

# ptarmigan

APRIL 2002

Fort Collins Audubon Society

Volume 33 Number 7



## Fuel for Thought

**T**he Center for Resource Solutions promotes clean and efficient energy use, encourages sustainable economic growth, and helps preserve the environment for present and future generations. CRS is working with The Nature Conservancy in southern Mexico to support local communities through the use of renewable technology. Solar drying of coffee reduces the demand for fossil fuels or wood products for the drying processes, and thus result in both less deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Jim Welch**, Southern Mexico Program Manager for CRS, will discuss three ongoing programs: solar electric fencing for dairy farmers, more efficient



cookstoves, and the solar drying of coffee. Each of these practices is beneficial to the local environment and birdlife. Solar electric fencing keeps cattle off of hillsides and out of streams and helps prevent overgrazing. Efficient cookstoves reduce the need to cut trees for firewood.

Jim has been involved in the field of solar energy for over 20 years. He has worked in many corners of the globe including Yemen, Mongolia, Botswana, Mexico, China, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. In collaboration with the Nature Conservancy, he designed and implemented a renewable energy program for the largest private system of nature sanctuaries in the world. Jim will speak mainly on his work in Chiapas, Mexico.

**WHEN:** Thursday Evening  
April 11, 2002  
7:30 pm

**WHERE:** Ludlow Room  
Fort Collins Lincoln Center  
417 Magnolia Street



# FIELD TRIPS

*All field trips are open to the public and free of charge.* No prior experience is necessary. Please call field trip coordinator Nick Komar at 970-416-7527, or e-mail him at [quetzal65@attbi.com](mailto:quetzal65@attbi.com) for more information.

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

### **BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS — 1–4 pm**

Meet in Fort Collins at the parking area for Prospect Ponds on Sharp Point Rd (across from Heska Corp.). We will hike the Poudre River Trail from the feedlot pond to the raptor cages at the Environmental Learning Center (hiking distance about 2 miles). This hike is wheelchair accessible. Children accompanied by adults are welcome. Bring binoculars, snacks, and water. Contact leader Bill Miller for more information, 970-493-7693, [5mcorp@verinet.com](mailto:5mcorp@verinet.com)

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 13**

### **EARLY SPRING MIGRATION — all day**

Meet at 8:00 am at the Harmony Road Transportation Transfer Center (northwest corner of the intersection of Interstate 25 and Harmony Road) in Fort Collins. This field trip will focus on finding migrants in the Fort Collins/Loveland area, possibly ranging into western Weld County. Bring food, water, and clothing for unpredictable weather. Limit 15 participants. Carpooling required; \$2 contribution to driver suggested. Register to participate by contacting leader Nick Komar, 970-416-7527, [quetzal65@attbi.com](mailto:quetzal65@attbi.com).

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 20**

### **EARTH DAY BIRD WALKS — throughout the day**

**POUDRE RIVER RIPARIAN HABITAT.** Meet at the Parking Lot for the Environmental Learning Center (entrance located at the east end of Drake Rd. in Fort Collins). Check the FCAS website for trip leaders and meeting times throughout the day, or call Field Trips Coordinator Nick Komar for more information, 970-416-7527, [quetzal65@attbi.com](mailto:quetzal65@attbi.com).

## **SATURDAY, MAY 4**

### **BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS — 9 am–noon**

Meet in Fort Collins at the Pine Ridge Natural Area (west side of Dixon Reservoir, just below Horsetooth Reservoir on County Road 45C). We will appreciate many migrating birds (and recently arrived breeding birds) as we hike around Dixon Reservoir. Be prepared to walk up to 4 miles (bring water, wear layers and comfortable shoes). For more information, contact leader Arvind Panjabi, 970-482-1707, [Arvind.panjabi@rmbo.org](mailto:Arvind.panjabi@rmbo.org).

## **FIELD TRIP TO CFO CONVENTION**

The Fort Collins Audubon Society is sponsoring a four-day field trip to the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) Convention in Durango, Colorado. We will arrive on May 24 and depart on May 27. CFO members and non-members are welcome at the convention. On the way to Durango, those who choose to carpool will visit the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge in Alamosa.

All field trips and lectures are included in the registration fee, which is \$30 for members of CFO and \$40 for non-members. Field trips, the paper session, and the Saturday evening program are open ONLY to those paying this fee.

The highlight for the convention is a keynote address on Saturday evening by Kenn Kaufman, field editor for *Audubon*, and the author of *Lives of North American Birds*, the *Peterson Field Guide to Advanced Birding*, and his most recent book, *Birds of North America*. There is a \$25 cost to attend the banquet. CFO is offering an opportunity, in advance of the convention, to bid on being one of 12 to go on a field trip with Kenn from 6:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

A variety of different field trips have been planned for all levels of birders on Saturday until noon, all day on Sunday, and open-ended on Monday. Sign-up is on a first-come, first-served basis. Saturday afternoon is reserved for the paper session.

We have reserved rooms at the Quality Inn—at a nightly group rate of \$69 plus tax (single or double). To obtain this rate, you must contact contact Ann Molison, Fort Collins Audubon Society, 970-377-4228 or [amolison2@attbi.com](mailto:amolison2@attbi.com) by April 23, 2002. For details and reservation forms, visit the CFO website at <http://www.cfo-link.org/leadpage.html>.

## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIRD OBSERVATORY**

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) has opened an office in Fort Collins. To further its conservation goals, RMBO has planned a spring migration banding station for the CSU Environmental Learning Center. FCAS members are welcome to visit the banding station, which will operate Monday through Friday mornings (occasionally on Saturday), April 8–May 31. For more information, contact Shelly Morrell at 970-482-1707, [shelly.morrell@rmbo.org](mailto:shelly.morrell@rmbo.org).

