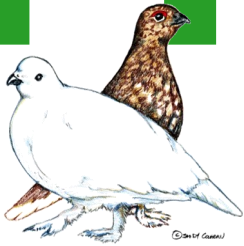


PTARMIGAN



Northern Colorado Bird Alliance

(formerly Fort Collins Audubon Society)

P.O. Box 271968·Fort Collins,CO-80527-1968·www.nocobirdalliance.org

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

September 2025

Volume 57, Issue 6

Northern Colorado Bird Alliance Hosts

Dr. Nolan Bunting, Presenting: “Caring and Triage of Wild Birds”

Thursday, September 11

Social Time with Refreshments: 7 p.m.; Announcements: 7:20; Presentation: 7:30

Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr.

This program will be online via Zoom. Enter the following at 7 p.m. to join the meeting:

<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/88331897102>

As birdwatchers, we love helping birds be it through supporting conservation or educating others. On some occasions however, we become more than just stewards and become caretakers for the birds with which we come in contact. We all have stories of coming across injured birds, be it from a cat bite, window strike, or nest falling out of the tree. In these moments our adrenaline takes over. We want and wish to do everything we can to help the injured animal and give it the best shot at being released. This presentation is to be a tool to help you with that process. Dr. Bunting will discuss the common injuries, triage and transportation, personal protective equipment, and other ways to support the health and



Photo from
Cheyenne Pet Clinic, 2024.

safety of local birds.

Dr. Nolan Bunting is a veterinarian who works with various wildlife and domesticated animals. He has trained with zoos, aquariums, rehabilitation centers, and specialists to support wildlife and one-health initiatives. He graduated veterinary school from Colorado State University, and received a master's degree in conservation and wildlife forensics from the University of Florida with a focus on high and low velocity projectile injuries. He spends his time leading field trips for Northern Colorado Bird Alliance, digging dinosaur bones, and volunteering for emergency response teams for veterinarians in Colorado.

Join us September 11 for this informative program that is free and open to the public.

Northern Colorado Bird Alliance 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 Northern Colorado Bird Alliance. 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.nocobirdalliance.org.

While all of us are still getting used to the organization's new name, and there is still work to do in rebranding our website and publications, most of the name change transition work is behind us. Some members are now asking, "What comes next?"

Changing our chapter name creates a unique opportunity to reintroduce ourselves to the public in Larimer and Weld counties. The hard truth is that most people in Northern Colorado have never heard of the Bird Alliance or the Audubon Society. They don't recognize either name and don't know what we do. We need to focus now on increasing our visibility and recruiting more members, not merely for the sake of growing our organization, but because we need more allies to fulfill our mission of conserving and restoring ecosystems. Every time we announce or explain our new name, we have the chance to do more to protect wild birds.

If I'm honest, we've been on autopilot for several years in terms of recruiting new members. In July 2021, we had 1,297 members. Four years later, we now have 1,322 members. That's a tiny fraction of the number of people in our region who care about ecosystems and wildlife, and I don't think our modest growth is keeping up with the increasing urgency of the challenges that bird populations are facing.

For all these reasons, the Board of Directors has decided to launch a membership drive. We aim to add 100 new members by the end of the year, and we need your help. If you know someone who cares about birds and other wildlife, please tell them about the Bird Alliance. Share this newsletter with them. Invite them to join you at one of our programs or field trips. Give them a gift membership! Let me know how those conversations go, and I'll keep you apprised of our progress in upcoming newsletters.



Northern Colorado Bird Alliance Fall 2025 Fund Raiser

We are seeking donations of new and/or gently used bird guides, nature books, animal artwork, bird plates and figurines, your own home crafted bird houses, and anything you no longer need and think other nature lovers would enjoy and treasure. Clean



out your home and support your chapter! Bring your donations to the September 11 program meeting at the Senior Center or contact Liz Pruessner (970-215-3409;



CHAPTER CONTACTS

President

John Shenot

802-595-1669

johnshenot@gmail.com

Vice President

Liz Pruessner

lizpru@colostate.edu

970-484-4371

Program Chair

Nolan Bunting

nolanbunting@hotmail.com

907-299-4625

Field Trip Coordinator

Amy Roush

fcasfieldtrips@gmail.com

512-993-0242

Membership Chair

Harry Rose

hlrose@toadaway.net

970-430-6731

Publications/Newsletter

Joe Webber

Joe.Webber26@gmail.com

720-345-4757

For other contacts visit

www.nocobirdalliance.org

Visit us on Facebook:

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

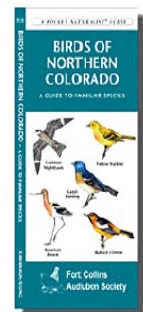
Pocket Guide to Local Birds

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
2665W. Eisenhower
(970) 667-7375

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



Conservation Tips for Fall Migration

With fall migration in full swing, I hope you are getting out to enjoy some birding and the beginning of the beautiful color change in our region. There are plenty of ways to support the birds we love while witnessing the change of seasons and the amazing spectacle of fall migration. Birds face such daunting challenges as they head out to complete their journeys to southern destinations for the winter. Light pollution in the night skies, glass buildings and window strikes, finding food and water resources to fuel their efforts, and avoiding predators are all potential hazards. Northern Colorado Bird Alliance is committed to raising awareness of these issues and promoting bird-friendly communities. We will launch a wider campaign for bird-friendly cities across northern Colorado in the coming months. With that in mind, there are things we can all do to keep birds safer during this critical time.

