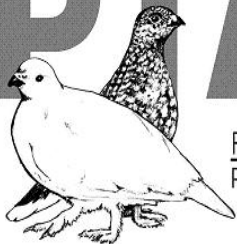


# PTARMIGAN



FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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Promoting the appreciation, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems,  
focusing on birds and other wildlife, through education, participation, stewardship, and advocacy.

**January 2010**

**Volume 41, Issue 1**

## Wild Horses and Raptors of Mongolian

In Fall 2009, Rick Harness teamed with National University of Mongolia and Mongolian Ornithological Society biologists to conduct raptor surveys in and around Hustai National Park, located west of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Hustai National Park was set up as a refuge to reintroduce the wild Mongolian Takhi, or Przewalski's horse back into the wild. In Mongolian, "Takhi" means "spirit" or "spiritual" and with 66 chromosomes (all other horses have fewer chromosomes), this horse is a distinct species and, therefore, is considered the world's only living genuinely wild horse. In 1992, 16 horses were taken from captive stock in Holland and the Ukraine and released within the park's confines. Since then, the Takhi population has increased to about 260 horses, a source of great national pride. Currently, biologists are managing the horse population to help it reach a self-sustaining level of approximately 500 horses.



*Hustai National Park*

Hustai National Park, through which the Tuul River runs, is a must-see for any traveler to Mongolia. In addition to the horses, the area is an important stop over location for many migratory birds, including numerous raptors. Over 172 bird species have been observed in the park; 19 of these species are listed as globally threatened or endangered, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources' Red List of threatened species.

Rick Harness is a certified wildlife biologist working for the engineering firm, EDM International, Inc. located in Fort Collins, Colorado. He has a M.S. in Fishery and Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University where his thesis work was conducted on raptor electrocutions. He has 25 years experience managing and supervising environmental studies and research for the electric utility industry. His specific areas

*(continued on Page 2)*

**Thursday Evening Program – January 14, 2010**  
**Social hour begins 7:00 p.m. — Presentation: 7:30 p.m.**  
**Ft. Collins Lincoln Center-Columbine Room, 417 W Magnolia**

(Wild Horses continued from Page 1)

of strength are in wildlife-utility interactions, including power line electrocutions and bird collisions.



**Join us** Thursday, January 14 for a program on the Takhi and the birds of Hustai National Park. This program is free and the public is welcomed!

#### FCAS CONTACTS

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## FCAS Annual Meeting and Elections

The January program meeting of the FCAS is also its annual meeting at which officers and directors are elected. The nominating committee—Ashley Waddell, Bill Miller, and Joel Hurmence—put together the following slate of elected officers and directors, to be voted upon by those chapter members in attendance.

#### Officers:

Pres.	Karl Krahnke
Vice-Pres.	Bill Miller
President-elect	Bill Miller
Secretary	Scott Cobble
Treasurer	John Waddell

#### Directors:

Heman Adams  
Eric DeFonso  
Ruth Grant  
Ron Harden  
Louise Parker  
Liz Pruessner

In addition, the following individuals have agreed to serve in the following appointed positions:

<b>Conservation:</b>	Bill Miller
<b>Education:</b>	Joann Thomas
<b>Field Trips:</b>	Eric DeFonso
<b>Public Relations:</b>	Pat Hayward
<b>Finance:</b>	Heman Adams
<b>Membership:</b>	Liz Pruessner
<b>Programs:</b>	Jessie Meschievitz
<b>Email List Serv:</b>	Kaye Holman

<b>Publications:</b>	Carol Jones
<b>Hospitality:</b>	Pat Adams
<b>Birdathon:</b>	
<b>AC Delegate:</b>	Bill Miller
<b>Scholarship:</b>	Lisa Evans
<b>Web Site:</b>	Joel Hurmence
<b>Vol. Coordinator:</b>	Ashley Waddell

We will accept nominations from the floor at the annual meeting for the elected positions.



## Upcoming Field Trips



*All field trips are free of charge (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public. All experience levels are welcome. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather. Bring snacks or lunch, water, binoculars, and spotting scopes. Carpooling is encouraged. A \$3.00 (unless otherwise specified) contribution per passenger to the driver is suggested. Visit [www.fortnet.org/Audubon](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon) for more information. For all field trips and surveys, please contact the trip leader for signup and trip details.*

**Jan. 1, Friday. Loveland Christmas Bird Count.** Compiler: Connie Kogler, [zblueheron@gmail.com](mailto:zblueheron@gmail.com). Please pre-register. All levels of birders are welcome. We have a variety of interesting habitats including plains agriculture, suburban ornamental landscape, reservoirs, and lower Rocky Mountain foothills. Highlight species include trumpeter swan, gulls, waxwings, and sometimes a northern pygmy-owl.

