

# ptarmigan



**Fort Collins Audubon Society**

*To promote the appreciation, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems—  
focusing on birds and other wildlife—through education, participation, stewardship, and advocacy*

## COLORADO'S ANWR

**The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska is home to musk oxen and caribou. The Arapahoe National Wildlife Refuge (also ANWR) in North Park, Colorado, is home to waterfowl, moose, and white-tailed prairie dogs.** Our ANWR was established in 1967 to mitigate the loss of waterfowl habitat to the east of the Rocky Mountains.

In February 2001, **Bill Miller** met ANWR manager Greg Langer at a meeting in Fort Collins. Bill learned that the refuge headquarters was destroyed by fire in 1997, with the entire collection of refuge photography going up in smoke. Bill made arrangements with Greg to photograph the refuge. In return for donating many of his photographs, the refuge provided a travel trailer for Bill and wife



Sue to use while at the refuge.

During seven visits to the refuge between April and August of 2001, Bill photographed birds and other wildlife, scenery, flowers, historical structures, activities of the refuge staff, and a politician. A special treat was photographing the North Park Phacelia, an endangered plant found only at about four locations in and around the refuge. From 1400 photographs taken traveling to and from the refuge, at the refuge, and on side trips, 380 were provided to the refuge on a single compact disc for use in refuge presentations and publications.

Please join Bill Miller for a photographer's perspective on the Arapahoe National Wildlife Refuge -- this wonderful but under-utilized resource just two hours west of Fort Collins in North Park.

**THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 13, 7:30 PM**  
**Ludlow Room, Lincoln Center, 417 Magnolia Street**



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

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](http://www.fortnet.org/audubon) for details, or call leaders for last minute changes and/or cancellations.

## **BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS** **Saturday, March 9, 9 am–noon**

All are welcome to join FCAS' Birding for Beginners field trip series. Contact **Phil Friedman** to register (no charge, limit 10 participants), 970-970-493-2959, [phifri@frii.com](mailto:phifri@frii.com).

## **BIRD SURVEY** **Sunday, March 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 March, contact contact **David Hanni**, 970-482-1707, [David.hanni@rmbo.org](mailto:David.hanni@rmbo.org).

## **GULLS** **Monday, March 24, 3 pm–dusk**

Join **Chris Wood** (co-regional editor for North American Birds, WINGS Inc. tour leader, and *Birding* magazine photo quiz editor) for an educational session on gull identification. Meet at North Lake Park at the Lake Loveland Swim Beach parking area for carpooling. For more information, contact Chris at [zeledonia@cfo-link.org](mailto:zeledonia@cfo-link.org) or **Nick Komar**, [quetzal65@attbi.com](mailto:quetzal65@attbi.com), 970-416-7527.

## **NORTHEAST LAKES** **Saturday, March 29, all day**

Tour Weld County and possibly other Northeast Colorado Lakes. To learn meeting time and location, register (no charge) with leader **Dick Maxfield**, [maxfield@attbi.com](mailto:maxfield@attbi.com), 970-353-0953. Carpooling will be encouraged (\$3 to driver, please).

## **SPECIAL SE ARIZONA BIRDING TOUR** **April 27-May 2**

Guided birding tour of Madera Canyon and Patagonia/Sonoita Creek. Contact leader **Nick Komar** for details, [quetzal65@attbi.com](mailto:quetzal65@attbi.com), 970-416-7527. Trip costs include a tax-deductible \$250 contribution to FCAS that will cover the leader's expenses. Participation is limited so register early.

## **KENN KAUFMAN PROGRAM IN MAY**

**Thursday, May 8. Lincoln Center. FCAS features Kenn Kaufman, expert field birder, artist, conservationist, and author.** Kaufman was a longtime friend and disciple of the late eminent birder and naturalist, Roger Tory Peterson, and today embodies the traditions Peterson embraced. Currently Kaufman is a field editor for *Audubon* magazine and a regular contributor to every major birding magazine. His 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*. Due out shortly is *Butterflies of North America*. Kenn's program will feature both birds and butterflies. His books will be available for sale and for autographing by the author. On Friday morning, Kenn will lead a local field trip, with participants selected by a drawing, the details of which are still being worked out.

## **BIRDATHON 2003**

**The annual Birdathon fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 10.** This is a great chance to get out for a full day of birding during the peak of Spring migration and to help our chapter meet its financial needs. Please call **Rick Schroeder** (484-8337) or email him [rmschroe@verinet.com](mailto:rmschroe@verinet.com) to either make a pledge or to join a team of counters and to raise pledges on your own. We are interested in finding businesses who would like to be Birdathon sponsors. You can also send in a pledge via our website at: [www.fortnet.org/Audubon/activities/birdathon/birdathon.htm](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon/activities/birdathon/birdathon.htm). Last year we almost reached our goal of \$5,000.

## **WILDLIFE WATCH**

**Saturday, March 15, 9 am–1 pm, Lory State Park, 708 Lodgepole Drive, Bellvue.** Become a wildlife watcher at this fun wildlife viewing-skills program from the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Learn where, when, and how to see wildlife; sharpen your senses to sights and sounds; discover wildlife habitats; and use binoculars and field guides. A short trail walk follows presentations and hands-on activities. For adults and families ages 12 and over. \$15 per person. RSVP (970)472-4344 or [www.wildlifewatch.net](http://www.wildlifewatch.net).

