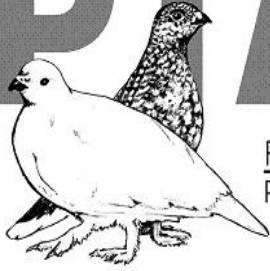


# PTARMIGAN



FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 271968 • Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968 • [www.fortnet.org/Audubon](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon)

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Promoting the appreciation, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems,  
focusing on birds and other wildlife, through education, participation, stewardship, and advocacy.

June 2006

Volume 37, Issue 10

## Surprise! One more issue!

This is the last issue of the *Ptarmigan*  
before the Summer Break.



Keep updated on Fort Collins Audubon Society activities  
during the summer by visiting the FCAS website at  
[www.fortnet.org/Audubon](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon) or calling 970-490-BIRD.



Sign up for the *fcaudubon* Yahoo! list server to receive  
e-mails about upcoming summer activities that don't  
make it into the *Ptarmigan*. Details inside.

Want to walk your environmental talk?  
During the summer, change your *Ptarmigan*  
delivery method from paper to online in time for the  
September issue. Save a tree! Details inside.



See you in September!

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FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Visit our website at [www.fortnet.org/Audubon](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon) or call 970-490-BIRD.

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# JUNE–AUGUST FIELD TRIPS

All field trips are free of charge and open to the public. All experience levels are welcome. Attendees should dress appropriately for the weather. Bring snacks, water, binoculars, and spotting scopes (if you have them). Carpooling is encouraged. A \$2.00 (unless otherwise specified) contribution per passenger to the driver is suggested. Visit [www.fortnet.org/Audubon](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon) for more information. For all field trips and surveys, please contact the trip leader for signup and trip details, or contact the Field Trip Coordinator, Joe Martin, at [joe3eagles@msn.com](mailto:joe3eagles@msn.com) or 970-412-2481.

**Colorado state law requires all visitors to state-owned lands to be in possession of a Habitat Stamp while on the property. Purchase a stamp wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold, at a Colorado Division of Wildlife service center, or online for \$5.00 with a previously purchased license, or \$10.00 if purchased separately. Visit <http://wildlife.state.co.us/ShopDOW/AppsAndLicenses/HabitatStamp/> for more information, including exceptions.**

**6/3/2006. Saturday. Censusing and Celebrating the Poudre River.** Leaders: Phil Cafaro and Nick Komar. Half-day effort to census the birds along the Poudre River in and around Fort Collins. We plan to divide into 6-10 teams, bird from 7 a.m. to noon, and meet for lunch to tally what we've found. To sign up as a team leader or to join a team, contact Phil at 970-482-8279, or [cafaro@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:cafaro@lamar.colostate.edu).

**6/11/2006 Sunday Explore backyard habitat gardens in Fort Collins.** Learn about creating bird-friendly gardens. Morning only, call Lynne Hull at 416-1881 to reserve a place. Limit 15 participants. Anyone with a garden who would allow us to visit is also welcome to call.

**6/11/2006 Sunday. Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey.** Leader: Sol Miller at [eagleye1029@yahoo.com](mailto:eagleye1029@yahoo.com). Meet at 7:00 AM. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the city. All levels welcomed. Contact leader for signup and details.

**6/18/2006 Sunday. Fossil Creek Reservoir Bird Survey.** Leader: Nick Komar at [quetzal65@comcast.net](mailto:quetzal65@comcast.net) or 970-416-7527. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the county.

All levels welcomed. Participation limited to five plus leader. Contact leader for signup and details.

**07/01/2006 Saturday. Burrowing Owls and Mountain Plover.** Leader: Bill Miller at 970-493-7693 or [5mcorp@comcast.net](mailto:5mcorp@comcast.net). We'll travel to the Pawnee National Grasslands in search of these species, among others. The young of both species should be up and about. Carpooling is required and the suggested donation to drivers is \$4.00 per person. Group size is limited.

**7/9/2006, 8/13/2006 Sunday. Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey.** Leader: Sol Miller at [eagleye1029@yahoo.com](mailto:eagleye1029@yahoo.com). Meet at 7:00 AM. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the city. All levels welcomed. Contact leader for signup and details.

