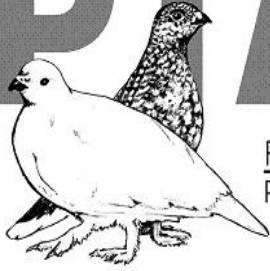


PTARMIGAN



FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 271968 • Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968 • www.fortnet.org/Audubon

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

February 2007

Volume 38, Issue 6

Second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas: *You Can Be a Part of Its Development!*

Field work for the Second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas will begin in 2007. Tony Leukering, Special Projects Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, will speak to us at our Thursday evening Program on February 8th, about the purpose of the atlas, and to encourage us to take part in this important endeavor.

Field work for the first Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas was initiated in 1987. As Breeding Bird Atlases are typically repeated every 20 years, the Colorado Bird Atlas Partnership has initiated efforts to conduct a second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas—Atlas II. Field work will begin in 2007 and the project is expected to take at least five years to complete. Volunteers do most of the field work on breeding bird atlas projects, and Colorado's is no different. The Atlas II project adds a unique dimension to birding, one through which field workers can enjoy their

hobby or work, while at the same time providing valuable information about Colorado's birds.

Tony Leukering has been with RMBO since 1994 after working on a wide variety of field projects since 1982. As Special Projects Coordinator, Tony heads up the Second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas for the Colorado Bird Atlas Partnership. He has worked for two other bird observatories and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is interested in bird identification, banding, and migration. He is also in charge of all bird-banding activities at RMBO, and is seeking funding to support writing a new book on the birdlife of Colorado.



We hope you will join us for more information on this project and learn more about how Audubon members can participate in the development of Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAM—February 8, 2007
Ludlow Room, Fort Collins Lincoln Center, 417 W. Magnolia Street
Social Gathering: 7:00 p.m., Program: 7:30 p.m.

FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Visit our website at www.fortnet.org/Audubon or call 970-490-BIRD.

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F E B - M A R F I E L D T R I P S

All field trips are free of charge unless otherwise noted and open to the public. All experience levels are welcome. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather. Bring snacks or lunch, water, binoculars, and spotting scopes. Carpooling is encouraged. A \$3.00 (unless otherwise specified) contribution per passenger to the driver is suggested. Visit www.fortnet.org/Audubon for more information. For all field trips and surveys, please contact the trip leader for signup and trip details.

A triple asterisk (*) within a field trip description indicates that the field trip will likely include Colorado Division of Wildlife-owned lands. Colorado state law requires all visitors to these lands to possess a Habitat Stamp while on the property. Purchase a stamp online, at a CDOW service center, or wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold for \$5 with a previously purchased license, or \$10 if purchased separately. Visit <http://wildlife.state.co.us/ShopDOW/AppsAndLicenses/HabitatStamp/> for more information, including exceptions.**

2/03/07, Saturday. Arkansas River Valley. *msn.com* or 970-484-8791. Join us for a walk on the Molly Lake Trail near Red Feather Lakes to look for birds that winter in the foothills. 8:30 a.m. to about noon. Meet at The Forks Restaurant at the intersection of U.S. 287 and the Red Feather Lakes Road (CR 74E). We will carpool from The Forks. Sturdy hiking boots with gaiters, or warm rubber knee boots recommended. Limited to 12 participants. Trip will be cancelled if roads are slick or snow cover in the area is too deep for easy walking.

2/11/07, Sunday. Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey. Leader: Sol Miller at eagleeye1029@yahoo.com. Meet at 7:00 a.m. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the city. All levels welcomed.

2/17/07, Saturday. Winter Raptors. Leader: Rick Harness at rharness@edmlink.com. 9:00 a.m. to noon. We will visit several prairie dog towns to view Golden Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, and Ferruginous Hawks. Concentrations of waterfowl will be visited to view Bald Eagles. Limited to 12 participants.

2/18/07, Sunday. Fossil Creek Reservoir Bird Survey. Leader: Nick Komar at quetzal65@comcast.net or 970-416-7527. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the county. All levels welcomed. Limited to 5 participants.

