

# Voice of the Canyon

A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2017

## Where the Money Comes From and Where It Goes

Friends Co-treasurer Liz Bade gives an update on fund-raising efforts and how the money benefits the Park.

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## New Volunteer Job

Friends is supporting a new volunteer job--Park Ambassador. Dave Shipley tells you how to "try something new."  
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## Let's all turn out for Welcome Home Vulture Day

Saturday is expected to be a big day at the Park with Earth Day and our annual welcoming of the turkey vultures. Come for the famous TV dinner, come to help.

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## Birders Make a Discovery

Come along with Karen Metz as she and Josette Mastra find the hidden nest of a Lazuli Bunting pair.

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## Call for Donated Items

The Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park and Park staff are looking for a mountain bike, tree stumps and someone to recover a bench. See page 10 if you can help.

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## DALE'S DISPATCH

By Dale Campbell  
Friends President  
and Volunteer Naturalist



My senses tell me it's spring--warmer days and not so cold nights. The Pasque flowers are up and nodding their heads. The wild plum and chokecherries are waving new blossoms. Aspens and cottonwoods are showing new leaves. AND, Turkey Vulture Day is this weekend, Saturday from 11 to 2.

However, my mind tells me otherwise. It still thinks we'll get one more snap of cold weather and out there lurks a late April snow. If I want to be really smart about this, my brain really needs to pay more attention to my senses. And the calendar, too! Friends has a lineup of springtime into early summer activities to enjoy in the Park. Let's see what they are...

As already mentioned, Turkey Vulture (TV) Day is this Saturday, April 22. Friends has supported this Park activity for many years, as it is truly a welcome back for the TVs as well as an informal welcome to spring. In May, we will hike to the East Canyon prior to the monthly Friends meeting. We'll gather at the Visitors Center 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 13 to start the hike. Afterwards, there will be refreshments to re-energize you and also time to join Friends in our monthly discussions. We would appreciate your input in planning other ways Friends can help support the Park.

In June, we're planning a "Garden Party" – Native Garden, that is. There have been many improvements to the garden over the

last year, thanks primarily to Liz Bade. And, we'd like to celebrate the funding support that brought it about. Stay tuned for more information.

Further into June, there will be the first of our summer Concerts in the Park coordinated by Pat Feldmeier. Check out the "Summer Concerts" tab on the Friends website (<http://www.castlewoodfriends.org/concerts.php>) for more details.

Speaking of success in funding support, Susan Williams is another Board member whose efforts have brought success. A grant from Mile-High RETAC, will help the Park get three more automated external defibrillators (AEDs). At a discounted price of \$3,500 each, that's a real win. Receiving funds from this newly found grant source enables Friends to reallocate some previously dedicated funds to other opportunities to support the Park!

Here's one more sneak peek for you. Friends will be 20 years young this fall. We're planning a birthday celebration to coincide with the October Annual meeting. If you're interested in helping plan this celebration, please contact a Board member.

Whew, reading back over this, it sounds like spring is going to be pretty busy. Come join us in one or more of these events and learn more about Friends and what we do!

# The Dam Run gets an all NEW 5K Course!

The Dam Run at Castlewood Canyon has gotten rave reviews every year: beautiful scenery, awesome volunteers, and perfect weather. However, we do often hear one little complaint – it's hard! For many runners, the difficult and technical course is the draw. Our trail run is definitely a course that tests what you're made of. Unfortunately for other runners, this difficulty is a barrier. Whether you are just starting your running career, are battling injuries, or just plain don't want to suffer that much, there's a whole crew of runners out there who aren't getting the opportunity to enjoy our event. Until now! In 2017, we are really excited to be adding a 5K course to the existing 10K course. All of the scenic beauty; not as much of the challenge! In addition, every runner this year in both races will receive a finisher's medal. Now you will have the proof of your accomplishment to show off to your friends and family!

Both races will start at 7 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017. Runners will share the trail until they reach Cherry Creek. After crossing the creek, 10K runners will turn left and continue along the same course that has been run for the last two years. However, 5K runners will turn right and follow Inner Canyon Trail to the steps and up to the Canyon View Nature Trail. After looping this paved trail, 5K competitors will re-join the 10K course with just a few hundred yards to the finish. The new course is actually just shy of a 5K at 2.95 miles. Serious runners, casual runners, hikers, and walkers are all invited to enjoy this new shorter course. We want to encourage groups of families and friends to join us, so we are offering a new 4-pack registration category. For the cost of 3 regular price 5K race entries, you can register 4 people! Anyone registered in either race gets a finisher's medal, a tasty breakfast from Flippin' Flapjacks, and is eligible for our unique race awards and door prizes.

