

PTARMIGAN



FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 271968·Fort Collins,CO-80527-1968·www.fortcollinsaudubon.org

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


October 2015

Volume 46, Issue 7

FCAS Presents: "Gulf Crossing"

Thursday, Oct 8—Social Time: 7 p.m.; Program: 7:30 p.m.

Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr

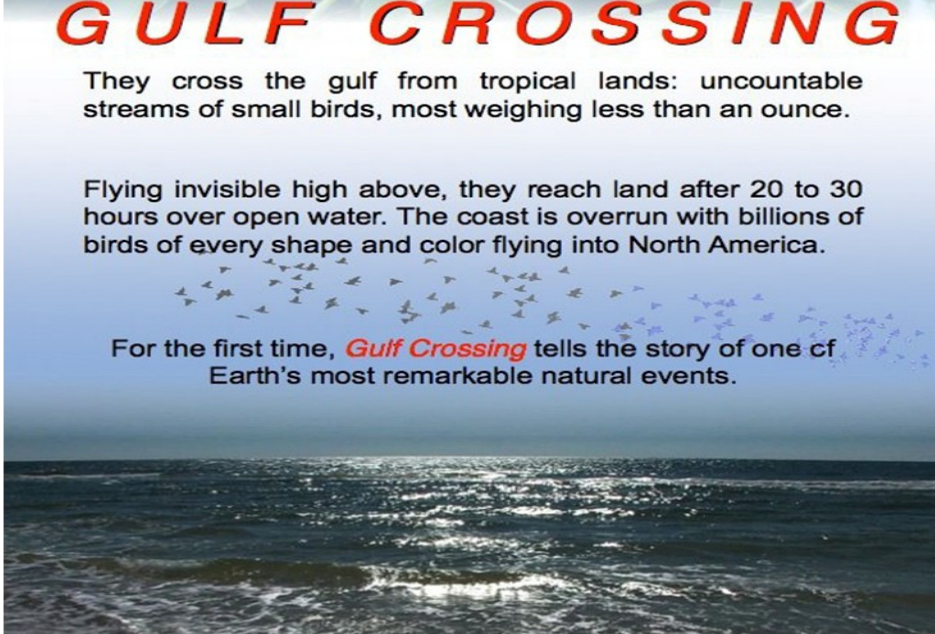


GULF CROSSING

They cross the gulf from tropical lands: uncountable streams of small birds, most weighing less than an ounce.

Flying invisible high above, they reach land after 20 to 30 hours over open water. The coast is overrun with billions of birds of every shape and color flying into North America.

For the first time, *Gulf Crossing* tells the story of one of Earth's most remarkable natural events.



President's Corner

by John Shenot

Like most presidents, I'm kind of obsessed with thinking about my legacy. I often lie awake at night wondering how I will be remembered, whether they will build a cool library in my name, and whether I will make historian's lists of "Top 10 FCAS Presidents." Okay, seriously, I don't think about my legacy, but I do occasionally think about our collective legacy. What legacy is FCAS leaving to future generations? Aside from the social benefits that FCAS offers, what are we doing to make this a better place to live, work, learn, and play?

I moved to Fort Collins from Madison, Wisconsin. One of the absolute best things about the Madison Audubon Society is the fact that it partnered with other organizations to create Faville Grove Sanctuary and Goose Pond Sanctuary. I simply loved visiting those sanctuaries. Aside from offering fantastic opportunities for local birding, both properties (totaling about 1,000 acres) are set up to conserve and protect land in a fast-growing region. That's a fantastic legacy right there, and Madison Audubon is hardly unique. Other Audubon chapters also own and



manage land, or help in the purchase and preservation of land owned by other organizations. Some chapters have visitor centers, while others simply sponsor shelters, benches, or bird blinds and don't get involved in land or building ownership.

I've been thinking that it would be great if FCAS could pull together on a project that would leave a tangible legacy on Larimer County. It could be something big or something really small. This is the brainstorming stage. I'm looking for feedback, ideas, and suggestions for possible partners. At a later date we can start to think about what's realistic, what it would cost, how we could pay for it, and how to get started. Please share your thoughts and suggestions about this idea by sending me an email at johnshenot@gmail.com.



