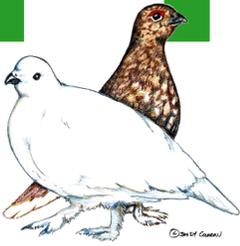


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FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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 2018

Volume 49, Issue 9

FCAS December Potluck and Member Slideshow

Thursday, December 13

Potluck Buffet begins at 6:30 p.m.

Slides follow at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Fort Collins Senior Center; 1200 Raintree Drive, Fort Collins

Presented by: YOU, the Members (Guests Welcome)

This is your evening to receive the applause! Our December program will be presented by those of you, our members, who wish to share wildlife photos from your own photography collections in a slide show. To allow time for a number of our members to present their photos, please just one photographer per household, and limit your presentation to no longer than 10 minutes showcasing your top 10 favorite photos. FCAS



American Dipper by John Shenot.

will provide a laptop, digital projector, screen, and sound system.

For the potluck, FCAS will provide coffee, tea, and water. Those attending are asked to please bring a dish to pass (that will serve 6-8), your own place setting, and serving and eating utensils.

Join us for this very special program

meeting on December 13 at the Fort Collins Senior Center. Potluck Buffet begins at 6:30.

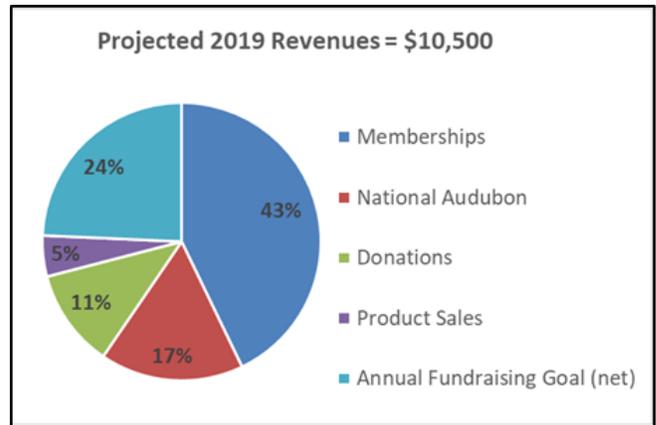
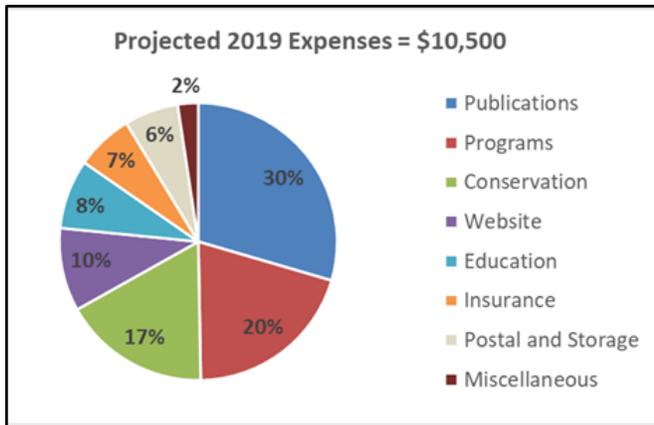
Welcome New National Members

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 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 it, 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.



According to our current bylaws, the Board is to agree on a proposed annual budget at our December Board meeting each year and announce the proposed budget to the membership in our December newsletter. The membership then votes to approve the budget at our annual meeting in January. The tricky part is that the deadline for getting articles in our December newsletter is in mid-November, before the December Board meeting. So, the best I can do (until we amend our bylaws) is provide members with an overview of the budget presented to the Board in November by our Treasurer, and assure everyone that the complete budget will be available to any member upon request after the December Board meeting.

FCAS is a very small non-profit organization run by volunteers. Our annual expenditures in recent years have always been less than \$12,000. Our annual revenues have roughly equaled expenses, allowing us to maintain a steady level of reserves without raising membership dues. The following charts show the projected expenses and revenues presented in the Treasurer's budget:



The Board is interested in having a third party audit our finances, just to make sure our accounting practices are reasonable. If any member has the requisite skills and would be willing to do a *pro bono* audit of FCAS, please contact a Board member.

Report of the Nominating Committee on 2019 FCAS Board Candidates

In October, the FCAS Board of Directors appointed a nominating committee to identify candidates to serve as officers and directors for the 2019 Board. The position of president serves a two-year term. All other positions are elected to one-



year terms. In keeping with our bylaws, the nominating committee hereby announces a slate of candidates to be officially nominated at our January membership meeting: President: none (still seeking a volunteer); President-Elect: none (still seeking a volunteer); Vice President: Liz Pruessner; Treasurer: Joe Polazzi; Recording Secretary: Lori Pivonka; Directors at Large (six positions to fill): Alan Godwin, Ron Harden, Bill Miller, and Harry Rose (still seeking 2 volunteers).

