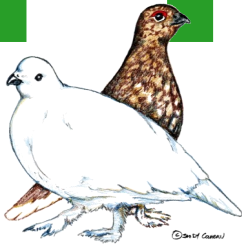


PTARMIGAN



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.

December 2016

Volume 47, Issue 9

FCAS December Potluck and Member Slideshow

Thursday, Dec. 8

Potluck Buffet begins at 6:30 p.m.

Slides follow at approximately 7:15

Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive

Presented by: YOU, the members
(and guests invited too)

This is your opportunity to receive the applause! Our December program will be presented by those of YOU, our members and guests, who wish to share wildlife photos from your own photography collections in a slide show (please limit your slide presentation to 10 minutes). A laptop, digital projector, screen, and sound system will be provided. You bring your photos.

For the potluck, FCAS will provide coffee, tea, and water. Those attending, please bring a dish to pass



White-tailed Ptarmigan by Ron Harden.

(that will serve 6-8), your own place setting, and serving and eating utensils.

We also will hold a drawing for the home-constructed bluebird house we have been using as a donation box (minus the donations!). Enter your name at the reception table.

Join us for this very special program meeting on Thursday, Dec. 8 at the Fort Collins Senior

Center. Potluck buffet begins at 6:30. And as always, guests are welcome!

FCAS welcomes new National Audubon Society members

by sending one complimentary copy of our newsletter. Join us at our monthly programs on the second Thursday of the month. National dues do not cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, so if you'd like to keep receiving the *Ptarmigan*, please support your local chapter and subscribe. See details on Page 6 or on our website at www.fortcollinsaudubon.org.



President's Corner

By John Shenot

This will probably come as a shock to most of you, but I've learned that a few of our members have never read the FCAS constitution and by-laws. (I know—shocking, right?) If they had read them, they would know that our chapter has nine standing committees: Conservation, Membership, Education, Finance, Program, Field Trip, Publications, Public Relations, and Hospitality. For as long as I've been on the FCAS Board (about four years), we've had chairpersons for most of these committees, but few or no actual committee members. I'm hoping we can change that in the months and years ahead.

Many of you have expressed an interest in volunteering your time to support FCAS. We occasionally tap volunteers for specific needs that arise, but I don't think we've made the most of your willingness to contribute. I want to use this month's President's Corner to invite people to sit on one of our standing committees. It won't require a lot of effort, or time, but it will give you a say in what the chapter does and what we have to offer our members. Want to organize a couple of outings each year? Join the Field Trip committee! Want to help with fundraising? Join the Finance committee! Know of some fascinating local researchers or naturalists who give great presentations? Join the Program committee! You get the idea. We would greatly appreciate this kind of help and hope you will consider joining a committee in 2017. If interested, contact me at johnshenot@gmail.com.



Volunteer for one of FCAS's standing committees!
Graphic by Southern Alameda County Dental Society.

Slate of Candidates for 2017 FCAS Board

The nominating committee for FCAS is identifying candidates for officers and directors for the 2017 Board. All of our existing board members have submitted their names for the next year's slate of candidates and there is still plenty of time for other chapter members to throw their hats into the ring!

Becoming a director-at-large is a great way to learn more about chapter activities and the roles of the various board positions. Directors can train to assume an officer position while serving on the board or assist with one of the committees. Please contact the nominating committee if you are interested in serving on the board in 2017: Liz Pruessner, fortcollinsadubonmembership@gmail.com; Jessie Meschievitz, jmesch@slbbi.com; Lynne Hull, lynne.hull@eco-art.org.

The 2017 slate of candidates, officers, and directors are: President, John Shenot; VicePresident, Liz Pruessner; President-Elect, *vacant*; Secretary, Scott Cobble; Treasurer, John Waddell; Directors, Alan Godwin, Ron Harden, Bill Miller, Hildy Morgan, Harry Rose, and one *vacant*.

Committee chairs include: Conservation, Barb Adams; Education, *vacant*; Membership, Liz Pruessner; Field Trip, John Shenot; Finance, John Waddell; Hospitality, Hildy Morgan; Program and Public Relations, Jessie Meschievitz; and Outreach, Lynne Hull.

