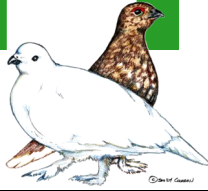


PTARMIGAN



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.

April 2016

Volume 47, Issue 4

FCAS Hosts:

Stephen Jones, Author

Presenting: "Sandhills Serenade"

Thursday, April 14

Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr

Social Time: 7 pm; Program 7:30 p.m.

For over six years, Stephen Jones spent close to 100 nights camping out in the Nebraska Sandhills while recording the voices of migrating cranes, dancing prairie-chickens, warbling ovenbirds, redstarts, rumbling thunderstorms, and nesting owls. His multimedia presentation matches vi-

brant images of the Sandhills through the seasons with these natural sounds.

Steve Jones is author of "The Last Prairie, a Sandhills Journal," and co-author of "The Shortgrass Prairie," the "Peterson Field Guide to the North American Prairie," "Colorado Nature Almanac," "Wild Boulder County," and "Butterflies of the Colorado Front Range." Steve organized the first comprehensive small owl and wintering



Launch of Sandhill Cranes by Steve Jones.

raptor surveys in Boulder County and helped plan and carry out the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas. His 25 years of consulting work includes more than two-dozen breeding bird and resource inventories for city, county, and state open space programs. He taught in the

Boulder Valley Public Schools for 33 years.

Signed copies of his new CD, "Sandhills Serenade," and his book, "The Last Prairie," will be available for purchase after the presentation.

Join us on April 14 at the Fort Collins Senior Center for "Sandhills Serenade." This program is free and the public is welcome!



President's Corner

by John Shenot

I've mentioned before that one of our top priorities for 2016 is to boost our fundraising efforts. The Board of Directors took two big steps toward that goal in March.

First, we decided to hold a Bird-a-thon this May. In past years, the Bird-a-thon was our chapter's most reliable fundraiser, but several years ago it seemed that interest was lagging and we decided to take a break. We're betting that now, after a few years off, many of our members will once again be eager to participate in this fun event or support their friends' teams. More details on the Bird-a-thon can be found below. If you want to help organize this event, contact me by email, johnshenot@gmail.com.

The second big step taken by the Board was our decision to create an ad hoc Fundraising Committee. The purpose of this committee will be to suggest fundraising ideas to the Board, and to help the Board implement approved fundraisers. We are seeking volunteers now for this committee. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact me by email. Committee members will be welcome to attend all Board meetings, but their attendance will not be obligatory. The Board will evaluate sometime in the future whether to create a standing Fundraising (or Development) Committee.



FCAS Bird-A-Thon Returns!

by Bill Miller and John Shenot

After a four-year hiatus, the Bird-a-thon is back. For those of you not familiar with the Bird-a-thon, it is a fundraiser for the chapter. Teams of two to four people are formed, which then attempt to observe as many species of birds as they can in Colorado in a 24-hour period. The 2016 Bird-a-thon main event will take place on Satur-



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www.fortcollinsaudubon.org

Visit us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/FortCollinsAudubonSociety>

day, May 14 as announced at the March program meeting. All teams are strongly encouraged to count that day. However, to maximize participation, we will extend some flexibility to teams that cannot participate that day and allow them to count in any 24-hour period between Friday, May 13 and Sunday, May 22.

The fundraising occurs in two ways. FCAS will circulate sign-up sheets at our March through May program meetings and on our website, asking people to serve on a team or make a pledge to the Bird-a-thon. They may pledge in two ways: an amount per species or a fixed dollar amount. If they pledge an amount per species, the species number will be that of the team that reports the highest number of species. For example, if 10 cents/species was pledged and the high team count was 100 species, then the donor would pay \$10 to FCAS. The second way that pledges can be obtained is for team members to seek similar pledges from among their family, friends, and co-workers.



Earth Day 2016 – Join the Celebration!

Friday, April 22, is Earth Day. Help celebrate Earth Day this year by appreciating nature and adopting some new Earth-friendly practices.