Another exciting addition to The Dam Run is the photo contest! Our unique slate awards for The Dam Run feature a beautiful photo of the park. This year, we want to reach out to the entire Castlewood community to find an original photo to display on the awards. Whether you are a volunteer, friend of the park, employee, past runner, or park visitor, we want to see your best photos. There will be more specifics about the contest coming later, but in the mean time, start capturing the perfect shot.

If you are interested in registering for either distance of The Dam Run, visit [www.runningguru.com](http://www.runningguru.com) and search "The Dam Run." If you are interested in volunteering on race day or helping plan the run, e-mail Christi Smith at [christi\\_smith@msn.com](mailto:christi_smith@msn.com). All proceeds from The Dam Run support educational opportunities, projects, and events at the park, so be sure to tell your friends and families about this terrific event!

## Your Friends Board of Directors

Friends officers and board members serve for one-year terms. Elections are held at the annual meeting in October. You can call or email officers and board members anytime.

### Officers:

**President Dale Campbell**

(719) 592-9193

[dale\\_campbell\\_co@msn.com](mailto:dale_campbell_co@msn.com)

**Vice President Susan Williams**

(720) 840-8886

[Susanpw1994@gmail.com](mailto:Susanpw1994@gmail.com)

**Secretary Sharon Boyd**

(719) 592-9193

[sharon\\_boyd\\_co@msn.com](mailto:sharon_boyd_co@msn.com)

**Co-Treasurers**

**Liz Bade**

(303) 841-4874

[epbincolo@gmail.com](mailto:epbincolo@gmail.com)

**Jeannette Littlejohn**

(303) 841-1630

[jalitt90@msn.com](mailto:jalitt90@msn.com)

**Board Members:**

**Pat Feldmeier**

(303) 898-3169

[movinmoose@aol.com](mailto:movinmoose@aol.com)

**Travis Brown**

(303) 884-9982

[Travisab6@hotmail.com](mailto:Travisab6@hotmail.com)

**Friends** officers, board members, interested members and those wanting to join the organization, meet in the Visitor Center on Saturdays as announced throughout the year. A social time starts at 9:30 a.m. followed by the meeting at 10 a.m.

### MAY MEETING FEATURES A MORNING HIKE

The Saturday, May 13 meeting will start with a hike to the East Canyon at 8:30 a.m. Then we will gather in the conference room for a short social time followed by the meeting at 10 a.m.



# Friends Fundraisers and Grants Go Far in Supporting Park and Community

**By Liz Bade**  
**Friends Co-treasurer and**  
**Volunteer Naturalist**



Though relatively early in the new year, Park staff, volunteers, and Friends are already moving forward on fundraising to support Park projects.

Christi Smith has great ideas for making the September Dam Run more successful than ever. Jeannette Littlejohn, Membership Chair as well as co-Treasurer, had come up with an effective idea for attracting new Friends members – a simple flyer about Friends given to everyone who buys an annual Parks pass – with the thought that these folks have the potential to support Friends. Pat Feldmeier continues to stock the VC shop with attractive merchandise that last year netted approximately \$4,000 for our treasury. Bob Powers has been building native bee houses that have put \$355 in the Native Garden fund since last May!

We also write grants. Linda Maes submitted one to the Castle Rock Kiwanis who have so generously supported our Wonders program the last two years. We learned in March that Kiwanis approved this grant already. Good thing - we already have one Wonders school signed up for May.

Susan Williams researched AEDs which will add vital pieces of safety equipment to the Park's arsenal. Rich Collins, seasonal ranger, used the information she provided to prepare a grant request to fill this need. We learned we were awarded a grant for AEDs the last week of March. Brent Lounsbury, Park Manager, submitted a grant request to GOCO for the purchase of an electric street/trail police motorbike which would not only save on the Park's energy costs but can be used to quickly get a ranger to an emergency situation even on the trail. Bonus – it runs so quietly it won't disturb wildlife or park visitors. Liz Bade also prepared a grant request to GOCO for funding for the Nature Pass pilot program. For the pilot we have partnered with the Parker Task Force. They will provide a complimentary Park pass to client families they think would benefit from a day in the Park. Friends will reimburse the Park for the cost of the daily pass. Although GOCO did not fund the electric motorcycle, it did grant \$700 for the Nature Pass program.

