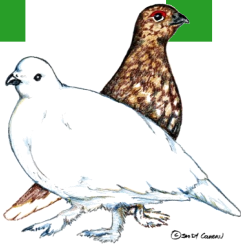


# PTARMIGAN



## FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 271968 • Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968 • [www.fortcollinsaudubon.org](http://www.fortcollinsaudubon.org)

Promoting the appreciation, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife through education, participation, stewardship, and advocacy.

October 2022

Volume 54, Issue 7

### FCAS Hosts

**Don Ireland, Award-Winning Writer, Community Volunteer**

**Presenting: "How You can Improve the Local Environment: Kiss Your Grass Goodbye!"**

**Thursday, October 13**

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

**Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr.**

**\*\*\*This program also will be online using Zoom\*\*\***

**Enter <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84583504912>**

**on your web browser at or before 7 p.m. to join the meeting**

We don't need to wait for a federal or state program to help improve our environment or make a positive impact on climate change. There are several steps, small and large, anyone can take to make their own personal impact locally.

How to save water, bolster our pollinator populations, and improve the local beauty in our communities

will be topics discussed by Don Ireland, who suggests: "It's time to kiss your grass goodbye!"

Don is an award-winning writer, community volun-



Lynn and Don Ireland courtesy of HaveyPro Cinema.

teer, and business owner. Don's efforts have received awards from the State of Colorado, Audubon Rockies' Habitat Hero program, Colorado WaterWise, and the Denver Neighborhood Star program.

Join us in person on Oct. 13 at the Fort Collins Senior Center to be eligi-

ble for a special treat/ door prize. The program is free and open to the public.

**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 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](http://www.fortcollinsaudubon.org).



## GET ON Board

I want to encourage any member who might, even just possibly, be interested in serving on the Board of Directors in 2023 to contact me at your earliest convenience. We've begun the process of recruiting volunteers and will announce the members of our Nominations Committee at the chapter meeting on October 13. I'm always happy to bring new faces to the leadership of FCAS and will gladly answer your questions about what it takes to serve. The most important thing for any potential board candidate to know is that FCAS is financially strong, growing in membership, and has a superb Board of Directors sharing the load of running the organization. New board members will get a lot of coaching and help in whatever role they assume!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that all of the officer and director positions are up for election in January, including the position of president (which is the only position that serves two-year terms). I am nearing the end of eight consecutive years as president of FCAS. It has been thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding, but I think it would be good for the organization if someone else were to take on this role. It's not that I'm unwilling to

continue, it's just that a new leader might bring fresh ideas and energy that could make a great organization even better. So, to be clear, if anybody is willing to take on this role, I will not stand in the way!

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## Fundraiser Thanks

A great big thanks to all who participated in this year's FCAS fundraiser at the Lyric. The fundraising committee did a great job of providing entertainment,



trivia, and a lot of laughs with bird karaoke! A special thanks to Hildy Morgan for her donation of Bird Art from her father's collection. Her father, Gustav Swanson, was an esteemed wildlife professor at CSU and one of the founding members of the FCAS. Thanks also to the Colorado State University Field Ornithology club, Fort Collins Natural Areas, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Wild Birds Unlimited, and volunteers that helped with the used book sale and silent auction, and to members of the community for their participation and support.

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Visit us on Facebook:

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

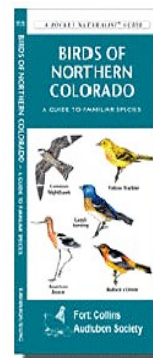
### FCAS Pocket Guide to Local Birds

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 Loveland West  
Outdoor Gear  
2665 W. Eisenhower  
(970) 667-7375

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





## Recovering America's Wildlife Act: A Billion Dollar Species Investment

Ducks and dollar signs, chickadees and cheddar, Mourning doves and moolah — what do these pairings have in common? The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA).