Photo from lanl.gov

Protecting and conserving water is critical in Colorado, especially here on the water-poor Front Range. Conservation begins at home. Fix leaks, install water-saving fixtures, take shorter showers, run clothes and dishwashers only when full, and wash clothing in warm or cold water whenever possible. Teach children about water conservation through practical examples, such as doing laundry. Allow them to place the clothes in the washer and then watch as it fills with water, spins, and drains so they understand how much water it takes to do one load of laundry. Laundry accounts for more than 20 percent of an average household's indoor water consumption.

Become more aware of your habits. For example, see where you can cut down on shopping excursions to save fuel and lessen your carbon footprint. Arrange shopping trips to several stores on the same day and consider shopping for food



From <https://www.pinterest.com>

once a week rather than running out every day or every couple days. Turn off lights when leaving a room, and be sure to replace incandescent bulbs with Energy

Smart fixtures. When stepping away from the computer, put it in sleep mode, which uses half the energy of an active computer, and be sure to

turn off computers at night when not in use.

Appreciate and celebrate Earth Day by planting a tree. Get into gardening and grow your own vegetables. If you haven't already done so, hardy vegetables like peas, spinach, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and radishes can be planted now, and cool-season vegetables such as potatoes, beets, carrots, Swiss chard, parsnips and cauliflower can be planted in late April. When landscaping, use native plants to help conserve water as well as to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. Start a compost bin.

Simply dig your hands into the soil and feel your connection with the Earth.

Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Effective waste management is crucial in protecting

and preserving the environment. Reduce by buying and using less stuff. Learn to pre-cycle by purchasing items in packaging that's easily recycled. Keep cloth shopping bags in the car for easy use. Reuse items by repurposing them if possible or give them away to others who can use them.

One person's trash is another's treasure. Recycle! Take a walk through your neighborhood or local natural area and appreciate all the elements of nature around you. How about a picnic? Pick a spot within walking or bicycling distance, and be sure to compost your trash. Learn to observe: notice all the trees, plants, birds, animals, and insects that share space with you. Volunteer to help clean up a local park.

There are many ways to make a difference while fostering the idea to make every day Earth Day. Small actions matter, and add up to make a big difference in the world!



Photo from freepik.com



Prowling for Bird Art in Pueblo

In February, an intriguing post on the Colorado Field Ornithologists (<http://cobirds.org/>) email list caught my eye regarding the exhibition of a selection of native Coloradan artist Radeaux's illustrations for the soon to be published Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II. The venue was the delightful Sangre de Cristo Art Center in downtown Pueblo. The show dates began January 16 and go through April 10.

The Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas contains the



Dusky Grouse
copyright Radeaux

results of field work by many "atlasers" who gather data on Colorado's breeding birds. Radeaux completed 275 illustrations for Atlas II in just over a year. The exhibition featured 75 watercolors on Aquarelle Arches 140-pound hot-pressed (having a smooth sur-

face) paper painted for Atlas II, six of the over 300 black on white pen and ink drawings on Bristol paper completed for Atlas I, a color front and back book cover illustration for the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas I published in 1998, and a color front and back book cover illustration for the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II, which will be published in 2016. Atlas II was initiated in 2007 and will update the original Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, which was initiated in 1987. Atlas II collected data on the distribution, abundance, habitat use, and breeding phenology

of birds breeding in Colorado, and will compare recent data to data collected for Atlas I. The website, <http://www.cobreedingbirdatlasii.org>, has information regarding Atlas II, including a link to various Colorado Bird Atlas Quarterly Newsletters and a link to download Atlas I.

A major difference between Atlas I and Atlas II is that Atlas I's illustrations are black on white paper pen and ink illustrations by Radeaux, while Atlas II features Radeaux's color paintings. An

exhibition placard noted that technology and lower printing costs have made color illustrations feasible; however, many U.S. Atlas editors now choose to use digital photos of birds instead. I heartily regret that choice because skilled illustrators, such as Radeaux, can clarify and consolidate much visual information, such as type of nests, preferred food source, and can differentiation between male and female size and plumage in a single elegantly-composed image.