Friends bank account had a balance of \$40,000 as of the beginning of March. Most of that money is already committed to supporting Park projects and events. For example, \$10,000 for the visitor center remodel, \$18,000 for interpretive sign replacement (\$3,500 of which is grant money from Colorado Parks Foundation), \$2,400 in the Native Garden fund from grants, bee house sales and designated donations, and \$2,759 for Wonders of Castlewood – also from grant bequests. Other money has been budgeted for volunteer support and Park events. If you do the math, you can see that committed expenses are edging right up to the checking account balance.

So, please encourage your friends to become Friends – every dollar goes right back to the Park and every dollar is spent wisely. Additionally, our membership numbers are very important when asking for grant money. And if you'd like a say in the workings of Friends, please volunteer to join the board – it's fun and personally gratifying.

## Thank you, Penny Hish

Friends' Board and the Park would like to thank Penny Hish for donating six new daypacks for use in our Nature Pass pilot program. When a person submits their nature pass to the Visitor Center attendant, they will be able to check out one of these daypacks full of good information - like the nature trail guide booklet. Without Penny's generosity, we would not be able to offer this amenity. Next time you're in the VC and Penny is providing a welcoming face to Park visitors, please thank her for her donation.

# ***Non-Profit Sustainability – Membership and Money***

**By Susan Williams  
Friends Vice President and  
Volunteer Naturalist**

Yes, money does make the world go around. In the non-profit world, existing programs struggle and new programs cannot be fully funded or even not funded at all. The Board of Directors for Friends of Castlewood Canyon is proud of the financial contributions made each year to programs at Castlewood Canyon State Park and to outreach toward surrounding communities. However, each year the funding needs grow and the circle of availability gets tighter.

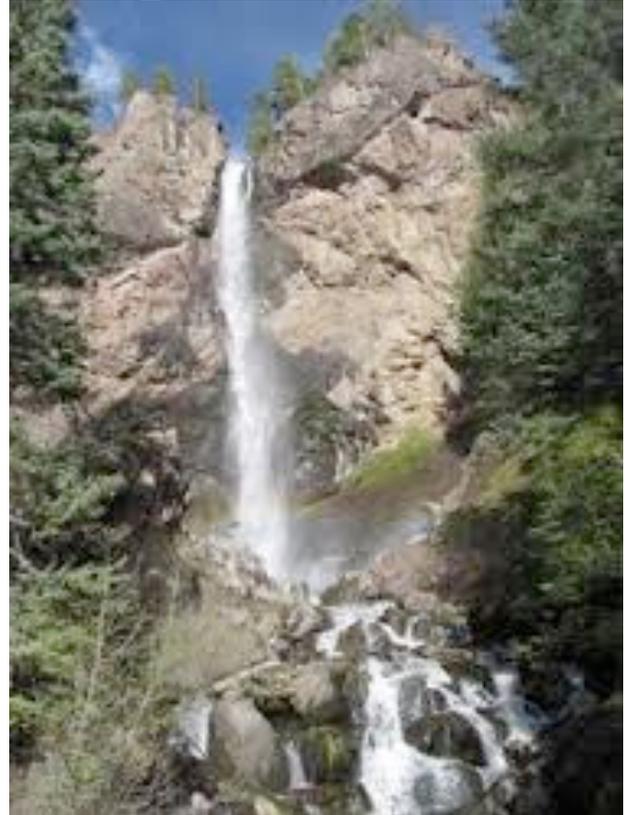
Organizations gain and lose members each year. In order for the Friends group to grow and be successful, it needs new members. As of April 15, the membership roster lists 64 active members. We hope that those of you who have not renewed your membership will reactivate it and help us help the Park. For those who we have not heard from for some time, our hopes are they will re-engage with Friends and become involved. Many activities and events sponsored and supported by Friends occur on a regular basis, but others only require a one-time commitment of support. Opportunities are listed on the Friends' web site

([www.castlewoodfriends.org](http://www.castlewoodfriends.org)) and in this quarterly newsletter. New and exciting events and activities are in the works, so stay tuned for future announcements.

