

# PTARMIGAN



FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 271968 • Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968 • [www.fortnet.org/Audubon](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon)

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

September 2005

Volume 37 Issue 1

## 46,000 Colorado Acres Protected for Waterfowl by Ducks Unlimited!

*Regional DU Engineer, Richard Vail, Reports How This Happened*

Habitat loss and fragmentation are the greatest threats to our future bird populations. Fulfilling the Ducks Unlimited (DU) mission of conserving, restoring and managing wetlands and associated habitats for North American Waterfowl encompasses a wide range of activities throughout the state with a three-fold plan of attack.

First is the restoration component. DU works with state and federal agencies as well as private landowners to provide construction services, which develop water projects. In the past these have included everything from low head levee construction to shallow playa restoration.

Secondly, DU holds several conservation easements in the protection component of the plan. Through generous donations by landowners and several bargain sale type agreements, DU has been successful in protecting a large amount of property from development and subdivision. This could not have

been as successful without the tax credits provided by the State of Colorado.

The third part of DU's plan is management of existing wetland areas on both public and private holdings. This management ensures that wetlands are functioning at their most productive levels. DU uses many methods of vegetation manipulation to promote healthy and productive plants. These methods include mechanical discing, mowing, livestock grazing, and burning. One of the main challenges is controlling large decadent stands of cattail, which provide no forage for waterfowl.



Richard Vail, P.E. is the Regional Engineer for Colorado and Wyoming.

Richard has worked for DU for 6 years on projects throughout the state. Richard and his wife Jan along with their two dogs, Luke and Kodi call Fort Collins home.

**THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAM — September 8, 2005**  
**Ludlow Room, Fort Collins Lincoln Center, 417 W. Magnolia Street**  
**Social Gathering - 7:00 PM, Program - 7:30 PM**

FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
Visit our website at [www.fortnet.org/Audubon](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon)

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# S E P T - O C T F I E L D T R I P S

All field trips are free of charge and open to the public. All experience levels are welcome. Attendees should dress appropriately for the weather. Bring snacks, water and binoculars and/or spotting scopes if you have them. Carpooling is encouraged. A \$2.00 (unless otherwise specified) contribution per passenger to the driver is suggested. Visit <http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon> for more information. Contact the field trip leader of the field trip you

**9/10/2005 Sunday - Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey.** Leader: Cole Wild at [birdingwild1@yahoo.com](mailto:birdingwild1@yahoo.com) or (970) 310-3735. Fort Collins's newest natural area, Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, is projected to be open in 2006. Fort Collins Audubon performs a monthly bird census for the city. All levels welcomed. **Participation limited.** Please contact leader for signup and trip details.

**9/18/2005 Sunday - Fossil Creek Reservoir Bird Survey.** Contact Nick Komar at [quetzal65@comcast.net](mailto:quetzal65@comcast.net) or (970) 416-7527. Fort Collins Audubon performs a monthly bird

census for the county. All levels welcomed. **Participation limited to five plus leader.** Please contact leader for signup and trip details.

**9/24/2005 Saturday - 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM – Fossil Creek Reservoir (Northern Colorado Birding Fair) Leader: TBD** View a great variety of species during the fall migration. Fossil Creek Reservoir Open Space is a great location to view them. The fair is intended to reach the novice birder but will be enjoyed by bird lovers of all interest levels.

**Note: Occasionally, field trips will be announced or details will be determined between issues of the *Ptarmigan*. Please go to the website and click on “Field Trips” to check for updated field trip information.**

## Volunteer's Corner - Ellen Wride

Happy Fall! Welcome back! I hope everyone had a really good summer. Are you interested in volunteering but are restricted in the days and times for which you are available? The sign-up sheet included on page 3 of this issue will enable you to set the dates, times and projects for which you would like to help--we can contact you at your convenience. Helping the birds and the environment survive begins with one person. Sign up today and mail to:

Fort Collins Audubon Society  
PO Box 271968  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968

There is need for someone to screen and forward phone messages – this is ideal to do from home. Feel free to give me a call anytime at 970-215-005. I would love hearing from you.

