



Boulder Bird Club Newsletter

October, November, December 2025

Dedicated to the Field Observation of Birds since 1947

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

Email address:
BBC.Rutherford@gmail.com

Table of Contents:

- 1) Letter from the President
- 2) Note from the Editor
- 3) Members and Officers
- 4) Mark your Calendars
- 5) Guest Article
- 6) Birding trips by club members
- 7) Photos
- 8) Upcoming Field trips
- 9) Membership form

Letter from the President

An Anhinga? A Wood Stork?? In the Boulder area??? It has been an interesting year so far! We've recorded 200 different species on our bird walks as of this writing. Dick Pautsch will reveal the winner(s) of the annual Super Seer Award at the Holiday Party at Lonny Frye's house Sunday December 7th.

Now that summer has flown by, it's time to plan for the remainder of the year. We are well into Fall migration. I like to check migration patterns on the BirdCast website (birdcast.info). For example, the estimated number of birds who migrated across Boulder County on the night of August 30th was 994,900. The live data feed runs from August 1st to November 15th during Fall migration.

Soon we'll be taking field trips to local reservoirs and creeks to welcome the ducks back, maybe even a swan, and we'll look for American Tree Sparrows and Northern Shrikes. World Migratory Bird Day which is also October Big Day is Saturday October 11, 2025, be sure to mark your calendars. There will be many interesting booths at Walden Ponds. And as the weather turns to winter temperatures, we can fill our bird feeders and observe our feathered friends from the comfort of our homes. You might consider signing up for Project FeederWatch which is run by Cornell Ornithology. It runs from November 1st to April 30th. You pick two consecutive days of the week to record the birds you see at your feeders and in your yard. Here's a helpful link: <https://feederwatch.org/about/how-to-participate/>

I've been a participant for the past 6 years and it has helped me through the long winter season. On snowy days, you're bound to have lots of birds at your feeders. It brings a smile when a flock of Bushtits mobs the suet feeder. I try to provide fresh water every day, maybe some of you have a yard that is equipped to set up a heated bird bath.



I'm sure I'm not the only one who lets out a big sigh at the end of the hummingbird season. But hey, they'll be back in about 200 days! Perhaps some of you have some

international birding trips planned sometime during the rest of the year. Cynthia will be happy to publish your reports and your beautiful photos, maybe you'll see some exotic hummingbirds. We can all enjoy your wonderful trips vicariously.

We switch to Road Creepers October 15th when we start our bird walks a little bit later, usually at 8:30 am. If the weather is not to your liking, bundle up anyway for a short walk and then we'll go for a nice hot cup of coffee!

This is also the time of year when we start to collect dues for the following year. The BBC Board decided to maintain the amount of our dues to \$10 annually. We donate to a few organizations (Cornell Ornithology, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Birds of Prey, CalWood Education Center, Wildland Restoration Volunteers, and the CFO Birding Challenge) plus we have several club expenses (Webmaster, Holiday Party beverages, Board Recognition gifts, Summer Picnic rental, food and supplies). Thank you to all of you who make donations in addition to paying your dues! Donations are welcome because it allows us to keep the dues low.

Jane Baryames

Gentle reminder: From the eBird website:

Share a single checklist

Rather than keeping one checklist per person, keep one list for the entire group and share it with group members afterwards. Once shared, each person can edit their personal copy of the list to reflect just the birds they observed.

Here's a link with a more detailed explanation:

<https://support.ebird.org/en/support/solutions/articles/48000625567#anchorShareChecklists>

Notes from the Editor

We have another rich group of travel reports this issue. I hope you enjoy them as much as I have!

Making the news this late summer, as Jane mentioned, was a visit from a single Wood Stork. His photos were all over Facebook and other social media sites provoking many birders from far and wide to descend on Alexx and Michael's Pond in Broomfield, Colorado. Most were respectful, but a few birders and photographers did not follow

ethical practices for observations. For information on the ethics of observation please see the [ABA Code of Birding Ethics](#). Future postings of Wood Stork photos are now banned on the DFO Facebook page. However, several BBC'ers went to visit the bird and I thought many of us might like to learn a little bit more about this rare visitor. I also trust that our birding group followed the guidelines to the letter, hence there are photos at the end of this short essay.