Sustainability of an organization is also dependent on access to funding through direct person-to-person referrals, memberships, gifts and grants. The majority of funding for Friends is derived from grant writing. Every year it's a challenge, as grant funds diminish and the competition for grants rise. The Friends group also recognizes the importance of supporting Park events and activities with volunteers at programs, cookouts and naturalist-led hikes. Additionally, the Dam Run contributed significantly to Friends bottom line over the past three years. This fund raiser also serves as an important public relations event in the community. The Friends Board carefully selected the 2017 events and activities with the goal to create a meaningful experience for Friends members, volunteers and visitors. Each fundraising effort requires volunteer support.

The Friends Board hopes you will help spread the word about Friends past and on-going successes. Yes, we need your help! Are there friends in your social circle or at work who might bring energy and ideas to the Friends Group? Are there ways you can help Friends connect with individuals and/or businesses that have a commitment to our mission? A handy, bookmark size pamphlet tells the Friends of Castlewood Canyon Story and how you and other people passionate about the Park can support the organization through membership or donation. This pamphlet is available at the Visitor Center, at all Park events and on-line ([www.castlewoodfriends.org](http://www.castlewoodfriends.org)). Be sure to share the Friends pamphlet with your friends, neighbors and Park visitors.

When you attend events at Castlewood Canyon State Park, take time to interact with visitors. Engage in conversation about Our Park's uniqueness and beauty, as well as the Friends group and their plans for 2017. Help us continue to build a strong and vibrant Friends of Castlewood Canyon!



# New Castlewood Canyon State Park Ambassador Job

By **Dave Shipley**  
**Friends Member,**  
**CASP Volunteer Naturalist**



Many Colorado State Parks have volunteers who serve their respective parks by making visitors feel welcome and by assisting them in locating the available attractions or activities that brought them to the park in the first place. They also serve as “Go-To” resources for information and education about the park, its history, geography, wildlife and plant life, geology, trail information, first-line-of-help in emergencies, etc. Different parks have different names for these volunteers, such as Campground Host, Trail Host, Boating Attendant, and others.

Historically, at *Castlewood Canyon State Park* we have done all of these generic-type activities (except camping, hunting and boating, since we are a day park oriented primarily toward the hiking experience) plus many more, under the general organization called trained “Volunteer Naturalist”. Our Park attendance is growing each year and our volunteer corps has expanded to the point where we need to identify, unify and organize the efforts of those volunteers who enjoy meeting, greeting and helping our visitors to enjoy their Park experience so as to encourage their return. This will be a **new** opportunity for Volunteer Naturalists to serve our Park, in addition to, or as an alternative to, leading school programs, performing trail and facility maintenance, assisting in the Visitor Center, performing bird nesting surveys, etc. We want to identify those who could serve in this capacity. Our State Parks professional staff and employees are limited in number and need help to cover all the expanded needs and expectations of our visitors. Even though we’re a relatively small day-park, *Castlewood Canyon State Park* is known throughout the Colorado Parks and Wildlife organization as having one of the two or three best volunteer corps ( including our Friends of group) and we want to build on that much-deserved perception.

## What’s New?

As a subset of our Volunteer Naturalist Group we’re “path-finding” a new function called “***Park Ambassador***”. This is envisioned to be a small (10-12 initially) cadre of our existing, more-experienced-in-their-knowledge-of-the-Park, already-trained Volunteer Naturalists who would like to try something new in their service to the Park.

## What’s Required?

- Knowledge and love of the Park
- Cheerfully meeting, greeting, helping visitors and being a good ambassador for the Park
- Naturalist uniform (special badge provided)
- Availability to serve one to two (or more) hours per week on average, at times of your choosing)
- Flexibility in dealing with all kinds of people and situations

## Interested?

Contact **Dave Shipley** at 303.660.1170 or [dave.shipley@comcast.net](mailto:dave.shipley@comcast.net) if interested or would like more information.

