see what interesting birds blow in! Okay, I'll try to have a better attitude and get out there too. Steve Frye frequently tells us, "There's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing".

I'd like all of us to sharpen our goose distinguishing skills. If you want to dive deep into distinguishing Canada Geese from Cackling Geese, here's a very [detailed essay](#) by David Sibley.

Local birder Karen Husby-Coupland posted a very helpful description on Facebook recently and gave me permission to reprint it here: "We have both Canada Geese and Cackling Geese in our area during the winter. Canada Geese are larger with a longer bill (below left), and Cackling Geese are smaller, about the size of a Mallard, with a shorter bill (below right). Their calls are higher pitched than Canada Geese. Cackling Geese fly in masses in the many 100's to the 1000's in our area during the winter, while Canada Geese are here all year, fly in neater Vs, and are in smaller groups."



Canada Goose with Cackling Goose, Karen Husby-Coupland

Then there's the Snow Goose vs. Ross's Goose identification. The Snow Goose has a grin patch (dark edges along both mandibles), while the Ross's Goose is overall smaller, more rounded head, and smaller bill (cuter!). I count on all of you to help me with that too!

Then there are hybrids and different morphs among the various goose species... Some of our members have recently had the opportunity to make these observation distinctions. If you are interested in observing these mixed flocks, visit Dodd Reservoir and McIntosh Lake, for example.



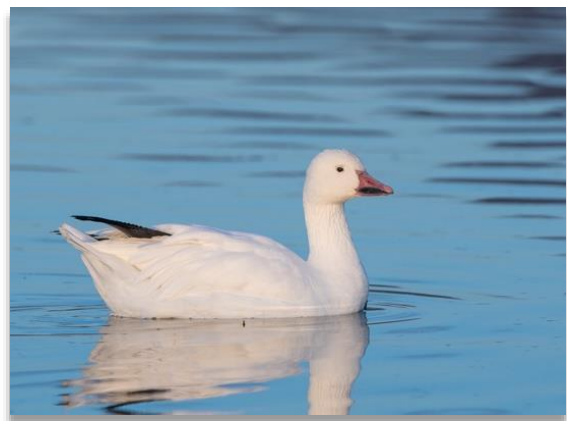
Cackling Geese, Kevin Rutherford



Mixed flock, Canada and Cackling Geese and Greater white-fronted Goose, Kevin Rutherford



Ross's Goose and Snow Goose, Kevin Rutherford



Snow Goose, Kevin Rutherford



Ross's Goose with Canada Goose, Jim Ward



Ross's Goose, Kevin Rutherford



Ross x Cackling Goose hybrid, Kevin Rutherford



Snow x Cackling Goose hybrid, Jim Ward



Snow Goose, Blue Morph, Kevin Rutherford

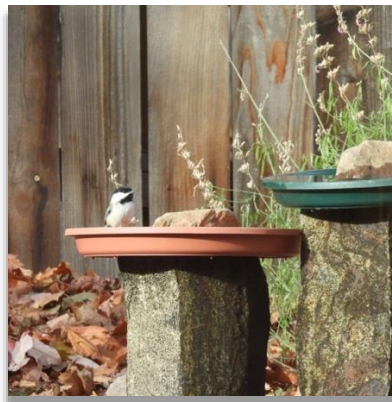


Snow Goose, Blue Morph, Jenny Desmond

Reflecting on the year 2025, we experienced some wonderful observations and several of us recorded new life birds. For me it was the Golden-crowned Kinglet - yay! Some of us were treated to a close look of one on September 24th at Caribou Ranch on the Bluebird Loop trail. My fondest hope for a new life bird now is a Harris's Sparrow. Please contact me right away if you see one! What are your birding goals for 2026?

I want to thank Pat Heller and Valerie Crecco for serving as Field Trip Coordinators for the past two years. We enjoyed a diverse range of hikes, including to some places we've never visited. And I also want to thank Carolyn Beach for taking on the role of Field Trip Coordinator for the next two years. I know Carolyn will welcome your suggestions for interesting field trips. I'm grateful to Carolyn for planning a trip to Lewellyn, Nebraska for the past several years around the end of May where we explore the Lake Ogallala area and Crescent Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. I'm mostly grateful to Carolyn for her excellent spotting skills as she frequently points out birds to me that, on my own, I might not see.