This text and information is primarily adapted from Cornell's [Allaboutbirds](#) and a Denver Post article (linked below). For more detail about this beautiful bird, do visit the Cornell website!

Typically, in the US, these large, white Wood Storks are found in the southeastern swamps and wetlands ([Range map](#)). Usually, one would need to visit a wetland preserve or wildlife area along the coast in Florida, South Carolina, or Georgia. The August sightings here are only the third time a Wood Stork has ever been recorded in Colorado, according to Peter Gent, local birding expert and member of Colorado Field Ornithologists (See the [Denver Post](#) article):

August 2025: A juvenile Wood Stork was observed in Broomfield, Colorado, the first sighting in the state in over nine decades, according to records from [Colorado Field Ornithologists](#).

1934: A Wood Stork was documented in the Denver area, near the site of the former Stapleton Airport.

1902: Two Wood Storks were spotted at Fort Logan.

Wood Storks forage with their head down and body held horizontally, and that behavior has certainly been evident in our visitor (as seen in the photos that follow). Typically, they are large, which helps distinguish them from herons, ibises, and egrets in wetlands...that and their very substantial bill helps with the ID. They have football-shaped bodies perched atop long legs. They have a long neck and the long, thick bill that is curved at the tip.

The Wood Stork is a good flier, soaring on thermals, which bodes well for our stork's survival after it leaves here. They fly with their neck and legs outstretched, but tend to perch with the neck drawn in, giving them a humpbacked appearance. They are white except for their black flight feathers and tail. The head is unfeathered and scaly-looking.

The Wood Stork is federally designated as "threatened" in Florida, but "least concern, population decreasing" elsewhere and is an indicator species, meaning that its presence and health reflect the condition of its wetland ecosystem. Populations in areas like

South Florida have declined due to habitat loss and altered water management, but breeding pairs have increased in Georgia and South Carolina and are expanding into Alabama and Mississippi. In general, the bird appears to be making a comeback. Today, there are 10,000 or more nesting pairs in the U.S., and the overall population is larger than it was in the 1970s. The Wood Stork is the only species of stork to breed in the US.

Normally, these birds feed in groups with their heads down feeling for prey in open wetlands. However, our visitor is on his own, sharing his space with, among others, American White Pelicans, Snowy Egrets, and, of course, the large carp. These storks primarily eat fish and other aquatic invertebrates, but sometimes eat seeds, amphibians, nestlings, and reptiles. They walk slowly through wetlands with their bill in the water, feeling for prey. When they feel something on their bill, they quickly snap it closed, swallowing the prey whole. They also push their feet up and down in the water or flick their wings to startle prey. Storks also visually search for prey, but more frequently use their bill to feel for it, especially in muddy waters. Many of us observed these behaviors over the weeks that the Wood Stork has been visiting.



John Salisbury



J. Maxwell, via John
Salisbury



J. Maxwell, via John
Salisbury



Jim Ward



Jim Ward



Jim Ward



Stork with carp, Nancy Morrison



Cynthia Kosso

On another note: 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!

Members and Officers

Welcome to our New BBC members:

Zeynep Biringen
Karl and Robin Frank
Paul and Janet Hale
Kathy Lawler
Leo Shrank and Family
Sue Summers

Officers

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

Vice President: Lonny Frye
303-931-9131, lonnyfrye@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sharon Norfleet
720-273-5689, maeedw3017@gmail.com

Secretary: Patricia Cullen
303-506-0405, hathcockcolorado@gmail.com

Field Trips:
Pat Heller: 303-819-6745, pat_heller@msn.com
Valerie Crecco: 303-886-4898, Valerie.crecco@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor: Cynthia Kosso
928-220-5397, ckkosso@gmail.com

Membership Chair: Eileen Rutherford
303-513-9971, BBC.Rutherford@gmail.com

Recognition Coordinator: Jenny Desmond
303-775-3131, jenny@vivemastours.com

Mark your Calendars!