# Welcome Home Turkey Vulture Day Coming Up This Saturday, April 22

By **Mary McCormac**  
Northeast Region  
Education and Watchable  
Wildlife Coordinator

With the advent of spring, we welcome many migrant species back home to Colorado. This time of year, just look to the clouds to greet one of our residents returning from a winter spent in much warmer climes. Often found slowly gliding in the sky above, wings barely fluttering, turkey vultures exhibit a grace that contrasts a face only a mother – or vulture enthusiast – could love.

There is good reason why a turkey vulture's (TV) distinctive trait – a bright, red head – is also featherless. Though biologically classified as raptors, turkey vultures rarely feed on live prey, favoring to feast on carrion, preferably fresh! However, they will eat meat in all stages of decay. Being an animal often-found scavenging headfirst in carcasses, it is far easier to keep a mostly bald head clean and bacteria-free. Their colorful head is also how they earned their name, resembling (albeit somewhat distantly) a wild turkey.

On a clear day, look up at the sky to witness another TV characteristic – its flight pattern. First, you might notice a very large bird soaring above, long wings ending in finger-like feathers and think, "I have spotted an eagle!" Upon further observation, you notice the bird drifting in wobbly circles and think again. Turkey vultures prefer to ride thermals, rising columns of warm air currents created as the sun heats the earth, which allows them to expend less energy when searching for meals. Unlike most other birds, turkey vultures have a keen sense of smell, which also aids them in locating fresh remains.

When you are a bird known for your funny face, clearly you need to have some equally funny behaviors. TVs have a few interesting adaptations that are as unique as their looks. Turkey vultures do not sweat – in hot weather they pee on their legs to stay cool. Fortunately, there are also properties in their urine that help kill bacteria on their feet and legs they may have collected while eating lunch. Additionally, never hassle a TV; they vomit powerful stomach acids when feeling threatened.

The TV range has dramatically expanded northward since DDT was banned in the 1970s. As nature's clean-up crew, we have turkey vultures to thank for helping curtail the spread of disease and keeping the environment cleaner and safer for people and other animals. While TVs face few threats, lead poisoning can occur from feasting on a carcass containing lead bullets/buckshot that was not covered or with fragments not properly removed. Unfortunately, their cousins in other parts of the world are not fairing as well; many vultures are facing extinction due to intentional (and inadvertent) poisoning, poaching and more.

Vultures are among the most misunderstood, under-appreciated, and at times persecuted creatures sharing habitat with humans. In a world where fuzzy, cute animals garner the majority of our attention and support, it is imperative we recognize the vital roles the not-so-cute animals play in nature. Imagine a world without vultures and other scavengers... now next time you glance up at the clouds and see the teetering flight of a turkey vulture, be sure to send a smile of appreciation.



## ATTENTION HELPERS BIG DAY EXPECTED

A version of this story by Mary McCormac appeared in the recent Colorado Living magazine announcing our annual event on April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. That, coupled with the fact that it is also Earth Day, we really need all the help we can get. Earth Day is typically a high traffic day in the Park. Hawkquest which will bring us a live turkey vulture, hyped TV Day at the Bird and Nature event at Tagawa Gardens. We need to plan for a good turnout.

We need helpers for a variety of games and educational activities for all ages as well as just to show a smiling face to visitors. We will be serving our annual "TV dinner fundraiser" -- hot dog and hamburgers and desserts and the famous vulture cookies provided by Friends members.

Sound like fun? It is. Come join us. We can use you.

# Lazuli Buntings in Castlewood

**By Karen Metz  
Friends Member,  
CASP Volunteer Naturalist  
and Raptor Monitor**

The nest was just 3 feet off the ground. We'd walked by it every Thursday morning since early June, yet not seen it until today. It was August now and the family had moved on.

We'd seen the male as he'd courted his mate, guarded her, and joined her in scolding us when we walked by. And then we'd seen them as parents, feeding 3 new fledglings, feathered in shades of tan and muted blue, with creamy white wing bars.

The nest was tucked into sparse scrub oak and woven into carrion flower vine. It seemed so obvious now, yet our eyes hadn't fallen on it until this morning. It was pristine and, we were certain, had never been used. She'd built it, but then moved deeper into the brushy hillside, maybe realizing that it was a poorly chosen spot, only an arm's length away from the trail as it climbed toward the rim. We'd watched and enjoyed seeing the male as he sang to her and told all other male Lazuli Buntings to stay away – this territory belonged to him.