**7/16/2006, 8/20/2006 Sunday. Fossil Creek Reservoir Bird Survey.** Leader: Nick Komar at [quetzal65@comcast.net](mailto:quetzal65@comcast.net) or 970-416-7527. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the county. All levels welcomed. Participation limited to five plus leader. Contact leader for signup and details.

Occasionally, new field trips may be announced or details may be finalized between issues of the *Ptarmigan*. Please visit our website and click on "Field Trips," or call the FCAS message center at 490-BIRD to check for updated field trip information.

Interested in becoming a field trip leader? Want more information about it? Call or e-mail Joe Martin at 970-412-2481 or [joe3eagles@msn.com](mailto:joe3eagles@msn.com). Lead a trip about prairie ecosystems, wildflowers, wildfire dynamics, whatever. Maybe even birding!

## Better Birding, Better Living

*Lynne Hull, Education Chair*

Three or four teams of birders spent 24 hours (well, some of us actually slept 6 or 8 of those) on May 12th and 13th searching for every species of bird in the area. My team came up with about 130 species. By the end of a long, hot, dusty day with five people in Phil's Subaru (thanks, Phil, for not making me drive!) I began wondering, why do we do the Birdathon, why is it important, why is FCAS important, and why do we participate in the ways we do? I also wonder what we could offer the community and the birds if more of us participated and what skills our members have. So, in the fall I hope to query members at our program meetings about what they think Audubon could offer and what skills they might be willing to share. My imagination runs to the obvious: we already introduce people to the joy of birds and wildlife, give them some idea of the local environment, give them skills to build on, offer wonderful field trips and informative, interesting programs to learn more about a wide range of wildlife issues. But, could we build bird gardens for care centers, assisted living facilities and schools? Take groups of kids from underserved neighborhoods out for bird walks in parks or along the river? Have an entertaining skit on how to watch birds for whole families to enjoy at events or at parks? Get whole neighborhoods to develop bird gardens, or even create so much backyard habitat that combined with our open spaces we could declare the Fort Collins area a bird sanctuary or IBA?

Why do we want to do any of these things? Selfishly, so there will be more birds for our personal delight. Altruistically, for the preservation of local and global bird populations. By helping people recognize the challenges faced by birds, inspiring and motivating them to write letters and vote, their voices are heard on behalf of biodiversity and planetary health. By helping people see how their lifestyle choices impact our wildlife, we motivate them to adjust the way they consume resources.

As an FCAS member, I attended a meeting hosted by the Fort Collins Sustainability Group, interested in getting the city to sign on and take action on improving our air quality to comply with the Kyoto Protocol, which the federal government and the transportation industry have declined to do. I have read articles indicating that ten to twenty percent of our bird species will be lost to global warming in the near future if changes are not made. And, like you, I'm alarmed at the news of the Arctic regarding polar bears and other Arctic species. The Mayor of Seattle has taken action, and many other cities have followed, developing their own strategies in the face of a lack of higher leadership. This group has developed a vision and strategy for becoming a more sustainable community, particularly in meeting Fort Collins energy needs, minimizing our impact on global climate, and creating local jobs to contribute to these goals. While the city passed Ordinance 99-107 to start reducing city emissions contributing to destruction of the atmosphere, the city is already far behind in their plan; the group wants to hold them to more stringent compliance.

We hear "industry" plans to address the price of gas with innovations like drilling in the Arctic where melting is revealing new reserves of oil and gas, and developing oil shale now that the price is competitive with oil. DUH! That would still be burning fossil fuel, still be destroying the atmosphere, still heading us toward an uncertain future at high speed. Still losing all those birds.....wouldn't we as Audubon members prefer to support the more creative ideas of our local Sustainability Group?

What else can we as birders do to reduce our contribution to this specific issue? I'm taking suggestions, and there will be a prize at the next program meeting for whoever carries out the most innovative and most fuel-saving actions! Send entries and thoughts to [Lynne.Hull@eco-art.org](mailto:Lynne.Hull@eco-art.org)

### Educator and Youth Scholarships Awarded

*by Lisa Evans*

Six local youths and one educator are the recipients of FCAS 2006 scholarships. The Youth Scholarships provide assistance for young people, age 8 to 18, to attend a summer camp, workshop, or class that focuses on environmental study. Educator Scholarships help teachers attend a workshop or class that focuses on environmental study or environmental education.

