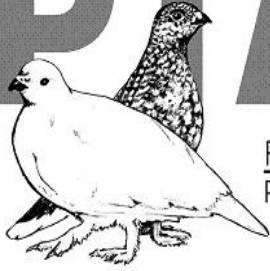


PTARMIGAN



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.

June 2007

Volume 38, Issue 10

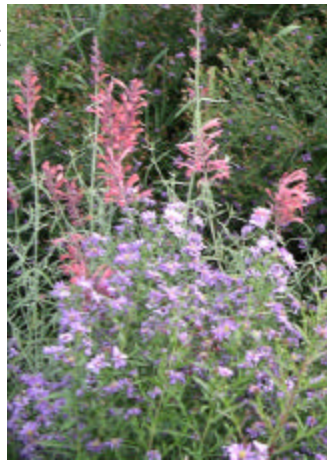
Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour Saturday, July 14, 2007

5 gardens to visit!



A tour of five Fort Collins gardens designed with wildlife in mind will be sponsored by Fort Collins Audubon Society on Saturday, July 14, 2007.

Visitors may purchase a guidebook for the tour from sponsors, including Fort Collins Nursery, Ranchway Feeds, Wild Birds Unlimited, and Bath Nursery. The self-guided tour will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each garden exhibits a different approach to designing a bird, butterfly, or other wildlife-friendly garden. Ranging from a small suburban backyard to several acres, and primarily



designed and built by the owners, each garden is distinctive. Each offers a learning opportunity for visitors to create their own wildlife-friendly garden by adding plantings and features to support the food, shelter, and water needs of animals. Cost for the tour will be \$12 in advance and \$15 at the gardens, with children's tickets available at the gardens for \$5.

Please Contact Lynne Hull at (970) 416-1881, Lynne.Hull@eco-art.org or Ruth Grant at (970)225-2673 for further information



Information at www.fortnet.org/Audubon and 970.490-BIRD

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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JUNE–AUGUST FIELD TRIPS

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 to sign up.

6/16/07, Saturday. Burrowing Owls and Mountain Plovers. Leader: Bill Miller at 970-493-7693 or 5mcorp@comcast.net. 6:30 a.m. to about noon. We'll travel to the Pawnee National Grassland in search of these species, among others. Carpooling is required (\$4 to drivers, please). Meet at the Harmony Transfer Station at the northwest corner of Harmony and I-25. Limited to 12 participants and 3 cars.

6/17/07, Sunday. Fossil Creek Reservoir Bird Survey. Leader: Nick Komar at quetzal65@comcast.net or 970-416-7527. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for Larimer County. Limited to 5 participants.

7/08/07, 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 of Fort Collins. All levels welcomed.

7/15/07, Sunday. Fossil Creek Reservoir Bird Survey. Leader: Nick Komar at quetzal65@comcast.net or 970-416-7527. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for Larimer County. Limited to 5 participants.

8/12/07, 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 of Fort Collins. All levels welcomed.

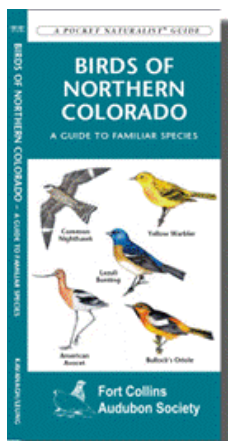
8/19/07, Sunday. Fossil Creek Reservoir Bird Survey. Leader: Nick Komar at quetzal65@comcast.net or 970-416-7527. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for Larimer County. Limited to 5 participants.

August 27–31, 2007, Monday–Friday. Sea Kayaking, San Juan Islands, Washington. This trip is a new destination offered through Centennial Canoe outfitters. See details for this trip elsewhere in this newsletter.

Breeding Bird Atlas Needs Volunteers

Field work is already underway for Colorado's second Breeding Bird Atlas. This five year project will repeat the field-work conducted during the first Atlas (1987–1993). Volunteer field workers are needed to confirm bird species breeding in Atlas survey blocks around the state. Survey blocks (about 3 miles on a side) occur in each USGS 7.5 minute topographic map.