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### **Chapter Contacts:**

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| 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

### MISSION STATEMENT

**In September 1999, FCAS revised its Mission Statement.**

At its end are four key words: education, participation, stewardship, and advocacy. To implement them fully, we require greater assistance from our membership. *Education* is an underlying philosophy of the entire Audubon organization—from the national organization down to the chapter level. We have been re-evaluating our education program and attempting to develop mechanisms by which to connect people to our natural world. *Participation* is our strongest suite. We have a vigorous member-recruitment effort in place, numerous people attend our weekly field trips, and we have initiated the FCAS ANNOUNCE email letter about activities that often can't be included in the print newsletter. *Stewardship* implies taking care of something. To that end, we have adopted a City-owned natural area, Fossil Creek Wetlands, for a twice-annual cleanup. There are other ways we could be acting as stewards of our natural resources if we had a greater level of member involvement, especially in coordinated efforts with our communities and the county. *Advocacy* is voicing our support for wildlife and the environment. But advocacy is possible *only* after people become informed about issues *and* then speak out in support of them. We've had significant support on Colorado legislative issues in response to our *Legislative Alerts* sent out by email. But we usually don't have much impact on local issues. Fact gathering must take place before a spokesperson presents the chapter's views to the appropriate venue.

FCAS can be more effective if we expand our committees. Currently, with the exception of our Publication Committee, all of our committees consist of one person. Field trips could use additional people to contact leaders and develop the publicity. Our Education program could use an infusion of ideas and the efforts of people to implement them. An expansion of the Conservation Committee would let the chapter play a greater role as advocates for the natural world. Please consider becoming involved! Contact me at: [5mcorp@verinet.com](mailto:5mcorp@verinet.com) or (970) 493-7693.

### RMBO AUCTION

**Friday, March 14, 6–11 pm, at the Denver Turnverein, 1570 Clarkson St., Denver.** Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of Rocky Mountain and Great Plains birds and their habitats, is hosting a benefit auction for its 15th birthday with hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, door prizes, silent and live auctions, and optional dancing with the Colorado Swing Dance Club. Auction items include all-expenses paid bird trips across the continent, restaurant

gift certificates, various bird-watching trips, antique and original art prints, binoculars, and weekends away at bed and breakfasts. Admission of \$30 per person (or \$50 per couple) covers food, beverages, and dancing lessons (discounts for RMBO or Turnverein members); all proceeds benefit regional bird conservation. Space is limited. Call or email to request an invitation (970) 482-1707 or [Shelly.Morrell@rmbo.org](mailto:Shelly.Morrell@rmbo.org).

### AUDUBON EDUCATION PROJECT FOR YOUTH NEEDS YOUR HELP

Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency granted funds to Audubon Colorado for a youth education project at Fossil Creek Reservoir Important Bird Area (IBA). Numerous agencies and organizations—including Fort Collins Audubon—agreed to partner in this venture designed for youth affiliated with Partners Mentoring Youth in Larimer County. The overall goals for these youth are to provide hands-on activities to foster appreciation for habitats, conduct habitat stewardship, learn about wildlife-related professions, use associated equipment/techniques, explore and learn about various forms of local wildlife, feel comfortable in the outdoors, take time out to reflect on nature and their relationship to it; and have fun.

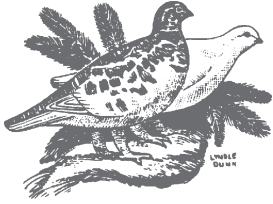
Three more field days are planned for this project, and we need your help, particularly with youth still awaiting mentors. They just need an adult who cares, will encourage and nurture their curiosity, and assist them with the activities. Most activities take place at Fossil Creek Reservoir. Please consider volunteering for one or more of the field days described below. If we have space, you may be able to bring your own child, grandchild, neighbor's child, etc. to help buddy with a Partners child.

**April 5**—explore riparian and other habitats at Fossil Creek and use professional equipment to measure certain habitat components; 8:30 am–3 pm.

**April 19**—conduct local habitat stewardship by planting trees/shrubs, removing exotic/invasive plants and trash; 8:30 am–3 pm. (The local community may be invited to join us.)

**May 31 to June 1**—discover small mammals that inhabit the Fossil Creek area through live-trapping and then releasing them (maybe we'll even catch a Prebble's Jumping Mouse); 3 pm–10 am the next morning, including a slumber party and arising very early the next morning (location for overnight to be announced).

If you are interested in helping out, please contact **Cynthia Melcher** at (970) 484-8373 or [birdswords@yahoo.com](mailto:birdswords@yahoo.com).



Fort Collins Audubon Society  
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**Kudos to Wild Oats, Albertson's, Wendy's, and Office Depot!**

In addition to solid support from Fort Collins Audubon's volunteers, our chapter's youth education project at Fossil Creek Reservoir IBA (see story above) has been supported by several local businesses. Wild Oats (Fort Collins store), Albertson's (North College store), and Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers (South College store) each donated food or food certificates for the kids' lunches on 28 September and 17 November 2002. In addition, Office Depot donated all the materials we needed for the kids' nature journals. On behalf of Audubon Colorado and Fort Collins Audubon, we extend our deepest gratitude to these businesses for their vital support!! *Please support them in return!*

**WELCOME, NEW FCAS MEMBERS!!!**

For December 2002: Polly Anderson (FC), Adam Artis (FC), Ira E. Brrett (FC), Betty Bird (LvlnD), Sue Carroll (FC), Virginia Davie (FC), Dave Dillman (LvlnD), E Margolia-G Enderson (FC), Dr. Medora M. Glantz (FC), Dexter Kimball Jr. (Masonville), Aly Morgan. (LvlnD), Oella Norman (LvlnD), Mary A. Quinn (FC), Karl Ritters (FC), Carol Seemueller (FC), Catherine Sherlock (FC), Mr-Mrs. George Siffert (FC), Rafael Tello (FC), William O. West (FC).

**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