2/24/07, Saturday. Foothills Birding and Hike. Leaders: Chuck and Nancy Bell at cbell42@

3/03/07, Saturday. Winter Raptors. Leader: Phil Friedman at 970-493-2959 or phifri@frii.com. 9:00 a.m. to noon. Meet at the southwest side of the Harmony Library parking lot (Front Range campus at Harmony & Shields). Travel to city-owned natural areas in search of wintering raptors. We will begin with basic raptor identification and the birds found here this time of year. Plan on carpooling. Limited to 8 participants.

3/11/07, Sunday. Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Bird Survey. Leader: Sol Miller at eagleeye1029@yahoo.com. Meet at 7:00 a.m. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the city. All levels welcomed.

3/18/07, Sunday. Fossil Creek Reservoir Bird Survey. Leader: Nick Komar at quetzal65@comcast.net or 970-416-7527. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the county. All levels welcomed. Limited to 5 participants.



Looking Ahead: Watch for more information on upcoming Fort Collins Audubon Society programs. In March, we will be offering **two** programs:

March 8 (Thursday). Columbine Room (Note room change at the Lincoln Center). A joint program with the Colorado Native Plant Society will highlight the natural resources of the City of Fort Collins' Soapstone property. Crystal Strouse will speak about rare plants and plant communities at Soapstone. Crystal is a botanist with the City of Fort Collins Open Space/Natural Areas. David Hanni of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory will talk about bird populations at Soapstone.

March 26 (Monday). Program in Loveland. 7:00 p.m. Loveland Public Library, Gertrude B. Scott Room, 300 N. Adams Ave. Plan to attend our FCAS program in Loveland! This program is a reprise of our September 2006 program, **Audubon: The Man Behind the Paintings: Getting to Know John James Audubon.** Long-time Fort Collins Audubon member Mildred I. Johnson will share what she has learned in her recent studies of several Audubon biographies.

Send me your speaker suggestions: Being new to the area, but enthusiastic about serving as your program chair, I welcome any suggestions you may have for future speakers or program themes. Just send your recommendations with speaker contact information, to Jessie Meschievitz at jmesch@slbbi.com or telephone—970-686-1424. Thank you!



Don't Throw Away That Empty Inkjet Cartridge!

Fort Collins Audubon has launched a recycling and fundraising program with the help of an **inkjet recycling** company called Empties4Cash. Here is what the Empties4Cash program is about:

- The empty inkjet cartridges that we usually throw away as trash can be recycled and remanufactured.
- Bring those empty cartridges to any Fort Collins Audubon program or pick up a postage free mailer to take home!
- Fort Collins Audubon gets paid up to **\$4.00** for each empty inkjet cartridge that has a print head, regardless of the brand or type.
- We need OEM inkjet cartridges that have print heads from all of the following brands of printers:

• HP	• Brother
• Lexmark	• Dell
• Xerox	• Canon
• Compaq	• Apple

No Epson print cartridges can be accepted, since they are just ink tanks without a print head.

Please Note: Put the cartridge in the original box that you would have thrown away after it has been replaced to keep it safe from damages and spills, or a Ziploc bag.

Want less paper mail?

Walk your environmental talk—Get your newsletter online!



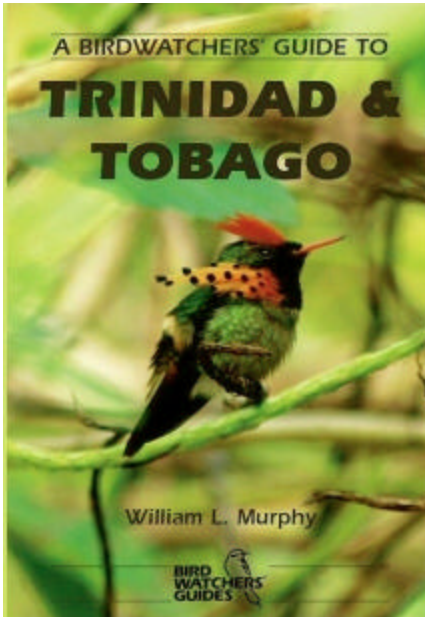
Would you like to reduce the amount of mail you receive? Use less paper? If you have access to the Internet, you can choose to receive e-mail notification when the Ptarmigan is available on the Fort Collins Audubon Society's website! The current issue of the newsletter is available online to members only, AND is available a week or two earlier than the paper copy! If you'd like to receive an e-mail notification, please e-mail your **name and address as it appears on your newsletter's mailing label** and the e-mail address you wish to use to sktupper@earthlink.net. Please indicate whether you want just e-mail or if you would prefer both e-mail and the paper newsletter. We'd be happy to accommodate. Here's an opportunity to practice what we preach!