This year, the BBC Holiday Potluck will be on December 7 at 5:00 pm. Thanks, as always, go to Lonny Frye for hosting this event at his lovely home at **1644 Pine St., Boulder CO 80302**

We will provide beverages and some delicious delicacies to accompany any dish you bring along to share. Meet up with old members, greet new members and talk about the great birding moments of the past year. Park in the neighborhood or in the parking lot 1/2 block north on 17th. All are welcome.

Guest article

“What technology has done to field identification
The future of birding isn't bleak at all.”

©Bob Dolgan

Bob Dolgan of Chicago writes a weekly column on Substack titled This Week in Birding, which you can subscribe to for free, or you can become a paid subscriber if you'd like to offer your support.

A stray thought has occasionally crept in as I've increasingly used the Merlin app to identify and verify bird songs. That is, “what was I doing all those years memorizing bird songs and puzzling over identification challenges?” I've wondered if the bird identification skills I honed before Merlin—which I only began using in recent years—had become less important, or at least less valuable. (If you're not familiar with Merlin, it can identify birds to species through photos and audio.)

Pete Dunne, founder of the World Series of Birding and a Cape May legend, posed a question along these lines, “Is Field ID Dead?” in the July 2023 issue of Birding (subscription required).

Dunne also goes further back and points out that digital photography itself opened up new frontiers in field identification, using the maddening Empidonax flycatchers as examples. But digital photography, while certainly innovative, feels like a lot less of a sea change in field identification. One still has to sync up a camera to a computer or phone to start parsing a sighting or an ID.

Dunne captures the essence of Merlin's vast impact here:

“The Merlin Bird ID app has brought field identification into a new facilitated era that sidesteps the hunting apprenticeship stage of becoming a birder the way many of us define it: a person devotes time and focus required to gain identification skills. It is no longer necessary to indenture your life to learning bird vocalizations. With Merlin, a nine-year-old kid down the street can identify spring warblers by their song with greater accuracy than I who have dedicated 65 years to this endeavor.

I think advances in bird identification technology will mostly affect—and hopefully facilitate—the apprenticeship stage of bird study: that initial internship and sometimes frustrating stage when new birders are just learning their birds.”

Indeed, I read Dunne’s essay the same day I nabbed a bird song record, a vinyl record, at a garage sale. Learning these songs required sitting next to a record player for hours. At least with a cassette, I could listen to the songs through my car stereo.

The truth is, one can still sit with a record, cassette, or CD, or bop around All About Birds or Xeno Canto to learn bird songs. That’s part of the fun. Cue up the bird songs on a cold late March day and get ready for migration.

Dunne writes:

“As for me, next spring I’ll go out and relearn warbler songs, just as I do every year. Greater challenge equals greater achievement equals greater satisfaction.”

I appreciate this thought. At least for me, my phone also will still be listening for birds on most outings. Used judiciously, Merlin is too valuable of a tool. There are warbler call notes that I’d absolutely be unlikely to pick out on my own.

The truth is, birding’s been evolving since the time of the first telescopes and binoculars, and probably before that, too. Making bird ID easier is something that can bring more people into this pursuit. And that’s almost always a good thing.

After finishing the above piece, I went birding in a local forest preserve on Saturday. That’s when I had a field identification experience that seemed to confirm that Merlin hasn’t completely altered the fabric of birding. There were quite a few raucous Blue Jays around (when aren’t they raucous), and they were making all sorts of calls as jays are wont to do. But there was another call—another species—mixed in. I had Merlin open and listening for birds, but it wasn’t picking up anything other than the Blue Jays. The call was something like a hoarse Red-bellied Woodpecker, which led me to conclude that I was hearing a Red-headed Woodpecker, an uncommon and delightful species in my neighborhood. I checked Merlin again, and it had nothing. Now, there were a few factors at play. The woodpecker was quite distant, so it’s possible it wasn’t in range of my phone

and Merlin. The Blue Jays were indeed loud, and there were planes on the approach to O'Hare. But still, it took knowing Red-headed Woodpecker calls and experience with the species and this location to identify the bird. And when I lifted my binoculars toward a big dead tree in the distance, there was indeed a Red-headed Woodpecker at the very top.

