

ptarmigan



Fort Collins Audubon Society

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

Tropical Birding in Costa Rica

Tropical birding is like no other experience.

Long times of little or no bird activity, and then, wham! You're suddenly in a mixed-species foraging flock of a 100 birds of 25 species, and you're trying desperately to see them all. After 10 minutes, and when the adrenaline rush has subsided a bit, it's back to walking the trail in silence waiting for that next group of birds.

Doug Faulkner will present us with his 1997 experience in Costa Rica. He spent six weeks working for the US Forest Service banding local and migrant birds in Tortuguero, while stationed at the Caribbean Conservation Corporation's sea turtle research facility. Doug and his assistant operated mist-net stations and conducted point counts six days a week to assess



monteverdeinfo.com

migrant stopover use of different habitat types found along the coast. This research effort continues today. After completing work there, Doug traveled for two weeks along the west coast, visiting some of the places the Audubon field trip will go. He will focus much of his talk on bird species photos.

Doug received his B.S. (1993) and M.S. (1996) in biology at Ball State University, Indiana. After completing his graduate work, Doug traveled for three years, working on temporary research projects ranging from Marbled Murrelets in California to spring migrant counts in Big Bend NP, Texas. Doug is currently the Wyoming Monitoring Coordinator for Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory where he has worked since 1999.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAM—OCTOBER 9, 7:30 PM

Ludlow Room, Lincoln Center, 417 Magnolia Street

NOTE: November's FCAS meeting will be the 3rd Thursday instead of the 2nd Thursday of that month.



OCTOBER

FIELD TRIPS / Notices

All field trips are free of charge and open to the public. No prior experience is necessary. Please check FCAS website, www.fortnet.org/audubon for details, or contact field trip coordinator, **Nick Komar**, 970-416-7527, quetzal65@comcast.net, for more information.

DOUGLAS RESERVOIR

Saturday, October 11 – morning

Wear your hiking shoes for a birding hike around this less explored hotspot near Wellington. Contact Phil Friedman for more information or to register, 970-493-2959, phifri@frii.com.

FALL MIGRATION IN LOVELAND

Sunday, October 12 – all day

Take a birding tour of Loveland area hotspots, including the Big Thompson River trail and Boyd Lake State Park. Contact leader Nick Komar at 970-416-7527, quetzal65@comcast.net, for details and to reserve a spot.

BIRDS OF WELD COUNTY

Saturday, October 18 – morning

Visit hot spots for bird migration in the Greeley area. Contact leader Dick Maxfield at 970-381-0115, richard.maxfield@comcast.net for more information or to register.

FOSSIL CREEK RESERVOIR BIRD SURVEY

Sunday, October 19 – morning

FCAS has been conducting a monthly census of birds on city and county properties abutting the Fossil Creek Reservoir wetlands area. Contact Nick Komar at 970-416-7527, quetzal65@comcast.net, for details.

BIRDS OF LARIMER COUNTY LAKES

Saturday, October 25 – morning/half day

We will visit a number of area lakes to view waterfowl and other fall migrants. Register with leader Beth Dillon at 970-490-2610 to learn meeting location and time. Bring a scope if you have one, and be prepared to carpool.

2003 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC)

Cynthia Melcher has once more volunteered to be the CBC Coordinator. The FCAS 2003 CBC will be conducted on Sunday, December 14. If you are interested in participating, please contact Cynthia at: 970-484-8373 (home), 970-226-9470 (work), or email her at birdswords@yahoo.com.

ELECTION TIME AGAIN

In January of each year our Chapter bylaws require that we elect our chapter's officers and directors and appoint committee chairs. A Nominating Committee will identify candidates for each elected and appointed position. The following individuals have agreed to serve on the nominating committee: Joel Hurmence (Chair): 970-481-2124 jhurmence@hotmail.com, Beth Dillon: 970-490-2610 dillon_b@hotmail.com, and Phil Friedman: 970-493-2959 phifri@frii.com.