This year's Youth Scholarship recipients range in age from second grade through high school. The younger recipients will be attending the CSU Environmental Learning Center's "Hydro Hysteria" and "Close Encounters" classes, and an EDUCO camp called "Coyote Kids". The older students received partial funding for a river ecology course/trip with Front Range Community College.

The scholarship committee was impressed with the letter written by our youngest applicant:

My name is Franko. I am 9 years old. I like to learn everything about our planet. I want to learn more about water and why do we need water. I like to know how to make the rivers clean so fish will live forever. Happy Earth Day, Franko.

The sole Educator to apply for and receive a scholarship, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, will be attending RMNA classes in Rocky Mountain National Park. The classes fit well with her 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum.

Each recipient is required to submit an essay, artwork, or other piece for a future Audubon newsletter and/or on the website. Watch for those to appear in late summer or the fall!

Thanks to Diann Johnston for help with publicity, and to the rest of the ad hoc Scholarship Committee, Barb Turnbull and Joel Hurmence, for their help with this effort.

## Hillsdale Park Grand Opening!

Hillsdale Park in Berthoud has been under construction for the last two years. Thanks to grants from the Colorado Tree Coalition and Great Outdoors Colorado, completion of the park is right on schedule. The grand opening is set for Saturday, June 10th, with festivities beginning at 10:00 am. Located on the south end of town, directly south of the intersection of Kansas Avenue and Longview Avenue, Dry Creek meanders through the park providing an invaluable water source for attracting wildlife. This passive park provides a great opportunity to learn, look, and enjoy our outdoors and wildlife. A tentative list of activities for the grand opening include:



- Refreshments
- Ceremonial ribbon cutting with the Mayor, Milan Karspeck
- Thank you's to all those involved by Jim White, Town Administrator
- Park attractions and opportunities discussion, Jeremy Olinger, Parks and Recreation Director and Shiloh Hatcher, Town Arborist
- Discussion about Fort Collins Audubon Society and Hillsdale Park, FCAS Representative
- Tour the park and time for questions
- Birding tour

### Want less mail? Get your newsletter online!



Would you like to reduce the amount of mail you receive? Use less paper? You can choose to receive e-mail notification when the Ptarmigan is available on the Fort Collins Audubon Society's website! The current issue of the newsletter is available online to members only, AND is available a week or two earlier than the paper copy! If you'd like to receive an e-mail notification, please e-mail your **name and address as it appears on your newsletter's mailing label** and the e-mail address you wish to use to [bjones@frii.com](mailto:bjones@frii.com). Please indicate if you just want e-mail or if you would prefer both e-mail and the paper newsletter. We'd be happy to accommodate!

### Help Fort Collins Audubon Celebrate The Poudre River!

The Poudre River runs out of the mountains, across the plains and through the hearts of all of us who love the birds of northern Colorado. New dam and reservoir projects threaten to dry up this vital resource. Join Fort Collins Audubon Society on Saturday, June 3rd, as we census the birds along the Poudre River in and around Fort Collins, and remind our community of how important our river is to wildlife and to our own quality of life.



We'll divide into 6-10 teams, bird from 7-noon, and meet for lunch to tally what we've found. We'll also write a press release and talk about what needs to be done to protect the Poudre for future generations. This census builds on two previous ones and is part of an ongoing effort to document the importance of the river as a resource for birds and other wildlife.

To sign up as a team leader or to join a team, contact Phil Cafaro at 970-482-8279, or [cafaro@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:cafaro@lamar.colostate.edu).