If enacted, RAWA will be the biggest investment in wildlife in generations, providing over \$1.3 billion to state and tribal wildlife agencies on a recurring basis. Introduced in 2019 by Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI), RAWA has since received broad bipartisan support, and has amassed over 194 sponsors in the House, and 35 in the Senate.

The bill amends the [Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act](#) of 1937 to provide states and tribes billions of dollars in funding in perpetuity. In addition to other activities, the act will identify priority habitats for conservation, implement projects to protect species of greatest conservation need, aid in preventing endangered species listing, and ultimately provide greater regulatory certainty for at-risk wildlife in the United States for generations to come.

The RAWA comes at a crucial time, as many wildlife agencies are woefully underfunded and the biodiversity crisis has risen to an alarming crux. For the past 22 years, state and tribal wildlife agencies have pulled from a smaller wallet — \$70 million to support all 50 states and 573 federally recognized tribes. As a result, some states such as Arizona only have three biologists on

staff to monitor 73 million acres. Others, like Louisiana, have levels of data that are so insufficient that they are unable to report what species have been recently lost. One lab run by a wildlife biologist from the

Cherokee Tribe also noted in a recent Native American Fish and Wildlife Society article: "My office is also my lab and meeting room. We're often dissecting an animal on a desk that we might have to have a meeting on later."

The impact of RAWA on protecting imperiled species and providing capacity to the staff that perform this work cannot be overstated.

For [Colorado](#), RAWA passing would mean a supplementary annual allocation of approximately \$27 million. Avian species on Colorado's state threatened and endangered

species list, such as the Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, and 17 others (<https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/SOC-ThreatenedEndangeredList.aspx>), would get their time in the conservation spotlight. According to Colorado Parks and Wildlife: "This represents an

opportunity to invest in the conservation of Colorado's species of greatest conservation need and their habitats at a magnitude never thought possible."

Hopefully, by the time this newsletter comes out, RAWA will have passed the Senate and become law. If that's the case, time to celebrate! If not, we have more work ahead



### RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT

## RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT

A FUNDING VISION FOR COLORADO

### FCAS Society Welcomes New and Renewing Members

Julie Barraza  
Larry Caswell  
Andrew McFadden

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 Birds That Go Bump in The Night

During October, we are often reminded of the things that go bump in the night, such as ghouls and goblins.



Barred Owl by Landon Bunting.

However, they are not alone on their evening parades — above them fly some feathery allies.

By far the most charismatic bird of the night is the owl. Owls are members of the order Strigiformes and are further divided into two distinct families: 1) Tytonidae, the barn owls with eighteen species; and 2)

Strigidae with over 225 species. Of these, the majority are nocturnal like ghouls and goblins. They are well adapted for this with many features to support hearing, sight, and silence.

Unlike many species on earth, owls have ears set at different levels of the head and a facial disk that allows for the quietest sound to be triangulated. They can see using large eyes that take in all light by focusing it through a lens and a mirror, the *tapetum lucidum*. In addition and unlike other birds, owls are also as quiet as a ghost using specialized feathers that absorb sound as they fly.

While the ghouls roam the graveyard, the birds of the family Caprimulgidae roam the sky and seek their prey. Caprimulgids includes the Nighthawks, Nightjars, Poorwills, and Pauraques. These species have been given many other names including Bullbats and Goatsuckers. During the day, these birds are invisible and famous for their camouflage created from the cryptic coloration of their feathers. These birds eat insects throughout the night, soaring either close to the ground as Pauraques do or high in the trees as Nightjars do. Much like sea monsters, Caprimulgids are equipped with large mouths that allow them to swallow whole large insects like grasshoppers. Surrounding this impressive mouth, some species

have special feathers that act as funnels that may either help the birds sense insects or funnel them into the mouth.

These represent a tiny number of birds that roam the night sky. It is estimated that 350 species of birds migrate over North America at night.

