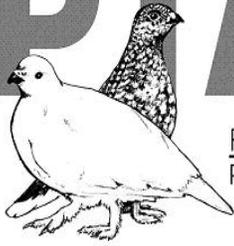


PTARMIGAN



FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 271968 • Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968 • www.fortnet.org/Audubon

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

October 2010

Volume 41, Issue 7

Raptors and Wild Birds: Learning from Their Language

Remember this past winter when a Red-shouldered hawk (absolutely not common to Colorado) was positively identified and observed for several weeks along the Poudre River?

Jon Stravers, who currently serves as the Driftless Area Coordinator for Audubon's Mississippi River Initiative, has worked on projects since 1982 that monitor and inventory Red-shouldered Hawks, and other birds, along the Mississippi River. He will present a program that will summarize these projects, will tell stories of doing this work by listening to and interpreting the language of the birds,

and will include a message of the spiritual connections from the river and wild places.

Join us on Thursday, Oct. 14 to hear Jon "Hawk" Stravers educate us with facts, inspire us with stories, and may even entertain us with a song! For more information on Jon Stravers, visit the

Web site: <http://mn.audubon.org/about-us/audubon-staff/607>



Red-shouldered hawk nestlings provided by Jon Stravers.

REMINDER: The Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive, is the new location for all upcoming FCAS Thursday evening programs in 2010. We will be located in the Center's Multi-Purpose Room 3.

Thursday Evening Program: October 14, 2010 Raptors and Wild Birds: Learning from Their Language

Presented by Jon Stravers

Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive, Room 3

Social Gathering: 7:00 p.m.; Program: 7:30 p.m.

Looking Ahead: Nathan Pieplow, sound recordist and expert birder, will be the FCAS program Speaker, Thursday, Nov. 11.

Bird Notes

by Eric DeFonso

As the fall season rolls in, we see a gradual but relentless change in the bird life in our area, most notably among the raptors. *Swainson's Hawks*, once fixtures easily seen when driving along the highways and county roads east of town, have assembled into groups of adults and juveniles on the prairies and have departed for their 5,000-mile flight to northern Argentina. Most *Turkey Vultures*, fixtures here in Fort Collins especially along Mountain Avenue just west of Old Town, also have left our area for their own journey southward to South America. *Burrowing Owls* and *Flammulated Owls* have similar stories as well, although not traveling nearly as far as the previous two species. In this transition time, we will miss these summer residents, but still are without our winter resident



Great Crested Flycatcher by Eric DeFonso.

raptors, like the *Rough-legged Hawk*, the *Bald Eagles*, or the occasional *Harlan's* form of the *Red-tailed Hawk*. But they'll be here soon enough.

In other news, land bird migration proceeded with less vocal fanfare than the spring passage. Still, of note in the area in recent weeks were a *White-eyed Vireo* found in late August at Pine Ridge Natural Area (Dixon Reservoir) by Brad Biggerstaff, and a *Great Crested Flycatcher*, a particularly unusual species for area, found by Dave Leatherman in early September at the Grandview Cemetery. Even into October, it's still not too late to find a few stragglers like flycatchers, warblers, and thrushes in places like Dixon, Grandview, or along the Poudre River. We hope that they get out of here before the first real cold blasts start heading our way!

Upcoming Christmas Bird Counts

Once again, FCAS is sponsoring two CBCs, one in the Fort Collins area on Dec. 18 and the other in the Loveland area on Jan. 1, 2011. The compilers for the two counts are Tom Hall and Nick Komar, respectively. Tom can be contacted at n2redbear@hotmail.com and Nick can be contacted at quetzal65@comcast.net. Contact either Tom or Nick if you wish to participate in either (or both) count.

FCAS CONTACTS

Audubon@fortnet.org

President

Karl Krahnke
970-622-9535

kkrahnke@gmail.com

Vice President & Conservation Chair

Bill Miller
970-493-7693

5mcorp@comcast.net

Membership Chair

Liz Pruessner
970-484-4371

fortcollinsaudubonmembership@gmail.com

Education Chair

Joann Thomas
970-482-7125

jthomas91@aol.com

Field Trip Coordinator

Eric DeFonso
970-472-1761

yoeric@yahoo.com

Program Chair

Jessie Meschievitz
970-686-1424

Newsletter Editor

Carol Jones
970-482-6295

cjones@cowisp.net

For other FCAS contacts visit www.fortnet.org/audubon/leadership.htm



Conservation Corner _____ by Bill Miller

“If we go on the way we have, the fault is our greed [and] if we are not willing [to change], we will disappear from the face of the globe, to be replaced by the insect.” -- *Jacques Cousteau*

