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DEC/JAN 2002/3

Fort Collins Audubon Society

Volume 34 Number 4/5



Traditional Potluck/ Bob Johnson's Nature Photography

DECEMBER 12, 7:30 pm

JANUARY 9, 7:30 pm

A TRADITION SINCE 1997, our December program meeting will once again be a potluck and slide show at the Foothills Unitarian Church. You provide the program! Bring up to 20 slides and the appropriate narrative. Prints of your favorite pictures can be passed around while the lights are still on. The Unitarian Church is located at 1815 Yorktown Ave, one block north of West Drake Ave and one block west of Constitution Ave. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm on Thursday, December 12. Please bring a supper or dessert item (deli items are more than acceptable!) with 4-to-8 servings and any necessary serving utensils. Paper plates, beverage containers, eating utensils, and drinks will be provided.

BOB JOHNSON has been an avid travel and nature photographer for over 40 years, but it was a trip to Africa 15 years ago that kick-started Bob's interest in bird photography. Well prepared for Africa's mammals, he was "blown away" by the colorful birds. Since that trip, he has honed his skills in bird photography by studying with well-known photographers in diverse hotspots such as the Galapagos Islands, Bosque del Apache in New Mexico, and Churchill, Manitoba. He and his artist wife Ginny have traveled extensively, visiting six of the seven continents —the seventh, Antarctica, is on their short-list.

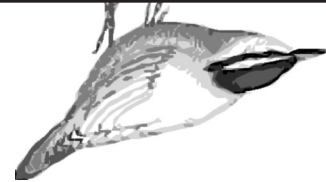
Thursday Evenings

December 12, 7:30 pm

January 9, 7:30 pm

Ludlow Room, Lincoln Center, 417 Magnolia Street

AUDUBON PROGRAMS



Bob acknowledges his symbiotic professional relationship with Ginny. Her artistic critiques sharpen his photographic skills, and his slides sometimes provide material for her watercolor paintings. Many of Bob's photos are on display in the offices of the Orthopaedic center of the Rockies, where he has practiced orthopaedic surgery over the past 35 years. His January Audubon program, at 7:30 pm on Thursday, January 9, will consist of an anthology of his nature photography with an emphasis on birds of the world.



November 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 for more information.

Check www.fortnet.org/ladubon for details.

WILD TURKEYS

Saturday, December 7, 3–5:30 pm

Wild turkeys roost communally along the Poudre River Trail near Windsor (Weld County). We will walk several miles along the trail and plan to watch the turkeys as they fly to their roost tree at dusk. Contact co-leaders Ruth Dick, 970-356-3739, ruthmdick@hotmail.com or Marcia Maeda, 970-686-7874, marcia356@hotmail.com for meeting location.

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

Sunday, December 8, 1–4 pm

All are welcome to join FCAS' Birding for Beginners field trip series. Contact leader Phil Friedman to register (no charge, limit 10 participants), 970-493-2959, phifri@frii.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

December 14–January 5

See listing of area Christmas Bird Counts below. For a full listing, visit the Colorado Field Ornithologists website, at www.cfo-link.org/leadpage.html. FCAS encourages participation of its membership in the Fort Collins CBC (Saturday, Dec. 14) and the Loveland CBC (Friday, Jan. 3).

Saturday, Dec. 14

Fort Collins, Cynthia Melcher, 970-484-8373, birdswords@yahoo.com

Estes Park, Scott Roederer, 970-586-8812, osprey@earthlink.net

Saturday, Dec 21

North Park, Nick Komar, 970-416-7527, quetzal65@attbi.com

Sunday, Dec. 29

Rawhide, Ron Ryder, 970-482-8089, ronr@lamar.colostate.edu

Friday, Jan 3

Loveland, Nick Komar, 970-416-7527, quetzal65@attbi.com

FOSSIL CREEK SURVEY

Sunday, December 22, morning

FCAS has been censusing birds monthly on City and County properties abutting the Fossil Creek Reservoir wetlands area. To join the survey group in December, contact **Nick Komar**, 970-416-7527, quetzal65@attbi.com.

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

Saturday, January 11, 9–12 noon

All are welcome to join FCAS' Birding for Beginners field trip series. Contact leader **Arvind Panjabi** to register (no charge, limit 10 participants), 970-482-1707, arvind.panjabi@rmbo.org.

EAGLES

Sunday, January 12, 9–12 noon.

Bald Eagles are a special resident of Larimer County in winter. We will seek out some of these spectacular birds for close-up viewing through telescopes. To register (no charge), contact **Rick Harness**, 970-204-4001, rharness@edmlink.com. This trip will be limited in size so please register early.

FOSSIL CREEK SURVEY

Sunday, January 19, morning

FCAS has been censusing birds monthly on City and County properties abutting the Fossil Creek Reservoir wetlands area. To join the survey group in January, contact **Nick Komar**, 970-416-7527, quetzal65@attbi.com.

BIRDS OF BOULDER

Saturday, January 25, morning

Meet at Harmony Road Transportation Transfer Center (NW corner of intersection of Harmony Rd. with I-25) at 8 am to carpool to meeting place with leader at Jim Hamm Park in Boulder County (near Longmont). Contact leader **Ted Floyd** for more info, 303-444-6365, tedfloyd@aba.org.

FORT COLLINS XMAS BIRD COUNT

The Fort Collins Christmas Bird Count will take place this year on Saturday, December 14, 2002, from sunup to sundown. If you would like to participate for any portion of the count, please contact the count compiler, Cynthia Melcher, at birdswords@yahoo.com or at 970-484-8373. You do NOT need to be an experienced birdwatcher—we usually have plenty of experienced folks to team up with people who are just learning their birds or the process of conducting a CBC.

