

ptarmigan



Fort Collins Audubon Society

The mission of FCAS is to promote the appreciation, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems—focusing on birds and other wildlife—through education, participation, stewardship, and advocacy.

ANNUAL POTLUCK DECEMBER 18

In keeping with tradition, the December meeting is a potluck and slide show, to take place at the Foothills Unitarian Church. You, our members, provide the program. Feel free to bring up to about 20 slides and the appropriate narrative. Prints of your favorite pictures can be passed around while the lights are still on. Photos do not necessarily have to be of birds.

The church is located at 1815 Yorktown Avenue, one block north of West Drake Avenue and one block west of Constitution Avenue. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 18. Please bring a supper or dessert item (deli items very acceptable!) with four-to-eight servings and any necessary serving utensils. Paper plates, beverage containers, eating utensils, and drinks will be provided.

Reminiscences of 30 Years of Raptor Biology

PROGRAM: Thursday, January 8, 6:30 p.m.

Columbine Room, Lincoln Center

On January 8, 2004, Fort Collins Audubon Society will celebrate with Jerry Craig his 32 years as a Colorado raptor biologist. He was hired in 1972 by the Colorado Division of Wildlife to be the nation's first raptor biologist. He initiated inventories to document nesting raptors—prairie falcons, peregrines, ferruginous hawks, ospreys, and golden and bald eagles—throughout the state. It was his job to develop and implement regulations governing possession of raptors for falconry. As leader of the 13-state Rocky Mountain Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team, Jerry helped produce the second species recovery plan approved under the Endangered Species Act. Jerry will discuss changes in public attitude toward birds of prey, the decline and recovery of peregrines and bald eagles, progress in habitat protection, rehabilitation efforts, and future challenges faced by raptors and the people interested in their welfare.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAM—DECEMBER 18, 6:30 PM

Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Avenue

NOTE: December's FCAS meeting will be the 3rd Thursday instead of the 2nd Thursday of that month.

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

Visit our website at www.fortnet.org/Audubon



DEC / JAN FIELD TRIPS

All field trips are free of charge and open to the public. No prior experience is necessary. Please check FCAS website, www.fortnet.org/audubon for details, or contact field trip coordinator, **Gary Leftko**, leftkogr@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org (970-897-2454), for more information. **For all trips, please contact Trip Leader for details and to sign up.**

RAPTOR WATCHING

Saturday, December 6, 9:15 am until noon

Travel to local natural areas in search of wintering raptors. Basic raptor identification and education. Meet at the southwest end of the Harmony Library parking lot (Front Range campus at Harmony & Shields). Limit 10. Leader: Phil Friedman at phifri@frii.com (970-493-2959).

FORT COLLINS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sunday, December 14, all day

Pre-meeting on Dec 9th at 7:00 pm at USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, 240 W. Prospect Rd. Leader: Cynthia Melcher at birdswords@yahoo.com (970-484-8373).

NUNN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Thursday, December 18, all day

Meet at 7:30 am at Central Plains Experimental Range facility on WCR 114. Follow I-25 to Wellington exit. Follow frontage road north (half-mile) to Nunn Rd. Turn east and travel ten miles to Hwy 85. Turn north on Hwy 85 and proceed seven miles to WCR 114 (sign for CPER). Turn east and go about 3-4 miles to first complex of buildings you see on north side of road. Leader: James Sedgwick at jim_sedgwick@usgs.gov (970-226-9466).

NORTH PARK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 20, all day

Contact leader for details. Leader: Nick Komar at quetzal65@comcast.net (970-416-7527).

Fossil Creek Reservoir Bird Survey—Sunday, December 21

Monthly count led by FCAS. Contact leader for details. Leader: Nick Komar at quetzal65@comcast.net (970-416-7527).