**Jan. 9, Saturday. Winter Mountain Birds.** Leader: Connie Kogler ([zblueheron@gmail.com](mailto:zblueheron@gmail.com)). Meet at the Starbucks on Eagle Drive in Loveland (SW corner of Taft and SW 14th) at 7:30 a.m. and car pool from there. Our first stop will be Ward, Colo., then Fawnbrook Inn, Allenspark, and finally to Estes Park. This will be an all day trip with some walking involved. Please be prepared for the weather. I would like to arrange drivers in advance, so please contact me if you want to drive. Only blizzard conditions will postpone this trip. We will stop for a hot lunch at a restaurant in Estes Park. Expect to be back in Loveland late afternoon.

**Jan. 9, Saturday. Weld Raptor Search.** Leader: Gary Lefko, [lefkogt@coloradobirder.info](mailto:lefkogt@coloradobirder.info) or 970-897-2454. Time: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or later). Meet at Nunn Cafe on south side of Nunn along Hwy 85—come earlier for breakfast. Join the "Nunn Guy" on a trip around Nunn and beyond. We'll do some raptor routes I've designed.

**Jan. 10, Sunday. Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey.** Leader: Denise Bretting, [dbretting@swloveland.com](mailto:dbretting@swloveland.com), work: 669-1185, or home: 669-8095. Meet at 7 a.m. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the city of Fort Collins. All levels welcomed and encouraged.

**Jan. 16, Saturday. Running Deer/Cottonwood Hollow Half-Day Trip.** Leader:

David Leatherman, [daleatherman@msn.com](mailto:daleatherman@msn.com). Meet at the Running Deer parking lot by the out-house on Prospect Road in Fort Collins at 8:30 a.m., and perhaps be done by noon. Target birds are marsh wren, northern shrike, western meadowlark, wintering rails, swamp sparrow, Harlan's hawk, and American tree sparrow. We will pay attention to all creatures and hope to see white-tailed deer and maybe mink. Snow is possible; walk is 2-3 miles.



*Western meadowlark photo by Nick Komar.*

**Jan. 27, Wednesday. Denver Museum Day Trip Plus A Tour Of The Bird Collections.** Leader: Eric DeFonso, [yoericd@yahoo.com](mailto:yoericd@yahoo.com) or call 472-1761. Meet at the Transportation Center parking lot just west of the Harmony Rd/I-25 interchange for a planned 8:30 a.m. departure, returning around 4 p.m. Museum admission is \$11 for adults, \$6 for students and seniors 65+. We'll carpool to Denver and spend a day at one of the finest natural history museums in the country, with a special bonus: a rare hour-long guided tour of the bird specimen collections! These are specimens collected in Colorado and beyond that are used to scientifically document the composition, distribution, and ecology of birds worldwide. Bring a lunch or buy one at the museum cafe.

*(continued on Page 4)*





## Conservation Corner \_\_\_\_\_ by Bill Miller

*"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike."* -- John Muir, "The Yosemite"

*"Climate change is no longer a doomsday prophecy, it's a reality."* -- Astrid Heiberg, president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

*"Global climate change needs global action now. The alarm bells ought to be ringing in every capital of the world."* -- John Gummer, British Environment Secretary

### 2010 Legislative Workshop

Join Us for the Audubon/Sierra Club 2010 Legislative Forum!

**Date:** Saturday, February 20.

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Place:** First Plymouth Church,  
3501 S. Colorado Boulevard, Denver



The Audubon Society of Greater Denver (ASGD) and the Enos Mills Group of the Sierra Club invite you to attend the 2010 Legislative Forum. We especially encourage members of

other Audubon chapters and other Sierra Club groups to join us—this is always an entertaining and educational event! Audubon Colorado Lobbyist Jen Boulton and Sierra Club Legislative Committee Chair Gary Lindstrom will go over the 2010 session's environmental bills. We'll hear from speakers on several of the key issues, and at lunch we'll talk with several Colorado legislators.

