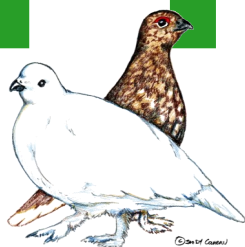


PTARMIGAN



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.

November 2017

Volume 48, Issue 8

FCAS Presents

Eric Bergman, Wildlife Research, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

“Moose Research—A Colorado Perspective”

Thursday, Nov. 9

Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr.

Social Time: 7 p.m.; Program 7:20 p.m.

Eric Bergman will briefly outline the history of moose in Colorado. He will touch on some of the national and regional trends with moose populations. Eric will put those into context with what we're observing in Colorado, and delve into his own research of these ungulates.

Eric grew up in Iowa, did his undergraduate work in Minnesota, and earned a master's degree at Montana State University working on predator/prey interactions in Yellowstone. He started working as a researcher for Colorado Parks and Wildlife in 2003, and completed his PhD at Colorado State University in 2013.

Join us on Nov. 9 at the Fort Collins Senior Center. This program is free and the public is welcomed.



Moose photo provided by
Colorado Parks and Wildlife.



At our fundraising Silent Auction event we successfully raised \$2,579. This “we” would not have been possible without all of you who so generously contributed as: (1) volunteers for setup and take down, (2) item donors, (3) item bidders, (4) general contributors, (5) business donor collectors, (6) publicity volunteers, (7) refreshment providers, and (8) those who renewed memberships!

Each individual means of participating in the FCAS fundraiser built a profitable event. The FCAS Board extends our sincere gratitude to each and every one of you!

Welcome New National Members

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 printing and mailing the newsletter, so if you'd like to keep receiving the *Ptarmigan* after the complimentary issue, please support your local chapter and subscribe to the newsletter. See the details on the last page of the newsletter or on our website at www.fortcollinsaudubon.org.

President's Corner

by John Shenot

As I noted last month, FCAS needs to find nominees for officers and directors-at-large on our Board of Directors. At the top of the list are three officer positions for which we've yet to identify any potential candidates: President-Elect, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. Some people have asked what these jobs entail, so I thought I'd elaborate.

Per our bylaws, a President-Elect is elected to serve on the Board of Directors in the year prior to becoming President. The President-Elect, during his/her year on the Board, shall be assigned special duties helpful to the President and/or the Board of Directors. There isn't much more to it than that. The President-Elect will come to Board meetings, learn how FCAS is governed, and then, after one year, assume the role of President for a two-year term starting in January 2019.

The Treasurer and Recording Secretary have more immediate responsibilities, but our outgoing officers have pledged to "show them the ropes." The Treasurer manages bank accounts, signs checks and pays bills, provides financial reports to the Board of Directors at our regular meetings, and prepares an annual report on the financial condition of FCAS. Our Treasurer typically also serves as chairman of the Finance Committee, which develops our annual budget. The Recording Secretary takes notes and prepares condensed minutes of all proceedings of the Board, and maintains those records and other reports created by the Board.

None of these positions require expertise in organizational management, birds, natural history, or environmental protection. We can train any competent,

Get involved! Board members needed!



eager volunteer for any of these jobs. If you might be interested in one of these positions, contact a member of our Nominating Committee (John Shenot, Jessie Meschievitz, and Harry Rose) as soon as possible—preferably before our membership meeting on November 9.

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**



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www.fortcollinsaudubon.org

Visit us on Facebook:

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

FCAS Pocket Guide to Local Birds

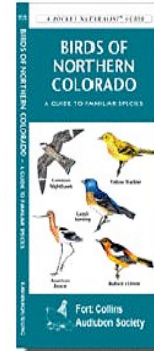
Is available at the following retailers who support our organization with the sales:

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 price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men."—*Plato*

"Be the change you want to see in the world. Be the change you wish to see in the world. You must be the change you wish to see in the world."—*Mahatma Gandhi*

A Race Against Time

The current consensus among climate scientists is that we must limit the increase in earth's atmospheric temperature to less than 2°C (that equates to 3.2°F). The consequences of allowing atmospheric temperatures to continue to rise unchecked would mean the end of life on earth as we now know it. The longer we delay the effort to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the more drastic the efforts to control emissions will need to become.

If we delay, three scenarios have been suggested. In the first, it was assumed that if global GHG emissions peaked in 2016, then the world would have 25 years to zero out carbon dioxide emissions. In the second scenario, if emissions peak in 2020, then we would have about 20 years to zero out emissions. In the third (and worst) scenario, if we wait until 2025 for emissions to peak, we would have about 10 years to zero out emissions.

The impacts of 1.5°C versus 2°C of warming, the frequency of heat waves would increase, the availability of fresh water would decrease, the frequency of heavy rainfall events would increase, crop yields would decrease, sea levels would increase, and the amount of coral bleaching would increase.