As you are all quite aware, we are experiencing serious drought conditions and it appears it's going to continue, at least for the short term. Please consider putting out a bird bath or other source of fresh water for the birds who visit your yard. Recently, I had 5 Cedar Waxwings come for a drink of water, and I rarely see them in our backyard. There is always a lot of activity throughout the day at the bird baths, and it's especially fun to watch a Black-capped Chickadee or an American Robin taking a bath. I change the water every morning to keep it fresh, and keep the saucers clean as best I can.



Finally, we voted to revise the Bylaws for the Boulder Bird Club at the holiday party. If you care to look at them, here is the [link](#).

Here's hoping for good birding for all in 2026!

Jane Baryames

Notes from the Editor

A thank you note from all of us at the Boulder Bird Club, to Lonny Frye



Thank you, Lonny!

For once again hosting with Holiday Potluck for the
Boulder Bird Club at your house.
It was a great time ~ as always!

And a poem by Jenny Desmond was read, to great joy, at the Holiday party!

'Twas the morning before Christmas, well before eight,
The birders were stirring – they just couldn't wait!

Jane's backyard feeders were stocked with care,
In hopes that chickadees soon would be there.

Lonny arrived at Walden with coffee in hand,
While Sharon looked for Northern Shovelers as they swam.

And Pat H. with a list, and Valerie with her scope,
Were checking for the last pelican, oh, what a hope!

When around the bend, there arose such a sound,
Cynthia sprang up to see what was found.
Away down the trail flew Pat C. so fast,
Alas, it was nuthatches having a blast!

Then what to Jenny's wondering eyes did appear,
But a downy woodpecker spreading good cheer!

With Eileen so clever, so quick with each call,
She identified the birds – every species, them all!

More rapid than kingfishers, the winter birds came,
And they sang and chirped as the birders called names:
"Now chickadees! Now juncos! Now jays bright and blue!
More eagles! More nuthatches! And mergansers too!
Now geese and now mallards! Now buffleheads small,

Now fly closer! Fly closer! Come visit us all!"

The bird club rejoiced at this Christmas delight,
With flickers and goldfinches making morning so bright.
Dogwalkers heard them exclaim as they birded with glee,
"Merry Christmas to all – what fine birds we did see!"



After reading a fascinating article in the New York Times, "How the Pandemic Lockdowns Changed a Songbird's Beak," NYT, December 15, 2025, I was motivated to follow up with the actual scientific report. It was surprising to me that there is evidence for such rapid evolutionary change. I think you too might find this study interesting! Read the report here: "[Rapid morphological change in an urban bird due to COVID-19 restrictions.](#)" Click on the title to read it for yourself!



David Sutherland shared this opportunity:

Boulder County Audubon Society is offering two full scholarships plus airfare for Colorado teens aged 15-17 to attend the *Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens* at Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine, June 14-19, 2026. Application deadline is February 1, 2026.

Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens is designed for teens who want to be a part of a community of young people with a keen interest in birding. If you are a young birder who wants to further develop your skills, adventure to birding hot spots in coastal Maine, learn about coastal ecology and conservation, make new friends, and have fun doing it then this session is for you!

For more information click links below:

[How To Apply](#)
[Coastal Maine Bird Studies Camp for Teens](#)

For questions, please submit to scholarship@boulderaudubon.org

Thank you!

Tricia Hamilton



Also: On the [News and Events](#) section of the BBC Webpage, you can find [Guidelines](#) for submissions of photos and text to the newsletter. Submissions are always welcome!

Cynthia K. Kosso

Members and Officers

Welcome to our New BBC members:

Jenny Balland and David Light
Samantha Gehring
Lisa and Don Gillespie
Robert Harberg
S. Lewis
Christina Lui
Mona Mahal
Ruth and Carey Parks
Bronna Romanoff
Samuel Sherrill
Jenny Slade
Nancy Tomb

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Guest articles

Will this be a Redpoll year?

Richard Pautsch



The first Redpoll of the season was reported in Boulder on December 12. Will this be a Redpoll year? We haven't seen one on a Club trip for almost a decade.

