

# ptarmigan

FEB 2003

Fort Collins Audubon Society

Volume 34 Number 6



## BIRDS OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

### FEBRUARY PROGRAM



### RONALD A. RYDER

Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology  
Colorado State University

**Ron and Audrey Ryder** are among the many Americans who geared their vacations last year to include festivities celebrating the “Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial.” In November, they participated in a week-long boat trip up the Columbia and Snake Rivers: “In the Wake of Lewis and Clark.” They also visited other Lewis and Clark sites in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana by car. What distinguishes Ron and Audrey’s vacation from other Americans making this bicentennial pilgrimage is Ron’s

incredible knowledge of ornithology. In the February program of the Fort Collins Audubon Society, Ron will compare the birds of Lewis and Clark with those now occurring in these areas. Besides slides and maps gathered on his most recent trip, Ron will include birds seen while he was on sabbatical leave at the University of British Columbia in 1965–66 and earlier while he worked in northwestern Montana.

Ron and his wife Audrey are well known to the Fort Collins Audubon Society. In 1974, Ron

was president of our FCAS and has always been an active leader of field trips and a participant in the annual Christmas Bird Counts. The area surrounding the Rawhide Power Plant has been the CBC area where he has led his teams most recently. Ron was also an active participant in the Colorado Breeding Bird Survey. Backed by all of Ron’s ornithological knowledge, it will be a real treat to hear him speak on the “Birds of Lewis and Clark” at the February 11 Fort Collins Audubon Society meeting.

**THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 11, 7:30 PM**  
**Ludlow Room, Lincoln Center, 417 Magnolia Street**

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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)



# F e b r u a r y F I E L D T R I P S

All field trips are open to the public and free of charge. No prior experience is necessary. Please call field trip coordinator Nick Komar at 970-416-7527, or e-mail him at [quetzal65@attbi.com](mailto:quetzal65@attbi.com) for more information. Check [www.fortnet.org/audubon](http://www.fortnet.org/audubon) for details.

## WINTER RAPTORS

**Saturday, February 8, 9 am–noon**

Travel to city/county natural areas in search of wintering raptors. We'll discuss raptor identification, behavior, and migration. Dress appropriately. Bring binoculars, snacks, and water. Register with leader **Phil Friedman** (no charge, limit 10 participants), 970-493-2959, [phifri@frii.com](mailto:phifri@frii.com).

## BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

**Sunday, February 9, 9 am–noon**

All are welcome to join FCAS' Birding for Beginners field trip series. Contact **Beth Dillon** to register (no charge, limit 10 participants), 970-490-2610, [dillon\\_b@hotmail.com](mailto:dillon_b@hotmail.com).

## BIRD SURVEY

**Sunday, February 16, morning**

FCAS has been censusing birds monthly on City and County properties abutting the Fossil Creek Reservoir wetlands area. To join the survey group in February, contact **Arvind Panjabi**, 970-482-1707, [arvind.panjabi@rmbo.org](mailto:arvind.panjabi@rmbo.org).

## WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN

**Saturday, February 22, all day**

Meet at 8 am for carpooling to Guanella Pass (Clear Creek County) and nearby feeders where Rosy Finches may be seen. Passengers please donate \$4 to drivers. 4WD required for drivers. Prepare for cold, wind, snow, dehydration and very high elevation. Snowshoes may be advisable. Contact leader **Scott Baily** for further details, [skbaily@comcast.net](mailto:skbaily@comcast.net), 970-282-0776.

## BIRDS OF GREELEY LAKES

**Sunday, February 23, 9 am–noon**

A search of the local Greeley area lakes for waterfowl may record four species of geese and a plethora of other species. We will meet on the south side of Bittersweet Park in Greeley. Contact trip leader **Bryan Guarente** to sign up [guar8727@blue.unco.edu](mailto:guar8727@blue.unco.edu), 970-339-8690 (participation limited).

## \*POSSIBLE FIELD TRIP TO MONTE VISTA

If you would be interested in going on an extended field trip to Monte Vista for the Crane Festival (March 7 – 9), contact **Bill Miller** for details at [5mcorp@verinet.com](mailto:5mcorp@verinet.com).

## KENN KAUFMAN PROGRAM IN MAY

Please put **Thursday and Friday, May 8th and 9th, on your calendar**, and join us for a May 8th program on birds and butterflies presented by Kenn Kaufman, birder, artist, conservationist, field editor for Audubon magazine, and author. Kaufman's books include *Lives of North American Birds*, *Kingbird Highway*, and *The Peterson Field Guide to Advanced Birding*. In 2000, Houghton Mifflin launched the Kaufman Focus Guide series with his *Birds of North America*. The next book in the series, *The Kaufman Focus Guide to Butterflies of North America* is due out in February or March. **A Kaufman-led field trip on the morning of Friday, May 9th**, is a second great opportunity to learn from Kenn. Space will necessarily be limited. The method by which participants will be selected is still being determined.

### Chapter Contacts:

President:	Bill Miller	<a href="mailto:5mcorp@verinet.com">5mcorp@verinet.com</a>	970-493-7693
Membership:	Ann Molison	<a href="mailto:amolison2@attbi.com">amolison2@attbi.com</a>	970-377-4228
Field Trips:	Nick Komar	<a href="mailto:quetzal65@attbi.com">quetzal65@attbi.com</a>	970-416-7527

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER—Bill Miller

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My, how the time flies! I was president of the Fort Collins Audubon Society in 1997-1998, and since then there have been major changes in the organization and its activities. For the first time since I became involved with the chapter (1990), the Board of Directors has no vacant positions. This means that no one is pulling double duty by serving in more than one position, and many more minds are involved in shaping the path of the chapter.