The majority of world leaders understand these im-

pacts and intend to do their part with respect to the Paris Agreement (Paris Accord) adopted in December 2015. Despite the position taken by our own federal

government, numerous American cities and some states have indicated that they will continue to work toward the emission goals found in the Paris Accord.

Many world leaders are taking steps to address, and reduce, their GHG emissions. They see the problem, they know what the solutions are, and they are taking steps to implement those solutions. Scotland is already using wind power in enough quantity to supply 118% of Scottish households. France, Germany, and

Great Britain all want to end sales of new diesel and gasoline cars. Norway set 2025 as its goal to end sales of diesel and gasoline cars. In late 2016, India's prime minister pledged to use renewables to meet 60% of India's needs by 2030. South Australia will have a huge solar farm and battery storage installation by year's end. China cancelled plans to build 100 coal-burning power plants. The United States announced plans to withdraw from the Paris Accord.

The transition to zero carbon dioxide emissions will not be easy. Vested interest groups could delay and derail these initiatives. We'll have to wait and see.



Flooding from Hurricane Harvey in Spring, Texas on Aug. 29,
by Ilana Panich-Linsman for *The New York Times*.

FCAS Welcomes New and Renewing Members

Paul Avery
Barbara Case
Kristy Clark
Dr. Ruth Grant

Karen Hopf
Gina Janett
Janice Johnson
Robin Long
Myron C. Smith

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.



American Goldfinch by Nick Komar.



Birding Delights Await in the San Luis Valley

Abundant describes the choice of scenic birding locations in the San Luis Valley. Alamosa, Baca, and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) are there, as well as the Blanca Wetlands, which are administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Baca NWR is new to me; I discovered that you need to visit its website (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/baca/>), check to see if it is offering any tours, then leave a telephone message to get a place on a three-hour public tour. The Monte Vista NWR is known for its Crane Festival in March, but receives migrating Sandhill Cranes in autumn that stay to feed in fields to gain strength for the rest of their journey to their wintering grounds in New Mexico. The Blanca Wetlands (<https://www.blm.gov/visit/blanca-wetlands>) is a stopover for ducks and shorebirds during migration periods and is closed from February 15 to July 15 to protect nesting birds. The San Luis State Wildlife Area



Sandhill Cranes by Carole Hossan.

The best birding occurred during our last morning. A flock of female Yellow-headed Blackbirds landed on a bush as we drove into the Alamosa NWR Visitor Center parking lot. We saw a Whooping Crane (taxidermied) inside the well-worth perusing visitor center. Alamosa NWR has an auto tour route with various illustrated explanatory signs along the road. For hikers, there is a four-mile round trip walk on the Rio Grande Nature Trail as well as the Bluff Nature Trail. We enjoyed watching an adult and juvenile Pied-billed Grebe swimming together in a pond. Our most exciting moment came when a small flock of White-faced Ibis flew in and crazily careened above us before disappearing into the vegeta-



Female Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Alamosa NWR by Carole Hossan.

(SWA), <http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/SanLuis> also is closed from February 15 to July 15, and is located only 15 minutes west of Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (GSDNP&P).

Autumn weather in the San Luis Valley can be tempestuous. Harry Rose and I avoided an approaching thunderstorm by driving, then hiking to Zapata Falls, where the uncommon Black Swift nests earlier in the year. The next day in GSDNP&P, we had a very close look at an American Crow making tracks on a dune ridge during our ascent of High Dune. Afterward, a special treat was viewing Mountain Bluebirds and Pinon Jays during our recovery walk on the Sand Sheet Loop Trail near the Visitor Center. We also visited San Luis SWA, whose largest lake had several watchful Great Blue Herons and an abundance of waterfowl.

tion. Our only glimpse of Sandhill Cranes occurred as five flew overhead. The angle of the morning sunlight made both species sightings into ultra-dramatic silhouettes that made a very satisfying conclusion to our odyssey.



Juvenile Pied-billed Grebe by Carole Hossan.



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 Shenot) 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.

Nov. 12, 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 on the second Sunday of each month. All levels are welcome. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot. Call for any change.

Nov. 18, Saturday, Loveland Lakes. Leader: Michael Costello, mcostello@emnet.org. This field trip will visit several lakes and reservoirs in the Loveland area that are hotspots for late fall migrants and winter waterfowl. The itinerary includes some combination of Lake Loveland, Horseshoe Lake, Boyd Lake, Cattail Pond, and Lon

Hagler Reservoir. Meet at 8 a.m. at the swim beach parking area at Lake Loveland. We'll finish about noon. If you have a spotting scope, it will be helpful on this trip, but the trip leader will have a scope to share.

Dec. 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 on the second Sunday of each month. All levels are welcome. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot. Call for any change.



Long-billed Dowitcher at Timnath Reservoir
by John Shenot.



Great Blue Heron and American Coot at San Luis State Wildlife Area
By Carole Hossan.



Cooper's Hawk by Nick Komar.



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.