The best source to get insights to this question is [The Finch Research Network](#). While most of their research is focused on the northeast and northern Midwest, there are valuable insights as to the birds we might see in Colorado this winter as well. Here's their Winter Finch Forecast Prediction for Common Redpoll:

Expect a probable strong flight south out of the boreal forest east of Lake Superior southward into the lower great lakes, eastward through northern New York, New England and the Maritime provinces. Many of the Redpolls coming out of the central-western subarctic/arctic regions should gravitate toward the Manitoba westward cone crop. The early and widespread but not unprecedented flight into Northern Ontario eastward to Newfoundland this August is pointing towards a more widespread crop failure of birches and Alders in Northern Quebec. The very poor crop to complete absence of the White Birch and Tamarack crop in areas from Manitoba eastward to central Quebec, plus the below-average alder and swamp birch crops, should force most of the redpolls southward once snow covers the weedy fields in the boreal.

Keep those feeders well stocked with nyjer® and sunflower seed. Some of these Manitoba Redpolls should show up in Colorado this winter.

NB: The Hoary Redpoll and the European Lesser Redpoll have now been officially lumped into one species with the Common Redpoll by the ABA. So, alas, if you flew to the high Arctic to add a Hoary Redpoll to your life list, now you must delete it.

Our other desired Winter Wonder is the Bohemian Waxwing (last seen on a Club trip two years ago, but not for over 5 years before that). Even though it's not a finch, the Finch Network covers its movements as well:

Bohemian Waxwings in Manitoba westward should remain close to the boreal and mountain forests this winter. Most bohemiaans east of Manitoba will likely be on the move, looking for suitable fruit crops. With the native mountain ash crop poor east of Lake Superior, bohemiaans should be moving into their traditional areas from Central Ontario eastward into the Maritime Provinces and northern New England by early winter. Some individuals should show by mid-fall, possibly hidden within Cedar Waxwing flocks.

Areas of the lower Great Lakes have experienced drought conditions since late summer, and scattered berry crop failures have been noticed. This may force Bohemian Waxwings to roam further than their traditional wintering ranges in search of food over the latter part of winter.

Bohemiaans coming south to forage on reliable annual crops of abundant Buckthorn (*Rhamnus*) berries, Red Cedar, wild grape, will also forage on planted European Mountain-ash berries and ornamental crabapples within settlements.

Finally, there's the bird that most of us would love to see this winter, the Snowy Owl (definitely not a finch). Alas, there's no prediction for Snowy Owls on the Finch Network.

Species Seer Award



The Species Seer Award began in 2017 to add a little fun to keeping track of the number of bird species seen on Boulder Bird Club field trips each year. In 2025, we saw 206 species of birds (the winning guess was 205, with second place at 200, and four people

at 212). Since the inception of this award, winning guesses have ranged from 170 to 220 species (we only saw 134 in the Covid year of 2020).

The rules--birds must be seen on a Club trip to which all members of the Club have been invited. Birds seen by people on scheduled trips while walking back to their cars, or on side trips with at least 3 participants following a scheduled trip, can be counted. To be recorded, birds must be on the official Colorado species list (sorry, the Peacock we saw this year wasn't on the list). They must also be seen within 250 miles of Boulder (group trips to Costa Rica or the Texas Coast won't count, but our annual trip to the sandhills of Nebraska does).

We saw some birds that no one imagined we'd see this year, including Wood Stork and Least Bittern. As usual, we missed a few we usually see, like Scrub Jay, Canyon Wren, Sora, Savannah Sparrow, Rough-legged Hawk, Calliope Hummingbird, and the Loons. Carolyn Beach is our Field Trip Coordinator for the upcoming year, and she knows where the birds are, so we can look forward to a good year of field trips and a good list.

If you'd like to take a shot at winning the historic trophy, E-mail your estimate of the number of birds you think we'll see on Club trips in 2026 to me at rjpautsch@gmail.com by January 5th.

Richard Pautsch

Christmas Bird Count

THE 84TH ANNUAL BOULDER AUDUBON CHRISTMAS COUNT

Richard Pautsch

This year's Christmas Count was held on Sunday, December 14. Over 140 people went out in attempt to count every bird (and squirrel and rabbit) within a 7 1/2 mile radius of Boulder. Boulder usually has the highest number of participants in the State. 10 Boulder Bird Club members helped count birds in the sub-area that I lead, covering "The Hill" in Central Boulder.