RAWHIDE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sunday, December 28, all day

Meet 8:00 am at Rawhide security station. Follow I-25 north until Buckeye Rd exit. Go west a few miles towards

Rawhide Power Station (north) and turn in driveway at overlook (sign). At gate, call Security Guard using phone for entrance. Leader: Ron Ryder at ronr@lamar.colostate.edu.

LOVELAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Wednesday, December 31, all day

Contact leader for details. Leader: Nick Komar at quetzal65@comcast.net (970-416-7527).

CHEYENNE WY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, January 3, all day

Meet at the Cheyenne Post Office lobby, Capitol Avenue, at 7:30 am to organize parties of observers. The tally party and potluck will be at 6 pm at the Westgate community building. Leader: Barb Gorges at bgorges2@juno.com.

JOINT EAGLE'S NEST OPEN SPACE

Saturday, January 10

Here's a private opportunity to explore Larimer County's newest open space, which contains three golden eagle nest sites near the North Fork of the Poudre River. Meet at 8 am at the King Soopers parking lot at Taft Hill and Elizabeth—east side by the ATM. Limit 15. Leader: Ann Montoya at amontoya@larimer.org (970-679-4561).

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

Sunday, January 11

Introductory trip for birdwatching. All levels welcome. Leader: Beth Dillon at dillon_b@hotmail.com (970-490-2610).

Fossil Creek Reservoir Bird Survey—Saturday, January 17

Monthly count led by FCAS. Leader: Nick Komar at quetzal65@comcast.net (970-416-7527).

JOINT FT COLLINS/CHEYENNE WY TRIP

Sunday, January 18

Meet at 7:30 am at the Texaco at the Wellington exit to visit local hotspots: Hereford Ranch, Lion's and Holliday Parks, FE Warren AFB, Little America, and various lakes. Leader: Gary Leftko at leftkogr@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org (970-897-2454).

GREELEY AREA LAKES

Saturday, January 24

Trip includes local Greeley hotspots. Meet at 8 am at Bittersweet Park's south parking lot (Greeley—35th Ave. and 16th St.). Leader: Bryan Guarente at guar8727@blue.unco.edu (970-506-9897).

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Bill Miller

CHAPTER-ONLY MEMBERSHIPS—Several years ago, the National Audubon Society (NAS) changed the formula by which members' dues were shared with chapters, resulting in a significant (about 70%) reduction in dues-sharing revenues for chapters. While not as severely impacted as numerous chapters in smaller communities, FCAS is faced with some financial challenges.

One of the chapter's largest expenses is the publishing and mailing of our monthly newsletter, the *Ptarmigan*. In addition to printing the newsletter eight times per year, we must pay a mail house to apply the labels, sort the newsletter by zip code for bulk mailing, handle postage and a prorated amount of the bulk mailing permit, and the address labels as provided NAS. When all the costs are added up, the cost per issue is \$0.69, or \$5.52 per member per year. We used to receive \$5.50 per member per year from NAS in dues-sharing. This amount essentially covered the costs associated with publishing the monthly newsletter. However, about three years ago, the amount of dues-sharing received from NAS began to shrink until we received just \$1.79 per member for 2003, and there is much uncertainty as to whether we will receive any dues-sharing in 2004.

The FCAS Board has been examining ways in which we can reduce expenses, including the implementation of a Chapter-Only class of membership. Individuals who select this type of membership would not receive any of the benefits of NAS membership, including not receiving *AUDUBON* magazine. They would, however, receive the chapter newsletter and retain chapter voting privileges. At its November meeting, the Board voted to provide Chapter-Only memberships. Before implementing this new class of membership, the details of managing the chapter membership lists need to be worked out.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER—A second cost-reducing strategy that the Board approved at its November meeting is making available to members an electronic version of the newsletter as an alternative to receiving the paper version. Several details still need to be worked out, such as developing the electronic version and managing the membership lists so that paper copies of the newsletter are sent only to those members who opted not to receive the electronic version of the *Ptarmigan*.

SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Volunteer for a committee
- Help staff the FCAS booth at Bath Avian Appreciation Days, Jan. 24 and 25, 2004
- Help with the natural area cleanup, conducted twice each year

2003 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC)—December 14

The 2003 Fort Collins CBC, the longest continuous CBC in Colorado, will be conducted on Sunday, December 14. If you are interested in participating, please contact Cynthia Melcher at (970) 484-8373 (home), (970) 226-9470 (work), or email her at birdswords@yahoo.com.

The pre-CBC meeting, at which teams will be organized, will be held Tuesday, December 9, at 7:00 pm at the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, 240 W. Prospect, immediately across the street from the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Come to the front doors (locked), and someone will let you in. If you want to participate and cannot make the meeting, contact Cynthia Melcher for a site/team assignment: w) 226-9470 (M-F) email: cynthia_melcher@usgs.gov or birdswords@yahoo.com. The post-CBC potluck supper and compilation will be at the home of Barb and Mike Turnbull, 1516 West Lake (tel: 493-0787).

2004 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT—February 13-16

Help scientists track birds in your community. The count is a joint effort of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Consult Audubon.org for more details.

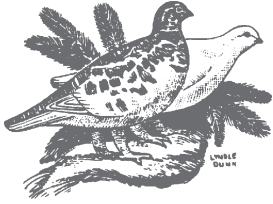
ELECTION TIME AGAIN—January 8

In January of each year, our Chapter bylaws require that we elect our chapter's officers and directors and appoint committee chairs. A Nominating Committee was formed to seek candidates for elected and appointed position. The Committee was able to identify candidates for the elected Officer and Director positions. However, there is still a vacancy in the appointed Membership Chair position. We would also like to establish two new positions of Volunteer Coordinator and Historian. If you think you might be interested in one of these three positions, please notify the chair of our Nominating Committee, Joel Hurmence: (970) 481-2124, jhurmence@hotmail.com.

The slate of candidates for elected positions appears elsewhere in this issue. The election will take place during the Annual Meeting, January 8, 2004. Remember that our chapter's activities are totally dependent on the contributions of time by volunteers.

ANNUAL MEETING—January 8

In addition to the election of new Board officers and Directors and service recognition of certain members, we will also hold a Silent Auction at our January meeting. If you have any worthwhile items or services that you would like to contribute as auction items or as door prizes, please contact Bill Miller at (970) 493-7693 or at 5mcorp@verinet.com. Please identify the item and provide the original value, if known, as well as a suggested minimum bid, as we will have to make up bid sheets for each item or grouping of items.



Fort Collins Audubon Society
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 ORGANIZATION
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SLATE OF FCAS OFFICERS FOR 2004

OFFICERS

President: Bill Miller
Vice President: Phil Friedman
President Elect: OPEN
Secretary: Scott Cobble
Treasurer: John Waddell

DIRECTORS

Beth Dillon Dave Dubois
 Joel Hurmence Nick Komar
 Marcia Maeda Diane Johnston

FCAS APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2004

Program: Jackie Boss
Conservation: Carol Fiore
Field Trips: Gary Lefko
Publicity: Rick Schroeder
Birdathon: Phil Friedman
Education/CBC: Cynthia Melcher
Finance: John Waddell
Membership: OPEN
Hospitality: Sue Miller
Publications: Joe Martin
Website: Joel Hurmence
Volunteer Coordinator: OPEN
Historian: OPEN

**National Audubon Society Chapter
 Membership Application**

YES, I'd like to join.
 YES, I'd like to renew (by phone 1-800-274-4201)

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send Audubon Magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20 is enclosed.
 STUDENTS/SENIORS My check for \$15 is enclosed.
 OR charge my credit card: _____
 Expiration date: _____

Please make your check payable to **Audubon** and send along with this form to:

**National Audubon Society
 Chapter Membership Data Center
 PO Box 51001
 Boulder, CO 80322-1001**

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

Local Chapter Fort Collins Audubon Society D06
 Local Chapter Code: 7XCHA