Our chapter's activities are totally dependent on contributions of time by volunteers. If you wish to be considered for any of these positions (or are willing to serve on a committee), please contact one on the above-named members of the Nominating Committee. A slate of candidates will be announced in the combined December/January issue of the *Ptarmigan*, with the election to take place at the Annual Meeting, January 8, 2004.

ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 8, 2004

The next FCAS Annual Meeting is only a short three months away, but preparations are already underway. Because the last Annual Meeting was so well attended, we have moved the location of the 2004 Annual Meeting to the larger Columbine Room at the Lincoln Center. In addition to the election of new Board officers and Directors and recognition of certain members who have made significant contributions of their time and energy on behalf of FCAS, we will hold a Silent Auction. *If you have any worthwhile items or services* that you would like to contribute as auction items or as door prizes, please contact Bill Miller at (970) 493-7693 or at 5mcorp@verinet.com. An Annual Meeting committee will soon be created and further details will be provided in the November and December/January issues of the *Ptarmigan*.

FCAS CHAPTER CONTACTS:

President:	Bill Miller	5mcorp@verinet.com	970-493-7693
Membership:	Ann Molison	amolison2@attbi.com	970-377-4228
Field Trips:	Nick Komar	quetzal65@attbi.com	970-416-7527
Birdathon:	Rick Schroeder	rmschroe@verinet.com	970-484-8337

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Bill Miller

TAKE BACK AUDUBON – UPDATE

“Take Back Audubon’s mission is to restore a true partnership between the independent Chapters and the National Audubon Society through a real voice in the NAS organization and in all decisions that affect Chapters.”

National Audubon Society began in 1905 as a coalition of local bird clubs, unified to intensify their voices on national conservation issues. Benefits of a unified national Audubon organization included: simplified membership services (the national group maintained the membership records and handled recruiting and renewals); “two-for-one” memberships (your membership dues included a “free” membership in your local Chapter (dues went to one place, but were divided between NAS and chapters); members received a glossy, high-quality magazine; and the national organization maintained an advocacy staff in Washington to campaign for important conservation issues. In return, chapters predominantly staffed and run by volunteers provided chapter newsletters, local advocacy, and face-to-face contact with the public through programs and field trips.

A little over three years ago, Regional Offices were eliminated in favor of state offices. The 2020 Vision called for 1,000 new nature centers by the year 2020, at the cost of millions of dollars each. NAS began to explore options to make themselves more profitable. *AUDUBON* magazine was cut from 6 to 4 issues per year. The mass-mailing budget, with which members are barraged with direct-mail pleas for renewals and donations, was off-limits. If they couldn’t reduce their spending, what was left? The chapter’s share of your dues.

Three years ago, a task force recommended that chapter dues share be reduced over a three-year phase-down period, since extended one year. FCAS had been receiving \$5.50 per member. This year—year 3 of the phase down—we will receive considerably less than that (the payment has not yet been received.) We anticipate receiving nothing next year. Under the old chapter affiliation agreements membership dues-shares were expected to cover the costs of the newsletters and programs. Previously, dues-share barely paid for newsletter subscriptions but as those costs, as well as others, crept up, the dues-share didn’t pay for what chapters were required to do under the old affiliation agreement. Money is only part of the story of the complicated NAS—Chapters relationship. Consider this:

- NAS plans to open state offices and Audubon centers in every state by 2020, at a cost of several million dollars each. Where will this money come from?
- NAS changed their logo and name to simply “Audubon.” Branding Audubon in this fashion, they say, is to symbolize the “one Audubon” idea—with them as the one Audubon. This further diminishes the importance of Chapters.
- The Strategic Plan was re-written last year to reflect NAS’s move away from grassroots participation toward

top-down management, in spite of fierce opposition by most Chapters.

- Until they were called on it, NAS stopped mentioning its network of 500-plus Chapters in their publicity releases.