The preliminary numbers show a total of 107 species seen within the circle on Count Day, plus an additional 4 during "Count Week." Four species never seen on the 83 previous counts were seen this year, three of them the warblers we looked for on a BBC trip the previous week near Boulder High on the creek, plus a lingering Spotted Sandpiper. Other unusual birds seen this year included Saw-whet Owl, Say's Phoebe (spotted by BBC member Charles Cooper in my Area 3), Lapland Longspur, and Great-tailed Grackle. Notable misses were Pintail, Rough-legged Hawk, Harris' Sparrow, and Brewer's Blackbird. The warm weather to the north probably kept numbers of migrants from being

here, and the local warm weather kept the number of birds like Mountain Chickadees lower than usual (although we saw good numbers of Pine Siskins). The dry summer contributed to a lower fruit and berry crop, which reduced the number of birds like Robins and Waxwings.

Thanks to all the BBC members who helped with the Count this year. It's a fun tradition!

CAROLS AND CAMELS

Jenny Desmond

On Saturday, December 20th, I joined three others for the Christmas Bird Count in Larimer County, coordinated through the Foothills Audubon group. The Foothills Audubon group meets at the Berthoud Library on the first Thursday of every month from 6-8 pm. We typically have 20-40 people in attendance, and the speakers are a mix of group members and local experts. All are welcome, join us!

Our bird count day started at 8 am, where Pete Christiansen (a fellow BBC member) and I met up with Rick and Ann from the Audubon group. Ann Delzell has participated in this count for more than 40 years; she knew all the backroads and several landowners who allowed us to walk through their property to look for birds. Her quadrants for the count are in southwest Larimer County. I served as one of the drivers and the photographer.

This was the day after three famous days of wind and power outages, so the birds – along with us – were just getting their bearings again.

We started our morning at a neighbor's farm, looking for the Long-eared Owl that used to live there. The excitement for the day soon shifted into a somber reality. After some stealthy walking, a Great-horned Owl flew past, alighting on a tree branch where it was visible through the scope. However, when we located the spot from which it had flown, we discovered another Great-horned Owl, dead in a bundle of branches. Its wing appeared to be caught and broken, and it looked like it had died only recently. It was a cruel reminder of the reality of nature.

Our spirits lifted as the day progressed, though. We saw myriads of waterfowl, including a beautiful group of 28 Pintails. We even checked a small stream and heard the familiar "bat-at-at-at-at" of a Belted Kingfisher before it revealed itself and landed on a nearby tree branch over the water.

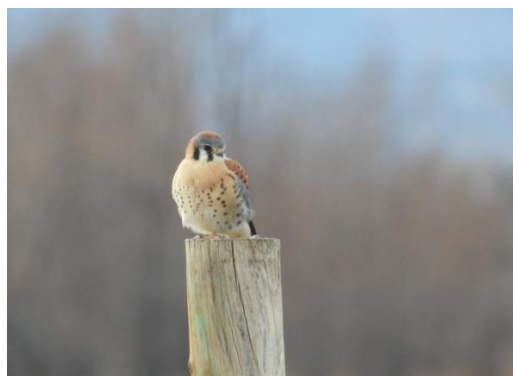
The Christmas spirit fully returned to our hearts as we spotted several "carols" of **American Robins** (also referred to as a "blush", a "riot", or even a "worm" of robins). While looking for a Bald Eagle after seeing one such carol, we stumbled upon **four camels**! Alas, there were no wise men in sight.

Later, I asked Ann about her highlight of the day. She mentioned being surprised by the **American Goldfinches**, which added up to 50 by the end of the day. She admitted she isn't used to seeing them in their winter plumage.

My personal highlight was the **American Kestrel** that posed on a fencepost for me. I captured some great pictures of that beauty before it took flight. Ann invited our little cadre of birders back to join her next year—and who knows, maybe I'll continue her legacy and cover her quadrants for the next 40 years!



Camels



American Kestrel



Carol of American Robins



American Goldfinch

For more on Christmas bird counts and Colorado birding more generally see the Colorado Field Ornithologists' [website](#)

Birding trips by club members

In this section, we have news about birding and nature trips. Rolf Hertenstein shares a report on his trip to the Galapagos in April. Burr Toohey describes her trip to Mongolia. Also enjoy a short essay and photos by Regina Quinn, about her trip to Patagonia!

Photos are by the author unless otherwise noted. Birds in bolded type are pictured in the essay.