FCAS CONTACTS

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For other FCAS contacts visit

www.fortcollinsaudubon.org

Visit us on Facebook:

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

FCAS Pocket Guide to Local Birds

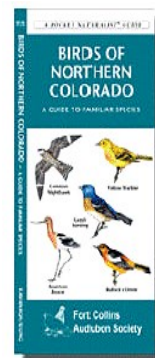
Is available at the following retailers who support our organization with the sales:

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



The following article is derived from the binder of early *Ptarmigan* newsletters that were archived at the Morgan Library on the CSU campus. For a look at some of the chapter's early history, the following is a summary:

Vol. 1, No. 10, October 1970, David W. Lupton, Editor:

"The Lark Bunting—Colorado's state bird—was the topic of Phillip Creighton's slide talk at the September 22 meeting of the Fort Collins Bird Club held in the Friendship Room of the Fort Collins Federal Savings and Loan Association. The excellent presentation was attended by over 30 people. Phil is a graduate student in CSU's Zoology Department where he is studying the feeding ecology of grassland birds on the Pawnee National Grasslands."

In the "Welcome To New Members" portion of the newsletter were the names of two people who instruct-



Lark Bunting
by Bill Miller.

ed in CSU's College of Natural Resources, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Biology: Dr. Alex Cringan and Dr. Dale Hein.

Also included: "The Denver Audubon Society is putting on a regular half-hour show, 'Environmental Hotline,' every two weeks on Denver's Education TV Channel 6. Included are discussions of environmental problems, announcements, reports of local accomplishments, guests representing various viewpoints, book reviews, and photographic editorials. The Denver Society believes it's the first of its kind, and hopes—if finances permit—to make it a weekly program."

The remainder of the newsletter was devoted to a report by Ronald A. Ryder on bird observations in the Fort Collins area between June 1 and August 15, 1970.

Nicaragua Birding: March 2017

Join Quetzal Tours on a birding adventure in Nicaragua March 4–12, 2017. You will go from the montane cloud forest to the humid rain forest on the



Aulacorhynchus prasinus
Emerald Toucanet
by Liliana Chavarria.

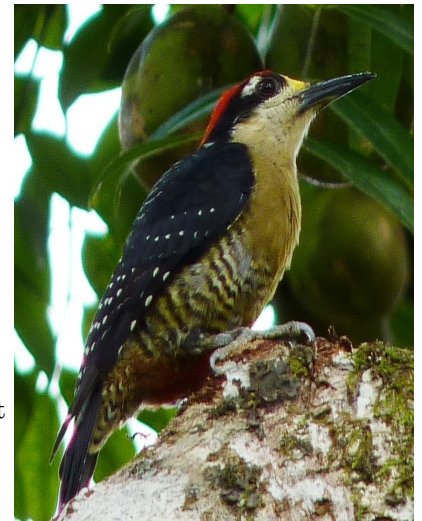
Atlantic slope to the dry tropical forests on the Pacific slope. Your guides for this trip are Georges Duriaux and Liliana Chavarria.

At Reserva El Jaguar, a private preserve in the montane cloud forest, common birds include Slaty-breasted Tinamou, Highland Guan, Barred

flycatchers galore, and a tremendous variety of passerine forest species.

The Montibelli Private Wildlife Reserve near Managua features dry tropical forest of the Pacific slope with 150 species of birds, including Turquoise-browed Motmot, Hoffman's Woodpecker, Lesser Ground-Cuckoo, Pacific Parakeet, and more.

A portion of the \$2,200 per person, double occupancy cost will benefit FCAS, and includes meals, transportation in country, and entrance fees to national parks. The tour is limited to eight people. Contact Nick Komar for more information: quetzal65@comcast.net; 970-449-3645.



Melanerpes Pucherani
By Liliana Chavarria.

Forest-Falcon, Green-breasted Mountain-Gem, Emerald-chinned Hummingbird, Emerald Toucanet, and many others.

The humid rainforests of the Atlantic slope are only accessible by boat, and visiting the region features numerous river tours, complete with Anhingas, kingfishers, herons,



Green-breasted Mountain-gem by Liliana Chavarria.



Bookending 2016

Visiting the Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) located near Walden, Colorado, was one of my resolutions for 2016. In November I took an exploratory journey knowing there would not be many viewings of the 208 bird species that nest or migrate and rest on

management and, where appropriate, restoration of fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of the present and future generations of Americans.”