While denied by NAS, a growing number of Chapter leaders believe that these actions, particularly the opening of state offices and regional centers, point to NAS’s plan to disaffiliate itself from its Chapters completely. The FCAS Board has discussed this numerous times and, at our Board meeting in June, decided to formally support a reform movement organized by a significant number of Chapters and Chapter leaders. This movement is called Take Back Audubon.

Take Back Audubon is running a slate of nine candidates for available NAS Board positions and will submit five resolutions for consideration at the 2003 NAS Annual Meeting in Cincinnati in December. The resolutions endorsed by the Take Back Audubon movement are startlingly simple. In a nutshell, the platform seeks to:

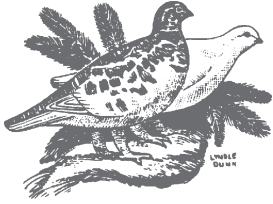
- Provide timely, basic information to members
- Offer members the ability to place initiatives on the ballot
- Establish election policies that encourage competition for available positions
- Create written fundraising protocols between state offices, Chapters, and Centers
- Establish democratic reform of the NAS Board
- Restore the dues share so Chapters can continue to provide services to their members.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

First, I strongly encourage you to visit the Take Back Audubon website at www.smbas.org/tba. The site provides important background information that you will want to have, so you can decide for yourself if this is worthy of your support.

Second, we have enclosed a proxy ballot in this issue of the *Ptarmigan*. To support the Take Back Audubon movement this ballot should be completed instead of the ballot you may possibly receive from NAS. **PLEASE SIGN THE BALLOT AS YOUR NAME APPEARS ON THE MAILING LABEL ON YOUR AUDUBONMAGAZINE.** Once you fill out the ballot, please either bring it to the October 9th program meeting so we can mail them to Take Back Audubon, or mail it yourself to Take Back Audubon, at the address included on the ballot. You can also check with the Membership Chair, Ann Molison, at the October meeting as to when your dues are due—and what strategies you can use when renewing.

NAS has been the envy of other environmental organizations because of its network of grassroots volunteers who recruit new members, write the letters, and educate the public on important conservation issues. This is an organization worth fighting to save. We believe we should be brainstorming more ways to collaborate for the betterment of everyone involved, including birds and the environment.



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

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 ORGANIZATION
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DATES TO REMEMBER

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**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

**FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
 Visit our website at www.fortnet.org/Audubon**

PROXY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that I, the undersigned, a member of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC., do hereby constitute and appoint Marsha Cannon, John F. Gallagher, Andrew L. Mason, and Darrel K. Whipple, and each of them, with full power of substitution, my attorneys and agents for me and in my name, place and stead, to vote as my proxy the number of votes I should be able to cast if then personally present at the Annual Meeting of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC., to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Saturday, December 6, 2003, or at such other place and time as said Annual Meeting may be held, and at any adjourned meeting thereof as follows:

(a.) For the election of directors for the terms expiring in 2006, or until their successors are elected; and

(b.) In their discretion, for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____
Two Thousand and Three.

Signed _____

Address _____

(must be *signed* to be valid)

Name _____

(please *print* name)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING PROXY

1. Insert date of signing.
2. Print name exactly as membership is carried and shown on your magazine label. You must be a National Audubon Society member in good standing, as of October 17, 2003 in order to vote.
3. Proxy to be signed by person in whose name membership is carried. If carried in two names or as Mr. & Mrs., either party can sign.
4. Show current address and zip code.
5. SIGN ONLY ONE PROXY FORM. DO NOT SIGN ANY OTHER PROXY FORM YOU MIGHT RECEIVE. HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SIGNED A PROXY FORM, THIS FORM WILL SUPERSEDE ANY EARLIER FORM.
6. Return signed proxy form by **NOVEMBER 30** to: John F. Gallagher, 121 Larchmont Road, Springfield, Ohio 45503.