# Ft. Collins Audubon Society

## 2005 VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Application Returned \_\_\_\_\_ Main Interest \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate your availability:** *(Check all that apply)*

\_\_\_\_ Monday \_\_\_\_ Tuesday \_\_\_\_ Wednesday \_\_\_\_ Thursday \_\_\_\_ Friday  
\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_ Sunday \_\_\_\_ Morning \_\_\_\_ Afternoon \_\_\_\_ All day

**Dates of Availability:** \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. June to July)

*\*Special events will occur which may require more than one day*

**Areas of Interest:**

____ Birdathon	____ Special Events
____ Mailing/Administrative	____ Education
____ Clean-ups	____ Tree planting/re-vegetation
____ Naturalist (day/night trip leader)	____ Publicity
____ Bird surveys	____ Wherever needed

Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent or guardian if under 18 years of age

Please mail to Ft. Collins Audubon Society PO Box 271968 Ft. Collins, CO 80527-1968

**AUDUBON COLORADO'S RENDEZVOUS 2005**  
**October 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> 2005**

***Register now for a weekend of fun and fellowship with other Audubon members and their families!***

This fall we will be holding our second Audubon Colorado Rendezvous—an exciting statewide gathering for all Audubon members and their families. This will be an opportunity to renew friendships with colleagues from all around the state and to share ideas about conservation, environmental education and other activities that you and/or your chapter are involved in. It will also be a great time to get outdoors together for birding and nature walks in the mountains and valleys near Buena Vista.

***Program Highlights include Chapter Workshops and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker***

We're planning a program that focuses on chapter-led workshops for chapter leadership and membership development, with opportunities for chapters and members to share ideas from their own experiences, including activities like adopting an IBA, conducting a birding class (with Hugh & Urling Kingery) and bioblitzes, and wildscaping workshops. You'll hear from excellent speakers, including conservation leaders and natural history experts from inside and outside Colorado. A special highlight will be our keynote speaker on Saturday night: Tim Gallagher, author of *The Grail Bird: Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker*, Editor-in-chief of the *Living Bird Magazine* and director of publications at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Tim will discuss his experiences of being directly involved with the rediscovery of the Ivory-billed as well as his new book about the bird. We also have an invited speaker on the Gunnis on Sage-Grouse and a Friday night program on the history of Audubon, featuring vintage photos from Audubon's first 100 years.

***Mt. Princeton Hot Springs – A beautiful setting***

The setting for our Rendezvous is the historic Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort, centrally located near Buena Vista, in the shadow of the Collegiate Peaks. The magnificent surrounding landscapes include wilderness areas and a variety of habitats to explore for a diversity of birds, wildlife and scenery. We plan to fill the lodge rooms with our participants, which will add to the enjoyment of the weekend. Lodging and meals are very affordable for families, and the cost of your room includes free use of the refreshing hot springs pools when you want to take a break. Check their website (<http://www.mtprinceton.com>) to get a look at the scenic location and facilities. As soon as you register with us for the Rendezvous, please contact the Resort directly (1-888-395-7799) to reserve your rooms, and be sure to tell them you're with the Audubon conference to get our conference rates (10% off winter rates). Rooms can accommodate up to four adults and children. We can only hold our block of rooms until October 1. There are also camping opportunities available off-site, but within a few miles of the Resort.

**Rendezvous Program**

The details of the Rendezvous program will be posted on our website this fall (<http://www.auduboncolorado.org>). The current outline of the program is as follows:

October 14, Friday

Evening – Welcome Reception and Slide Program: *Audubon's First 100 Years*

October 15, Saturday

All Day – Presentations, workshops, discussions, birding

Evening – Banquet and Keynote Speaker Tim Gallagher: *Rediscovering the Ivory-billed Woodpecker*

October 16, Sunday

Morning – Local Birdwatching

**Please Register Early**

Please register and make resort reservations by October 1<sup>st</sup>. When you send us your registration, we will send you a complete packet of information about the Rendezvous, including a detailed program and descriptions of the field trips. For more information or questions, please contact Richard at 303-415-0130 or [rstromp@audubon.org](mailto:rstromp@audubon.org).