Galapagos
April 2025
Rolf Hertenstein

Emily and I enjoyed a long-planned 13-day cruise in the Galapagos. If you want to see sheer numbers of bird species or want to see lots of colorful birds, don't go to the Galapagos. But if you want an amazing wildlife experience, Galapagos is the place for you. I'll try to avoid repeating "so close", but birds and other critters that were so tame and *so close* were a constant theme on our trip. I should have kept a list of birds that I almost stepped on.

Birding started shortly after arriving at the airport. Our first Darwin (aka Galapagos) finch (small ground-finch) was gathering nesting material outside the lounge where we waited to meet our guide. Later that afternoon before boarding our ship, an endemic charcoal-colored Lava Gull and a Lava Heron each made an appearance. The fun had begun.

Frigatebirds, primarily Magnificent, were a regular companion as we motored from island to island. I love any bird that soars. On our first day, motoring into a headwind, a Frigatebird was soaring on the updraft above the ship's bow, wings spread, about 10 feet over my head. At other times, with a quartering headwind, one or two Frigatebirds would soar back and forth along the ship's side. On our last evening, again directly into a headwind, nine of them vied for the best position above the bow, sometimes nipping at each other's tails. On North Seymour we visited a nesting colony with a mix of **Magnificent** and **Great Frigatebirds**. Dozens of males had their red throat sacks inflated to impress the gals.



Three species of storm-petrels were also a frequent companion at anchor or while motoring along. The German word for them is wave-runner; wave-dancer might be a better name. There must have been a colony breeding on one rock that we snorkeled by. Many hundreds, maybe even a few thousand, were swarming around.

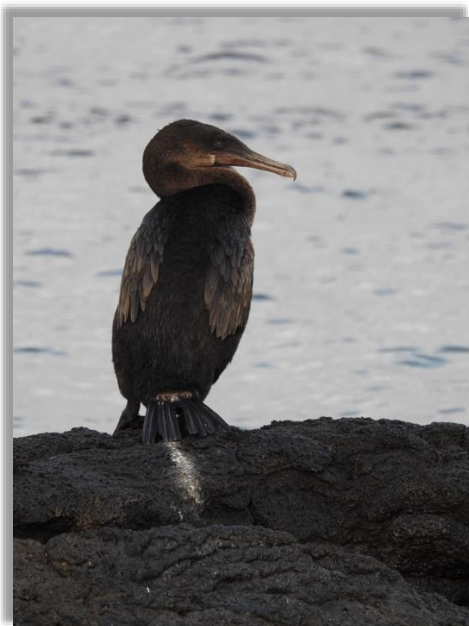
I'm fond of birds in the gannet (Sulidae) family. To my delight, **Blue-footed Boobys** were everywhere, flying, perched on rocks. Sometimes they would dive straight down into the sea, arrow-like, from 50 feet. If the water wasn't deep, they would blast in at a shallow angle. On one island we came upon a mating pair doing their exaggerated footwork, wing spreading, whistling, honking with bills skyward. Other boobys, less common, were the Nazca and Red-footed. The latter has both a light and dark morph, along with splendid pink and blue bills.



One of the reasons that we chose April was to witness the **Waved Albatross** nesting colony on Isla Espanola. EBird only reported a few the day before we arrived. Oh well, better than none. Maybe they arrived overnight, maybe people can't count, but during our afternoon visit there were at least 100 soaring along the cliffs and 100 more on grassy nests. As we watched, one clumsily landed near its mate. It waddled over and the two started clicking bills. It was easy to see their namesake fine wavy lines on their breast.



We snorkeled every day. Often the so-called shore was a rocky cliff rising straight up out of the sea and dropping underwater to darkness. Occasionally I would remember to look up while snorkeling just a few feet from the rocks. There was often something on the rocks - a perched Booby, Brown Noddy, Brown Pelican, and on a few occasions a **Flightless Cormorant** or **Galapagos Penguin**. With my head underwater, I watched one cormorant swim by then dive down looking for a snack. Another time a penguin shot past underwater.





The **Swallow-tailed Gull**, with a red eye ring contrasting a dark head and eye, can be seen along the South American Pacific coast as well as the Galapagos. They forage for squid at night. One night we were on the upper deck stargazing. Small ghostly shapes would flash by. We finally realized that it must be the gulls. Did the ship's wake somehow stir up squid or perhaps make distracting reflections on the water?