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Trinidad & Tobago

A Trip Sponsored by the Fort Collins Audubon Society



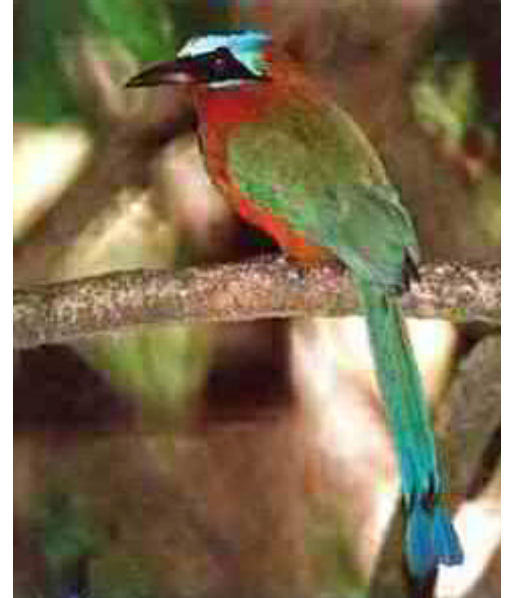
10 days
May 16–25, 2007

Led by expert birding guide
Bill Murphy

Author of
*A Birdwatchers' Guide to
Trinidad & Tobago*

Charter Member
T&T Rare Birds Committee

Visit
www.birderbill.us/May_07/



Trinidad and Tobago are lush, stunningly beautiful islands located just 10° above the Equator, adjacent to Venezuela. Blessed with a perfect climate and a unique blend of Amazonian and West Indian fauna and flora, this verdant two-island republic is universally acclaimed as the best place in the New World to first experience the splendor of tropical birds. Even persons with broad experience with Neotropical birds return to T&T because of the ease with which birds and other kinds of wildlife can be studied. Birds and butterflies resplendent in gaudy hues probe at arm's length at nectar and fruit feeders. A profusion of brightly colored flowers adds intense color to the tropical vistas, and every scene is a photo opportunity. Our accommodations are time-tested and birder-friendly. The food is sensational. Enjoying freshly picked fruit and locally grown coffee for breakfast is a luxurious experience. In Tobago we will enjoy two days and nights at the Cuffie River Nature Retreat, while in Trinidad we will enjoy six days and nights at the world-famous Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge.

COST \$2,495 from Port-of-Spain based on double occupancy; single supplement \$495

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES roundtrip inter-island airfare, airport transfers, baggage handling, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, afternoon tea and rum punch at the Asa Wright Nature Centre, expert tour leader and local guides on both islands, glass-bottomed boat to Little Tobago Island, bird checklist, audiotape *Bird Sounds of Trinidad & Tobago*, and hotel gratuities (gratuities to local guides and boatmen are at participant's discretion). Tour price does not include air fare from departure city to Port-of-Spain and return.

For a detailed itinerary and registration form, visit

www.birderbill.us/May_07/

Registration is limited to 10 participants

I am excited about the recent establishment of the **Conservation Forum**, which held its first meeting December 9, at the Colorado Division of Wildlife's (CDOW) headquarters in Denver. As of January 2007, Fort Collins Audubon Society (FCAS) became subscribed as a member of the **Forum**. I am not exactly sure how the **Conservation Forum** was established, but it appears to be an outgrowth of the Environmental Round Table process of the past year or so, at which members of conservation organizations had been meeting on a regular basis at the CDOW headquarters. The **Conservation Forum** is now a more formalized organization of those organizations and some involved individuals.