Birding trips by club members

In this section, we have news about birding and nature trips. Pat Cullen shares a report on the CFO birding challenge. Susan Holloway describes her trip to Oaxaca. Also enjoy trip essays by Kevin and Eileen Rutherford (Nevada and California), Regina Quinn (Ouray), and Charlie Cooper (Southern Africa in 2019)!

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



Colorado Field Ornithology Birding Challenge Reflections

Pat Cullen



On Sept 6, 2025, Boulder Bird Club members Henry Stiles, Pete Christiansen and I, teamed up with Erie birder Jeff Percell and executed a big birding day in Weld County. This is an annual fund-raising event held each fall, to benefit Colorado bird conservation.

This type of day involved planning, logistics, scouting, reviewing bird ID for fall species and more! We had a blast seeing the sunrise at Crow Valley Campground, making some long distance drives across the Pawnee Grasslands and trying to locate all the watery spots around Greeley, and the full harvest moonrise, ending our day at the Barn Owl nesting area on Coal Creek in Erie!



Everyone pulled together and make it a fantastic day, trading scopes, calling birds, and offering lemon cake treats to keep us going! By the end of the day, we were tired, but had covered a lot of habitats, and found 104 Weld County birds for our lists, learned about new spots to bird in Erie, from Jeff, and enjoyed the camaraderie that is a long day in the field.

Somewhere on the dusty dirt roads in Briggsdale, we picked up a nail in our tire but managed to fill the tire twice and look for birds at gas stations as part of the journey.

Some of our birding highlights were spotting a Gray Flycatcher at Crow Valley Work Center, a small property north of the campground, Stilt Sandpipers at a small pond at the intersection of Weld County roads 61 and 74, which is northeast of Greeley, and thousands of gulls and grebes at Windsor Reservoir!

Another member of Boulder Bird Club, Pat Heller, teamed up with other birders to do her own birding day In Larimer and Weld County, as the event has various ways to participate. CFO offers a Green birding option to bike and bird if you wish!

See [Colorado Field Ornithologists](#) website under Events for more info.



Townsend's Warbler, Crow Valley Campground



Gray Flycatcher, Crow Valley Work-Center.



Guided Birding in Oaxaca late April and early May 2025

Susan Holloway

For my 70th birthday, my partner Randy gifted me an “anywhere you want” trip, so I chose a guided birdwatching trip to southern Mexico! Our trip extended 10 days in a circuit around Oaxaca, Mexico.

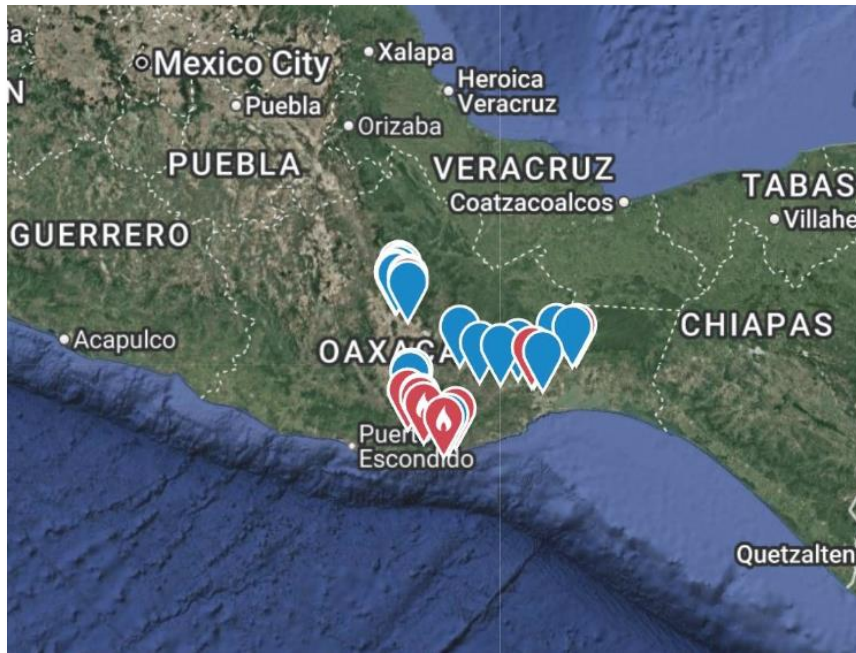
Way back in my twenties, I lived in southern Arizona for about ten years and taught in the border community of Nogales at a time when border crossings were comparatively fluid. During that period of my life, I travelled extensively in Mexico and made it to Oaxaca multiple times, so I was curious about how southern Mexico had changed in the last (gasp!) 40 – 50 years.