Other fun birds included (G. stands for Galapagos): American Flamingo (nice sized flock), Dark-billed Cuckoo, G. Dove, G. Hawk, three Mockingbird species, G. Shearwater, G. Petrel, G. Martin, G. Flycatcher, Red-billed Tropicbird, and Short-eared Owl. Our guide once saw a nearby flycatcher. He held out a thin stick, about 18" long, pished, and the flycatcher landed on the stick, looking at him. I was envious and over the next few days I tried, but failed, at the trick several times.

Trying to sort out the 17 species of Darwin's finches proved to be fun, challenging, and somewhat frustrating. I did end up identifying nine of the 17. A few were easy and obvious, like the Large Ground-Finch with its massive beak.

Beside birds, the islands are also home to lizards, tortoises, land and marine iguanas, crabs, sea lions, sea turtles, colorful fish, rays, sharks. I could go on and on - it was all fascinating.



Snow Leopards of Mongolia
June 22 - July 5, 2025
Burr Toohy

Ebird list for Mongolia: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/397170>

The trip to Mongolia was spectacular! My favorite bird sightings were the Vultures, especially the Lammergeier. The Cinerous were always around looking and finding something big or small to eat. The terrain was fascinating - no fences, all grassy hillsides where various herds roamed: cattle, camel, horses, sheep, goats, guided by their shepherd either on a horse or a motorcycle. The shepherds were usually in traditional dress to buffer against the cold.

The high altitude (6,000+ feet) “Ger Camp” experience was a once in a lifetime opportunity ... However, I would not wish it on anyone older than me because the loo was about a quarter mile away and in the middle of the night ... yikes! Still, despite the inconveniences, my life list count for this trip was close to 100 birds. I highly recommend visiting the region, if you get an opportunity!



Ger Camp at Khovd, Rafael Galvez

The following Mongolian trip report, with more details, was compiled and written by: Rafael Galvez; significantly shortened and edited by C. Kosso

We worked with Mongolian ground teams in two different regions, and they granted us safe passage to the best locations for wildlife, fed us, and delivered their trusted services to the best of their abilities. We all embarked on this adventure with open hearts and minds, ready for wonderful surprises and beautiful experiences.

Relatively few birders visit Mongolia, so there are often exciting surprises when we visit, and this time was no exception. As a result, we found 167 bird species and two dozen species of mammals. Highlights were many, but among the most memorable were all the young birds under parental care, including ducklings and cygnets, baby grebes, and most memorable, White-naped and Demoiselle cranes with their baby colts. Near-encounters with calling Black-billed Capercaillies and Gray Nightjar were enigmatic, while an assortment of reed-dwelling songbirds including Bearded Reedlings, Blyth’s Reed Warblers, and Paddyfield Warblers—among several others, made for a memorable morning along Khar Us Lake. The raptors also captured our attention and imagination, from the magnificent **Lammergeier** and Cinereous Vulture to the ubiquitous Steppe Eagle and Black-eared Kites; raptors were always nearby.



Lammergeier, Rob Broeren

At Gun Galuut, we set out to explore the nature reserve. We spent two days there, exploring the slopes, lakes, and wetlands. We were all very excited to find Demoiselle and **White-naped cranes taking care of young colts**. Most parent pairs we saw had two chicks each. One very interesting moment was watching a pair of Demoiselles seeing our vehicle approaching at quite a distance, and leaving their two chicks at a hiding place, followed by exaggerated postures with hunched runs, meant to distract and move us away from their offspring. It was also very exciting to find a **Siberian Crane**, one of the rarest birds on the planet and critically endangered.



Left: The rare Siberian Crane. Right: White-naped Cranes. Photos: Rob Broeren

On June 27 we arrived in Khovd in far-flung northwest Mongolia. We arrived late morning and were informed right away that a Snow Leopard was being seen up at the summit of Jargalant Mountain. With our luggage in our 4x4 vehicles, we did not waste time stopping by the ger camp to settle in and get organized. A Snow Leopard sighting needs to be taken with utmost seriousness, for you never know when another may be spotted again. We crossed the steppe through unpaved roads and then started the arduous climb up steep slopes, as our drivers expertly maneuvered the vehicles up ravines and winding ledges until we were high up above 10,000 feet. The team of local scouts had indeed secured their sights on a Snow Leopard resting alongside an outcrop across the gorge, eye level with us. It was near-impossible to see it with bare eyes, for the cat blended in perfectly with the porous rock surface of the mountain cliffs, and due to distance. Even through the scope, when the view was perfectly centered on the leopard, its stillness and perfect camouflage betrayed the viewer, and one had to patiently acclimate to what was in view, until the outline of the feline finally became clear. We spent hours observing the enigmatic Snow Leopard. And we enjoyed several more days of travel, birding, and observing mammals in the region.