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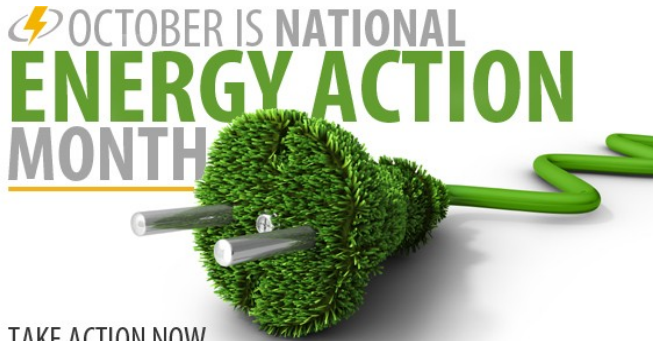
FCAS Pocket Guide to Local Birds
 Is available at the following retailers who support our organization with the sales:

Wild Birds Unlimited 3636 S. College Ave Ste. C (970) 225-2557	Jax Mercantile 950 E. Eisenhower Loveland (970) 776-4540	
Jax Outdoor Gear 1200 N. College (970) 221-0544	Jax Farm & Ranch 1000 N. Hwy. 287 (970) 481-2221	



October is Energy Awareness Month

October is Energy Awareness Month, a national initiative to raise awareness about the importance of sustainably managing the nation's re-



TAKE ACTION NOW & EMPOWER A SECURE ENERGY FUTURE!

Graphic from www.feslighting.com

sources. Sustainable resource management can help ensure that the use of resources doesn't create an imbalance in the environment, preserving it and precious resources for future generations. Everyone needs to do their part, and by becoming more energy aware, we can help conserve resources and the environment while enjoying savings on our energy bills.

Here in Colorado, October signals cooler days and nights, and with those changes come increasing energy costs. By following some simple steps at home and work, you can help ward off higher energy costs and save yourself from bills that might otherwise send you screaming with fright!

Recycling is a great way to reduce the need for using additional resources. Use bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard, which can be recycled. Reuse plastics and oil-based products.

Consider signing up for "green power" (solar, wind, or hydro-generated electricity). Last year, Fort Collins Utilities generated approximately 26 percent of its energy from solar, wind, and hydro power. By the summer of 2016, the Platte River Power Authority will complete and begin operating a new 22-megawatt solar energy facility at the Rawhide Energy Station. The facility will produce enough electricity to power 7,000 homes in northern Colorado (*Coloradoan* 3/30/15). For information about where to pur-

chase green power in your area, check out the Department of Energy's website at https://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/buying/buying_power.shtml.

Walk, bicycle, or use public transportation whenever feasible to help reduce demand for fossil fuels. If you're shopping for a new vehicle, make sure it's fuel efficient. Maintain older vehicles to ensure they're running at peak performance.

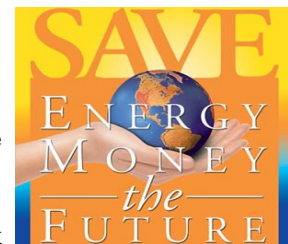
Swap out incandescent lights for energy-efficient bulbs such as LEDs, and turn lights off when leaving rooms. Turn off computers and unplug smaller appliances when not in use. When going away for an extended period, unplug televisions and other electronics. Use smart power strips

to ward off energy vampires and purchase energy-efficient (ENERGY STAR) appliances and electronics when replacing older models.

Make sure heating units are in good working order, and be sure to change filters regularly. Clogged filters block air flow, making systems work harder, resulting in more energy expended. During colder months, heating a home can account for almost 50 percent of an energy bill. Air leaks and improper insulation can be a major source of heat loss. Reduce energy use (and costs) by conducting an energy audit around your home and office. Fix air leaks around windows, doors, electrical outlets, and increase insulation. Doing so can save more than 20 percent on utility bills. Consider a programmable thermostat, which can turn down the temperature while you're away at work or sleeping, resulting in less energy used and more money saved.

Install low-flow water features in your home. Fix leaks and take shorter showers. Run dishwashers and clothes washers only when full.

This October celebrate Energy Awareness Month by adopting new habits which achieve life-long energy savings!



Apply to be a HABITAT HERO

Receive recognition for your yard that supports wildlife

If you try to landscape (or wildscape) to attract and benefit birds, pollinators and other wildlife,

then you could be a Habitat Hero! A Habitat Hero wildscape supports wildlife by including diverse layers, providing shelter and nesting opportunities for wildlife, providing natural food (based in plants that provide food for wildlife in different seasons, especially those native to your area), offers water for drinking and bathing, are water-wise, energy-saving, and does not rely on regular use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and do not spread invasive species. No wildscape is too small or large.

To apply go to <http://habhero.org/apply/> and



A residential Habitat Hero garden from Audubon Rockies.

download the brief application. If you apply before Oct. 15, you will entered into a contest that

will feature the winning garden in High Country Gardens 2016 Spring catalog.

As a Habitat Hero, you also will receive a beautiful sign to display in your yard, a gift card to High Country Gardens and a Colorado Wildscapes book, bragging rights in your neighborhood, and knowing you are helping stitch our fragmented landscapes back to-

gether, one wildscape at a time.

Send questions and/or completed applications to Habitat Heroes Coordinator, Jamie Weiss at audubon.habitathero@gmail.com by Oct. 15.