If you are interested in participating in this endeavor, you can sign up for an Atlas survey block in Larimer and Weld counties by contacting Connie Kogler, who is the Regional Coordinator for our area (970-622-9710 or ckogler@mac.com). Connie covers the area found on pages 19, 20, 21, and 94 of the DeLorme Gazateer for Colorado. If you wish to participate in a different part of Colorado, contact Tony Leukering at tony.leukering@rmbo.org. For general information about the Atlas, visit the website <http://rmbo.org/specialproj/atlas2.html>.



FCAS Pocket Guide to Local Birds
is now available at the following retailers,
who are supporting our organization with the sales:

Wild Birds Unlimited
248 E Monroe Drive
(970) 225-2557

Ranch-Way Feeds
546 Willow Street
(970) 482-1662

**The Matter Bookstore/
Bean Cycle Coffee**
144 N College Avenue
(970) 472-4284

Jax Farm and Ranch
1000 N Highway 287
(970) 484-2221

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

Bath Garden Center & Nursery
2000 E Prospect Road
(970) 484-5022



Looking Forward to Fall 2007 Programs

We have an exciting fall lineup of Fort Collins Audubon Society programs scheduled beginning in September. Be sure to watch future issues of the Ptarmigan for more specific details. We surely don't mean to hurry your wonderful summer months, so enjoy and plan ahead for fall!

September 13 — Kevin Cook, Naturalist and Author, has offered to do a book signing of the newly released book, *Good Birders Don't Wear White: 50 Tips From North America's Top Birders*. He will also share some of his personal birding experiences. Kevin is one of 50 authors who wrote essays on birding experiences and tips for this book. He will be graciously donating ALL book sale proceeds that evening to FCAS. Kevin explained he received a flat fee for his contribution to the book—so he receives no future royalties from book sales. We appreciate his generosity to FCAS! Kevin is familiar to FCAS members through the birding, wildflower, and natural history classes he offers, and the weekly column he writes for local newspapers. Visit www.fortnet.org/audubon to see classes offered by Kevin this summer. Don't miss the opportunity this September to add a signed copy of this new book to your birding book collection.

October 11 — Ken Strom, Bird Conservation Director for Audubon Colorado, will be speaking to us about "Wind Power and Wildlife in Colorado." He will address the need to be vigilant about the proper placement of wind farms and individual wind turbines to try and minimize disruption and fragmentation of sensitive habitats, and reduce collision mortality. Visit www.audubon.org/ for an article on a recent National Research Council report on wind power and the need for more study on this alternative energy option.

November 15 — Daniel Glick, International Journalist and author, will be speaking to us on "Rising Tides, Melting Glaciers, and a Changing Planet: Are Humans Divorcing Mother Nature?"

Daniel has written numerous articles for national magazines about wildlife and threats to their existence and habitat. They include: *Smithsonian*,

January 2007 – Pronghorn migration in Wyoming; *National Wildlife*, Dec/Jan 2007 – cover story about polar bears and how they are being affected by global warming; *National Geographic*, April 2006 – Glen Canyon; *Audubon*, March/April 2006 – Re-introduction of Mexican wolves.

Daniel Glick is also a published book author: *Monkey Dancing* is an account of Daniel's world travels with his two children, his desire for them to see endangered natural wonders of the world, and how humankind relates to nature. This book won the Colorado Book Award in 2004. *Powder Burn: Arson, Money, and Mystery on Vail Mountain* is an account of the multi-million dollar arson that occurred at Vail ski resort in 1998, and was a Denver Post bestseller. For more interesting information about Daniel Glick and direct links to national magazine articles he has written, visit his website at www.DanielGlick.net.

Daniel Glick's books will be available for sale before and after the meeting. This will be a program you won't want to miss!

December 14 — We will hold our traditional potluck and this year we will be showing the PBS-produced video, "Pale Male." This delightfully narrated documentary of the Red-tailed Hawk, "Pale Male," who took up residence in 1995 on the balcony of a 5th Avenue high-rise apartment bordering New York's Central Park, is sure to warm your heart and want you to applaud the persistence of this raptor and his mates over the past 12 years. Pale Male and his current mate, Lola, have nested again in 2007, and are raising a brood of two chicks. Checkout the website www.palemale.com to see current updates and pictures of the pair and chicks, as a preview to the showing of Pale Male, in December.