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**Northern Colorado Birding Fair**

Come to Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Open Space on Saturday, September 24 for the Northern Colorado Birding Fair being held from 8:30 am - 2:00 pm. The purpose of the fair is to instill stewardship of birds and other natural resources by promoting awareness, appreciation, and knowledge of birds to the citizens of northern Colorado. The fair will take place during the fall migration of a variety of bird species through the Front Range. Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Open Space provides a stopover for the migrating birds and a great location to view them. There will be a variety of presentations and hands-on learning activities for both children and adults. Guided bird walks start at 7:00 am. This fair is intended to reach the novice birder, but will be enjoyed by bird lovers of all interest levels. Hosted by Larimer County Parks and Open Lands, Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Fort Collins Natural Areas, Fort Collins Audubon Society and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.



**Volunteer Fair**

The vitality of Fort Collins Audubon depends upon the energy of our volunteers, and the quality of our programming depends on the efforts they contribute. Please plan to come early to the Program Meeting on September 8. We will be holding a "job fair" from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. for any members interested in volunteering their skills and time to Fort Collins Audubon. Committee Chairs will be on hand to talk about their work and opportunities to help. Openings and opportunities include Hospitality Chair, Scholarship Committee, Booth Coordinator, Voicemail Administrator, Fundraising and Development, Membership Committee, Assistant Yahoo! Group Moderator, and more. We also want to know about you and your skills and interests. Please plan to attend!



## Rediscovery Of The Ivory-Billed Woodpecker

young people and teachers in their educational endeavors.

Earlier this year, Cornell University researchers announced in *Science* that at least one Ivory-billed Woodpecker persists in the Big Woods swamp of Arkansas. The Nature Conservancy and the US Government have responded by raising money for land acquisition to protect the threatened habitat of this magnificent bird, thought to have gone extinct more than half a century ago. Already, 18,000 acres have been protected in a 550,000 acre area. The Nature Conservancy-led effort seeks to protect an additional 200,000 acres over the next 10 years. FCAS would like to join this effort, and plans are being developed to raise money for land protection and to send a delegation in January 2006 to try to see the woodpecker(s) via a managed tour approved by the Nature Conservancy and other Arkansas conservation organizations. If you are interested in participating, please contact Nick Komar, [quetzal65@comcast.net](mailto:quetzal65@comcast.net), 970-416-7527.

### Fort Collins Audubon Society Scholarship — Recipients for 2005

The Fort Collins Audubon Society has been fortunate to receive enough donations to create a scholarship fund to support environmental education. In this first year of Scholarship awards, our organization awarded a total of \$552. We are proud to provide financial assistance to these

#### Child and Youth Scholarship

- Spencer McMillan, age 6 - Rocky Mountain Field Seminars: Nature Sketchbooks for Kids - \$125 for fees and supplies
- Emma Wells, age 16 - Rocky Mountain Field Seminars: Reflections, Rapids, and Ripples in Watercolor - \$152 for fees and travel
- Todd Wells, age 13 - Rocky Mountain Field Seminars: A Day with a Naturalist - Learning How to Be Outdoors - \$75 for fees and travel

#### Educator Scholarship

- Connie Cook, Cottonwood Plains Elementary - Rocky Mountain Field Seminars: Backcountry Navigation with a GPS - \$200 for fees, recertification tuition, and travel.

For more information on the Fort Collins Audubon Scholarship Fund, visit [www.fortnet.org/Audubon/scholarship/](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon/scholarship/). The Fund is supported by donations from members, gifts from sponsors, and pledges from the Society's annual Birdathon. To donate, visit our website donation page, [www.fortnet.org/Audubon/donate.htm](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon/donate.htm), or send your check to Fort Collins Audubon Society, P.O. Box 271968, Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968

### 2005 Audubon Colorado Rendezvous REGISTRATION FORM

Complete form and return with full payment (check or money order made out to National Audubon Society, or use Visa or MasterCard) to: Audubon Colorado, 1966 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 230, Boulder, CO 80302.

- Complete registration with credit card information may be faxed to (303) 415-0125
- Registration must be postmarked or faxed by September 30, 2005 to receive the lowest registration rates.

