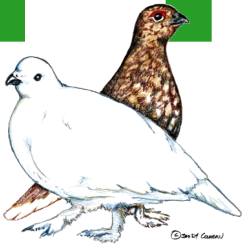


PTARMIGAN



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 2020

Volume 51, Issue 9

FCAS Hosts First Ever Photo Contest Slideshow Photographers and Winners Revealed!

Thursday, Dec. 10

Announcements: 7 p.m.; Program: 7:20

*****This will be an online meeting using ZOOM*****

Enter the following link on your web browser at or before 7 p.m. and follow the instructions to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82887449760>

Members and guests of FCAS: ZOOM into this program, and be awed by an evening of inspired wildlife photography. We will learn who the photographers are, comments about their photos, and...(drum roll...) First, Second, and Third place winners will be announced!

Members and guests are all welcomed and sure to be entertained by this photo slideshow. Be sure to ZOOM in and join us on Dec. 10.

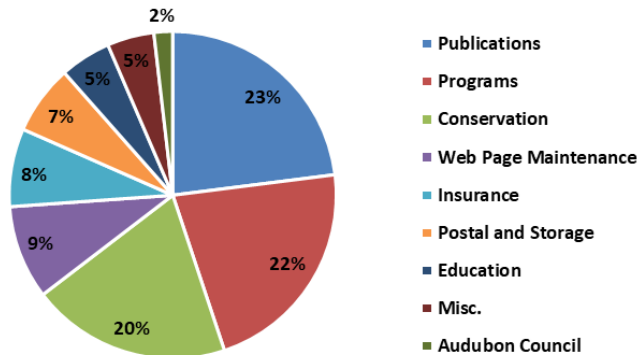


FCAS welcomes new National Audubon Society members by sending one complimentary copy of our newsletter. Join us at our monthly programs on the second Thursday of the month to find out more about FCAS. National dues do not cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, so if you'd like to keep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

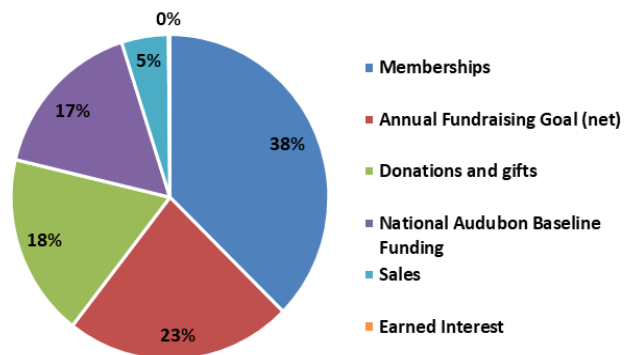
In keeping with our bylaws, the FCAS Board agreed in November on a proposed annual budget for our 2021 operations. We are required to announce the proposed budget to the membership in the December newsletter. The membership will then vote on whether to approve the budget at our annual meeting in January.

The following charts show our proposed expenses and revenues for 2021 by category. The proposed budget represents a 3.7 percent increase in expenditures compared to 2020. The complete budget proposal with details on expenses and revenues is available to any member upon request.

2020 Proposed Budget Expenditures = \$10,889



2020 Proposed Budget Revenues = \$10,889



*Stay healthy and safe
this holiday season!*



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www.fortcollinsaudubon.org

Visit us on Facebook:

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

Report on 2021 FCAS Board Candidates

In October, the FCAS Board of Directors appointed a nominating committee, consisting of Alan Godwin, Barb Patterson, and John Shenot, to identify candidates to serve as officers and directors on the 2021 Board. The president serves a two-year term that begins in January 2021, while all other board members serve one-year terms. In keeping with our bylaws, the nominating committee hereby announces a slate of recommended candidates to be officially nominated at our January membership meeting: President, John Shenot; President-Elect, none (still seeking a volunteer); Vice-President, Liz Pruessner; Treasurer, Joe Polazzi; Secretary, Darla Anderson; Directors-at-Large (up to 6 positions), Jay Breidt, Kate Burgess, Alan Godwin, Ron Harden, and Larry Sherman (still seeking one more volunteer).

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the January meeting. Members present will vote, and those elected will be installed at the conclusion of the meeting.

The nominating committee also identified recommended candidates to chair our standing committees. Committee chairs serve on the Board of Directors, but are not elected; rather, they will be officially appointed by the incoming president in January. The recommended candidates are: Conservation, Ellie Harrison; Membership, Harry Rose; Education, Sheila Webber; Finance, none (still seeking a volunteer); Programs, Jessie Meschievitz; Field Trips, Nolan Bunting; Publications, Will Buchman; Public Relations, Andrew Monson; Hospitality, Chandriée Davis.