According to the Objectives and Purpose contained within the draft charter that was just distributed: *The forum is a mechanism for the Conservation Community and CDOW staff to share*

Unfortunately, it is no longer enough to be a passive birder. Birds' environment is under assault, and your voice must be heard if we are to preserve a diverse bird population for the next generation. Calling and writing letters to your elected representatives is still the most effective way to be heard.
 —Northern Arizona Audubon Society's web site: <http://nazas.org/>

ideas and concerns related to the well-being of Colorado's wildlife and wildlife habitat. The forum expands the opportunity for the participating parties to become more fully aware of issues of concern for the purpose of joint participation in relevant CDOW analyses and decision-making.

Make no mistake about it—the **Conservation Forum** is CDOW-centric. The **Forum** will have two co-chairs, one being Tom Nesler, Wildlife Conservation Section Manager, as the appointed Division's co-chair. The other co-chair will be derived from the conservation community, elected by non-CDOW Forum participants to serve up to two consecutive, one year terms. The conservation community co-chair will normally be elected in December, but his/her first term will be for just nine months as s/he will be elected at the forum's next quarterly meeting on March 10, 2007.

FCAS was first alerted by Gary Miller about the **Conservation Forum**. Gary is a FCAS member, and is recently retired from the CDOW. Gary started out as a researcher for Threatened and Endangered Species in the old Nongame Section, and then moved into administration. Prior to retirement, he was a mammals and wildlife disease research leader, and also helped get the Division's new Wildlife

Conservation Section up and running. He had been attending the Environmental Round Table meetings, the precursor of the **Conservation Forum**. In Gary's own words: *My strong personal and professional judgment is that the various conservation/sportsmen/environmental organizations will attain common objectives much more quickly, with longer-lasting results, if we build and strengthen bridges among us—my hope is that the Forum is a step in that direction.* Gary has agreed to join the FCAS Conservation Committee and be its principal delegate to the **Conservation Forum**.

Organizations attending the December meeting included: Audubon Colorado; Boulder County Nature Association; Center for Native Ecosystems; Colorado Bowhunters Association; Colorado Hawking Club; Colorado Wildlife Federation; Defenders of Wildlife; Prairie Preservation Alliance; River Otter Alliance; Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society; Sierra Club; Sinapu; Southern Plains Land Trust; and Southern Rockies Ecosystem Alliance. Also attending were representatives from Governor-elect Ritter and Congressman Mark Udall. In addition, there were several individuals representing themselves and their own interests.

The Conservation Organizations listed above have a combined membership of around 70,000. That number is probably less, as many individuals probably belong to more than one of the listed organizations. The important thing to note, however, is that this organization could have considerable political clout. The **Forum** will likely provide an avenue for both the Conservation Community and the CDOW to get in on the ground floor of legislation that affects wildlife. When coupled with the lobbying arms of the CDOW, Audubon Colorado, Sierra Club, and other involved organizations, I believe there is a great opportunity to accomplish good things on behalf of wildlife.

I look forward to working with Gary and attending meetings of the **Conservation Forum** as my schedule permits. I hope that my expectations of and for the **Forum** aren't set too high.
 —Bill Miller, Conservation Chair

PROGRESS ON THE PAWNEE, Bill Miller, Conservation Chair

I am writing this piece before the fact—a downside of contributing to a publication with a month's lead-time. But there will be (was) a planning meeting of involved persons at the U.S. Forest Service's Pawnee National Grasslands headquarters in Greeley on Saturday, January 27. Participants are gearing up for when the two-track roads of the Pawnee are once more reasonably passable to vehicular traffic so that the inventory of wildlife structures can continue.

Wildlife structures are those man-made features that benefit wildlife. Over time such structures have become degraded or rendered ineffective. Structures include ponds with duck nest islands, escape ramps in stock tanks, fenced enclosures to keep cattle off of wildlife habitat, nest boxes, living snow fences, and tree cribs to keep cattle from rubbing the bark off trees that could be nest trees or otherwise important to wildlife.

Currently, I am generating a database of wildlife structures. The locations of these structures are shown on a map, but the type of structure is not identified. Thus, there is a need for volunteers to actually visit each site, note its type, and its physical condition. After this information is collected and catalogued, the Forest Service managers of the Pawnee will be able to plan for rehabilitating such structures as necessary and/or to establish new structures.