Name(s) Adults \_\_\_\_\_

Children (include ages) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number (Visa or MasterCard) \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Fees (includes registration, Sat lunch, Sat dinner, snacks, and coffee)

	Before 9/30/05	After 9/30/05	Total
Adults	\$50	\$60	\$ _____
Children (5-18)	\$25	\$30	\$ _____
Children (under 5)	Free	Free	\$ _____

I wish to support Audubon Colorado programs with a tax-deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Better Living, Better Birding

## Lynne Hull, Education Chair

Education program development over the summer has been slow. It has come to the attention of the board that we need to recruit volunteers from the general membership instead of overworking the board members. My major time involvement in a public art project (including an experimental sculpture for Kingfisher nesting), and Kate Bolster's extended trip to the east coast to care for aging parents, left us without the human resources to organize the backyard habitat garden tour, though we have several exemplary gardens available.

Audubon's involvement with the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program's new land purchase has given us unprecedented opportunities to develop our programming and interpretive directions but again we need more human energy.

The Procession of the River Species, our community wildlife celebration, is scheduled for New West Fest on August 20<sup>th</sup>. As of this writing I'm looking for studio, publicity and organizational volunteers.

The Audubon board is visiting with a landowner who may provide the opportunity for us to have a bird sanctuary a short distance from the downtown area.

Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Park will host a "birding fair" on September 24<sup>th</sup>. We will participate by leading bird walks and creating a demonstration display for backyard bird and butterfly habitat with the help of local nurseries and Wild Birds Unlimited.

How do we find volunteers for our new expansion opportunities? Volunteers will have opportunities to share various levels of bird skills and enthusiasms with the public, help develop a sanctuary and model habitat garden, design and participate in public outreach on behalf of Audubon and birds, show off photographic skills, count birds, participate in bird science, and spend time with other enthusiastic birders. If you don't know how, we'll help you learn!

I'm specifically looking for a few volunteers to help develop new photo panels for our display board, a volunteer to track community opportunities for our participation in educational outreach, and someone with clerical skills to help organize our mail and email lists for the Procession of the River Species.

A volunteer who would like to do outreach to youth groups, talking or sharing photos on birding with youth and children would be greatly appreciated.

Cole and Nick need more volunteers to help with monthly bird surveys at Bobcat Ridge and Fossil Creek Reservoir (you get to go birding with experts and help science on local birds).

The City would like us to take on a survey of Soapstone Ranch, a large and nearly pristine property in Northern Larimer County near the Wyoming border.

To join in, for pleasure and satisfaction, contact me at (970) 416-1881 or [ecarthull@cs.com](mailto:ecarthull@cs.com) or contact our volunteer coordinator Ellen Wride at [EVW9609@aol.com](mailto:EVW9609@aol.com).

The first annual Larimer County Birding Fair, will be September 24<sup>th</sup> at Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Park on Carpenter Road just west of I-25. An Audubon led birdwalk, intermediate level, will be at 7 am. Programs including beginner birdwalks and children's birdwalks will continue through the day from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm with an emphasis on family birding and education on birds: migratory birds, local resident birds, attracting birds, watching birds, aspects of bird science, and many other presentations and interactive displays. Audubon will have a display on backyard bird gardens, in partnership with Wild Birds Unlimited and Fort Collins Nursery. We will be selling the wonderful new WILDSCAPES book created by Colorado Audubon; all the information on plants and bird species is appropriate to Colorado. Our chapter receives a percentage of the sales price, so think of some as gifts as well as for yourself!

October and late fall birding classes will be offered by Kevin Cook. Improve your birding skills with these combined classroom and field experiences. Call Kevin at (970) 223-8392, email him [kjcook@frie.com](mailto:kjcook@frie.com), or check the Audubon website for more information in early October.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### Carol Fiore, Chair

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held at 6:15 p.m. in the Ludlow room of the Lincoln Center just before the regular program meeting. Please join us for what is shaping up to be an important year for conservation issues. Your help is needed and everyone is welcome at the meetings. Bring any issues you'd like to address. For further information or to have items included on the agenda, please contact the Chair at [rockyzoo@earthlink.net](mailto:rockyzoo@earthlink.net) or call 970-461-8760. See you there!

### TAKE ACTION!

Want to keep updated on the latest legislation and bills that concern the environment? Log on to [www.auduboncolorado.org](http://www.auduboncolorado.org) and click on the top right button that says "Take Action". You can make a difference by contacting your legislators. It only takes a minute to make a phone call and express your opinion.