Radeaux is an enthusiastic birder who has participated in many seasonal bird surveys. His avian illustrations are an inspiration for viewers who enjoy birds indoors via his illustrations to venture outside to observe the birds in nature. Radeaux also creates richly colored paintings that highlight birds, animals, and patterns found in nature. You can view his artworks at the John Deaux Art Gallery, 221 S. Union Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado, or online at www.johndeauxartgallery.com.



Crossbills
copyright Radeaux



Upcoming Field Trips

Field trips are free (unless noted) and open to the public. All experience levels are welcome. Bring snacks or lunch, water, binoculars, and spotting scopes. See www.fortcollinsaudubon.org for more information.

April 10, 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.

April 30, Saturday, North Shields Pond Natural Area. Leader: John Shenot, 802-595-1669 or johnshenot@gmail.com. Restoration work and habitat improvements made since the disastrous floods of September 2013 have turned this natural area into a local birding hotspot. Meet at the parking area at 7 a.m. Additional public parking, if needed, is available just north of the Poudre River bridge on the west side of Shields.

Future Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Surveys: See description and contact details above for this recurring, monthly survey. Dates and times for future surveys are: May 7, Saturday, 6:30 a.m., and June 12, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.

June 19, Sunday, Pawnee National Grasslands. Leader: Bill Miller, 5mcorp@comcast.net, 970-493-7693. This field trip will leave Fort Collins at 6 a.m. Contact Bill for details. The grasslands, 35 miles east of Fort Collins, are a world-class birding area. Join Bill for a special day in search of Burrowing Owls, Mountain Plovers, McCown's Longspurs, and Ferruginous Hawks. Carpooling is necessary. Please contribute \$3/person to your driver for fuel.

FCAS welcomes new National Audubon Society members by sending one complimentary copy of our newsletter. We invite you to 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 the newsletter, so to keep receiving the *Ptarmigan*, please subscribe to the newsletter. See the details on the last page of the newsletter or on our website at www.fortcollinsaudubon.org.



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BioBlitz—June 10-12

BioBlitz is a 24-hour event in which teams of scientists, teachers, volunteers, environmental educators, and community members join forces to find, identify, and learn about as many local plant, insect, and animal species as possible.

Join us at Belvoir Ranch, located 15 miles west



of Cheyenne, June 10-12, for Audubon Rockies 7th annual BioBlitz in partnership with University of Wyoming Biodiversity Institute and The Nature Conservancy. Belvoir Ranch consists of several thousand acres and is a rich mosaic of ecologies, from rolling prairie to several water features to a spectacular red rock canyon supporting antelope, deer, small mammals, and varied bird species, including Golden E

Upcoming Field Trips

All field trips are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public. All experience levels are welcome. Bring snacks or lunch, water, binoculars, and spotting scopes. Visit www.fortcollinsaudubon.org for more information and updates. RSVP is recommended. In addition to beautiful landscapes rich with biodiversity there is a lot of pioneer history, including archaeological remnants of homesteads, quarries, and a missile plant.

FCAS Welcomes New and Renewing Members

Dodi & Bob Adel	David E. Hartley
Julie Barraza	Debi MCGuinn
Robert Blinderman	Brian & Marlene
Erica Cirigliano	Myres
Kristy Clark	David Otis
Willard Flowers	Sheila Webber

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

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



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Membership Application

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

- | | | |
|--|---------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New or renewing FCAS Chapter Member
Receive the FCAS <i>Ptarmigan</i> by email | \$ 20 | Name: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New or renewing FCAS Chapter Member
Receive the FCAS <i>Ptarmigan</i> by mail | \$ 30 | Address: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime FCAS Chapter Member
Receive FCAS <i>Ptarmigan</i> by mail or email | \$750 | City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional support for FCAS programs | \$ ____ | Phone: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional support for Alex Cringan Fund
(natural history education grants) | \$ ____ | Email: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New NAS member
Receive the NAS <i>Audubon</i> by mail | \$ 20 | May we send you FCAS email alerts if updates occur for field trips, programs, etc.? Yes or No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing NAS member
Receive the NAS <i>Audubon</i> by mail | \$ 35 | May we contact you for volunteer activities such as helping at 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.