The cost is \$12 per person in advance, \$15 at the door. To register in advance, call the ASGD office at 303-973-9530.

*(Field Trips continued from Page 3)*

#### **Feb. 2, Saturday. Boulder Area Birding.**

Leader: Ted Floyd, [tedfloyd57@hotmail.com](mailto:tedfloyd57@hotmail.com). Join Ted Floyd, editor of *Birding* magazine, for a leisurely morning of birding around Boulder County. Meet at Walden Ponds, and we'll go from there. If there is open water on the reservoirs, we'll check it out. If not, we'll bird the foothills, feeders, and riparian strips. Dress for the weather and expect to do some carpooling.

**Feb. 14, Sunday. Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey.** Leader: Denise Bretting, [dbretting@swloveland.com](mailto:dbretting@swloveland.com); work: 669-1185, or home: 669-8095. Meet at 7 a.m. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the city of Fort Collins. All levels welcomed and encouraged.

**Feb. 21, Sunday. Small Nocturnal Montane Winter Owls.** Leader: Nick Komar. Co-leader: Eric DeFonso, [yoericd@yahoo.com](mailto:yoericd@yahoo.com) or 970-472-1761. (Note: This trip is scheduled during President's Day weekend.) Join us as we head out into the winter night to find northern saw-whet owls in Rist Canyon and boreal owls at Cameron Pass. Both species begin their courtship calling in mid-winter and therefore should be as easy to detect. We'll be looking and listening for these

birds from the road primarily. This is a great opportunity to learn new things about these mysterious birds that live near us year-round, yet so few people ever actually experience. We will meet at 8 p.m. at a location to be determined, and plan on returning around 2 a.m. Carpooling will be required to reduce potential impacts on the owls as they enter their breeding season as well as simply ease transportation. If the weather is uncooperative our backup day may be the following Saturday, February 27.

### FCAS Pocket Guide to Local Birds

Is available at the following retailers who support our organization with the sales:

Wild Birds Unlimited  
3636 S. College Ave  
Ste. C  
(970) 225-2557

Bath Garden  
Center & Nursery  
2000 E. Prospect  
(970) 484-5022

Jax Outdoor Gear  
1200 N. College  
(970) 221-0544

Jax Farm & Ranch  
1000 N. Hwy. 287  
(970) 484-2221

Ranch-Way Feeds  
546 Willow St.  
(970) 482-1662

The Matter Book-  
Store/Bean Cycle  
Coffee  
144 N. College  
(970) 472-4284



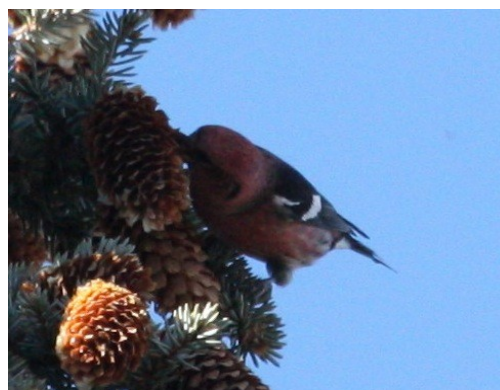
## FCAS welcomes new & renewing members

Janie Appleton	Larry & Margie Caswell
Scott M Farquhar	Gail Kenney
Dianne MacDonald	Mary & Maurine Norton
James C. Baker	Christine Chapman
Carol Fiore	Kay Knudsen
Tim Madden	Carolee Novak
Scott Bailly	Denise Colombini
Joan Fishburn	Steven Koeckeritz
Matt Magee	Mel & Cheri Orwig
La Verna M. Barnhart	Pamela Crandall
Carolyn Forbes	Karl Krahnke
L. J. Maillet	Ifeidi Packard
L Earl Barry	Sylvia Degi
Tom & Mary France	Patricia Kress
Erica Marjoram	Pam Parish
Bonnie Bartholomew	Susan Degutz
Peg Frohberg	Kathleen Kubinak
Mrs. S. Mc Gill	Louise Parker
Bob & Rosemary Bergstrom	Avery V. Dick
Margot Garnster	Dorothy Leising
Sheryl McCurtain	Mr. Clifford J. Parr
Elliott Bernstein	Bill & Marvi Dolgener
Raymond & Joan M Glabach	Charles Levendosky
Matthew McIntyre	Paul Petersen
Ms. Phyllis Berwick	Susan Dominica
Ruth Grant	Edwin Loeffler
Dave McKean	Michael Pierce
Ruth Billica	Georgia Doyle
Linda Grenz	Jane M Low
Geraldine McLaughlin	Lori Pivonka
G Richard Blomer	Jay H. Evers
Corinne Grim	Leigh Lukens
William Meikle	Clara Points
Jana Borland	John and Ann Reichhardt
Mary Lou Haag	Rich Roberts
Jacob Meyer	Eleanor Rogers
Emily Kate Bresnan	James M. Rose
David E Hartley	Elizabeth Ross
Ileane Miller	Robert M Schurman
Jackie L. Brooks	Ruth Shaffer
Melannie Hartman	Emily Sharp
Gary C Miller	Leslye Sherman
Carl Burgchardt	Linda Steadman
Joel and Pat Hayward	Pat Steele
Kerry Miller & Peter Weck- esser	Carole Stieff
Phayne Bushner	Megan Stiefken
Lana Hoff	Dee Streit
Lynn Morales	Yvonne Tamsik
Reid A. Cameron	Joann Thomas
Edith Israel	Breanna S. Thompson
Jim Mullins	Edith B Thompson
Thomas Campbell	Gail Tomaseno
Ashley Jackson	Ashley Waddell and Christi Brockway
Phil Murray	Matthew Webb
Jean Canaiy	William O West
Kirsten Jons	Cindy White
Robin Neergaard	H. M. Willich
Rhonda Carpenter	Carl Wilmsen
Jessica Kalanick	Melissa Wolfe
Karen E. Norman	The Yagers

## Fort Collins Bird Notes

by Eric DeFonso

Welcome to the first edition of Fort Collins Bird Notes! We want to provide you with a short summary of birdly goings-on in and around the Fort Collins area. Information is compiled from area listservs and word of mouth, and is not always confirmed for accuracy nor examined yet by the records committee. Nevertheless, they should help you become more aware of all the great birdwatching that can be done in our area.



*White-winged crossbill by Mark Chavez.*

The big highlight in Fort Collins for the past month has been the pair of **white-winged crossbills** that have been regularly sighted at Grandview Cemetery. David Leatherman first reported them on November 22, and they've since been seen on subsequent days by many birders from all over the Front Range who've driven up to see this unusual species for our area. The male often has been reported singing, and Dave also saw behavior between them suggestive of courtship. Earlier in November, three **white-winged scoters** were seen frequently at North Poudre Reservoir #3, along Larimer County Road 11 just south of County Road 70 northwest of Wellington. This reservoir is a good hotspot for waterfowl. Birder Rob Sparks reported a healthy flock of **bushtits** while hiking up to Gray Rock in Poudre Canyon on December 7. If you are in the foothills anywhere in our area (e.g., Lory State Park or Bobcat Ridge Natural Area), be on the lookout for flocks like this working the shrubs and shorter trees. They're not commonly seen, but they can be found here year-round!



## Falconry Changes Considered

The Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) has started a review of its falconry regulations in light of recent federal changes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is getting out of the falconry permitting process and giving it over to individual states and American Indian tribes. To prepare for that, the Colorado DOW has listed a range of issues that it will consider over the coming months. After gathering comments, the DOW will decide whether or not to recommend changes to the state's falconry regulations; if it does so, those regulations will go to the Colorado Wildlife Commission for approval. FCAS's board of directors recently formulated a letter addressing pertinent falconry issues. To read the FCAS letter, go to [www.fortnet.org/Audubon](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon).



To see the full list of issues under consideration, go to <http://wildlife.state.co.us/RulesRegs/> and click on "Chapter 6 issues."

### RMRP Benefit Auction

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 20, from 5 to 9 p.m. for the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program's (RMRP) 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Dinner and Benefit Auction. After many years at the Lincoln Center, this year's event will be held at the Fort Collins Hilton at 425 West Prospect Avenue. This much larger venue will help relieve some of the congestion and allow all activity to be in one room.

Individual tickets are \$50 in advance and \$55 at the door. Reserved tables are \$500. Corporate tables are \$750 and carry considerable recognition for your business. Tickets go on sale after January 1, and you can reserve yours by calling 970-484-7756. More information can



also be found at

[www.rmrp.org](http://www.rmrp.org).