He is bright and boldly colored. His head and tail and primary wing feathers are deep Lazuli blue. His breast is orange, his belly is white, and two bold white bars stand out across his blue wings. The feathers between his eyes and his silver, cone-shaped beak are black. He is 5 ½ inches from the tip of that stout, silver beak to the tip of his Lazuli blue tail.

Her feather colors subtly match his – her primaries and tail are Lazuli blue and her wing bars are white. There the comparison blurs – her head and her body are mostly tan and buffy, in muted colors, with a grayish back as she is the one who will sit on the eggs and have need for camouflage.

Her nest is an open cup that she wove with coarse grasses and strips of bark and leaves, and wrapped with caterpillar and spider web silk. She searched for finer grasses, rootlets, and even animal fur and hair for the nest lining that would protect her nestlings from the time they are born naked until they have their flight feathers and are ready to fledge the nest.

In late July, three young Lazuli Buntings took their first flight from their nest in Castlewood and were fed and protected by their parents on that brushy hillside. Soon the parents began to molt their old feathers for fresh feathers and the family began their gradual move south to another high elevation shrubland, for winter, in western Mexico.

This coming May, some will migrate back to their nesting and natal territory. The males will sing to establish a territory and attract a mate. Yearling males will arrive without a song, but will listen to nearby adult male Lazuli Buntings, and each will develop his own song. And, Josette and I will be out there again, listening and looking, hoping again to document nesting successes by Lazuli Buntings in the montane shrublands we know as Castlewood Canyon.



Photos by Josette Mastra and Ken Metz. Art by Liz Bade



# Sign Project Moving Along

Here's the latest on the Interpretive Sign replacement project.

The committee (Liz Bade, Pat Feldmeier, Cathy Fischer, Josette Mastra and Linda Pohle) are focusing on creating text in a format that follows the 3-30-3 guideline we learned about from the *Signs, Trails, and Wayside Exhibits* design book that Friends purchased for the park a couple of months ago. The book relayed how most people give a sign 3 seconds, some give it 30 seconds, and a very few (mostly naturalists, we presume) will give it 3 minutes. These drafts covering the homestead, dam, Lake Louise, Native Garden, East Canyon Preserve are now ready for committee review. The hardest part? Finding time that all of us can get together to fine tune the text.

We are aiming to complete Homestead, Dam and Lake Louise by July and submit them to CPW Creative Services. We will need to decide on graphics.. Our stretch goal will be to also finish a native garden sign, with 4 seasonal panels depicting wildflowers that will likely be in bloom in that season (conifers, their cones, and grasses for winter as well as a new sign for the East Canyon Preserve. If you attended the volunteer open house in January, you would have heard Jeff Thompson say that only two of the 42 state parks are also designated Natural Resource Areas (Roxborough is the other one) – so we really want to brag about that. (Just learned that Staunton is also now a designated Natural Resource Area.)

The six kiosk signs (at Canyon Point) are the best opportunities for sharing interpretive information about the park. Linda Pohle has come up with a great scheme for those signs that will provide information on the Park and its resources from east side to west side. The themes will be intended to show park visitors how they can contribute to keeping Castlewood the gem of the prairie. Josette has taken on the daunting task of interpretation along the Nature Trail; the only ADA accessible trails. We hope all of our new signs will connect visitors to the park and keep them returning to learn more.

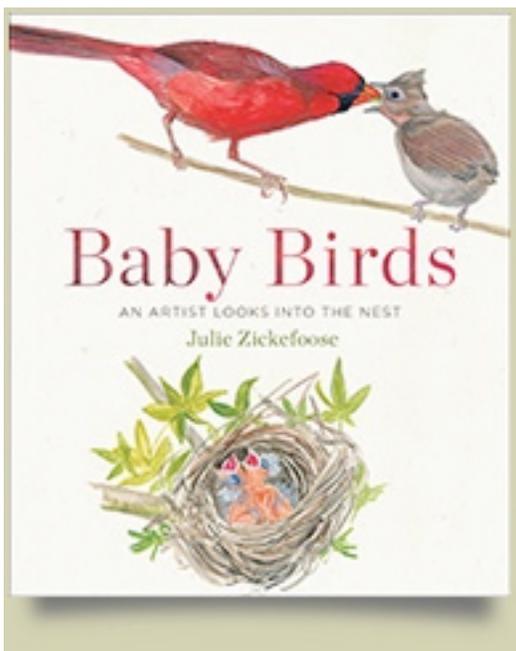


## Coming in Early May

Sand Lily, Mountain Lily (*Leucocrinum montanum*), whatever you like to call it, watch for these beauties as the weather warms up in the Park.