This is a great opportunity for those of you with a strong interest in seeing parts of the Pawnee never before visited by you. Who knows, you might even see a bird or two out there. Stay tuned for further developments and contact information.

Better Living, Better Birding, *Lynne Hull*

The bad news is, due to the weather, many of you missed an excellent program on a local foundation, Idea Wild, and their wonderful wildlife conservation successes in developing countries around the world. Biologist Wally Van Sickle introduced us to a growing global network of biologists doing research in “hotspots” of global conservation importance. Early in his career as a wildlife researcher, Wally realized that many competent scientists native to economically challenged areas were unable to effectively accomplish their research due to the lack of money for basic equipment or tools. He decided to assist them with small funding needs (think of the success of micro-lending in the same countries), which are beneath the radar of large foundations. Sometimes all that was missing was binoculars, live traps, trapping scent, or a good used computer. Wally raised money, bought equipment, and found ways to hitchhike it to the location where it was needed. He showed us some of the successes in terms of new species discovered, new protected areas created, even a new national park, all because of \$300 to \$600 in equipment to enable the local biologists.

The good news is that with our attendance at the Idea Wild fundraiser at Nature’s Own in December, our purchases resulted in funding three grants for Idea Wild. The purchases of Audubon members and friends totaled over \$2,000.

First, we will be supporting research on the endangered Red Siskin, for a biologist from Caracas, Venezuela, buying him a laptop to assist in identifying, characterizing, and monitoring remaining populations of Red Siskins in three

different regions of Venezuela. The study focuses on social groups, natural history, diet, and reproductive behavior, and the data will factor into a conservation plan for saving this rare species.

Second, we will fund micro-cameras for monitoring nesting behavior of three toucans—Toco Toucan, Spot-billed Toucan, and Chestnut-eared Aricari, in Belize. The research will document courting and nesting behaviors in male and female adults and nestlings, not only to find conservation techniques for existing wild birds but to gather knowledge for captive breeding programs for dropping populations.

Third, we will help fund research on the Javan Lapwing in East Java by buying spotting scopes and binoculars for local ornithologists. The Javan Lapwing is very rare, thought by some to be extinct, but there are convincing reports of sightings from local residents. This grant could be the Javan equivalent of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker! In their search, the team will also collect data on the Java Sparrow, the Black-winged Starling, as well as coastal habitat conditions for all wildlife species.

Thanks, members, for “giving twice” with your holiday purchases! Phil Friedman and I will be proposing to the board that some Birdathon funds be designated to fund at least one project a year for conservation in developing countries through Idea Wild. If a donor funds an entire project, they are involved in selecting the project and there is no administrative overhead charged: the entire donation goes to the project. Your support of Birdathon will help us do this!

Upcoming Trips and Events

April 2–6, Colorado Grouse Trip — Covering about 1,500 miles between Colorado’s eastern plains and the western slope of the Rockies, this trip will be in search of Greater and Gunnison Sage Grouse, Sharp-tailed and Blue Grouse, Lesser and Greater Prairie Chicken, as well as White-tailed Ptarmigan, Mountain Plover, Brown-capped Rosy Finch, McCown’s and Chestnut-collared Longspur. For details, see the December 2006 Ptarmigan online or the FCAS website (<http://fortnet.org/Audubon/activities/calendar.htm>).

May 11–12, Birdathon! — Fort Collins Audubon’s Annual spring fundraiser. For details, see the FCAS website (<http://fortnet.org/Audubon/activities/birdathon/birdathon.htm>) or the September 2006 Ptarmigan online.

May 16–25, Trinidad & Tobago Trip — Sponsored by Fort Collins Audubon and led by expert birding guide, Bill Murphy, presenter of our October 2006 program, author of *A Birdwatchers' Guide to Trinidad & Tobago*, and Charter Member of the T&T Rare Birds Committee. See the FCAS website (<http://fortnet.org/Audubon/activities/calendar.htm>) or this issue of the Ptarmigan for details.

June 8–10, Yampa River Canoe Trip — Canoe the Yampa River, the last undammed tributary of the Colorado River system. See the FCAS website (<http://fortnet.org/Audubon/activities/calendar.htm>) or the December 2006 Ptarmigan online for details.

