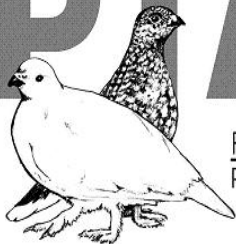


PTARMIGAN



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.

January 2012

Volume 43, Issue 1

Goshawks and Their Habitat **Presented by: Dr. Richard Reynolds**

Thursday Evening Program – January 12, 2012

Fort Collins Senior Center-Multi-Use Room

1200 Raintree Drive, Fort Collins

Social Gathering: 7 p.m. — Program: 7:30 p.m.

Researchers have observed that goshawks maintain a life-time fidelity to their territories. Dr. Richard Reynolds, Research Scientist for the USDA Forest Service and Adjunct Professor at Colorado State University, will present research results from years studying breeding goshawks on territories on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona. The main objective of Dr. Reynolds' studies is to determine the effects of forest management on goshawks, and to develop an understanding of the relationship between the habitat conditions on each territory and the long-



**Northern Goshawk by
Dr. Richard Reynolds.**

term demographic performance of goshawks on each territory.

Dr. Reynolds focuses his research studies on species that include Northern Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Flammulated Owl, Northern-spotted Owl, and Mexican-spotted Owl.

Join us at the Fort Collins Senior Center on Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. for this informative evening and learn more about the fascinating ecology of Goshawks.

Annual Membership Drive

It's January and that means that it is time to renew your FCAS membership. We'll be mailing out reminders in January for all those who are due, but you can help us out by renewing today.

Remember, your membership dues are tax deductible.

If you renewed between September and December last year, your membership is good through January 2013.

Please see the back of the newsletter for a renewal form or you can renew online at our Web site:

www.fortnet.org/Audubon.

Thank you for your support!

President's Corner

by Bill Miller

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air, and giving fresh strength to our people." -- *Theodore Roosevelt*

"Energy policy will be and should be driven by environmental policy in the future."
-- *Timothy Wirth, U.S. Senator, Feb. 20, 1991*

Our January program meeting is our annual meeting at which we hold elections of officers, directors, and when we announce appointed positions on the board of directors. The slate of candidates for 2012 is as follows:

Vice-Pres./Pres.-Elect:	Joann Thomas	Director-at-large:	Ron Harden
Secretary:	Scott Cobble	Director-at-large:	Hildy Morgan
Treasurer:	John Waddell	Director-at-large:	Paul Opler

There is no election for president as that position is in its second year.

The following appointed committee chairpersons (not subject to a vote) have been identified:

Conservation:	Bill Miller	Programs:	Jessie Meschievitz
Education:	Joann Thomas	Publications:	Carol Jones
Field Trips:	Rich Roberts	Hospitality:	Pat Adams
Publicity:	Louise Parker	Birdathon:	Bill Miller
Finance:	Heman Adams	Scholarship:	Lisa Evans
Membership:	Liz Pruessner	Web site:	Joel Hurmence

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Bylaws Revisions Pending

Due to recent changes with National Audubon Society-only memberships, we need to make some changes to our bylaws. In addition to addressing issues regarding chapter membership there are also some other house-keeping items that need to be addressed. The proposed changes will appear in the February newsletter and will be voted upon at the March meeting.

FCAS Welcomes

New and Renewing Members

Jane Hawk

Larry Lechner

Thank you for your membership. Your support makes our programs and conservation efforts possible and helps us connect people to the natural world.



"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."

-- Gaylord Nelson, former governor of Wisconsin, founder of Earth Day

"When it really comes down to it, would you really choose economics over environment? Where will you be when there is no clean air or water? Screw economics for the moment. I want to live."

-- Clara Price

Climate Change—It's Worse Than We Thought

Note: This is the first part of a four-part series on global climate change.

An article that appeared Oct. 18, 2011, on the AlterNet list was titled, "Evidence Builds That Scientists Underplay Climate Impacts."¹ That article went on to detail how climate scientists,



far from being alarmist with their predictions, have actually been more conservative than actual observed climate-induced impacts.

Their warnings don't bode well: 188 predictions showing climate-induced changes would put seven percent of all animal and plant species at risk of extinction. Such predictions have been rebuked by critics as being alarmist and dismissed as using inflated descriptions of doom and gloom. But, as the impacts of change become more apparent, many predictions are found to be understated. Reality is proving to be far worse than expected by most scientists.

Naomi Oreskes, a science historian with the University of California, San Diego, said, "We're seeing mounting evidence now that the scientific community, rather than overstating the claim or being alarmist, is the opposite. Scientists have been quite conservative.... in a lot of important and different areas."

Indicators that climate change is moving faster than early predictions indicated include:

- The Arctic Ocean will be ice free in 25 years, rather than by 2100.²
- Plants and animals are moving to higher elevations twice as fast as predicted and migrat-



ing north three times faster than predicted, in response to rising temperatures.³

- The real-world rates of extinction (15 percent) are more than double what the best computer modeling showed (7 percent).⁴

Implications of global climate change include:

- Rises in sea level that will doom certain island nations and force the abandonment of many cities around the world situated at sea level.

- Acidification of the world's oceans that would lead to collapse of the world's fisheries.

Any animal that currently produces a calcareous shell will not survive because the acid waters would dissolve the shell faster than it can be generated. Since many of these creatures are at the bottom of the food chain, the fish and other marine animals higher up in the food chain would also disappear.



- Deserts will increase in size.
- Fresh water will become increasingly scarce.
- Wild fires will become more common.
- Severe weather (hurricanes, tornadoes, erratic rainfall patterns, severe winter conditions, flooding, drought, etc.) will become more commonplace.
- Food shortages on a global level will occur.
- Wars over vital natural resources will become more common.