The committee will keep looking for volunteers to nominate for the vacant positions, and additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the January meeting.

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www.fortcollinsaudubon.org
 Visit us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/FortCollinsAudubonSociety>



Conservation Funding by Law: The Duck Stamp

Conservation of land, wildlife, and birds in the United States is many times a tenuous undertaking. When intentions at the higher levels of government change, budgets are cut, appropriations change, or law is applied in a different manner, and sometimes the environment suffers for a time.

Fortunately, some laws and treaties have lasted for a very long time and have greatly contributed

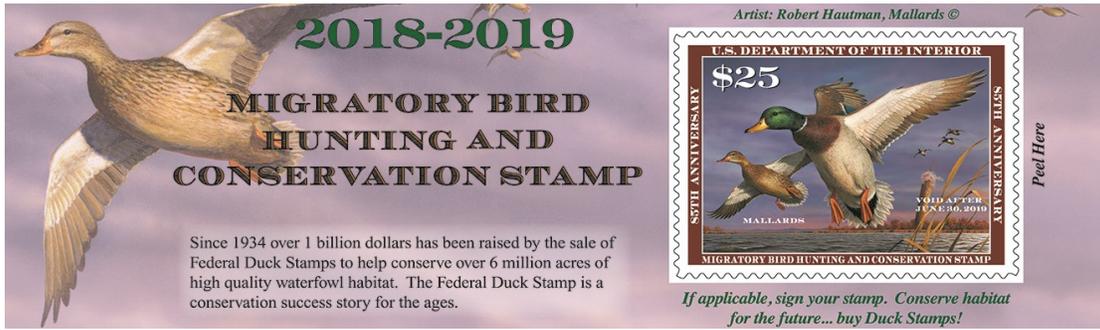
to conservation efforts in North America. This is the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) that was signed into law in 1918. Essentially this law protects birds from people. The “poster birds” saved from dangerous decline are: Snowy Egret, Wood Duck, and Sandhill Crane.

The MBTA acts in tandem with the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 and the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of 1934 (known as the Duck Stamp Act/Federal Duck Stamp). Since 1934, purchase of the duck stamp has raised more than \$1 billion and acquired more than 6.5 million acres for the National Wildlife Refuge System, increasing wetland and grassland habitat. Incidentally, the art on the stamp is the winner of the only federally sponsored art contest.

This \$25 annual duck stamp purchase is perhaps the single simplest thing you can do to support a legacy of wetland and grassland conservation for birds. Ninety-eight cents of every dollar goes to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. Plus it’s a free pass to all refuges that charge admission.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is in its 53rd year of conservation and recreation success. It was established to fulfill a bipartisan commitment to safeguard natural areas, water resources, cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities for all Americans. Using zero taxpayer dollars, the fund is

supported by offshore oil and gas leasing, and is used to help conserve a variety of land, parks,



trails, and habitat. Matching grants have provided almost \$4 billion for more than 40,000 projects in every county in the United States since 1965.

In addition, the Pittman-Robertson Act was passed in 1937 when the firearms and ammunition industry

asked Congress to impose an excise tax on the sale of firearms and ammunition to help fund wildlife conservation in the United States. In the 76 years since its inception, over \$7 billion have been collected from manufacturers and apportioned to state wildlife agencies for their conservation efforts, hunter education programs, and operation of archery and shooting ranges.

Currently Congress is more polarized than at any time in modern history and we need bipartisan effort to keep these laws intact—particularly the MBTA and the LWCF, which actually expired on September 30, 2018. Now is the time to write all Colorado Congress

people and ask them to permanently

reauthorize the LWCF and, additionally, to prevent some of the funds from being taken during the appropriations process and moved to the general treasury.



Snowy Egret by Newton Hightower.

FCAS Welcomes New and Renewing Members

Martin Forstenzer
Alice Wood

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.



The Outdoor Cat Conundrum

Do you have a neighbor whose freely roaming cat visits your yard? If so, you probably find the situation frustrating. We did. Delightful neighbors brought home a lovely kitty, but knew they could not keep it in their house because of allergies. This pretty and comical cat immediately became the neighborhood cat, often visiting our yard on its rounds. Suggestions for keeping the cat on their property fell on deaf ears. Then, in the spring, we were delighted to discover a pair of Winter/



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

Pacific Wrens temporarily residing in the junipers outside our window—a rarity here. Watching them being stalked by Mr. Kitty initiated another, more pointed, conversation with the owners

and, this time, they agreed to take care of the problem—which they did.

