

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.

A BIRDER LOOKS AT BUTTERFLIES *An evening with Kenn Kaufman*

Does butterfly watching have any advantages over bird watching? Well, consider: if you're pursuing butterflies, you never have to go out in cold or wet weather, you don't have to lug a heavy telescope around, and you don't have to go to sewage ponds or garbage dumps. At our May FCAS program, Kenn Kaufman will give a birder's perspective on butterflies, including the thrill of the search, official names, identification challenges, and life listing, as well as a look at butterfly conservation and the inside secrets of what the butterflies are *really* thinking about.

In 2000, Houghton Mifflin launched the Kaufman Focus Guide series with his *Birds of North America*. After writing the field guide to birds, Kenn Kaufman finished a butterfly field guide in the same format—*Butterflies of North America*—giving him plenty of opportunity to think about how the two groups compare.

Kaufman is an expert field birder, artist, conservationist, and author (*see list*) who has perhaps done more than any other birder to evangelize on behalf of birding. He 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. Among the books he has co-authored are *The Peterson Field Guide to Advanced Birding*.

This is a special fundraising event for FCAS, with Kaufman's books available at retail value. Because of our non-profit status, sales tax will not be collected. Purchases must be made with cash or check, no credit cards. The following titles will be available:

Kingbird Highway, Paperback – \$13

Lives of North American Birds, Flexy cover – \$25,
Hardcover – \$35

Peterson Field Guide to Advanced Birding,
Paperback – \$18

Birds of North America, Flexy cover – \$22,
Hardcover – \$30

Butterflies of North America, Flexy cover – \$22,
Hardcover – \$30

We hope you will join us for an informative and fun-filled evening that begins at 6 p.m. with book sales and autographing by Kenn Kaufman, along with light refreshments.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAM—MAY 8, 7:30 PM

Book Sales and Refreshments—6 PM

Canyon West Room, Lincoln Center, 417 Magnolia Street



MAY - JUNE 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 call leaders for last minute changes and/or cancellations. For July and August FCAS field trips, check the website or contact Nick Komar, 970-416-7527, quetzal65@attbi.com

KENN KAUFMAN SPECIAL FIELD TRIP

Friday, May 9, 6-10 am

Visiting speaker Kenn Kaufman will lead a spring migration field trip to hotspots along the Poudre River and foothills habitats. Participation limited to 12 highest bidders (bids are tax-deductible contributions to FCAS). See related article. Winning bidders will be informed of meeting place. Other bidders can choose to participate in a field trip led by Birding Magazine editor Ted Floyd. Details to be provided. For more information on either field trip, contact Nick Komar, quetzal65@attbi.com, 970-416-7527.

ANNUAL BIRDATHON

Friday/Saturday, May 9-10

Contact Rick Schroeder to participate, (970) 484-8337, rmschroe@verinet.com.

MIGRATING BIRDS ALONG THE RIVER

Saturday, May 17, morning

Here's an opportunity to see and hear many species at Fort Collins' premier spring migration corridor -the Poudre River! A great spring morning for all outdoor lovers - focused towards novice birders. Meet at 7:30 am at the raptor cages at the Environmental Learning Center, parking area off the east end of Drake Road. Group size is limited so please register with leader Phil Friedman, 970-493-2959, phifri@frii.com.

BIRD SURVEY, Sunday, May 18, morning

FCAS has been conducting a monthly census of birds on City and County properties abutting the Fossil Creek Reservoir wetlands area. To join the survey in May, contact Dave Hanni, 970-988-8958, david.hanni@rmbo.org.

SPRING MIGRATION Saturday, May 24, all day

We'll check out hotspots in Weld and Larimer Counties. For info, contact Nick Komar, 970-416-7527, quetzal65@attbi.com.

DEVIL'S BACKBONE HIKE

Sunday, June 1, early morning

Meet at the Devil's Backbone trailhead west of Loveland at 8 am for a 2-3 hour hike to see and learn about the special birds of this unique natural area. Contact leader Heman Adams, 970-484-8634, for more information.

POUDRE RIVER BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

Daily Field Trips, June 2-10, early morning

FCAS will organize the third annual survey along the Poudre River corridor in conjunction with the Poudre Riverfest. To lead or join a survey group on any of these mornings, contact coordinator Nick Komar, 970-416-7527, quetzal65@attbi.com.

DAWN CHORUS ON THE POUDE RIVER

Saturday, June 7, morning

Participate in the Poudre Riverfest in a unique way by waking up with the birds. Leader Nick Komar will help you decipher the cacophony of song. Meet at 5:30 am at the Riverbend Ponds Natural Area parking area on the north side of Prospect Rd. For more information, contact Nick at 970-416-7527, quetzal65@attbi.com.

BIRD SURVEY, Sunday, June 15, morning

FCAS has been conducting a monthly census of birds on City and County properties abutting the Fossil Creek Reservoir wetlands area. To join the survey in June, contact Nick Komar, 970-416-7527, quetzal65@attbi.com.

PAWNEE GRASSLANDS

Saturday, June 28, all day

Target birds will be Burrowing Owls, Mountain Plovers, and longspurs. Carpooling (\$4 for driver) at the Harmony Rd. Transportation Transfer Center at 7 am. Bring lunch. Register with leader Ted Floyd, tedfloyd@aba.org, 303-444-6365.