### Welcome to our new members! We look forward to seeing you at our meetings!

Jessica L Blount	Stephen	Tymeri Schleicher	Jan Wall
Peter Bruning	Pearl Lira	Mark Shinkle	Mary Zerillo
Bill Hobbs	Lisa Marsden	Bob & Tracy Vangermeersc	Carl E. Ziehm

## AUDUBON COLORADO RENDEZVOUS SET FOR AUGUST 26

Please mark your calendar and plan to join Audubon members from all around the state for the third annual Audubon Colorado Rendezvous. All chapter members are invited and encouraged to attend. The gathering will take place on Saturday August 26, with an evening reception and program planned on Friday evening for participants who arrive the night before. We'll be getting together at the scenic Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort, centrally located in the state near Buena Vista, in the shadow of the Collegiate Peaks. Please check their website at [www.mtprinceton.com](http://www.mtprinceton.com) to see the facilities, including their hot springs pools that are accessible to you as part of the affordable lodging fee.

Audubon is planning a full day of programs, workshops, birding and special speakers. Our keynote speaker on Saturday evening will be photographer and videographer John Vanderpoel, who will present an entertaining program of images and stories about his experiences with Hummingbirds of the American West.

As in past years, we will be bringing in speakers from out of state, including National Audubon staff and chapter leaders who will want to share ideas with our chapter members and other conservation friends. These will include Lynn Teneffoss, Director of Chapter Relations, who has been such a wealth of information for our chapters and members at past gatherings in Colorado; and Sean Saville from our Washington, DC, policy office to conduct some hands-on skills training on grassroots organizing.

Tony Leukering from the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory will help kick things off with a presentation on Colorado's Second Breeding Bird Atlas, which he will be coordinating. Tony will let us know how to get involved in the new atlas project, which will be asking birders to help census atlas blocks all around the state, starting in 2007. Audubon's science staff will also visit us, with a report on the outlook for Avian Flu in the coming year, which will be a very timely.

On Saturday afternoon, we're going to hold a special workshop symposium on the status of Gunnison Sage-Grouse conservation in Colorado. We'll hear reports on the work that our own chapters have been doing with the collaborative funding that we received this past year, and we'll hear from outside experts including specialists on oil and gas exploration in the Sage-Grouse range, and Sage-Grouse working group leaders who have developed conservation plans for the species. Then we'll ask everyone to take part in a discussion of the best strategy for Audubon Colorado and the Colorado chapters to most effectively address the needs of the Gunnison Sage-Grouse. We need everyone's good ideas to ensure that Audubon can lead a successful effort to bring this species back from its currently perilous status.

Please plan to join us at the Rendezvous! You can check the website at [www.auduboncolorado.org](http://www.auduboncolorado.org) for more details about speakers and programs, as well as registration forms and information as it becomes available. Register early and make room reservations before you head out on summer vacation. Call 303-415-0130 or e-mail Audubon Colorado at [rstromp@audubon.org](mailto:rstromp@audubon.org) for more information.

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[www.fortnet.org/audubon/leadership.htm](http://www.fortnet.org/audubon/leadership.htm)



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- Receive regular news posts on FCAS events
- Get timely monthly meeting reminders
- Hear of volunteer opportunities as they arise



Go to [www.fortnet.org/Audubon/fcaudubon.htm](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon/fcaudubon.htm) to learn more and to subscribe to the *fcaudubon* e-mail news service.

### Membership Application

Join the Fort Collins Audubon Society (FCAS) directly, or automatically become a member by joining the National Audubon Society (NAS). *Choose one below:*

- New or Renewing Member of FCAS** (annual dues) **\$15**  
 (Receive the *Ptarmigan* newsletter)  
 FCAS may share my name with NAS
- New Member of NAS & Chapter** **\$20**  
 (Receive *Audubon* magazine and *Ptarmigan*)
- Renewing Member of NAS & Chapter** **\$35**  
 (Receive *Audubon* magazine and *Ptarmigan*)

**Did you know?** Less than \$1 of your NAS dues is left for FCAS funds. FCAS serves NAS members through its own fundraising efforts. We appreciate your financial support!

**Additional donation to FCAS**    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total enclosed**                    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- I prefer to receive the *Ptarmigan* via the FCAS website. Please e-mail me when posted.**

Please make your check payable to **FCAS** and send along with this form to: **Fort Collins Audubon Society, PO Box 271968, Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968**

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 FIELD TRIPS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**  
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