

It is said that animals like cats are color “blind”; in fact, cats do have two types of photoreceptors, which should allow for color vision. Apparently the animal does not use this information, at least not in any way that can be determined. What visual capabilities do you suppose humans have that we don't use?

I don't think there are any. There may be information we simply don't use, but I can't think of any reasons why it would be important for human to have another type of sight that isn't useful. Unless, of course, it was used by creatures earlier in our evolution and became obsolete.

Why does the macular area of the retina have a disproportionate amount of cortex devoted to it?

Because the macular area deals with form and color, and the brain is most interested in being able to analyze form and color; thus, it devotes more of the cortex to that pursuit.