

Field Trips

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If you arrive before the front gate is unlocked do not park on or near the railroad crossing at the cemetery entrance.

In the cemetery we will park on the west side of the office building.

Rudimentary restroom facilities are available in a shed on the east side of the office building; better ones in the office will be available at trip's end.

Bring water, footwear for dirt or mud paths, snacks for the morning. Leader has a scope.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch

Saturday, April 11

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

A.J. Gest (Email: offsetaj@comcast.net
Phone: 303-994-2420)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 14

Directions: Located south of I-70 on Smith Road between Chambers and Airport Blvd. Address 16002 E. Smith Road.

This will be early Spring birding in a riparian system. We should see a variety of birds. Black-capped Chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and raptors are a very good possibility.

No parks pass required. Dress accordingly. Bring snacks, water, binoculars, scopes are optional. Portable toilets on site.

Time and conditions permitting and for those who are interested, we may go to Parkfield Lake to see what's floating over there after our walk.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

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Dodd Reservoir: interim restoration report

by Petrea Mah

In 2014 the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO) Board approved a grant to the Boulder County Audubon Society (BCAS) for a prairie restoration project at Dodd Reservoir, a property northeast of Boulder owned by BCAS. A field trip will be led in June 2015 to view the project. Many qualified major advisors and partners are involved in the project.

As of December 2014, the following restoration work has been completed at Dodd Reservoir:

- 2.5 acres of smooth brome have been eradicated in native grass restoration area;
- 2.5 acres were planted to cover crop of milo in 2013;
- 2.5 acres have been planted to native grasses and forbs;
- 300 yards of prairie dog visual barrier on west boundary;
- 150 yards of downed barbed wire and T posts removed;
- 200 yards of woven wire removed to create migration corridor;
- 5 bird nest boxes placed around reservoir;
- 5 bee boxes placed as part of the University of Colorado Bees Needs research project;

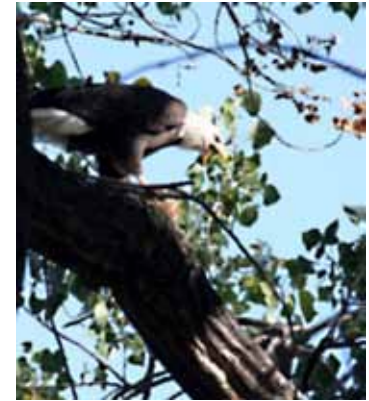
- planted 7 varieties of fruiting shrubs and native willow;
- joined research study with Colorado Department of Agriculture for 2-year trials of bio-control on Canada thistle with (1) Canada thistle stem gall fly *Urophora cardui* and (2) rust fungus *Puccinia punctiformis*; and
- completed the following monitoring studies: pre-restoration (1) total bird counts 2009–2011 (1,992), (2) botanical inventory of plant issues and assets, and (3) bird, butterfly, and dragonfly transect surveys.

As of January 2015, the following restoration work will continue:

- partner with Wildland Restoration Volunteers to remove crack willow and Russian olive;



Dodd Reservoir. Petrea Mah



Bald Eagle near Dodd Reservoir.
Donna Tucker

- mow native restoration area yearly and over-seed low-yielding areas;
- continue with weed control in wetland and south shore; and
- post-restoration monitoring studies, total bird counts, botanical inventory, and bird, butterfly, and dragonfly transect surveys.