Snow Leopard, Rob Broeren

Finally, on July 5 - We set out to explore Hustai before breakfast for a successful search for Gray Wolves. After lunch, we returned towards Mongolica Hotel for some final birding along the grounds of the hotel. We had our final dinner that night and said our goodbyes. Overall, we enjoyed viewing a wealth of animals throughout the trip, including many rare and endangered species.



Patagonia Trip
October 2024
Regina Quinn

I went to Patagonia – Argentina, Chile, and a boat trip thru the Chilean Fjords and Cape Horn in October 2024. It was an excellent trip with Overseas Adventure Travel, and I saw a lot of interesting birds while there. Although it was not a birding tour, I am sharing a few bird photos from the trip. At one point on the trip, when we checked into our hotel, in Torres del Paine, several travelers saw the Magellanic Woodpecker and took excellent photos with their cell phone! I was really disappointed I missed it.

But on the way to breakfast the next morning, there he was clinging to the side and pecking on the glass near the entrance to the lobby. I guess this was a usual place for him due to the reflection. I ran all the way back to my room to get my camera. Later I was able to get a photo of his mate as well. There were 30 different species of birds I was able to photograph on my own or see with the group during the trip. Here are just a few:



Upland Goose, male



Upland Goose, female



Black-necked Swan family



Black-faced Ibis



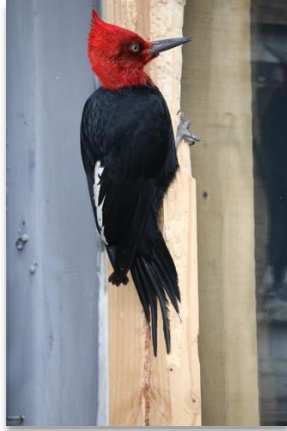
Megellanic Penguin



Southern Lapwing



Megellanic Woodpecker,
female



Megellanic Woodpecker,
male



Spectacled Tyrant



Austral Negrito



Thorntailed Rayadito



Local Photos - BBC Members

On December 10, 2025, the Boulder Bird Club met for a Wednesday walk at Boulder Creek – University of Colorado campus. A huge crowd (34 birders) assembled and hence we have several illustrative photos. Especially interesting was a Merlin ferociously, yet cheerfully, eating breakfast. “Breakfast” looked like an exceptionally unlucky junco... feathers were flying everywhere. Check out the ebird checklist for more photos and information (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S290870376>).



Red-tailed Hawk, Jane Baryames



Red-tailed Hawk, Teresa Gehring



Northern Flicker, Jim Ward



Merlin, Jim Ward



Merlin, Neal Zaun



Merlin, Ruth Parks



Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Jim Ward



Black-capped Chickadee, Jim Ward



American Dipper, Robert Dullien



American Dipper, Jim Ward



Ferruginous Hawk, Pella Crossing, 10/08/2025, Charlie Cooper

Backyard Bird Photos

Charlie Cooper, Wonderland Lake area



Northern Flicker



Red-tailed Hawk



Rufous Hummingbird



Pine Siskins



Pygmy Nuthatches

Upcoming Field Trips

ORGANIZER:

Carolyn Beach
beachcarolyn1@gmail.com
303-443-0129

FIELD TRIPS Field trips are the highlights of our group activities! Typically, we meet on Wednesday mornings and the first Sundays of the month.

For Wednesday outings we'll continue to send an email via BBC Google Groups on Tuesday mornings with the following day's location and time to meet. In mid-April the protocol changes and the trips will be listed in the newsletter, with a reminder by email.

Occasionally trips are scheduled on other days as well! We hope to see you at as many as you can attend. In general, please note the time listed in the trips section carefully, because they can vary from trip to trip. The START time is listed after the date and place and before the leader.

There may be last minute changes due to inclement weather, so the best way to stay up to date is via our Boulder Bird Club Google Groups list. If you are not already receiving emails from the group, contact Carolyn Beach at beachcarolyn1@gmail.com to add your email address to this list. We encourage carpooling whenever possible. Please consider offering to help defray the cost of gas when you carpool! If you are looking for a ride, please reach out to the BBC List-serve: boulder-bird-club@googlegroups.com.