The RMRP rescues, rehabilitates, and releases injured birds of prey, including eagles, owls, hawks, and falcons, and through its comprehensive Environ-

mental Education Program, teaches the importance of preserving wildlife and wild places for future generations. RMRP works closely with the veterinarians at Colorado State University's Veterinary Medical Center, and has consulted with them on nearly 4,500 raptor cases since the program started as a student club in 1979. RMRP averages one admission and several injured raptor calls each day, and more than 70 percent of treatable raptors are released for a second chance at freedom.

### A Message from the Membership Chair

Please help me keep the membership current by sending any changes in your contact information or email address. Remember: ***We are switching to a primary online Ptarmigan starting with this issue.*** Update your preference today!

Thanks to everyone who has already responded.

Contact Liz Pruessner at: [fortcollinsaudubonmembership@gmail.com](mailto:fortcollinsaudubonmembership@gmail.com) or 490-BIRD (490-2473).

Mail: Fort Collins Audubon Society, PO Box 271968, Ft. Collins 80527-1968.





## Education Corner

by Joann Thomas

### Remembering and Looking Ahead

Oops! Another year just flew by! Where did 2009 go? Faster than I wished...but, as John Denver said, "There were some good things there..."

For me, the best 2009 adventures in nature was the Audubon sea kayak trip, and a close second was sitting on a bench at Pingree Park, nursing a hurting knee, looking up to see, sitting on a branch just 10 feet away, a male and female Calliope hummingbird side by side. Of course, I did not have my camera, but the snapshot in my brain is vivid and unforgettable.

There are education opportunities coming up. Kevin Cook, Audubon's good friend, will be holding classes on trees beginning Wednesday, January 6. Each section will include three sessions and will continue until most or all of Colorado's native and introduced trees are covered. Kevin's premise: If you know your trees and habitats, finding the birds

will be easier. All classes are at JAX on north College from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Each issue of our newsletter will list volunteer opportunities that are available with a requirement label of education host, program host, or exhibit host. From the requests that

have come in so far, it looks like 2010 will be a busy year for Audubon.

In addition, our new project, River Watch, is waiting in the wings for release. We are still negotiating our testing site with the sponsors. When that is done, we can begin offering you opportunities to learn about rivers and their significance in the community of life, and



*Colorado trees along the Bakerville Road west of Georgetown.*

to participate in a very critical project of data gathering for future research.

So, join me in 2010 in a renewed commitment to sharing the wonders and joys of life on this planet and the myriad of ways in which life expresses itself.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Please e-mail [FortCollinsAudubonVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:FortCollinsAudubonVolunteers@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up for any of these upcoming volunteer opportunities:

**Thursday, January 28:** "Backyard Birds" slide program (education hosts); Location: Fort Collins Country Club.

**Saturday, January 30:** "Great Backyard Bird Count" workshop (education/exhibit hosts); Location: Bath Nursery, Timberline and Prospect.

**Saturday, February 27:** High Plains Landscape workshop (exhibit hosts); Location: Gardens at Spring Creek.

**Saturday, March 6:** Putnam Science Carnival (education hosts); Location: Putnam Elementary School.

Specific volunteer shifts are to be determined, but all events will take place between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.—no early-morning or late-evening shifts.

### Fort Collins Audubon Society Upcoming Programs

**Thursday, February 11.** Annual joint meeting between FCAS and the Northern Colorado Native Plant Society. Program includes presentations by Whitney Cranshaw, CSU Professor of Entomology, and Douglas Kibbe, Region 15 Coordinator, who will give a brief update on the status of the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II (CoBBA II) Project.

**Thursday, March 11.** Scott Rashid, author and photographer, will present.





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### Membership Application

Join FCAS directly, or automatically become a member by joining the National Audubon Society (NAS). Choose one the following:

- ☐ **New or renewing member** of FCAS annual dues  
(Receive the *Ptarmigan* newsletter) \$15
- ☐ **New member** of NAS and FCAS \$20  
(Receive *Audubon* magazine and *Ptarmigan*)
- ☐ **Renewing member** of NAS and FCAS \$35  
(Receive *Audubon* magazine and *Ptarmigan*)

Did you know? Less than \$1 of your NAS dues goes to fund FCAS. FCAS serves NAS members through its own fundraising efforts. We appreciate your financial support.

Additional donation to FCAS: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

***Ptarmigan* is delivered via email unless otherwise requested.**

- ☐ I prefer to receive *Ptarmigan* via US mail.

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