In past autumns, as many as 56 million birds have migrated over the state of Colorado, and the majority migrates at night. You can help many of them by supporting dark night initiatives and also support bird conservation through direct donation or by purchasing of a Colorado Habitat Stamp.



Common Nighthawk by Nolan Bunting.



Common Pauraque from National Audubon Society.





## Species Highlight

To celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Great Backyard Bird Count, we are highlighting a bird species in every newsletter this year, as well as on Facebook and Instagram. Want to submit a suggestion or photo? Email [nbunting@rams.colostate.edu](mailto:nbunting@rams.colostate.edu).

This month's highlight is the Canada Jay. Part of the family Corvidae, the Canada Jay, formally known as the Gray Jay, is a great choice for Halloween given its colloquial term of "Camp Robbers." Much like the stagecoach robbers of the



Canada Jay by Jay Breidt.

1800s, these birds loved to steal from settlers and picnickers. Today, they can be found trick-or-treating at feeders. These birds take their spoils of berries, insects, and mushrooms, cache them by attaching them to trees with their sticky saliva, and then covering them with lichen or bark to hide the stash from other birds.

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## Upcoming Field Trips

All field trips are free (unless otherwise noted) and currently open to the public. All experience levels are welcome. Bring snacks or lunch, water, binoculars, and spotting scopes. Please understand that changes to dates, meeting times, locations, and trip leaders occasionally are unavoidable. One week before a scheduled trip, please visit the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/123106328705>), Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/fcaudubon/>), or [fortcollinsaudubon.org](http://fortcollinsaudubon.org) for a link to register. Due to Covid, attendance is limited to a maximum of 12 individuals. Waitlisted individuals for a trip will be sent a link for the next available trip before registration is open to the public. Bobcat Ridge surveys do not require registration.

**Oct. 9, Sunday, Bobcat Ridge Survey.** Leader: Denise Bretting, [dbretting@swloveland.com](mailto:dbretting@swloveland.com) or 970-402-1292. The survey looks at bird populations and helps local scientists better understand bird dynamics. The little more than 4-mile hike covers moderate to flat terrain. No registration required and there is no participation limit, but please email or text Denise that you plan to attend. Meet at 7 a.m. in Bobcat Ridge Parking lot.

**Oct. 22, Saturday, Larimer Lakes.** Leader: Nicholas Komar, [quetzal65@comcast.net](mailto:quetzal65@comcast.net), 970-449-3645. This trip explores the many lakes where migrating birds land during the fall migration. This trip is limited to 10 people. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Lake Loveland swim beach. Bring lunch. End at 5 p.m.

**Oct. 27, Thursday, Douglas Reservoir.** Leader: John Shenot, [johnshenot@gmail.com](mailto:johnshenot@gmail.com), 802-595-1669.

Perhaps better known as a hotspot for fishing, Douglas Reservoir attracts an impressive variety of waterfowl in autumn. It's one of the best places near Fort Collins to see scoters and loons. With luck we might find one of those rarities, as well as a crane, a shrike, or raptors. Meet at the parking lot at the south end of the reservoir at 8:30 a.m. Important note: Visitors to Douglas Reservoir are required to possess a current hunting or fishing license or State Wildlife Area pass, to access the property. Although this policy is rarely enforced, we expect all trip attendees to abide by it. License and pass revenues support the establishment and maintenance of State Wildlife Areas.

Interested in leading a Birding Trip? Have an idea for a trip? Email [nbunting@rams.colostate.edu](mailto:nbunting@rams.colostate.edu) if you would like to volunteer or suggest a trip.



Red-throated Loon by Carrie Olson.



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<br>Receive the FCAS <i>Ptarmigan</i> by email | \$ 20    | Name: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New or renewing FCAS Chapter Member<br>Receive the FCAS <i>Ptarmigan</i> by mail  | \$ 30    | Address: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime FCAS Chapter Member<br>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<br>(natural history education grants)    | \$ _____ | Email: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New NAS member<br>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<br>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](http://www.fortcollinsaudubon.org).