“People tend to focus on the here and now. The problem is that, once global warming is something that most people can feel in the course of their daily lives, it will be too late to prevent much larger, potentially catastrophic changes.” -- *Elizabeth Kolbert, The New Yorker, Apr. 25, 2005*

Update on the NISP/ Glade Project and the Save the Poudre Coalition

By Philip Cafaro

This has been a busy year for the Save the Poudre (STP) coalition. STP was accepted as a member of the international Waterkeepers Alliance, an organization that spans six continents and has nearly 200 local water protection groups. The Alliance provides technical, legal, and fundraising assistance to its members. Their Web site: <http://www.waterkeeper.org>

In the last 12 months, the STP coalition has

grown from 15 groups to include the following 19 organizations: American Rivers, Environment Colorado, the Sierra Club, American Whitewater, Waterkeeper Alliance, Cache la Poudre River Foundation, Friends of the Poudre, Western Resource Advocates, Citizen Planners, Lighthawk, WildEarth

Guardians, Clean Water Action, the National Wildlife Federation, Wolverine Farm Publishing, Colorado Environmental Coalition, Poudre Paddlers, the Xerces Society, Defenders of Wildlife, and the FCAS.

The supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the NISP/Glade Reservoir project continues to be delayed. The public reviewed and commented on a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project in the fall of 2008. As a result of comments from FCAS members and other concerned citizens, Save the Poudre, the City of Fort Collins, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and others, the



Poudre River by Bill Miller.

Army Corps of Engineers sent the draft EIS back for a major overhaul. The applicant, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, must pay for a new SEIS that will be released for public review. The Corps also required that the applicant coordinate with the cities of Fort Collins and Greeley to develop a “common technical platform”—an agreement on the hydrology data used in the analysis. These additional Corps’ require-

ments have added over two years of delay to the project. The next draft of the EIS should be released sometime in mid-2011, after which there will be more public and scientific review by Save the Poudre, other agencies, and individuals. To date, NISP is five years late and \$150 million over budget.

While waiting for the SEIS, STP is sponsoring important scientific and socio-economic research that will further document the significant negative impacts that NISP would have on the river and the regional economy. We also are creating a “legal defense fund” in case litigation becomes necessary. STP receives little money from its coalition partners and is primarily funded by volunteers. If you would like to contribute to these ongoing efforts, you may donate securely on-line with a credit card at <http://www.savethepoudre.org/donate.html>. For more information, visit the STP Web site or contact Philip Cafaro at 970-482-8279.



Water, Water, Everywhere.....

Water has always been a natural component of everywhere I've lived—from New Orleans, to Houston to the Delmarva Peninsula. I've always been within an hour's drive of a lake, a river, the Gulf, or the Atlantic Ocean. Inaccessibility to water is my most frequent complaint about living in Colorado. I think that's why I love birding along the Poudre River. It's misty, moist, and wet!

Water is always a factor in enjoyable birding for me. It is a delight to find a nesting Black-crowned Night Heron along the Poudre River or a Spotted Sandpiper at Equalizer Lake feeding on the mud flats before making its way to higher elevations.

Arriving at Equalizer Lake last month, I noticed that there was a construction project underway. Reading the new sign, I discovered that a "Wetland Ecology Demonstration Garden" is being created under the guidance of Jim Tolstrup, Land Stewardship Director for the High Plains Environmental Center in Loveland. The plans for this creative project won a Land Stewardship Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2009.



Jim Tolstrup at the Wetland Ecology Demonstration Garden. Photo by Joann Thomas.

Development often impedes the ability of snow-melt or rain to percolate into the ground. However, runoff must be managed to prevent flooding. Storm water drainage canals and holding

ponds do not constitute wetland habitat because they lack the requisite components. The sides of canals are not contoured, the ponds lack proper native plant diversity, and, the straight waterways have no aesthetic appeal.

Creating wetlands out of drainage canals and ponds requires forethought and planning. However, the rewards are great and the wetland habitats invite wildlife and allow native plant communities to flourish. These wetland communities also allow runoff to slowly filter through the plants before it enters our natural waterways.