The choice of a guide was easy. Randy and I have employed guides in multiple locations, and we love, love, love the combination of expertise and joie de vivre expressed by Felipe Guerrero’s team at “American Birding Guides”, aka “Arizona Birding Guides” (americanbirdingguides@gmail.com).

Before this trip, we had utilized Felipe’s regional specialists in southwestern Arizona, the San Diego area of California, and Padre Island, Texas. Our Oaxacan group included Elliott Ress (“guide in training for Mexico”, usually specializing in Oregon), Felipe Guerrero (owner and head guide), me and my partner, Randall Rutsch.

So here are the stats for our Oaxacan trip this spring!! 257 Species accumulated at Istlan, Juchitan, Miahuatlan, Pochutla, Tehuantepec, Tlacolula, and Yautepec. The ecosystems we birded included mountain cloud forests, oak forests, mixed pine-oak forests, evergreen highland rainforests, tropical savanna, riparian estuaries, mangrove forests,



and lagoons. We were specifically looking for endemic species that we might not see elsewhere.

We were just in front of the rainy season, so the flower count was down, ergo the hummingbird count was also “supposedly” down. That being said, we did see the Beautiful, Dusky, Turquoise-crowned, Golden-crowned Emerald, Plain-capped Starthroat, White-eared,

Blue-capped, Green-fronted, Berylline, and Cinnamon Hummingbirds. One advantage of that season was that many of the birds were paired up and collecting nesting material or feeding fledglings.

I am an easy mark for the big colorful tropical species that we don’t get to see in Colorado, and I must say that my favorites included the trogons (Citreoline, Elegant, Mountain and Collared), motmots, flocks of parakeets, and a Toucanet. But I also loved the raucous Chachalacas and the huge flock of Wood Storks we saw. Hearing, pursuing, and then finally viewing a Barred Forest-Falcon was a thrilling highlight for me.

Because we were driving by 5:30 am each morning, our trip was pretty thin on cultural indulgences and shopping. However, I did score some gorgeous weavings and get a half day at a beach.



We consistently ate at small, local eateries, and feasted on grasshoppers and caterpillars, drank the local mezcal, and enjoyed ourselves completely. Since land ownership in Oaxaca is different than in the US, with 85% of the land owned communally rather than

privately, I was especially glad to have guides who helped me understand where we could and couldn't step.

Great trip, lovely people. Thanks, Randy!



Nevada and California, August 13 – 21, 2025

Kevin Rutherford

Eileen and I had never done a pelagic birding trip, so we decided to give it a try. We booked a 10-hour birding boat trip with Alvaro's Adventures out of Half Moon Bay, just south of San Francisco for August 17th. As usual, we made this a road trip, with several stops along the way for more birding and sightseeing. In addition to looking for life birds, we also like to see how many of the national parks we can visit.

On the way to California, we spent a day at Great Basin National Park in Nevada. As this park is on the Nevada/Utah border in the Great Basin Desert, we always assumed it was hot, dusty, and not terribly interesting. We were told by some friends (you know who you are!) that it was one of their favorite places to visit, so this was our chance to see for ourselves. The center of the park is 13,065 foot Wheeler Peak with a scenic drive, and a cave tour at the bottom. We enjoyed it very much. It was well worth the stop!

The boat trip itself was an "adventure." It takes about three hours to get out to the deep water where some of the best pelagic birds can be found. Unfortunately, despite having taken medication to help prevent it, I got very seasick. Ugh. Eventually I recovered enough to be able to pay some attention to the birds, but it was not ideal.