Infrared Shows Bird Stress

FCAS members probably already know that human activity stresses birds. Now there is infrared proof that it is so.

Writer Karen B. Angel wrote in the September/October issue of *Sierra* that Glasgow University doctoral candidate, Paul Jerem, has developed a way to take images of birds with a thermal camera while they are gathered around a feeder. Prior to Angel's discovery, researches depended upon capturing wild animals and sampling their blood for glucocorticoid hormones to determine whether or not they were under stress.

This ability to measure stress without increasing the trauma by the old methods of capturing and sampling blood may prove important in understanding birds' response to noises, nearby human activity, habitat disturbances, and other types of stressors, leading to the underlying goal of Jerem's research—to determine whether human activity is affecting the ecology of the birds he is studying.



FCAS welcomes new National Audubon Society members by sending one copy of our newsletter. Please join us at our monthly programs on the second Thursday of the month to find out more about FCAS. National dues do not cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, so to keep receiving the *Ptarmigan*, please support your local chapter and subscribe. See the details on the last page of the newsletter or on our website at www.fortcollinsaudubon.org.



Proposed FCAS Chapter Bylaws Change

By Bill Miller

As announced in the September *Ptarmigan*, the FCAS Board of Directors is proposing a minor change to the chapter's bylaws. Currently the bylaws define a board of director's quorum to be six persons, of whom two must be elected officers and must include either the president or vice-president.

Over the last decade or so our board has shrunk to nine or 10 members. On at least two occasions we have not met the quorum requirements necessary to officially conduct business. While minutes are taken at such meetings, nothing is resolved. This not only means a delay in dealing with issues, but it also results in a packed agenda at the next board meeting.

At the October program meeting those members present will be asked to approve a bylaws change that would revise the board meeting quorum requirements to be five persons, of whom two must be elected officers and must include either the president or vice-president.

Please plan on attending the October program meeting so that you can cast your vote on this important bylaws change.



FCAS Wants You!

Included in the masthead of our newsletter is our mission statement: "Promoting the appreciation, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife through education, participation, stewardship, and advocacy." A lot of work has gone on over the years to produce and refine this mission statement so that it points to who we are. It is through participation that our chapter grows stronger, and we urge all our members to consider volunteering in any and all capacities. Volunteering as a board member or a committee chair offers the opportunity to promote the appreciation, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems. Please contact one of the current board members (listed on Page 2) to learn more about participation.



Upcoming Field Trips

All field trips are free of charge (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public. All experience levels are welcome. Bring snacks or lunch, water, binoculars, and spotting scopes. Visit www.fortnet.org/Audubon for more information and updates. RSVP is recommended.

Oct. 10, Saturday, Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area. Leader: Sirena Brownlee, warblerak@yahoo.com, 970-980-6184. Join Sirena Brownlee at Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural



American Wigeon drake by Nick Komar.

Area to look for migrating waterfowl and wading birds, migrating shorebirds, gulls and terns, and more. Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area is designated an "Important Bird Area" by the National Audubon Society. Meet at 9 a.m. at Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area.

Oct. 11, Sunday, Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey. Leader: Denise Bretting, dbretting@swloveland.com, work: 970-669-1185, home: 970-669-8095. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the city of Fort Collins. All levels are welcome. Meet at 7 a.m. in the parking lot. Call for any change.

Future Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Surveys: See description and contact details above for this recurring, monthly survey. Dates and times for future surveys: Nov. 8, Sunday, 7:30 a.m.; and Dec. 13, Sunday, 8 a.m.



Fort Collins Audubon Society
PO Box 271968
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Membership Application

Join Fort Collins Audubon Society (FCAS), National Audubon Society (NSA), or both.

- New or renewing FCAS Chapter Member \$ 20 Name: _____
Receive the FCAS *Ptarmigan* by email
- New or renewing FCAS Chapter Member \$ 30 Address: _____
Receive the FCAS *Ptarmigan* by mail
- Lifetime FCAS Chapter Member \$750 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Receive FCAS *Ptarmigan* by mail or email
- Additional support for FCAS programs \$ ___ Phone: _____
- Additional support for Alex Cringan Fund \$ ___ Email: _____
(natural history education grants)
- New NAS member \$ 20 May we send you FCAS email alerts if updates occur for field
Receive the NAS *Audubon* by mail trips, programs, etc.? Yes or No
- Renewing NAS member \$ 35 May we contact you for volunteer activities such as helping at
Receive the NAS *Audubon* by mail events or contacting legislators on important issues? Yes or No

Total Enclosed: \$ ___

Please make your tax-exempt check payable to FCAS and mail with this form to FCAS,
P.O. Box 271968, Fort Collins, CO, 80527-1968. Your cancelled check is your receipt. All renewals are due in
January. New memberships begun after August 31 extend throughout the following year. Applications can be
completed at www.fortcollinsaudubon.org.