Recommendations: for each field trip, bring binoculars, a scope if you have one; wear a hat, appropriate footwear, water and a snack, sunscreen, and if necessary, insect repellent. From now until mid-April, the Boulder Bird Club Wednesday field trips will start at the later time of 8:30 am (unless otherwise noted). If you have a particular local hotspot in mind for a Wednesday bird walk, please let Carolyn know, she welcomes your suggestions.

First Sunday Birding will be at Walden/Sawhill Ponds Complex. If more than 25 people show up, we will split into two groups: Half the group will go with the trip leader listed, and the other half will go with the secondary leader. We'll keep two separate checklists. Walden Ponds Habitat/Sawhill Ponds complex is at 3893 N. 75th St, Boulder, Colorado

SUNDAY, January 4, 2026 -FIRST SUNDAY BIRDING AT WALDEN PONDS – 8:30 am,
3893 N. 75th St., Boulder.

Leader: Jane Baryames - 303-920-0393 - janeb1952@gmail.com

Be sure to dress appropriately for the day's weather conditions. Bring your binoculars, a scope if you have one, and your water bottle.

SATURDAY, January 24, 2026 - DUCKAPALOOZA – South Platte River – 8:30 am

Leader: Carolyn Beach - 303-443-0129 – beachcarolyn1@gmail.com

Meet at the Steele Street Park in Denver next to the S. Platte River at 78th & Steele St.

Allow enough time to arrive there by 8:30 am. Take US 36 (Boulder Turnpike) east and exit on Broadway. In a ¼ mile, turn left on CO 224/E. 70th Avenue. In 1 ½ miles, turn left on York Street. In ½ mile turn right on E. 78th Avenue. Continue a short distance to Steele Street and enter the parking lot. We'll walk up to 2 miles on a paved trail along the river. There's a possibility of seeing 17 waterfowl species including Barrow's Goldeneye. We will bird until about 11:00 am.

SUNDAY, February 1, 2026 -FIRST SUNDAY BIRDING AT WALDEN PONDS –
8:30am, 3893 N. 75th St. Boulder.

Leader: Jaye Zola - 303-819-7895 – jaye.zola@gmail.com

Be sure to dress appropriately for the day's weather conditions. Bring your binoculars, a scope if you have one, and your water bottle.

SATURDAY, February 14, 2026. ALLENSPARK MOUNTAIN FEEDERS – 9:00 am

Leader: Rolf Hertenstein – 303-823-6269 – rfherten@gmail.com

We'll meet at The Greenbriar Restaurant parking lot (we have permission to park there) at the corner of N. Foothills Highway and Lefthand Canyon Drive at 9:00 am. We may go to Ward, depending on the feeder situation there. We'll head to Allenspark and check out feeders and whatever else we can find. If you're interested, we'll head down the hill via Lyons and have lunch at Oscar Blues at around 11:00 am. The place we've eaten at the last couple of years has closed so we had to find an alternative. In any case, bring plenty of warm clothes!

SUNDAY, March 1, 2026 - FIRST SUNDAY BIRDING AT WALDEN PONDS – 8:30 am
3893 N. 75th St. Boulder.

Leader: Jim Fischer: 303-345-7209 – jayzeeded@hotmail.com

Be sure to dress appropriately for the day's weather conditions. Bring your binoculars, a scope if you have one, and your water bottle.

**Boulder Bird Club
Membership and Dues Form
2026**

Member Name (s) _____

Date: _____

Address _____

City _____ ST ____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

eBird Name: _____

(We send the newsletter by email & post on the website.)

Please check:

New Member _____ or Renewal _____

\$ 10.00 Annual Dues enclosed: \$ _____ (to Boulder Bird Club)

Donation enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail this form and dues to:

**Boulder Bird Club
2272 W Hecla Dr.
Louisville, CO 80027**

Check our website for the quarterly newsletter and field trips:

www.boulderbirdclub.org

Please pass along to your friends: ALL inexperienced and experienced birders are welcome!

Any questions? Call Eileen Rutherford at 303-513-9971 (please leave a message)

Email: BBC.Rutherford@gmail.com

[Back to Top](#)