

ptarmigan

Vol 36 Num 2



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.

Ram Papish

2004 International Migratory Bird Day Artist

Noticed that guy wearing jeans covered with seabirds at the Fort Collins Audubon Society meetings lately? Well, that guy, Ram (pronounced "Rom") Papish has agreed to share his talents and stories with the FCAS at the October 14th meeting.

Ram was the featured artist for International Migratory Bird Day 2004, which highlighted colonial nesting birds. As part of this year's celebration Ram will give a presentation featuring the colonial nesting seabirds he has worked with for years in Alaska. "A Tale of Two Islands" will focus on St. George and St. Paul Islands, where Ram has been bitten by foxes, fur seals, and puffins. These two islands, in Alaska's Pribilofs, host some of the largest seabird colonies in the North Pacific and also inspire Ram's seabird paintings.



While Ram's passion for studying avian species has taken him on field biologist positions all over the Western Hemisphere, Ram has been continuously drawn to remote islands of Alaska.

During multiple field seasons on the islands closely observing and handling seabirds, he has developed an intimate understanding of them. Returning to his studio with sketches and photographs Ram is able to capture the birds in beautiful and accurate paintings. (See www.rampapish.com)

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to hear entertaining tales and view magnificent slides of Ram's field seasons on St. Paul and St. George at our October FCAS meeting. Ram's posters, cards, T-shirts, and prints will also be available for purchase.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAM — October 14, 2004
Ludlow Room, Fort Collins Lincoln Center, 417 W. Magnolia Street
Social Gathering - 7:00 PM, Program - 7:30 PM



OCT - NOV FIELD TRIPS

All field trips are free of charge and open to the public, regardless of experience level. Attendees should dress appropriately for the weather. Bring snacks, water, and binoculars and/or spotting scopes if you have them. Carpooling is encouraged. A \$2.00 (unless otherwise specified) contribution per passenger to the driver is suggested. Visit <http://www.fortnet.org/audubon> for more information. Contact the leader for the field trip in which you are interested or Field Trips Coordinator, Gary Lefko at 970-897-2454 or lefkogt@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org.

10/9/2004 Saturday – Hutton Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Leader: Art Anderson at 307-638-1286. Join Cheyenne-High Plains Audubon (WY) on a trip to nearby Hutton Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). It is located in SE Wyoming in the southern part of the Laramie Plains. It is a montane, park-like area surrounded by mountains. The Refuge, at an elevation of 7,150 feet, includes 1,968 acres with five natural lakes (Hutton, Creighton, George, Rush, and Hoge). Several roads traversing the Refuge provide access to all five lakes. Spring waterfowl flights can be spectacular with large concentrations of migrating waterfowl, especially redhead and canvasback ducks. Shorebirds and raptors also frequent the Refuge. There are several prairie dog towns along the roads.

10/17/2004 Sunday – Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey. Leader: Cole Wild at birdingwild1@yahoo.com or 970-310-3735. Fort Collin's newest natural area, Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, is projected to be open in 2006. FCAS is performing a monthly bird census for the city. All levels welcomed. Please contact leader for signup and trip details.

10/23/2004 Saturday - "Where do I find birds in my town?". Leader: Gary Lefko at 970-897-2454 or lefkogt@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org. Meet 8:00AM at Colorado Welcome Center parking lot. Join us for our new monthly bird watching field trip series. Once a month we'll be visiting your town to show you where to find your birds. This month's stop: Greeley, CO.

10/30/2004 Saturday - Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Park. Leader: Bill Miller at (970) 493-7693 or 5mcorp@verinet.com. Join Bill Miller for a trip to the newly-opened Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Park for late fall migrants. Meet at the park's parking lot at 8:00 AM. Entrance is approximately one mile west of I-25, on the north side of Carpenter Road (County Road 32). Please contact leader for signup and trip details.

11/13/2004 Saturday – Northern Colorado Gull Trip. Leader: Murie Audubon (Casper, WY). Contact Gary Lefko at 970-897-2454 or lefkogt@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org. Full day trip. We'll join Murie Audubon chapter of Casper, WY for their annual Colorado gull trip.

CONSERVATION CORNER - Carol Fiore, Chair

What's In a Name?

Does the name of our organization accurately reflect who we are? We have members from all over the Front Range area, not just Ft. Collins. Is it time for a change of name from Ft. Collins Audubon Society to something like "Ft. Collins/Loveland/Windsor/Berthoud/ and a bunch of other great towns Audubon Society"? Wow, that's a mouthful and the Board thinks the members could come up with something a bit catchier!