That definition made me think back to January 2016, when the Malheur NWR (MNWR) became occupied for 41 days by armed activists whose original goal was to protest the imprisonment of two ranchers for setting arson fires that spread to federal land; a goal that soon morphed into a takeover and occupation of the MNWR headquarters. The militia felt they had the right to recover land they thought was “wrongfully taken” by the federal government. The militia damaged MNWR buildings and land, including digging a trench in Native American burial grounds. The October jury verdict rendering the seven defendants not guilty was stunning, especially as the headquarters/visitor center/museum remain closed. This lack of consequences could encourage future militia occupations of national parks, monuments, forests, and

wildlife refuges. Our task must be to emphasize how crucial these federal lands are for protection of wildlife and migratory corridors, and for everyone’s enjoyment.



Adolescent moose seen from Brocker Overlook in ANWR by Carole Hossan.

this very important stop along the edges of the Pacific and Central Flyways. Indeed, the only bird species seen were Black-billed Magpies and Mallards. However, during spring migration, which starts in April and peaks in late May, thousands of birds arrive at ANWR to breed and nest. Incidentally, ANWR is the second largest waterfowl nestling producer in Colorado. The fall migration in late September through early October is also spectacular. My mammal sightings were more productive: an adolescent Moose, several White-tailed Prairie Dogs, and a mounted Northern River Otter in the Visitor Center. Northern River Otters occasionally are seen along the lovely half mile Moose-Goose Nature Trail. I also drove the six-mile auto tour while enjoying the golden autumn colors in the riparian, wetlands, wet meadows, and sagebrush steppe uplands areas of ANWR.



Illinois River near Moose-Goose Nature Trail in ANWR by Carole Hossan.

The visit also induced me to research the definition of National Wildlife Refuge (NWR): NWRs are protected areas of public lands set aside to conserve fish, wildlife, and plants that are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. President Theodore Roosevelt, encouraged by the Florida Audubon Society, established Pelican Island as the first NWR in 1903. The NWR System Improvement Act of 1997 mandates the mission is “to administer a national network of lands and water for the conservation,



Sign Up for Local Christmas Bird Counts!

The 117th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place from December 14, 2016 to January 5, 2017. The CBC is the longest running citizen science survey in the world, and it provides critical data on bird population trends. Tens of thousands of participants know that it is also a great way to make new friends and have fun! Volunteers are assigned in teams to cover designated areas within a 15-mile diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day. This year, the Fort Collins CBC is scheduled for Saturday, December 17, and will be coordinated by Tom Hall (redbear44@msn.com). The Loveland count will be on Sunday, January 1, and coordinated by Nick Komar



(quetzal65@comcast.net) and Denise Bretting (dbretting@swloveland.com). And finally, the Rawhide Power Plant CBC will be organized by Doug Kibbe (dpkibbe@msn.com), but the date was not set in time for announcing it in this newsletter. Contact Tom, Nick, or Doug if you want to participate in these fun events. Advanced birding skills are not required; beginners can be paired with more experienced birders. Volunteers who live within a count circle that just wish to record what comes to their backyard feeders also are welcome to participate; they should contact the CBC coordinator for details.

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. Inquire with the FCAS field trip coordinator (John She-not) or the trip leader named below if you need to borrow binoculars. Please understand that changes to the dates, meeting times or locations, and trip leaders are occasionally unavoidable. Contact the listed trip leader prior to the day of the trip or visit fortcollinsaudubon.org for more information and updates. RSVP strongly encouraged.

Dec. 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 8 a.m. in the parking lot. Call for any change. The next survey will be Jan. 8, Sunday, 8 a.m.



The monthly bird census at Bobcat Ridge by Denise Bretting.

FCAS Annual Membership Renewal

In January we begin the 2017 annual membership renewal drive! FCAS chapter memberships run for the calendar year from January–December. You can take care of it right now by renewing online or via U.S. mail! Please use the form on the back page of the *Ptarmigan* to renew by mail or at a program meeting. You can also renew online at our website:

www.fortcollinsaudubon.org

Dues are \$20 to receive the *Ptarmigan* electronically or \$30 for a printed copy. Your membership and contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you for supporting our mission of conservation, education, stewardship, and habitat restoration, focusing on birds and other wildlife.

FCAS Welcomes New and Renewing Members

David Bohling	Diana Hoffman
Kimberly Bohling	Cheryl Orwig
Sean Caufield	Hank Thode
George Chimonas	Diana Wess

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



Printed on recycled paper

Membership Application

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