



IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS IN COLORADO



NOMINATION FORM

The Colorado IBA Program is conducting an inventory of habitats that may qualify as Important Bird Areas. To qualify, a site needs to meet only one of the IBA criteria, although many sites will meet several. Please tell us about areas that you think may meet the criteria. Complete as much of this form as possible. For more information (and to return this survey), contact: **Ken Strom, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Colorado, 1966 13th Street, Ste 230, Boulder, CO 80302; phone: (303) 415-0130; fax: (303) 415-0125; email: kstrom@audubon.org.** *Thank you!*

GENERAL INFORMATION

SITE NAME: Cache la Poudre Urban River Corridor Approx.Size (acres): 4000 acres public lands, 20 mile river corridor
Town(s): Bellvue, Laporte, Fort Collins County: Larimer
Latitude: 40 degrees, 35' Longitude: 105 degrees, 05' Approx.elevation (in feet); if a range, give low-high 4980'

General description of the site (habitat, location, prominent features, ownership, and any other helpful information):

Riparian corridor through urban / urbanizing high plains, dominated by cottonwood and peachleaf willows. Also, adjacent uplands that are protected as natural areas up to one mile from the river. City, county and state lands; utility properties, Colorado State University; LaFarge Gravel company; other private lands.

IBA Criteria (check *all* that apply) PLEASE READ CRITERIA FOR SITE SELECTION FIRST

- 1. Endangered, Threatened and Special-Concern Species
- 2. Other High Conservation Priority Species
- X 3. Rare, Unique, or Representative Habitat
- X 4. Significant Concentrations
 - Waterfowl
 - Heronries
 - Shorebirds
 - Gulls
 - Terns
 - Raptors
 - X Landbirds

Why is this site important for Colorado birds?

This site contains important riparian habitat that is naturally rare on the Front Range and rapidly dwindling due to development pressures. It includes high concentrations of landbirds, both during the breeding season and in migration. It is an important area for ornithological research and the key area for natural history and ornithology education in our area. See attached narrative for further discussion.

- X 5. Long-term research and/or monitoring

Your Name: Philip Cafaro Phone: 970-482-8279

Address: 1906 Bear Court Fax: none

City: Fort Collins State: Colorado Zip: 80525 E-Mail: cafaro@lamar.colostate.edu

Audubon Chapter or Other Affiliation: Fort Collins Audubon Society

ORNITHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

List the species for which this site is important, the season(s) for which the site is important, average or maximum numbers (rough estimates are okay), the years on which this count or estimate is based, and sources of information.

Species	Season ¹	Average Numbers/Season	Max. Numbers /Season	Which year?	Sources ²
Yellow warbler	Breeding	78		2001, 2002, 2006	Poudre River Breeding Bird Censuses
Bank swallow	“	100		“	“
Rough-winged swallow	“	21		“	“
Belted kingfisher	“	18		“	“
Cliff swallow	“	286		“	“
Osprey	“	2		“	“
Common merganser	“	27		“	“
Bullock’s oriole	“	62		“	“
Black-crowned night heron	“	18		“	“
White-throated swift	“	43		“	“
Eastern kingbird	“	39		“	“

Specify Sources: Komar et al., “2001 Breeding Bird Survey of the Poudre River Corridor, Larimer County, Colorado,” *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 36 (2002): 145-154; Komar et al., raw data for Fort Collins Audubon Society 2002 and 2006 Poudre River Corridor Breeding Bird Censuses (unpublished).

HABITAT AND LAND USE

Major Habitat Types: Please indicate by % of the total area, or with P for Primary (>50%) and S for Secondary (<50%).

- Alpine Tundra
- Aspen
- Cliff/Rock
- Grassland
- High Elevation Riparian
- Lowland Riparian
- Mixed Conifer
- Mountain Shrubland
- Open Water
- Pinyon /Juniper
- Ponderosa Pine
- Rural/Agriculture
- Sagebrush Shrubland
- Semidesert Shrubland
- Shore/Bank

- Spruce/Fir
- Wetlands
- Other (specify): _____

Major Land Uses: Please indicate by % of total usage, or with P for Primary (>50%) and S for Secondary (<50%).

- Nature and Wildlife Conservation
- Hunting/Fishing
- Other Recreation or Tourism
- Agriculture/Livestock
- Forestry
- Water Supply
- Utility/Right-of-way
- Suburban/Residential
- Urban/Commercial
- Research

¹ Season (on which quantitative data are based): B=Breeding, W=Winter, SM=Spring Migration, FM=Fall Migration

² Sources: 1=Published reports 2=Surveys (e.g. Christmas Bird Count, Breeding Bird Survey) 3=Personal Observations

Undeveloped
n.b Other (specify) corridor has very heterogenous land use

(Check all that apply)

X State X Federal X Municipal X Private

Land Ownership/Management:

Primary Conservation Issues: Please note Serious (S), Minor (M), and Potential (P) threats to the site.

- Invasive or Non-native Plants
- Introduced Animals
- Cowbird Parasitism
- Predators
- Pollution
- Habitat Conversion
- Development
- Disturbance to Birds Or Habitat
- Hydrologic Changes
- Other (specify) _____
- Other (specify) _____

Other Resources: Please describe any significant flora and non-avian fauna, social, cultural, economic, or historic issues associated with this site:
Habitat for many small mammals. Important for fish (and fishermen). Important educational resource, for primary through college. Main recreational corridor for area communities (see narrative).

Describe Primary conservation Issues, their seriousness and any steps being taken to address them:
Habitat loss and land conversion are hugely important. Citizens have responded with tens of millions of dollars in dedicated taxes to buy land, particularly along the river corridor. Water diversions from river have large deleterious ecological consequences, with proposed Glade Reservoir possible coup de grace for health of river. Little done to secure flows for river thus far, but increasing pressure to do so.

Local groups with an interest in this site:

Name/Group: Sustainable Water Interest Group (umbrella group fighting Glade Reservoir)

Contact Person: Gary Wockner
Email: garywockner@comcast.net
Website: www.savethepoudre.org

Name/Group: Fort Collins Audubon Society
Contact Person: Bill Miller
Email: 5mcorp@comcast.net
Website: www.fortnet.org/audubon

Landowner/Manager contacts: Please provide the name, address, and phone numbers of the landowner(s) or land manager(s) for the site, and indicate whether they have been contacted and/or have given permission for the site to be nominated.

Name: John Stokes, Natural Resources Director
Address: P.O. Box 580
City: Fort Collins State: CO Zip: 80522
Phone: 970-221-6600
Contacted? no Permission? no

Name: Doug Hutchinson, Mayor
Address: P.O. Box 580
City: Fort Collins State: CO Zip: 80522
Phone: 970-221-6878
Contacted? no Permission? no

Remarks: The river corridor has a complex mix of landowners. We plan to start by getting the city of Fort Collins, the most important landowner and government entity, to sign on to this effort. From there, we can branch out to other city governments, the county, and other public landowners. Eventually we would like to have as many private landowners as possible sign on, educating them about the river's ecological and ornithological importance as we go.

ATTACH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (MAPS, PHOTOS, FIELD NOTES, CHECKLISTS, ETC.) AND RETURN TO AUDUBON COLORADO: 1966 13TH STREET, STE 230, Boulder, CO 80302 *Thank you!*