Fort Collins Audubon Society

Sea Kayak Trip 2007



The San Juan Islands, Washington – 5-day Trip

Date: August 27–31 (Monday–Friday), 2007

Cost: \$780 (includes \$60 donation to Fort Collins Audubon Society)

With over 200 rocky, forested islands to explore, the San Juan Archipelago is a superb kayak destination. You'll experience the fun of paddling and camping on remote islands accessible only by boat! Harking back to an earlier time, the islands were used by the native Lummi and Swinomish tribes as summer fishing camps. The pristine waters of the San Juan and Gulf Islands are host to over 80 resident orca whales. Other wildlife sightings may include minke whales, Dall's porpoises, seals, and eagles.

Itinerary. Stuart Island will be your first destination as you paddle north past Spieden Island. On day two, you'll circumnavigate Stuart Island and paddle past the abandoned Coast Guard lighthouse with Vancouver Island to your west and a good chance to sight whales. Your third day will be a layover day; you'll do an easy hike to Turn Point situated on a rocky bluff with the Canadian San Juan Islands to the west. After dinner, you'll have the option of participating in an evening "bioluminescence" paddle with marine life that glows at night. On the fourth day, you'll break camp and paddle to Jones Island owned by Washington State Parks, which has gorgeous waterfront campsites. On day five, you'll paddle to the south side of San Juan Island where your trip will conclude between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.



Trip Logistics. You are responsible for providing your own transportation to Friday Harbor on San Juan Island where your trip begins. From the Seattle/Tacoma (SeaTac) Airport, take the shuttle to the Anacortes ferry or drive a rental car. From Anacortes, take the ferry to Friday Harbor, which accommodates walk-ons and motor vehicles.



How to Sign Up

Our outfitters (www.centennialcanoe.com) will provide all safety equipment, guides, kayaks, and great food. Cost of the trip is \$780, of which \$60 is donated back to FCAS. You will need to bring basic personal supplies. The trip is limited to 20 participants, so sign up early to reserve your place. A deposit of \$300 per person must accompany your reservation request, and the balance is due by July 13. For further details and to register for the trip, contact Centennial Canoe Outfitters, 1-877-353-1850 (toll free) **and be sure to tell them you heard about it from Fort Collins Audubon Society.**

More details are posted on the Fort Collins Audubon Website www.fortnet.org/Audubon



Welcome to these new
and renewing members!

We hope to see you at our
programs and field trips.

Sally Blanchard	Daria DeCooman	Joan Glabach
Roxanne Goodrich	Carole Hossan	Barry and Paige Noon
Linda Pirie		

A Change of Seasons

Joann Thomas, Education Chair

Recently, I enjoyed a walk along the Poudre River with the 2007 graduates of the city's Master Naturalist Program. What an experience! We didn't walk very far; we meandered; we chatted; we stopped and watched birds; we got wet (it rained); we identified a wildflower that grew in yellow profusion along a dike (tansy); we slipped on wet grass: we were muddy and cold; it was wonderful!

At one point, on our left was the riparian corridor of the Poudre with blooming chokecherry and the pale green of freshly leafed-out trees; on our right was a field of grasses that contained remnants of the debris from the sugar beet industry. Walking on, we came to the wetlands of Cattail Chorus Natural Area. I pondered the toll of time and human habitation on the land and wondered what it looked like to early settlers. I imagined it looked like unlimited resources, but today, through the trees and across the river, the businesses along Mulberry are visible and the sound of traffic is constant. The resources do have a limit.

I wondered what this walk would look like if we visited it once a month throughout a year. How would it change with the seasons? What would it sound like? What would it feel like? What would we see? What color would it be? And, a program was born!

This summer I'll be developing the "Second Saturday Natural History Walk" series where we'll take a walk in the same area each month for a year. On each visit we'll examine new information about life in the area—birds, plants, insects, and humans. Participants can record their observations by journaling, drawing, and/or photographing. Change will be the constant in this adventure. Check each issue of the *Ptarmigan* for the topic of the month.

And perhaps, for me, the most special part of this venture is the fact that the path is handicapped accessible. While touring with my brother (a heart attack and stroke victim who uses a wheelchair) around Colorado, I became sensitized to how difficult simple pleasures—like taking a nature walk—can be. This walk is planned with accessibility a priority.

Sometimes, master naturalists with special knowledge in a particular field will join us to offer a new perspective on the area. The program will offer everyone an opportunity to think about this place we call home—what it was, what it is, and what it can be.

Look for details about time and place in Audubon's next issue of the *Ptarmigan* and JOIN US in September for the "Second Saturday Natural History Walk."

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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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