## FCAS Birding Classes

### Birding for Beginners

A four-week birding class for beginners will be offered during October. Topics will include how to find and observe birds, how to use field guides more effectively, how to select and use optical equipment, and most importantly, how to have more fun with the birding time and experiences you have. This class is intended for people who are just awakening to the pleasures of birding.

### Birding after the Beginning

A four-week birding class during November will address the next step for birders who have made their start and are eager to advance. With a special slant toward winter birding, the class will focus on challenging groups such as hawks, gulls, and sparrows to highlight such identification factors as age, geographic variability, seasonality, and color oddities.

### Details

Instructor: Kevin J. Cook

Place: Conference Room, JAX Outdoor, 1200 N. College Ave.

Cost: \$8 per session or \$7 if FCAS member

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Dates: Being arranged now, and will be announced soon.

Visit [www.fortnet.org/Audubon](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon) or call Kevin at 223-8392 on MWF afternoons or any evening.

## FCAS CHAPTER CONTACTS

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### Fort Collins Audubon Society Members! Free! Email News Service Now Available!

- Receive regular news posts on FCAS events
- Get timely monthly meeting reminders
- Hear of volunteer opportunities as they arise

Visit [www.fortnet.org/Audubon/](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon/) to learn more and to subscribe to this new members-only service.



## Kudos and Raspberries



Big raspberries to members of the U.S. Congress who voted to approve the Energy Bill that just passed! Was there pandering to special interests? Of course there was. There are so many failings in this bill they can't all be listed here. Some of the problems include exemptions from provisions of the Clean Air Act for oil and gas company construction activities, increases in air pollution and global warming with more than \$6 billion in new incentives to burn coal, and incentives to cut down trees in sensitive areas such as roadless areas to use in ethanol and motor fuels production. It also fails to include a national renewable energy standard that would promote the use of renewable energy.

Basically this bill fails to reduce America's dependence on oil, fails to address global warming, fails to make any new investments in clean energy, and fails us at the gas pump. Instead of working towards a new energy future, we've gotten this absolute stinker. Ugh!



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## In This Issue!

### Regular Monthly Features

September Program - Land Protected by DU	Page 1
Field Trip Calendar for September - October	Page 2
Volunteer's Corner	Page 2
Better Living, Better Birding	Page 6
Conservation Corner	Page 7
Take Action	Page 7
Kudos and Raspberries	Page 7
FCAS Chapter Contacts	Page 7
In This Issue!	Page 8
Membership Application	Page 8

### This Month's Features

FCAS Volunteer Application	Page 3
FCAS Volunteer Fair	Page 4
Audubon Colorado's Rendezvous 2005	Page 4
Northern Colorado Birding Fair	Page 4
Birdathon 2005 Recap	Page 5
Ivory-Billed Woodpecker Update	Page 5
FCAS Scholarship Recipients	Page 5
Rendezvous Registration Form	Page 5
FCAS Birding Classes	Page 7
Free E-mail News Service	Page 7

### Audubon Society Membership Application

Support FCAS by paying your National Audubon Society (NAS) and/or Chapter (FCAS) dues through your chapter:

? <b>New Member (NAS &amp; FCAS)</b>	<b>\$20</b>
(Receive <i>Audubon</i> magazine and <i>Ptarmigan</i> )	
? <b>Renewing Member (NAS &amp; FCAS)</b>	<b>\$35</b>
(Receive <i>Audubon</i> magazine and <i>Ptarmigan</i> )	
? <b>FCAS Chapter Member only</b>	<b>\$15</b>
(Receive <i>Ptarmigan</i> only)	
? <b>FCAS may share my name with NAS</b>	
? <b>Additional donation to FCAS of:</b>	\$ _____
<b>Total enclosed:</b>	\$ _____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: No.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

? **I prefer to receive the *Ptarmigan* via the FCAS website, [www.fortnet.org/Audubon](http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon). Please e-mail me when posted.**

Please make your check payable to **FCAS** and send along with this form to:

**FCAS**  
**PO Box 271968**  
**Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968**

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