Lights out. Keeping the sky dark during migration is especially important. Excessive light at night confuses birds and disrupts their ability to navigate routes. Turn off all unnecessary outside lighting between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. Keep your yard dark and don't use any accent landscape lighting that focuses on trees or other features that birds could use for resting and roosting. Close window shades to prevent indoor lighting leaking out. For any essential lighting, use downward pointing lights that are shielded on top so they don't illuminate the night sky. Use motion detectors and sensors to limit the time lights are on. These steps will help make your yard a safe haven for migrating birds. Share these ideas with friends and neighbors to promote darker neighborhoods.

Food, water, and shelter. Yards planted with native plants and shrubs, fruit trees, sunflowers, and other seed producing flowers are a valuable food source and shelter that will attract birds to your yard. Enhance natural sources of food by providing birds with food and water during migration to assist them in

building up fat reserves. Keep feeders stocked and bird baths filled with clean water. Clean feeders regularly and change the water daily to keep birds healthy and avoid spreading infections. Feeders should be washed

in warm soapy water, rinsed, then soaked in a bleach solution, followed by thorough rinsing in clean water. Vegetation with red and orange tubular flowers like trumpet vine and hummingbird mint are great for hummingbirds. The four species of hummingbirds regularly found in Colorado during the summer are the

Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Black-chinned, Calliope, and Rufous. Though many male hummingbirds have already departed, it is possible to see hummingbirds as late as mid-October depending on the weather, so keep the hummingbird feeders up until then. Late summer and fall can be a good time to spot rare migrating hummers such as the Costa's, Anna's, Rivoli's, or Ruby-throated Hummingbird. For complete instructions in cleaning feeders refer to the Education Corner article in the February 2025 *Ptarmigan* newsletter written by

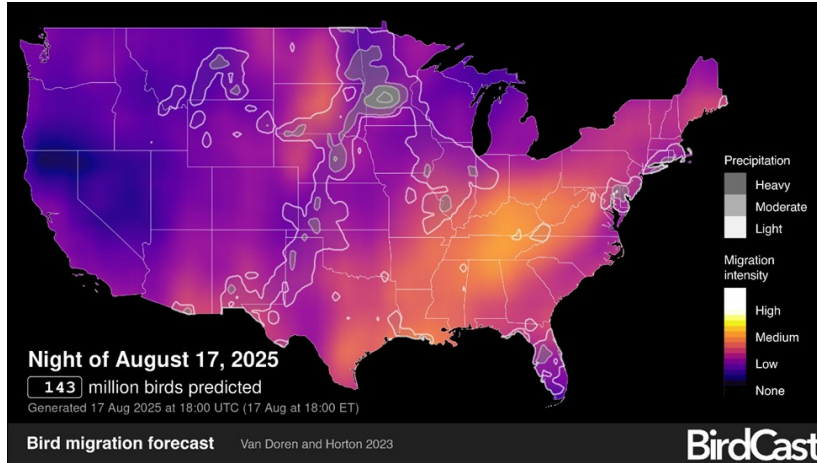
Nolan Bunting. It can be found on our website in the newsletter archive, https://www.fortcollinsaudubon.org/newsletters/2025/2025_02.pdf.

Window strikes. Billions of birds are killed annually in the United States by colliding with glass windows; migration can be especially hazardous. There are great resources on the American Bird Conservancy website (<https://abcbirds.org/solutions/prevent-home-collisions/>) for easy to install

solutions to make windows visible to birds such as decals, shades, hanging cords, and bird tape.

Cats indoors. Cats are master hunters and major predators for birds. Keeping cats indoors protects birds, other wildlife, and helps cats live longer and healthier lives by avoiding traffic and diseases.

Remember the great tools for tracking migration on <https://birdcast.info/>. The migration dashboard is a live, searchable tool to see the nightly forecast for your area.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird by Bill Gordon.

Birding is for Everybody

The Northern Colorado Bird Alliance (formerly the Fort Collins Audubon Society) has a new name, and several new initiatives, aimed at making birding a welcoming activity for everyone. One of the goals in the National Audubon Society Flight Plan is to expand and diversify the constituency for birds. We're working toward that goal, and we hope to inspire you to join many of our community activities.

Through the Alex Cringan Memorial Fund, we offer scholarships to teachers and students. This year's grants supported two exciting projects:

Bird Camp Partnership. In collaboration with Lory State Park and the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, we created a weeklong bird camp for 9 to 12-year-olds in Northern Colorado.