Cat vs. bird discussions can be emotional, divisive, and result in the fur flying. Asking a neighbor to restrain a wandering cat may lead to hard feelings but, don't shy away, someone has to stand up for the birds. Here are some thoughts to help in the discussion.

Quoting the legal code is probably not where you want to start your conversation, but it helps to know the law. Larimer County and the cities of Fort Collins and Loveland all clearly prohibit a cat owner from allowing their cat to wander off the owner's private property. See: Larimer County Land Use Code Article IV, Section 6-78 (4), Fort Collins Municipal Code Division 5, Section 4-93 (a), and Loveland Municipal Code 6.20.010 A.

Set the groundwork for the conversation by expressing that even bird lovers can be cat lovers, and that studies have shown, on average, outdoor cats live only

half as long as indoor cats. Coyotes, dogs, other cats, impacts with cars, as well as disease are only a few dangers. If concern for their cat's wellbeing isn't persuasive enough, it is time to point out the statistics on bird mortality.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website (<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>) states: "Cats are not native to North America. Because of the help they receive from humans, they exist at much higher densities than native predators such as hawks, owls, and foxes do. This means that their effect on native animals is much higher than the effect of native predators."

"Outdoor cats hunt by instinct even if they are not hungry. Even well-fed cats are a danger to native animals. This is also why it's a bad idea to provide food to unowned or feral cat colonies. Bells, cat bibs, and similar items typically do not eliminate successful hunting by cats."

"In North America, cats are second only to habitat loss as the largest human-related cause of bird deaths. It's estimated that cats kill 1.3–4 billion birds each year

in the United States alone, with 69% of these kills attributable to feral or unowned cats. This is a staggering number even when compared with the next-largest sources: 599 million estimated to be killed in collisions with windows and 200 million killed by automobiles."



From <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org>

As a last resort, the Larimer Humane Society's phone number is (970) 226-3647. The Humane Society works with owners to help them follow leash laws and, if that fails, matches cats with new owners who must promise to keep their cat indoors.

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

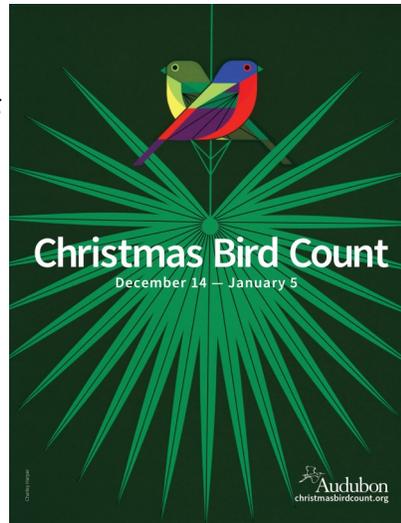
Jax Outdoor Gear
1200 N. College
(970) 221-0544

Jax Farm & Ranch
1000 N. Hwy. 287
(970) 481-2221



Sign Up for the Christmas Bird Counts!

The 119th Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place from December 14 to January 5, 2019. 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 15 and will be coordinated by Tom Hall (redbear44@msn.com). The Rawhide Power Plant CBC, organized by Doug Kibbe (dpkibbe@msn.com), takes place on Monday, December 31. And finally, the Loveland



count will be on Tuesday, January 1 and coordinated by Denise Bretting (dbretting@swloveland.com). Contact Tom, Doug, or Denise 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.

Dec. 15, Saturday, Fort Collins CBC. Contact: Tom Hall, redbear44@msn.com.

Dec. 31, Monday, Rawhide Power Plant CBC. Contact: Doug Kibbe, dpkibbe@msn.com.

Jan. 1, Tuesday, Loveland CBC. Contact: Denise Bretting, dbretting@swloveland.com.

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 (Sirena Brownlee) or the trip leader named below 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.

Saturday, Dec. 8, Cobb Lake State Wildlife Area. Leader: Nolan Bunting, csuornithology@gmail.com.

Come out and practice your Christmas Bird Count identification skills with Nolan and other birders from the CSU ornithology group. A spotting scope will be available to share. All levels are welcome. Directions: take I-25 north to Mountain Vista Drive and go east to the northeast Frontage Road. Take the northeast Frontage Road north to County Road (CR) 56. Go east on CR 56 to the parking lots along the road. Meet at 8 a.m.



Cobb Lake.

Sunday, Dec. 9, Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey. Leader: Denise Bretting, dbretting@swloveland.com, 970-669-1185 or 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.



Canada Geese and Mallards by Sirena Brownlee.



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.

- 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.