Are you ready for the challenge? We'll be taking ideas up until the December Potluck Meeting. You won't want to miss the January Annual Meeting, when we will announce the winning name. There's even a possibility of a prize! The Conservation Chair will be compiling a list of suggestions, so email comments, complaints, and various thoughts to: rockyzoo@earthlink.net.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - Bill Miller

MEMBERSHIPS: The FCAS Board of Directors has been wrestling with membership issues for almost two years as a result of National Audubon Society (NAS) making two major changes that affected chapters. The first change was a modification of the dues-sharing policy. Previously, NAS provided chapters with \$5.50 of each national member's dues to support chapter efforts in providing members with a chapter newsletter. In 2001 chapters began to experience a three-year reduction in dues-sharing, with dues-sharing to be phased out in 2004. Our level of dues-sharing has been reduced to about 40% of its former level. Following considerable chapter discontent, the dues-sharing period was extended a fourth year (2004) with dues-sharing levels being the same as in the third year.

Along with the change in the dues-sharing formula, NAS permitted chapters to offer chapter-only memberships. At first the FCAS Board declined this option as it felt that promoting memberships in NAS was a way to keep the national organization strong. However, the reality of the change in NAS' dues-sharing has gradually hit home. Currently it costs FCAS almost \$7.00 to service each membership with eight (8) issues of the Ptarmigan newsletter and a postcard reminder of the January annual meeting. It is easy to see that we weren't in a break-even situation *before* NAS decided to reduce the dues-sharing. Currently FCAS receives from NAS the first-year dues of any NAS member who is recruited by FCAS using a membership form with our chapter code on it. For all other members the chapter receives an amount provided under the current dues-sharing formula, which will probably expire at the end of 2004.

At its meeting in September, and partly in response to interest expressed by members, the FCAS Board decided to offer chapter-only memberships in advance of a Bylaws change, with an annual dues rate of \$15.00. While the chapter will retain 100% of such membership fees it will also have to undertake the responsibility of soliciting renewals of chapter-only members, a task we have not had to deal with previously. Chapter-only memberships will NOT receive the quarterly issues of AUDUBON magazine. Taking out a chapter-only membership will not preclude one from also being a NAS member. Membership forms will be revised to more clearly define your options when it comes time for renewal. If you are interested in a chapter-only membership contact Membership Chair Kate Bolster at katebolster@netscape.net or at 720-840-7706, or contact any Board member at our monthly program meetings.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chapter elections will take place next January and the slate of nominees for elected positions will be published in the December-January combined issue of the Ptarmigan. Because of the lead time in publishing the Ptarmigan the slate of candidates needs to be finalized by early November. With the exception of the President, all Board members are eligible to succeed themselves. We are always looking for new volunteers to either serve on our committees or to stand for office. If you are interested in so serving please contact the chairman of this year's *Nominating Committee*, Phil Friedman, at phifri@frie.com or at 493-2959. The Nominating Committee has been expanded to include Nick Komar at quetzal65@comcast.net and Bill Miller at 5mcorp@verinet.com.

OTHER EVENTS:

NATURAL AREA CLEANUP: Saturday, October 16, 2004. 9:00-12:00 AM.

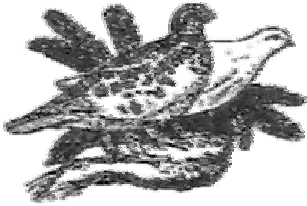
We will be cleaning up either the Fossil Creek Wetlands between Timberline and the railroad tracks south of Trilby Road, or the area west of the railroad tracks south of Trilby Road. Bring gloves, a shovel or rake, a hat, and water. (Bags will be provided by the Fort Collins Natural Resources Dept.) To participate, please contact Bill Miller at 5mcorp@verinet.com or at (970) 493-7693.

OPENING OF FOSSIL CREEK REGIONAL PARK: Saturday, October 23, 2004. 10:00 AM.

FCAS nominated the Fossil Creek Reservoir and surrounding area for inclusion in National Audubon's inventory of Important Bird Areas (IBAs). For the past three years FCAS volunteers have inventoried bird species monthly at Fossil Creek Reservoir, Duck Lake and the Fossil Creek Wetlands natural area. The data thus collected will be used to produce a bird checklist for the area, which should be available by the Park's opening date. We encourage you to attend the opening ceremonies. Entry to the new park is off of Carpenter Road, also known as County Road 32, between I-25 and Timberline Road.

ANNUAL MEETING - January 13, 2005

We are looking for items for our upcoming third Silent Auction At the January Annual Meeting. If you have items of reasonable quality that you would be willing to donate please contact Bill Miller at 5mcorp@verinet.com or at (970) 493-7693.



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Address Changes: John Waddell
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jwaddell@lamar.colostate.edu

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

FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
 Visit our website at www.fortnet.org/Audubon