FCAS CHAPTER CONTACTS:

President:	Bill Miller	5mcorp@verinet.com	970-493-7693
Membership:	Ann Molison	amolison2@attbi.com	970-377-4228
Field Trips:	Nick Komar	quetzal65@attbi.com	970-416-7527
Birdathon:	Rick Schroeder	rmschroe@verinet.com	970-484-8337

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: **Bill Miller**

KENN KAUFMAN GUIDED FIELD TRIP

By the time you read this issue of the *Ptarmigan*, it may be too late to place a bid to go on a field trip at 6:15 – 10:15 AM on the morning of Friday, May 9th, guided by none other than Kenn Kaufman (see May program information this issue). To attend you must be one of the successful bidders. Minimum bids of \$35, accompanied by your address, telephone number and/or email address, must be received by any member of the FCAS Board no later than Saturday, May 3. Notification of the bid results will be made no later than Tuesday, May 6. Those who submitted the top 12 bids will go on the field trip with Kenn Kaufman. A consolation field trip led by Ted Floyd, Editor of American Birding Association's *Birding Magazine*, on a date after May 10. Those who don't elect to go on the consolation field trip may either leave their check with FCAS as a tax-deductible contribution or request that their check be returned. Proceeds from the field trip will be used to defray the expenses of bringing Kenn Kaufman to Fort Collins.

BIRDATHON COMING MAY 10!

Have you pledged, made a donation, or volunteered to be on a team for our annual Birdathon fundraiser? If not, you still have time! The Birdathon is our biggest fundraiser, and we need your help. Plus, it is a great excuse to join a team of other birders and enjoy a full day of birding. The goal is to observe as many bird species as possible in a 24-hour period and raise money for our chapter. Beginning birders are welcome! You will learn where all the hot birding spots are. The 2003 Birdathon will be on Friday/Saturday, May 9 and 10. Please contact Rick Schroeder (484-8337 or rmschroe@verinet.com) or pledge online at: www.fortnet.org/Audubon/activities/birdathon/birdathon.htm. Your support is greatly appreciated!

SPECIAL CANOE TRIP

There is still time to sign up for the FCAS 3-day canoe trip on June 20-22! Last year's trip on the Colorado River was a great success, and this year's expedition on the lower Gunnison River promises more excitement as the 30-mile trip winds through massive cottonwood stands and high walls of red sandstone. Along the way, our hike in beautiful Dominquez Canyon will reveal deep, cool swimming holes, waterfalls and ancient Indian petroglyphs. Joel Hurmence (jhurmence@hotmail.com), representing FCAS, will be along again this year to assist in bird identification and interpretation of the archaeology in the area.

Centennial Canoe Outfitters (www.centennialcanoe.com) will provide all safety equipment, river guides, canoes, and great food. Cost of the trip is \$285, of which \$50 is donated back to FCAS. You will need to bring a sleeping bag, tent, and basic personal supplies. The trip is limited to 23 participants, so sign up early to reserve your place. A deposit of \$100 per person must accompany your reservation request, and the **balance is due by May 31**. For further details and to register for the trip, contact Centennial Canoe Outfitters, 1-877-353-1850 (toll free) and refer to the Fort Collins Audubon trip.

THE PROCESSION OF THE RIVER SPECIES

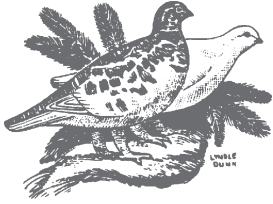
The Procession of the River Species, a celebration of art, music, and general street party on behalf of wildlife, will be held on June 7 in conjunction with the RiverFest Rendezvous. In the meantime, we are looking for volunteers to help organize and manage the procession. Please check our website: www.procession-river-species.org or leave a message at 970-482-1216.

FOSSIL CREEK CLEANUP

We need your help! FCAS has adopted Fossil Creek Wetlands Natural Area, and it needs some spring cleaning. Instead of fighting the crowds this Memorial Day weekend, come join us and help clean up this natural area. Meet Saturday, May 24, 10:00am - noon, on south side of Trilby between Lemay and Timberline, just east of the railroad tracks. Bring gloves, plastic buckets (there's lots of glass), rakes, and plenty of water to drink. Call Sue Kenney, at 482-4425 for information. See you there!

WILDLIFE WATCH

Become a better wildlife watcher at this fun, wildlife viewing-skills program from the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Learn where, when & how to see wildlife, sharpen your senses to sights & sounds, discover wildlife habitats, use binoculars & field guides. A trail walk follows dynamic presentations and informative, hands-on activities. Saturday May 10, 9am-1pm, Lory State Park, 708 Lodgepole Dr., Bellvue. RSVP 970-472-4344 or www.wildlifewatch.net. \$15 per person or household. Adults and families, ages 12 & over.



Fort Collins Audubon Society
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 Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968

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WELCOME, NEW FCAS MEMBERS!!!

FOR FEBRUARY 2003: Janice J. Barman (LvInd), David Bray (LvInd), Denise A. Bretting (LvInd), Steve & Jean Brockway (FC), Gilbert E. Carstens (LvInd), Richard & Linda Chalcraft (FC), Frank & Patricia Douthit (Brthd), Larry & Jane Griffin (FC), Douglas Gunnison (FC), Anne Peterson (Bellvue), D. R. Voss (FC).

FOR MARCH 2003: Mr. and Mrs. Don Burton (LvInd), Greg Grenhow (LvInd), Marie C. Lee (Elbert), Ed Levering (FC), Anne F. Margolis (FC), James P. Waite (FC), Philip Weathers (FC), Joshua Devilbiss (LvInd), Garciela Guzman (LvInd).

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