There were several expert volunteers on the tour, calling out birds as they spotted them. We did manage to get a good number of life birds (10 for me, 11 for Eileen), but we were unable to get decent looks at some of them. Some birds were quite far away, either flying on the horizon or bobbing on the rolling water. I did manage to get photos of some of them, although it was quite a challenge on a rocking boat.

From this boat trip, my favorite lifers (ones we saw well or photographed) include: **Black-footed Albatross**, **Sooty Shearwater**, **Rhinoceros Auklet**, **Scripps's Murrelet**, **Heermann's Gull**, Cassin's Auklet.

On our way back home, we drove south along the coast and managed to pick up another lifer - a **Wandering Tattler**. We also stopped at three more national Parks: Pinnacles, King's Canyon, and Sequoia. King's Canyon was by far our favorite of these three parks. We enjoyed the amazing huge trees, and had some good birding, including really good looks at a family of **Pileated Woodpeckers**. Near Sacramento we had a great look at the **Yellow-billed Magpie**.

I'm glad we had the experience of a pelagic birding trip, but I am not sure if I will be doing another one any time soon. Not just because of the seasickness, but also because I was a bit disappointed in how difficult it was to even see many of the birds, let alone photograph them. But who knows, maybe I will change my mind in the future.



Black-footed Albatross, Half Moon Bay, CA



Sooty Shearwater, Half Moon Bay, CA



Rhino Auklet, Half Moon Bay, CA



Scripps Murrelet, Half Moon Bay, CA



Hermann's Gull, Half Moon Bay, CA



Wandering Tattler, San Mateo, CA



Pileated Woodpecker,
King's Canyon NP, CA



Yellow-billed Magpie,
Sacramento, CA



Birding at Box Canyon Falls State Park July 2025

Regina Quinn

At the end of July, I went on a hiking trip to Ouray and Telluride Colorado with a fellow hiker. While in Ouray I had the opportunity to do some birding at the Box Canyon Falls State Park. I had already read on eBird about some of the different species seen here, and since this was a short walk from my hotel, I was excited to go check it out.

Upon entering and walking through the visitor center, I immediately came upon numerous birds eating sunflower seeds from feeders. I really didn't have to do much work to see several species all right there and was able to sit at a picnic table when I got tired of standing. There were **Evening Grosbeaks**, **Black Grosbeaks**, Cassin's Finch, **Pine Siskins** and Pygmy Nuthatches. A couple of Grosbeaks were also feeding their almost full-grown chicks. It was great to watch and get a ton of photos at a fairly close range without exerting too much effort. There was also an interesting interaction between a **Pygmy Nuthatch with a chipmunk** at the water dish.

I also did the tourist thing and walked up the hillside to the bridge overlooking the canyon and river below and watched the many Violet-green Swallows and then came back and walked over to see the Box Canyon Falls. There were Black Swifts nesting on the wall adjacent to the waterfall. There were also a couple of other walking trails where you could see other birds as well. Photos were taken on July 28, 2025.

All in all, I was thrilled to see these birds and get some decent photos. I even met a birder from San Diego who had flown in to see the reported birds. A worthy birding destination not too far from home.

While in Telluride, I walked along the San Miguel River that runs through town and visited the Hobgood/Drew Wetlands & Nature Preserve. There were lots of birds here and along the river trail with all the common favorites. A good place to explore with a beaver dam is on the other side of the river.





Blast from the past: Trip to Southern Africa Jan. 22 – Feb 8, 2019

Charlie Cooper



Sara and Ching Chen, with elephant

Early in 2019, Charlie Cooper, spouse Sara Bysshe, and son-in-law's mother Ching Chen took a small-group trip to Southern Africa run by Gohagan Travel. The accompanying picture of our "takeaway" tee shirt shows where we went.



The trip began with visits to a particularly important 1990s era historical site, where Nelson Mandela and colleagues planned the “revolution” at Liliesleaf farm near Johannesburg . On Jan 24 we moved to a nature focus in the Mala Mala game reserve on the outskirts of Kruger National Park. Along the way, just outside Johannesburg, we visited a reserve where we saw several of the spectacular **Grey-crested Cranes**.

