

*Johnson, B.W., *R. Bortner, *J. Kemp, *T. Sichmiller, *S. Swanty, *T. Tepe and D.E. Gammon. 2004. Human awareness concerning the effects of domestic cats on wildlife along the Front Range, Colorado: a survey. *Colorado Birds Quarterly* 38:150-154.

Domestic cats (*Felis catus*) kill millions of birds and other wildlife in the United States each year. Furthermore, many of these cats receive food supplementation from their human owners. We surveyed 68 cat owners in Fort Collins, Colorado, and the surrounding Front Range area with two goals: 1) determine cat owner awareness of the predatory activities of their cats, and 2) determine attitude of cat owners towards their cats' predatory behavior. We found that most cat owners underestimate the impact their cats have on wildlife. Although previous studies of the predatory activity of cats estimated between 20 and 161 small animals killed per cat per year, 70% of owners estimated that their cats killed 5 or fewer small animals per year. Even if cat owners had knowledge of much higher predatory activity (365 kills per year), approximately two thirds of cat owners stated they would not change their behavior towards letting their cat outside. We conclude: 1) that cat owners along the Front Range usually underestimate the negative effects their outdoor cats have on wildlife, and 2) that most owners are unlikely to reduce their cats' outdoor activities.