If you would like to fill one of the vacancies or serve as a committee member, please contact any of our current board members or nominees.



Conservation Corner ————— by Bill Miller

“Teamwork allows common people to attain uncommon results.”—*Andrew Carnegie*

“Some people want it to happen, some wish it to happen, others make it happen.”—*Michael Jordan*

“Volunteers aren't paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”—*Anonymous*

Climate Change Continues to Run Amok

In case you haven't noticed, both California and Colorado have experienced some of their worst fire seasons yet. Climate change has produced long-term drought in California with warmer temperatures and decreased precipitation. More than [two million acres have burned across the state](#) so far in 2020, which makes it a record year.

In Colorado, warmer winters have not killed off the pine bark beetle for well over a decade now, and their increasing infestations have resulted in hundreds of thousands of acres of beetle kill in mostly lodgepole pines. The summer of 2020 saw multiple large fires in northern Colorado, ranging from north of Grand Junction to Grand and Larimer Counties. The state's two largest fires on record were the Cameron Peak and East Troublesome fires, at 208,913 acres and 193,812 acres, respectively. Aided by strong winds associated with numerous dry weather fronts, the fires raced through dry, dead, lodgepole pines, and generated clouds of smoke that drifted over eastern Colorado for the better part of two months.

Forests are impacted by climate change in ways other than by fire. The states that make up the New England

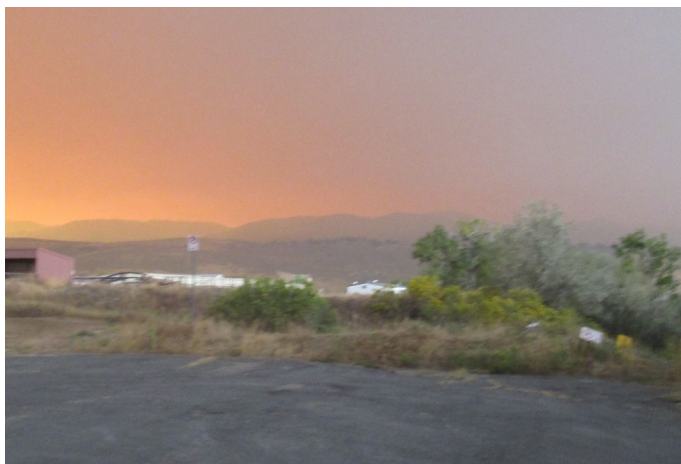
area of the United States were heavily forested before European colonization. Forests were cleared to become agricultural lands. As America's population expanded and moved west much of New England's farm lands became re-forested as agriculture was supplanted by the industrialization of the eastern states. Today, many New England towns are green with trees, and the area is roughly 75 percent forest.

As climate change accelerates, the trees in the eastern forests of the United States are increasingly vulnerable.

Most communities have

arborists on their staff and they are increasingly challenged to treat their trees, such as ash, oak, maple, hemlock, elm, and white pine. Each species is impacted by their own set of insects and diseases. Trees become weakened once attacked by insects, and often succumb to the diseases that follow. Arborists are often overwhelmed with treating or removing trees that are sick or dead, or damaged or felled by storms that seem to be increasing in both frequency and severity.

Remember—what impacts trees can also impact food crops.



Cameron Peak Fire—Horsetooth Mountain in center.
Photo taken Sept. 7 by Bill Miller.

Farewell from Bill Miller

My wife, Sue, and I both love Colorado's west slope and are planning to relocate to the Grand Junction area by July 2022. The climate there is more favorable to Sue's arthritic condition and, at our ages, we both need good medical facilities. Plus there is also an Audubon chapter in the area. I resigned from the FCAS Board of Directors, effective December 31, 2020. It has been my extreme pleasure to have been part of FCAS and to have served on its Board since my now 46-year-old youngest son was in 8th grade—about 33 years ago. I hope that a vaccine for Covid-19 is soon forthcoming as I would like to participate in face-to-face program meetings again before we leave Fort Collins.



Bill Miller. Photo by Evan Barrientos.



Birds in Songs

What a year this has been! From the political campaigning to the Cameron Peak and East Troublesome Fires, much stress has been inflicted upon us and the



American Robin by Richard Herrington.

environment and its denizens. It's time for a breather and some lighter fare: instead of presenting a scholarly article about bird species and their particular vocalizations, we shall explore popular songs written about birds. My Siamese cat just expressed his displeasure with this concept by sitting on my keyboard, but I shall persevere; currently wondering if hearing birds singing was the impetus for early humans to begin to sing and create songs.