At Mala Mala from Jan 24-28, **elephants (above)** wandered up really close to our fancy thatched roof huts and dining hall and we were prohibited from unescorted walks at night because of leopard activity!



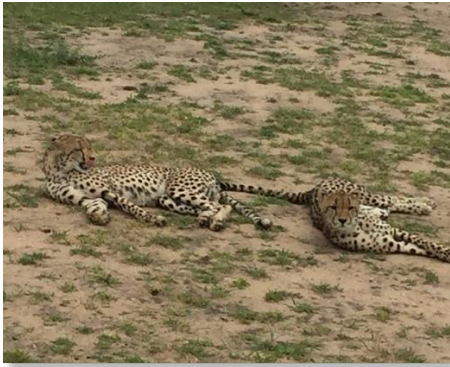
Grey-crested Crane



Southern Carmine Bee-eater

During a series of “game drives” at Mala Mala, a variety of colorful bee-eaters and rollers were abundant, with the **Southern Carmine Bee-eater**. So, despite us being birders, we enjoyed our close encounters with African mammals on the Mala Mala game drives. I think the best example included close approaches to an extended family of nine lion cubs with a pair of calm adults nearby, a pair of young **cheetahs** at the local “airstrip”, packs of the increasingly rare African wild dogs, and various antelopes, such as the kudu. Close-up views of leopards in the evening and white rhinos during the day were pretty good too!

On January 29 we flew down to Cape Town, which sits at the base of spectacular Table Mountain. At its top, the mountain is full of the gorgeous **Orange-breasted sunbirds**, which remind one in appearance and behavior of very big hummingbirds. We then visited Nelson Mandela’s jail cell on Robbin Island and the Boschandel wineries in the area, which is still largely inhabited by a community of descendants of Afrikaners. Also in the Cape Town neighborhood, there is the largest remaining breeding colony of very scarce **African Penguins** at Boulder beach. We were allowed to wander through very carefully. At the Cape of Good Hope, escaped and wild Ostriches ran all about.



Cheetahs lounging



Orange-breasted Sunbird



African Penguin

On February 1, we flew to our base on the “Zambezi Queen” for exploring the Chobe River, which divides Botswana from Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The locals stay on the shorelines when boating on the river, because the aggressive and dangerous hippos prefer the middle. We had one wake us when it bumped our vessel during the night. Of course there were many crocs too, often showing their teeth when onshore. Notable birds included many magnificent **Fish Eagles**, the **Southern Red Bishop**, and the ubiquitous parasite-picking, **Red-billed oxpeckers** perched atop impalas and other large mammals like the dangerous **Cape Buffalo**. Close approaches to charismatic mega-mammals included many elephants, giraffe, and large herds of zebra. I also photographed a large hard-fighting Barble catfish that I caught in the Chobe, along with a bunch of small Tiger Fish on an excursion from the big boat.



Fish Eagle



Southern Red Bishop



Red-billed oxpeckers, on an Impala



Cape Buffalo

On February 5 we disembarked and drove downriver to finish our tour with a couple of days centered on spectacular Victoria Falls. I think the wildlife highlight there were the numerous warthogs roaming the manicured grounds.

We encountered many other birds. A small selection includes:

Cape Gannet; White-breasted, Cape and Reed Cormorants; African Darter (similar to an Anhinga); Sacred, Hadedra and Glossy Ibis; Goliath, Purple, Black, Little Blue, Squacco, Green-backed and Grey Herons; Great, Yellow-billed, Little, Slaty, and Western Cattle Egrets; Black, Woolly-necked, White, Marabou, Open-bill, and Hamerkop storks; White-faced and Fulvous Whistling Ducks; Knob-billed Duck; Spur-winged and Egyptian Goose; Yellow-billed Duck; White-backed Vulture; Bateleur, Verreaux's (Black) and Tawny eagles; Yellow-billed Kite; Steppe Buzzard; African Marsh Harrier; Gabar Goshawk; Eurasian Hobby; Helmeted Guineafowl; Cape and Natal Spurfowl; Chukar; Common Quail; Red-knobbed Coot; Black-winged Stilt; African and Lesser Jacana; African (Black) Oystercatcher; Spotted and Water Thick-Knees; White-Crowned, Long-toed, Crowned, Senegal, and African Wattled Lapwings; Wood and Common Sandpipers; Whiskered and White-winged Terns; many different doves; Red-chested Cuckoo; Red-faced Mousebird; Pied, Malachite, Woodland and Grey-headed Kingfishers; Fork-tailed Drongo; Olive and Karoo Thrushes; Southern and Tropical Boubous; Violet-backed, Red-winged and Common Starlings; Yellow-billed Oxpecker; Malachite Sunbird; Red-billed Buffalo Weaver; Village and Southern Masked Weavers, Red-billed Quelea Long-tailed Widowbird; Pin-tailed Whydah and Cape and Black-headed Canaries.