We also seem to be getting involved in more activities as a chapter. This is due in no small way to the leadership and initiative of numerous individuals. During Rick Harness' term as president, we initiated a process of establishing annual goals and periodically reviewing our progress on meeting those goals. We discovered that we became more cognizant of our accomplishments when we set them down on paper. Below is a list of the chapter's current activities and/or recent accomplishments.

**Field trips:** One per weekend; Newcomers' field trip once per month; Field Trip Leader training session

**Bird Inventories:** Spring Birdathon—chapter fundraiser; Christmas Bird Count—longest continuous one in Colorado; Monthly inventory of Fossil Creek Reservoir Important Bird Area; Summer Breeding Bird survey (to justify IBA status for Downtown Poudre River); Maintenance of a checklist for Larimer County

**Programs:** Monthly program meetings—September to May—open to the public at no charge; December potluck and slide show – members provide the program.

**Educations:** Program that works with at-risk young people; chapter Website; chapter newsletter eight times per year

**Conservation activities:** Adoption of a city natural area for twice-annual cleanups

**Activism:** Partial financial support for the only full-time environmental lobbyist during Colorado Legislative sessions; testimony and input to public decision-making processes as they relate to natural resource and habitat conservation; networking with other local environmental organizations when there is overlap in our goals

**Public Outreach:** An information booth each year at the Bath Avian Appreciation Days (January), Community Earth Day events (April), and the Poudre Riverfest (June)

**Membership:** Active pursuit of Audubon memberships locally

As you can see, the chapter is actually quite active, although you may not hear about many of our activities. We would like to change that. There is a month lead-time in the publication of our newsletter, the Ptarmigan. This makes it difficult to report on past activities in a timely fashion or provide details on upcoming activities. To help fill in the communications gap, we are trying to establish an e-mail announcement list. If you would like to be included in the infrequent e-mail communications, please feel free to contact me. We have some exciting things coming up in the future. Stay tuned for further details.

### ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS

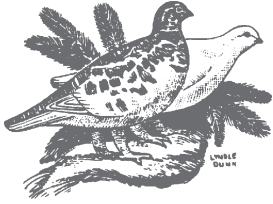
As required by our bylaws, Fort Collins Audubon Society held its annual meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2003. The evening began with a silent auction, followed by the election of the 2003 chapter officers and directors. Certificates of appreciation were then presented to nine of 17 past presidents of the chapter, dating back to 1971 when the organization was the Fort Collins Bird Club. Past presidents attending were Gilbert Findley (1971-72, 1977), Dr. Ronald A. Ryder (1974), Gary Miller (1978), Dr. Alex Cringan (1981- 82), Rick Schroeder (1985-86, 1995-96), Tom Shoemaker (1987-88), Kathleen Tracy (1992-93), Bill Miller (1997-98), and Sue Kenney (1999-2000). Outgoing president Rick Harness (2001-02) was also recognized for his service.

Several door prizes were donated by director Beth Dillon and hospitality co-chair, Sue Miller. We were well entertained with an excellent slide program by Dr. Robert Johnson featuring pictures taken during trips taken far and wide, including Africa and Churchill, Manitoba. Gross receipts from the silent auction totaled \$1,151.25. Approximately 150 people attended. We hope to see many of you back to future meetings.

### RESULTS OF 2003 ELECTIONS

The following members were elected as the chapter's officers: President—Bill Miller, Vice President—Phil Friedman, Secretary—Scott Cobble, Treasurer—John Waddell. Six directors were also elected: Beth Dillon, Rick Harness, Sheryl Davies, Joel Hurmence, Marcia Maeda, and Lynne Hull.

The following members agreed to serve in the respective appointed positions: Conservation—Dave Dubois, Membership—Ann Molison, Education—Cynthia Melcher, Finance—John Waddell, Program—Jackie Boss, Field Trips—Nick Komar, Publications—Dale Agger and Laurie Zuckerman, Publicity—Rick Schroeder; Hospitality—Barb Turnbull and Sue Miller, Audubon of Colorado delegate—Ron Harden, and Webmaster—Joel Hurmence.



Fort Collins Audubon Society  
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**Great Backyard Bird Count 2003 Dates**

The sixth annual Great Backyard Bird Count is on February 14–17, 2003. Approximately 50,000 checklists from every state and province provide a winter snapshot of the status of birds on that weekend. Beginners and experts are invited to participate. For more information go to [www.birdsource.org.gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org.gbbc).

**Christmas Bird Count 2002 Results**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Fort Collins CBC!! As ever, you all did a superb job, and I was especially impressed with the efforts you all put into making your details the best that they could be! This is how to access the results:

1. Go to this website: [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/)
2. Click on *Current Year's Results*
3. Select *Colorado* from the drop-down menu under *Count Circles Results*, then click on *continue*.
4. Select a *CBC Circle*, then select *Fort Collins* from the drop-down menu, then click on *continue*.
5. Species marked with an *HC* indicate an historical high count for that species on our CBC. A *US* indicates an unusual species for this CBC.

Cynthia Melcher, CBC Coordinator

**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