There will be an important organizational meeting for the Christmas count on Tuesday evening, December 10, at Jax Mercantile (on North College) at 7 p.m. If you cannot attend the meeting, please call Cynthia no later than December 8.

Following the count, Barb Turnbull (Audubon's hospitality chair) will host a potluck supper at her home at 1516 W. Lake St., Fort Collins, 970-493-0787. Please bring a dish to share and a place setting. See you all soon!

CONSERVATION CORNER

Bill Miller, Conservation Chair

CITY NATURAL AREAS UNDER THREAT OF DEVELOPMENT

Several years ago FCAS adopted the Fossil Creek Wetlands Natural Area, bounded by Timberline Road on the east, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks on the west, Carpenter Road (CR 32) on the south, and Trilby Road on the north. This natural area is a highly productive cattail marsh that hosts hundreds of nesting birds each spring and summer, and is used heavily by waterfowl and shorebirds during spring and fall migrations. FCAS adopted this natural area several years ago and has been conducting cleanups twice each year. A second City-owned natural area lies to the northeast of the intersection of Carpenter and Timberline Roads. The former cornfield is reverting to a productive prairie dog colony utilized by raptors.

Currently the City of Fort Collins Engineering Department is planning to widen Timberline Road to four or more lanes. Irreparable damage to the natural areas will result from the widening of the Timberline Road right-of-way by 150 feet to the west and 50 feet to the east of the current alignment, and the replacement of the single culvert under Timberline by seven new box culverts. The smaller bodies of water along Timberline would be buried under fill dirt for the new traffic lanes and shoulders. The impact of the increased culvert capacity on the water regime on the west side of Timberline is not yet understood. Mitigation of the wetlands loss is proposed to be accomplished by converting a significant portion of the prairie dog uplands to constructed wetlands.

For additional information contact Bill Miller at 493-7693, or email at 5mcorp@verinet.com

AUDUBON COLORADO (AC) UPDATE

At a meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2002, the Public Policy Committee (formerly the Legislative Committee) was advised of its new charge from the AC Board of Directors. Previously this committee had been concerned primarily with activity at the Colorado State Legislature. The scope of the Public Policy Committee has now been expanded to tracking issues at the national level, which might warrant a response from the AC Board.

The Public Policy Committee also received an extensive update from our new Legislative Lobbyist, Jen Bolton, on what's shaping up for the 2003 regular session of the Colorado Legislature. There are some good bills being proposed that will warrant AC's full support, many bills that will need to be watched, and, of course, the bad legislation that we can typically expect, such as Takings legislation. If you want to be added to the email Legislative Alert List in order to help out with an occasional phone call to the appropriate state legislators, PLEASE let me know.

Bill Miller, 493-7693, 5mcorp@verinet.com

DECEMBER POTLUCK

As has become a tradition since 1997 our December program meeting will once again be a Potluck and Slide Show, to take place at the Foothills Unitarian Church. The program will be provided by you, the members. Feel free to bring up to

about 20 slides and the appropriate narrative. Prints of your favorite pictures could be passed around while the lights are still on.

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JANUARY'S ANNUAL MEETING

Our program meeting on January 9, 2003, will not only have a wonderful presentation by retired local orthopedic surgeon and amateur photographer, Dr. Robert Johnson, but will also include the following activities:

- Election of the new Board members
- Recognition of the chapter's past presidents
- A silent auction before and after the program
- A light repast of Bissetti cheesecake and beverages prior to the program

We hope you will all come out for this special event, at which we initiate a new effort to recognize the efforts of our members.

JANUARY ELECTIONS

This year's Nominating Committee, consisting of Rick Harnes, Jackie Boss, and Barb Turnbull, have provided the following slate of candidates for officers and directors to be elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

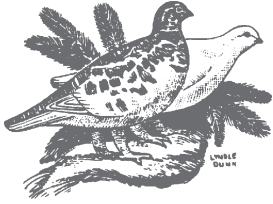
PRESIDENT: Bill Miller
VICE PRESIDENT: Phil Friedman
SECRETARY: Scott Cobble
TREASURER: John Waddell

DIRECTOR: Beth Dillon
DIRECTOR: Dave Dubois
DIRECTOR: Sheryl Davies
DIRECTOR: Joel Hurmence

We have vacancies in two Director positions.

The following individuals have agreed to stand to appointment by the Board for the following committees or positions:

CONSERVATION: *vacant*
MEMBERSHIP: Ann Molison
EDUCATION: Cynthia Melcher
FINANCE: John Waddell
PROGRAM: Jackie Boss
FIELD TRIPS: Nick komar
PUBLICATIONS: Dale Agger
NEWSLETTER: *vacant*
PUBLICITY: Rick Schroeder
HOSPITALITY: Barb Turnbull
AOC DELEGATE: Ron Harden
WEB MASTER: Joel Hurmence



Fort Collins Audubon Society
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Support Our Birdathon Sponsors!

During this holiday season, please keep in mind the businesses who donated to our annual Birdathon. Please tell them, "Thanks!" and mention **Fort Collins Audubon** when you shop!

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www.bbonline.com/colpawneel/index.html#top

Poudre Pet & Feed Supply

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6204 S. College, 225-1255

Wild Birds Unlimited

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Bath Nursery

2000 E. Prospect, 484-5022

Fort Collins Nursery

2121 E. Mulberry, 482-1984

Odell Brewing Company

800 E. Lincoln, 498-9070

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351 Linden, 482-1928

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.