My conclusion: you can't lose if you go for the charismatic big stuff and keep track of the birds too!

Local Photos - BBC Members

Rolf Hertenstein

A small flock of turkeys wandered through our yard in late August. The poults were two sizes - different broods. While many birds are in decline, eBird Status and Trends (<https://science.ebird.org/en/status-and-trends>) shows that Wild Turkey populations are increasing in Colorado and the intermountain west.



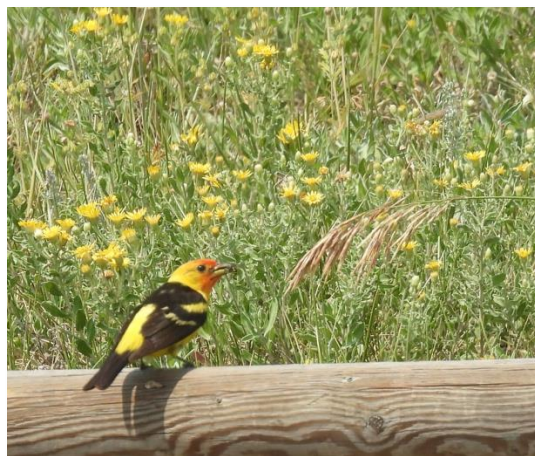
Jenny Desmond



White Rocks, Swallowtail, 8/6/25



Cal-Wood, Birders in action, 7/17/25



Cal-Wood, Western Tanager, 7/16/25



Davis' Deck, Black-headed Grosbeak,
7/30/25



Sandstone Ranch, Solitary Sandpiper,
8/13/25



Rabbit Mountain, Sage Thrasher, 8/20/25



Rabbit Mountain, Birders, 8/20/25



Rabbit Mountain, Prairie dog and Sage Thrasher, 8/20/25



Rabbit Mountain, Turkey Vulture, 8/20/25

Cynthia Kosso



Pella, Red-winged
Blackbird, female,
7/17/25



Davis', Rufous
Hummingbird, 7/30/25



Davis', White-breasted
Nuthatch, 7/30/25

Upcoming Field Trips

ORGANIZERS:

Valerie Crecco

valerie.crecco@comcast.net

303-886-4898

Pat Heller

pat_heller@msn.com

303-819-6745

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 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.**

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.

Boulder Bird Club Wednesday field trips will start at 8:30 am (unless otherwise noted). If you have a particular local hotspot in mind for a Wednesday bird walk, please let Valerie or Pat know, they welcome your suggestions.

Keep in mind that there may be last minute changes due to weather. 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 Pat Heller at pat_heller@msn.com or Valerie Crecco at valerie.crecco@comcast.net to request adding your email address to this list.

We send out reminder emails a day or two prior to each field trip. If you're on the Googlegroups list, you'll receive these emails.

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 either Valerie or Pat. We'll keep two separate checklists. Walden Ponds Habitat/Sawhill ponds complex is at 3893 N. 75th St, Boulder, Colorado

October 5, 2025 - Walden/Sawhill Ponds: 8:30 am.

Leader: Valerie Crecco (303) 886-4898 - valerie.crecco@comcast.net

November 2, 2025 - Walden/Sawhill Ponds: 8:30 am.

Leader: Pat Heller - (303) 819-6745 - pat_heller@msn.com

December 7, 2025 - Walden/Sawhill Ponds: 8:30 am.

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

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

Member Name (s) _____

Date: _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

(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