August 27–31, San Juan Islands Sea Kayak Trip — Join us for a sea kayaking trip in the San Juan Islands, Washington. See the December 2006 Ptarmigan online or the FCAS website (<http://fortnet.org/Audubon/activities/calendar.htm>) for details.



Welcome to our newest members!
We look forward to seeing you at our meetings!

Karen Abt	Michelle Galyardt	Cynthia Melcher
Constance L. Allin	Julie Giron	Curiel Michael
Marilyn J. Anderson	Margaret Grant	William K. Mygdal
Robert Babbs	William A. Hagen	Richard Nolte
Kathleen Baily	Curtis Halvorson	Paul Oesterle
Aine Barrett	Fred Hart	Wes Ortolano
Randy Basaraba	David Hartley	Richard Pandullo
John Batson	Todd & Amy Hayman	Arlene-Allyn Pawnaman
Mary Bergman	Mrs. H.J. Hendershot Jr	Thomas H. Post
Ann Biegelsen	Janet M Holley	Frank Remsik
Lori Brummer	Ruth Holmes	Amy Rist
Richard Bunch	Mrs. David J. Holtslag	Carolyn J. Robison
Bonnie J. Carpenter	Theora Hoppe	Lisa Salazar
Connie Cooper Fobes	R. M. Hough	James Sanchez
Greg Cross	Patricia E. Hufford	Barbara Schmidt
Lynn A. Davies	Frederick A. Johnson	Mary Lou Selch
Odell Dehart	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Kelly	Roxy Smith
Larry DeMers	Kathryn Lenz	Patricia Stegner
Cheryl Dimitt	Robert J. Magill	Kristine Swaton
Belinda Donnenfeld	Thomas R. Margenau	Yvonne Temsik
Chuck Draves	Jean Martens	John Thut
Boyce Drummond	Kevin McCaffrey	Will Walters
Judith A. Edgar	June McCasland	Keith Wilson
William Farland	John C. McGrew	Daniel Young
G. Fitzpatrick		

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www.fortnet.org/audubon/leadership.htm

Loveland Christmas Bird Count Report

The Loveland Christmas Bird Count is alive and well with 17 volunteers participating on January 1, 2007 (part of the 107th National Audubon Society CBC). We recorded 85 species on count day with Eastern Bluebirds and Marsh Wren added as a count week bird. Highlights of the day were four Trumpeter Swans, Wild Turkey, Mountain Bluebird, and Common Grackles. High-count species were Mourning Dove, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Shrike, and Western Scrub-Jay. Low-Count species were Canada Goose, American Widgeon, Northern Pintail, Wild Turkey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and Herring Gull. Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch generously offered us their meeting room, complete with a roaring fire, to use for our end-of-day tally and pizza dinner. FCAS thanks Sylvan Dale for the use of this wonderful room. Full results of the census are posted at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html. To get on the mailing list for next year's Loveland CBC, e-mail compiler Connie Kogler at ckogler@mac.com.





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



Go to www.fortnet.org/Audubon/fcaudubon.htm to learn more and to subscribe to the *fcaudubon* e-mail news service.

Membership Application

Join the Fort Collins Audubon Society (FCAS) directly, or automatically become a member by joining the National Audubon Society (NAS). *Choose one below:*

New or Renewing Member of FCAS (annual dues) **\$15**
 (Receive the *Ptarmigan* newsletter)
 FCAS may share my name with NAS

New Member of NAS & Chapter **\$20**
 (Receive *Audubon* magazine and *Ptarmigan*)

Renewing Member of NAS & Chapter **\$35**
 (Receive *Audubon* magazine and *Ptarmigan*)

Did you know? Less than \$1 of your NAS dues is left for FCAS funds. FCAS serves NAS members through its own fundraising efforts. We appreciate your financial support!

Additional donation to FCAS \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I prefer to receive the *Ptarmigan* via the FCAS website. Please e-mail me when posted.

Please make your check payable to **FCAS** and send along with this form to: **Fort Collins Audubon Society, PO Box 271968, Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968**

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