*Native to the western United States, this happy wildflower is stemless and grows close to the ground. It is a perennial with deep roots.*

*American Indians used it for medicinal purposes, mainly to treat the bite of the brown spider.*



# Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest

By Julie Zickefoose

352 Pages

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

**Reviewed by  
Linda Pohle  
Friends Member and  
Volunteer Naturalist**

This is a beautiful book of more than 400 watercolor paintings of the often swift development of the nestlings of 17 different species of primarily wild eastern birds. I was initially horrified to learn that, in many cases, the author took one nestling out of the nest daily to paint it until it fledged. Turns out, it's a myth that parent birds will abandon any nestling that has been handled by a human. (Not that handling is encouraged, of course.) Plus, Zickefoose is a certified bird rehabilitator who knows how to safely remove and return nestlings and how to nurse them if needed. A bug omelet is quite popular with young ones!

The changes in nestling development chronicled in the paintings are amazing, transforming nestlings from what the author calls initial blobs of pink protoplasm to fully feathered fledglings. That transformation takes place in a mere 8 days for yellow-billed cuckoos and 10 days for indigo buntings, but lengthens to 21 days for ruby-throated hummingbirds and 29 days for chimney swifts.

There are times when the author's attention to a nestling and its siblings saved their lives, such as when a succession of cold, rainy spring days made it impossible for Carolina chickadee parents to gather food. Zickefoose hand-fed tasty white mealworms to the nestlings and left more on the nesting box roof for the parents. At other times, she was outwitted, such as when a black ratsnake managed to climb past her makeshift baffle to an eastern phoebe nest, taking both nestlings.

Here's my take-away from reading this book: Baby birds are extremely fragile and vulnerable, making it almost miraculous when any fledge. Thanks to the diligence and dedication of bird parents, we have birds to grace our skies.



HOUSE FINCH NEST



10-DAY OLD NORTHERN CARDINAL

## Wish List Seeks Donated Items for Park Projects and Ranger Work

If you have any of these items, please consider donating them to the Park:

- For green transportation within the Park:

A **mountain bike** would be very helpful for getting more quickly to an emergency situation on the trail. If you have one you no longer use, the Park would be most grateful. As our current ranger staff is tall, we think a bike with 27.5" wheels would be optimum. Ideally we're looking for a couple but one would be wonderful. If you can help – please let Brent know.

- For the **Native Garden**:

If you, or someone you know has any 18" tall by 18-24" wide tree stumps, or is maybe planning on cutting down a dead tree, the native garden would love to have them. We would smooth them out and seal them to make lovely casual seating. Liz will be happy to pick them up – send word to [focwcsp@gmail.com](mailto:focwcsp@gmail.com) with subject line Attn: Liz – native garden.

- For the **Visitor Center**:

If you've ever sat on the bench in the multipurpose room, you'd have noticed it is pretty stained. So are the chairs and Friends is looking for 30 stackable chairs, some with arms, to replace those. But, perhaps the bench can simply be reupholstered in a rustic fabric that will go with the carpet and the furniture in the main part of the VC. Can you recommend an upholsterer? Or do you have the skills to do it? If so, – send word to [focwcsp@gmail.com](mailto:focwcsp@gmail.com) with subject line Attn: Liz - bench.

- For the Kleinert Homestead, Rich Collins has identified several items which will help make the place more comfortable for seasonal rangers:
  - Clothes washing and drying machine.
  - Garbage disposal.
  - Interior paint, natural colors.
  - Small upper kitchen cabinets, light color to match.
  - Fence materials for a dog run.
  - Building materials for loft room, 2x4 boards, drywall, etc.



## Save the Date

Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park have scheduled a benefit concert on June 24th featuring singer/songwriter Mark Cormican on Saturday, June 24th starting at 6:30 PM. Come to the Park and enjoy an evening of music in the beautiful Pikes Peak Amphitheater. Donations greatly appreciated.