The first song featuring a bird that comes to my mind is "When the Red Red Robin Comes Bob-Bob-Bobbin' Along," written by Al Jolson. Its "live, love, laugh, and be happy" lyric is certainly a positive concept. A more recent song featuring the American Robin is "Rockin' Robin," first sung by Bobby Day and later sung by Michael Jackson. It includes



Bald Eagle by Doug Swartz.

this lyric: "All the little birds on jaybird street, love to hear that robin goin' tweet-tweet-tweet." In contrast, is the wistful "Yellow Bird," sung by The Brothers Four: "You can fly away, in the sky away. You're more lucky than me." In yet more contrast, the protest song, "Blue

Jay," written and sung by Fort Collins' resident musician Michael Kirkpatrick, features a Steller's Jay with an Edward Abbey attitude regarding dams. Last, a romantic song that mentions birds is The Carpenters' "Close to You." "Why do birds suddenly appear every time you are near? Just like me, they long to be...close to you." It is quite marvelous what varied emotions birds evince in songwriters.

Sources tell us that birds made impacts to Western classical music since the 14th century, when composer Jean Vaillant quoted birdsong in some of his compositions. Contemporary songwriters from the Beatles ("Blackbird") to Tom Waits ("Mockin' Bird") have celebrated birds in their songs. Recently, composer Emily Doolittle, after spending time at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Germany, was inspired to create a musical composition titled "Seven Duos for Birds or Strings," which was first performed in 2014. In this



Prothonotary Warbler by Richard Herrington.

piece she interspersed the sounds of partridges, geese, and wrens with human music. A link to the article: <https://www.bbcearth.com/blog/?article=the-link-between-birdsong-and-language>.

More song titles featuring birds include: "Hummingbird Heartbeat" by Katy Perry, "Freebird" by Lynyrd Skynyrd, "Caged Bird" by Alicia Keyes, "Bird on a Wire" by Leonard Cohen, "When Doves Cry" by Prince, "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley, "Fly Like An Eagle" by The Steve Miller Band, "Snowbird" by Anne Murray, "White Bird" by It's A Beautiful Day, "Mockingbird" by Inez and Charlie Foxx, and...happily, the list is endless.



It's Time to Renew Your Membership

It is that time to renew your annual membership. FCAS chapter memberships run for the calendar year from January through December. Dues are \$20 to receive the *Ptarmigan* electronically or \$30 for a printed copy through the mail. Please use the form on the back page of the newsletter to renew by mail or renew at a program meeting. You also can renew online at our website: www.fortcollinsaudubon.org. Remember, your membership and contributions are tax deductible.

Your local chapter dues strengthen our efforts and make possible our programs, meetings, education, and advocacy for birds and wildlife habitat. Keep the *Ptarmigan* coming by renewing today.



Renew

Christmas Bird Count?

Decisions about whether to hold local area Christmas Bird Counts could not be made in time for inclusion in this month's newsletter, due to uncertainty about COVID-19 safety requirements. Please check our website or Facebook page to find out if any local area counts have been scheduled.



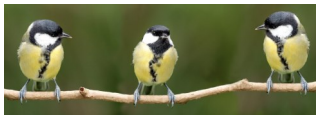
Black-capped Chickadee by Gail DuBois.

FCAS Welcomes New and Renewing Members

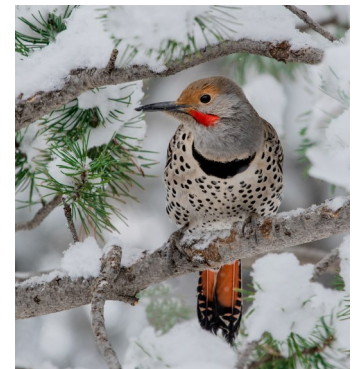
Lucie S. Bourdon
Patricia J. Cohn
Nico Davis
Laura Ehrlich
Dorothy Hudson

Edith Israel
Carolyn Mahakian
Kathleen Salter
Amy J. Tamlin
Greg Vassilopoulos

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



Northern
Flicker
by
Dawn Key.



FCAS Pocket Guide to Local Birds

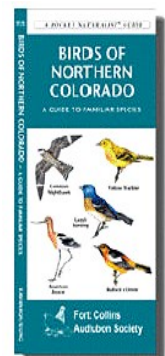
Is available at the following retailers who support our organization with the sales:

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



**Due to COVID-19, FCAS field
trips are
suspended until
further notice.**



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.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------|--|
| <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.