Online Raptor Education Resources. Lori Pivonka, Laura Grissom from Poudre School District, and the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program are developing free K-12 resources for teachers and homeschoolers to prepare students for live presentations by the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program.

We also received two National Audubon Society grants:



From <https://themindfulbirdingpodcast.buzzsprout.com/>.

programs and fieldtrips using mindful birding practices. We offered in-person workshops in San Francisco, Denver, and Philadelphia. We then held one national and three regional virtual webinars for Audubon chapters across the country. In total, we reached 450 people

through this grant and created additional resources that are available at <https://www.themindfulbirdingnetwork.com/>.

Our Field Trip Chair, Amy Roush, is expanding opportunities for inclusive birding. She recently completed a Certified Access Birding Outing Leader course through <https://accessbirding.com/>. With 39 percent of



Photo by Richard Swaback.

birders living with a disability, creating accessible, meaningful nature experiences is essential. In August, Amy and a team of volunteer leaders led a 3-hour workshop to help both new and experienced trip leaders gain confidence, diversify trip styles, and provide more precise descriptions so participants know how to prepare. In addition to our traditional field trips, we offer car birding, mindful birding, bird counts, banding, photography, outings designed to

welcome the LGBTQIA+ community, and are always interested in new ideas. We also are excited to work with Delilah Lopez, our new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee chair, to further help us expand our outreach and offerings. Birding brings mean-



Bob Roark (left) and Chris Layne track their quarry on a Birding Without Barriers trip in Prospect Park in Denver. Photo by Rachel Woolf.

ing, connection, and joy; there is a way for everyone to participate. If you'd like to get more involved, we have activities to suit every interest and ability. Join us and help make birding accessible to everyone!



September Field Trips

All field trips are free and open to the public. Anyone at any experience level is welcome. Bring snacks or lunch, water, binoculars, and/or spotting scopes. Changes to dates, meeting times, locations, and trip leaders are occasionally unavoidable. To register for any trip, please see posts at <https://www.facebook.com/NoCoBirdAlliance> or member emails sent out 1 — 2 weeks in advance of each trip. When announced, links will also be posted to the linktree at linktr.ee/nocobirdalliance. Attendance may be limited. Bobcat Ridge surveys do not require registration. With questions, suggestions, or interest in leading trips (all you need is a desire to share your love of birds and/or nature), please email ncbafieldtrips@gmail.com. Keep an eye on email and/or social media posts for additional field trips!

September 14, Sunday, Bobcat Ridge Survey.

Leader: Denise Bretting, 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 with some steep sections. No registration required and there is no participation limit, but please



Beginning of Hewlett Gulch trail.
Photo from joandfrede.com.

email or text Denise that you plan to attend. Meet at 7a.m. in Bobcat Ridge parking lot.

Signup not required. The trip may be cancelled, rescheduled or relocated if trails are closed.

September 21, Sunday, Hewlett Gulch. Leader: Nolan Bunting. The walk will begin at 7:30 a.m. This

trail in the Roosevelt National Forest winds alongside a creek. It is rocky with inclines approximately 20 to 30 degrees, and we expect to take an hour to 1.5 hours to cover one-half mile.

Signup for Hewlett Gulch will be released on September 13.

September, Date TBD, LGBTQIA+ and Allies.

Leader: Kit Gray, kit@kitgrayillustration.com. Join us for a friendly and social bird outing.



Mountain Chickadee by Rachel Woolf.

October, Date TBD, Collaboration Walk with Forest Stewards Guild. Bringing together birders and foresters to explore the intersection of bird habitat and forest management. More information will be shared via email, social media, and October newsletter.

Northern Colorado Bird Alliance Welcomes New and Renewing Members

Gene Blatt
Louise Creager
Rachel Delorie
Michael Donnelly
Diana Douglas

Ellen Durkee
Carrie Graves
Dominica Hagelberg
Clara M. Komar
Marcia Maeda

Charlene Reimnitz
Kathy Rushing
William A. Staudenmaier
Grace Viola



Your support makes our programs and conservation efforts possible and helps us achieve our mission of connecting people to the natural world.



Printed on recycled paper

Membership Application

Join Northern Colorado Bird Alliance (the chapter), National Audubon Society (NAS), or both.

- New or renewing chapter member \$ 20 Name: _____
Receive the *Ptarmigan* by email
 - New or renewing chapter member \$ 30 Address: _____
Receive the *Ptarmigan* by mail
 - Lifetime chapter member \$750 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Receive *Ptarmigan* by mail or email
 - Additional support for chapter programs \$ ____ Phone: _____
 - Additional support for Alex Cringan Fund \$ ____ Email: _____
(natural history education grants)
 - New NAS member \$ 20 May we send you chapter 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:** \$ ____

Make tax-exempt checks payable to Northern Colorado Bird Alliance and mail this form to Northern Colorado Bird Alliance, 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.nocobirdalliance.org.