Things are not looking good. The climate change nay-sayers have delayed meaningful action for so long that it may be impossible to avert a catastrophic rise in global temperatures, even if we

(Climate Change continued on Page 4)



Exceptional Opportunities in 2012

Beginner, intermediate, or advanced—doesn't matter which one you consider yourself, FCAS continues to offer a slate of educational field trips that have something for everyone.

Five new programs this year are sure to contribute to our enjoyment of Colorado birds. Nick Komar, FCAS member, has put together a series of unique field trips that will thrill the beginner, advance the intermediate, and enhance the advanced. He is organizing five one-day a month field trips from March to July to observe birds and nature. These exciting opportunities begin on the prairie in March and end in the high mountain parks in July, encompassing five Colorado ecosystems.

Each trip will be limited to six participants along with a driver and a noted Colorado field guide. The fee for each trip will be \$75 for FCAS members and \$100 for non-members, which seems very reasonable considering the expertise of the guides, access to special sites, and the cost of gasoline. Members who sign up for all five outings will receive a discounted basic fee of \$65 per outing, or \$325 total. And, Nick will rebate part

of each outing's fees back to Audubon!

Every birder has a list of their peak birding experiences. One of mine is a day spent birding with Nick as the result of a winning bid at the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program silent auction.

I had more life birds on that trip than on any other. I still remember our discovery of a family of three Greater Sandhill Cranes. According to Nick, this was proof of nesting in Weld County. For a novice like me, that was an exciting find—to be present for such a discovery truly made my day.



Sandhill Cranes by Bill Miller.

Each one of the five field trips will be an exceptional education experience. A description of each month's ecosystem and the name of the noted guide will be published in the newsletter for that month. However, you might want to make your reservations in advance since space is limited. As of the December FCAS meeting, two people have already signed on for this once in a lifetime opportunity. Give me a call at 970-482-7125 or e-mail me at jthomas91@aol.com if you are interested in this unique opportunity. Looking forward to joining you on this adventure!

(Climate Change continued from page 3)

were to, somehow and miraculously, cease all emissions of greenhouse gases.

Meanwhile, take the following climate change quiz: http://www.gotsci.org/?s_src=pulse

Also, please watch and listen to the video of the young woman who recently made an appeal to the assembled delegates attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa: <http://www.commondreams.org/video/2011/12/09-0>

References:

¹http://www.alternet.org/story/152777/worse_than_we_thought%3A_evidence_builds_that_scientists_underplay_climate_impacts?akid=7740.42976.KMjth5&rd=1&t=8

²<http://nsidc.org/icelights/2011/06/16/summer-predictions-for-arctic-sea-ice/>

³<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/333/6045/1024.abstract?sid=d8bc325c-cde6-4e97-b9b7-5242eb030d86>

⁴<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2011/07/06/1017352108.abstract>



Guatemala Highlands Excursion — March 10-18, 2012

This spring, join fellow Auduboners in experiencing the mystique of Guatemala's volcanoes and cloud forests, home of the Resplendent Quetzal. Quetzal Tours is offering an eight-day relaxed-pace birding and nature photography adventure to the Guatemalan highlands, led by Guatemala's premier birding guides, Knut Eisermann and Claudia Avendaño. Not only will this be a unique experience at a low price (just \$1,999 per person), but the event also serves as a fundraiser for FCAS, as a portion of the proceeds will be donated to our local chapter. Visit locations such as Los Tarrales Reserve, Lake Atitlán, Biotope del Quetzal, and Chelemhá Cloud Forest.

In addition to the quetzal, you can expect to see five species of motmots, and hundreds of other species in the land of the Mayan indigenous peoples. The tour is limited to six people who will travel in two 4WD vehicles. An add-on birding excursion to Tikal National Park can be arranged for those who can stay longer. For more information, contact Quetzal Tours owner, Nick Komar, at info@quetzal-tours.com, or 970-449-3645.



Resplendent Quetzal, copyright Knut Eisermann.

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 Mercantile
950 E. Eisenhower, Loveland
(970) 776-4540

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

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



Upcoming Field Trips

Jan. 8, Sunday, Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey. Leader: Denise Bretting, dbretting@swloveland.com, work: 970-669-1185, home: 970-669-8095. Call for any change. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the city of Fort Collins. All levels welcome.

Jan 14, Saturday, and Jan. 29, Sunday, Bald Eagle Viewing at Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Open Space. Leader: Rich Roberts, rcroberts617@gmail.com, 970-407-8524. Lead by master naturalists. Meet at the outdoor classroom at 9 a.m. on Jan. 14, Saturday, and 3 p.m. on Jan. 29, Sunday, at the parking lot. Wear warm clothing and boots, bring spotting scopes, binoculars, and telephoto cameras.

FCAS welcomes new National Audubon Society members by sending complementary copies of our newsletter for one month. National dues do not cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, so if you'd like to keep receiving the *Ptarmigan* after the complementary issue, please join FCAS. See the details on the last page of the newsletter or on our Web site at www.fortnet.org/Audubon.





Fort Collins Audubon Society
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Membership Application

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

Name: _____

☐ **New or renewing FCAS Chapter Member** \$20
(Receive *Ptarmigan* by email)

Address: _____

☐ **New or renewing FCAS Chapter Member** \$30
(Receive *Ptarmigan* by mail)

City: _____ State: _____

☐ **Lifetime Chapter Member** \$750
Receive *Ptarmigan* by email _____
Or receive *Ptarmigan* by mail _____

Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

☐ **Additional Support for FCAS's Mission** \$_____

☐ **New NAS Member** \$20
(Receive *Audubon* magazine by mail)

Email: _____

☐ **Renewing NAS Member** \$35
(Receive *Audubon* magazine by mail)

Total Enclosed \$_____

Please make your tax exempt 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