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## CONSERVATION CORNER

**Bill Miller**, Vice President & Conservation Chair

**S**pringtime is once more upon us, and we're all getting more busy with outdoor activities—from cleaning the garden to witnessing spring migration. We hope that you will be able to include some of the activities of the Fort Collins Audubon Society (FCAS) in your plans.

### EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

**Natural Area Cleanup—April 20:** Several years ago FCAS adopted the Fossil Creek Wetlands Natural Area complex for trash removal. We have scheduled another cleanup for Saturday morning from 8:30 am until 11:30 am. We will work on cleaning up the portion of the natural area south of Trilby Road, west of the railroad tracks, and east of S. Lemay Ave. The City of Fort Collins Natural Resources Department will once more provide trash bags. Volunteers should bring work gloves and hats, shovels, garden rakes, wire cutters, a pickup truck or two, and perhaps a tow chain. **Contact:** Doug Jackman, 970-207-1457, [Dougjackman2@aol.com](mailto:Dougjackman2@aol.com)

**Earth Fest—April 22:** Earth Day is April 22 each year, and this year that date falls on a Monday. Local Earth Day activities will be held at the CSU Environmental Learning Center (ELC) on Saturday, April 20, from 1 pm until 7 pm, with set-up beginning at 12:30 pm. The ELC is located at the east end of Drake Ave. Turn left (north) immediately after crossing the railroad tracks and the entrance to the wastewater treatment plant.

Earth Fest activities this year will be focused on the theme “Looking For A Better World.” FCAS will have a booth at the Earth Fest, and we are asking for volunteers to help staff the booth. In addition we will also be conducting one or more bird hikes around the ELC. **Contact:** Ann Molison, 970-377-4228, [amolison2@attbi.com](mailto:amolison2@attbi.com)

### POUDRE RIVERFEST AND THE PROCESSION OF THE RIVER SPECIES—JUNE 1-2

**Poudre Riverfest—June 1-2:** Saturday and Sunday, are the days for the second Poudre Riverfest, to be held at the Old Fort Collins Heritage Park behind the Northside Aztlan Community Center on Willow Street. Details are still being worked out. A clean-up along the Poudre, location yet to be determined, will occur on May 18th. A “Run for the River” 5K race will be held the morning of June 1st. The Riverfest will also feature approximately 20 environmental booths and activities, live music, a health village, kayak races, and river rafting.

**Procession of the River Species—June 1.** For the third year, there will also be a Procession of the River Species, organized by Lynne Hull (416-1881), a local environmental artist and Audubon member. The purpose of the Procession is twofold: to draw attention to the animal and plant species found in Larimer County and to publicize the importance of wildlife movement corridors. You are invited to participate as a drummer, a dancer, or by creating and wearing a costume representing an animal, plant, or insect. Look for more information in the May Ptarmigan and the local media.

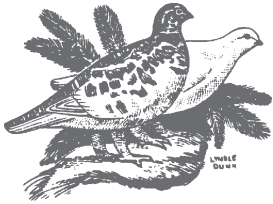
### BYLAWS REVISIONS

The FCAS Board of Directors has reviewed a set of proposed revisions to the Chapter Bylaws and is now providing notice to Chapter members that these Bylaw revisions will be brought to a vote at the regular program and member meeting on Thursday, **May 9**.

In brief, the revisions include the following:

- Change in quorum at a members meeting from 30 to 20
- Allowing the Board to conduct some of its business, other than the generation of policy, by email or telephone
- The creation and maintenance of a Chapter “Policy Manual”
- The creation of an Executive Committee, consisting of the President, Vice-President, the Conservation Chair, the Membership chair, the Education chair, and the President-Elect if other than the Vice-President. The Executive Committee will have the authority to act on behalf of the Chapter, in accordance with its policies, when a response by the Chapter is necessary or desired before a meeting of the Board can be convened
- Rewording of the Articles on Commitments and Discontinuance to use wording required by the National Audubon Society

Other minor wording revisions are too numerous to detail here. Copies of the Bylaws and their revisions will be available at the April and May program meetings or made available as an email attachment to anyone so requesting them before the vote at the May program meeting. **Contact:** Bill Miller, 970-493-7693, [5mcorp@verinet.com](mailto:5mcorp@verinet.com).



Fort Collins Audubon Society  
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## FCAS BIRDATHON

### BIRDATHON HOPES TO RAISE \$5,000!

**It's coming! Our annual Birdathon fundraiser will be on Saturday, May 11**, when teams of Auduboners will be scouring the area, trying to see as many bird species as possible. And your help is needed. We are trying to raise \$5,000 this year (surpassing our previous high of \$4,000), to support our Lobby effort in Denver and our local conservation and education efforts. Please send in this coupon with your pledge, or sign up to be on a team and raise pledges. Teams usually see 120 or more species.

**Mail to:** Rick Schroeder, Birdathon Coordinator,  
 107 N. Hollywood St., Fort Collins, CO 80521.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge amount (*per species or total*) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## National Audubon Society Chapter Membership Application

YES, I'd like to join.

YES, I'd like to renew (by phone 1-800-274-4201)

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send Audubon Magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20 is enclosed.

STUDENTS/SENIORS My check for \$15 is enclosed.

OR charge my credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**National Audubon Society  
 Chapter Membership Data Center  
 PO Box 51001  
 Boulder, CO 80322-1001**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Local Chapter Fort Collins Audubon Society D06  
 Local Chapter Code: 7XCHA

The mission of Fort Collins Audubon Society is to promote the appreciation, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, through education, participation, stewardship, and advocacy.