Check out this innovative approach to creating wet-

land habitat, located at Old Canal Place on Equalizer Lake just before the viewing platform or visit the HPEC website at www.suburbitat.org for more information.



Friend Raising Campaign

by Joann Thomas

Several years ago Bill Miller asked me to be Education Chair for FCAS. The idea was exciting because it presented the opportunity for me to design programs instead of presenting canned programs. I said, "Yes!" Life has not been the same since.

I have been repeatedly touched by the respect that the general public shows when I mention that I'm from Audubon. I feel pride whenever I begin a program and introduce myself as the Education Chair from FCAS. This feeling of contributing to a greater whole was unexpected and welcomed.

Join me! FCAS is in full fund- and friend-raising mode right now. We are looking for candidates for vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and six directors-at-large. We'll be posting job descriptions on our Web site for each position.

We also are looking for people to join us in the appointed committee chair openings in conservation, field trips, public relations, Birdathon, and volunteer coordinator. Contact Joann Thomas to let FCAS know how you want to participate: 970-482-7125, jthomas91@aol.com.



Update on Mongolian Horse Adoption

by Karl Krahnke

In January 2010, Rick Harness presented a FCAS program on Wild Horses and Raptors of the Mongolian Steppe. At that program, FCAS announced that Hustai National Park in Mongolia was asking for sponsors for the Takhi, or Asiatic Wild Horse (Przewalski's Horse) that are being re-established in Mongolia. For a contribution of \$100 or more, the adopter received naming rights and updates on the horse's progress.



Takhi Wild Horses by Rick Harness

FCAS decided to adopt a horse and to offer the naming rights to the family of Urangua "Sisi" Mijiddorj, a 14-year-old student from Mongolia who was killed last year by an automobile while riding her bicycle to

school in Ft. Collins. FCAS felt the gesture would show our sympathy for such a loss so far from home.

FCAS took up collections at the January program and at another presentation of the same program in Loveland in April. Members responded enthusiastically and \$250 was collected, enough to adopt two horses. The Mijiddorj family named one "Sisi" in honor of their daughter. The FCAS decided to name it Mongolian for "Wind

Horse."

FCAS would like to thank you all for your help with this project, and we will keep you informed about the welfare of our adopted horses.

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 for more information. For all field trips and surveys, please contact the trip leader for signup and trip details.

Oct. 10, Sunday. Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey. Leader: Denise Bretting dbretting@swloveland.com, work: 669-1185, or home: 669-8095. Meet at 7:30 am. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the city of Fort Collins. All levels welcomed and encouraged!

Nov. 14, Sunday. Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey. Leader: Denise Bretting dbretting@swloveland.com, work: 669-1185, or home: 669-8095. Meet at 7:30 am. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the city of Fort Collins. All levels welcomed and encouraged!

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

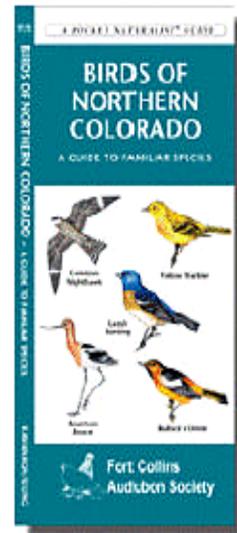
Jax Outdoor Gear
1200 N. College
(970) 221-0544

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

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

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

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





Fort Collins Audubon Society
 PO Box 271968
 Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968

Printed on recycled paper



NON PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 US Postage PAID
 Fort Collins, CO
 Permit Number 184

Membership Application

Join Fort Collins Audubon Society (FCAS), National Audubon Society (NAS), or both. Check all applicable::

- New or renewing FCAS Chapter Member** \$20
(Receive the *Ptarmigan* by email)
- New or Renewing FCAS Chapter Member** \$30
(Receive the *Ptarmigan* by postal mail)
- Additional Support for FCAS's Mission** \$_____
- New NAS Member** \$20
(Receive *Audubon* magazine by postal mail)
- Renewing NAS Member** \$35
(Receive *Audubon* magazine by postal mail)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Total Enclosed \$_____

Please make checks payable to FCAS and mail with this form to:
 Fort Collins Audubon Society, P.O. Box 271968, Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968
 Membership applications may be completed online at: www.fortnet.org/Audubon