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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.

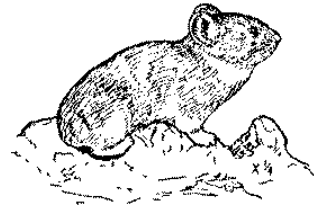
SEASONS OF THE ALPINE TUNDRA

Joyce Gellhorn, Author & Chronicler of Rocky Mountain High Country

Joyce Gellhorn's favorite season is winter.

Her favorite place - the high tundra of the Rocky Mountains. Eloquent reviews of her book, "Song of the Alpine," attest to her successful description of these passionate loves. Joyce Gellhorn teaches classes for Boulder County Nature Association and at the University of Colorado's Mountain Research Station and has taught for Boulder Valley Schools, University of Colorado Continuing Education, Rocky Mountain Nature Association, Elderhostel, Keystone Science School and Teton Science School. She holds a Ph.D. in botany.

Celebrating her life-long love for the "land above the trees," author Joyce Gellhorn reveals the subtle wonders of this haunting landscape



The high country of the Colorado Rocky Mountains has been a destination and a home for Joyce Gellhorn for more than fifty years, including some twelve years spent living with her family at the University of Colorado's research station, a log cabin at 9,500 feet.

Again, the Fort Collins Audubon Society is presenting a speaker of life long experiences. Don't miss this recounting of Joyce's' incredible experiences in her beloved high alpine tundra.

This meeting will be co-sponsored with the Colorado Native Plant Society. Joyce Gellhorn's book, "Song of the Alpine," will be on sale at the meeting.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAM — FEBRUARY 12, 2004

Ludlow Room, Fort Collins Lincoln Center, 417 W. Magnolia Street

Social Gathering - 7:00 PM, Program - 7:30 PM

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

Visit our website at www.fortnet.org/Audubon



F E B / M A R

F I E L D T R I P S

All field trips are free of charge and open to the public. No prior experience is necessary. Please visit <http://www.fortnet.org/audubon/> for details or contact Field Trip Coordinator, Gary Lefko, lefkogt@greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org or 970-897-2454 for more information.

02/08/2004 Sunday - Birding for Beginners. Leader: Beth Dillon at 970-490-2610. Introductory trip to birdwatching. Location to be determined. All levels welcomed. Please contact leader.

02/15/2004 Sunday - Fossil Creek Reservoir Bird Survey. Leader: Nick Komar at quetzal65@comcast.net. Monthly bird survey led by FCAS. All levels welcomed. Fossil Creek Reservoir is a Colorado Important Birding Area. Learn more at: <http://www.greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org/site.php?County=7&Site=73>. Please contact leader.

02/21/2004 Saturday - Wintering Raptors. Leader: Bill Miller at 5mcorp@verinet.com or 970-493-7693. Travel to local natural areas in search of wintering raptors. Basic raptor identification and education. Meet at the south end of the Harmony Library parking lot (Front Range campus at Harmony and Shields). Limit 10. 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

02/27/2004 Friday - Second Annual High Plains Snow Goose Festival (2-Day Event). Event Contact: Lamar Chamber of Commerce at lamarchamber@cminet.net or (719) 336-4379. Let's support Colorado's birdwatching festivals! Six million geese descend from the skies to Lamar, Colorado signaling the start of the 2nd Annual High Plains Snow Goose Festival. The festival is a combined project of the Lamar Chamber of Commerce and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Speakers include Dr. Gary Graham, Executive Director of Audubon Colorado, Ted Floyd, Editor of *Birding Magazine* and Jim Gammonly, noted waterfowl expert for the DOW. Events include a social hour, sunrise and sunset tours, silent auction, educational programs, field trips and much more! Visit <http://www.lamarchamber.com/goose/> for details.

03/06/2004 Saturday - Ducks and Raptors of Northern Larimer County. Leader: Phil Friedman at phifri@frii.com or call 970-493-2959.

8:30 AM-2:00 PM. A search of local northern Larimer County lakes and agricultural/grasslands will uncover waterfowl in pre-mating season plumage and lingering wintering raptors before they head north. Bring spotting scope (if you have one), snacks, and water. Dress for the weather. Beginners welcome. Carpooling will be encouraged (\$2 to driver, please). Participation is limited.

2004 Birdathon

The Birdathon is an annual spring FUNdraiser for Fort Collins Audubon. It is a great social get together that is an enjoyable, if exhausting, 24-hour day for those participating. This year the Birdathon will be on May 15th. This should be the beginning of peak of spring migration on the plains and the foothills.

Birdathon teams will be formed in May and on Birdathon day team members will search for as many species as can be seen or heard in a 24-hour period (expect at least 100 species with as many as 150 for the most skilled teams—more than 250 species are possible). Team members will obtain pledges based on the total number of birds a team sees. Those who want to commit a pledge that are not on a team or associated with a team member may also pledge.

There are 4 ways to participate:

- * Team Leader (lead a Birdathon team near and far in Larimer and Weld counties)
- * Team member (be on a team and help spot birds and get pledges)
- * Pledge giver (provide a pledge to a team member on a per species basis)
- * Business donor (provide a pledge to a team member or a team)

We especially need team leaders: this year we hope to be able to field 7-10 teams.

Beginning at the February meeting, clipboards will be passed for each category. We are also planning some ties to International Migratory Bird Day, which occurs the weekend before—T-shirts for team members, posters, and perhaps some other IMBD-related themes.

CONSERVATION CORNER: Carol Fiore

LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP – Saturday, February 7, 2004

Don't like what is happening to Colorado's natural resources? Learn how to make your voice heard. Plan to attend the 2004 Environmental Legislative Workshop, co-sponsored by Audubon Society of Greater Denver & Sierra Club - Denver Chapter. Cost is \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Call 303-973-9530 or e-mail info@denveraudubon.org to register.

WILDFIRE EDUCATION FORUM – Wednesday, February 18, 2004

Wildfire - It's Our Backyard. Wildfire affects every Coloradan. Learn more about fire and how to restore it to its natural role as part of a healthy forest ecosystem. This **free** forum (6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m., Columbine Room at the Fort Collins Lincoln Center) is sponsored by the Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance, local environmental groups (including FCAS), land management agencies, and the scientific community. For more information or to RSVP contact Lisa Smith at 303-534-7066 x 208 or lisa@cecenviro.org. Check out the Community Wildfire Educations? on the web: http://www.ourcolorado.org/alerts/121903_alert_fireforum.htm.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Bill Miller

At our Annual Meeting on January 8th, we elected officers and announced Committee Chairs for 2004, presented eight Service Awards, and held the chapter's second Silent Auction. The Board of Directors include: Bill Miller – President, Phil Friedman - Vice President, Scott Cobble - Secretary, John Waddell – Treasurer, six Directors -at-Large - Beth Dillon, Dave Dubois, Joel Hurmence, Nick Komar, Marcia Maeda, and Diann Johnston. This will be Diann's first year on the Board, while all the others have served in prior years.

Serving as Committee Chairs: Carol Fiore – Conservation, Kate Bolster – Membership, Cynthia Melcher – Education, John Waddell – Finance, Jackie Boss – Program, Gary Lefko - Field Trips, Joe Martin - Ptarmigan Editor, Rick Schroeder – Publicity, Sue Miller – Hospitality, Phil Friedman – Birdathon, Joel Hurmence – Web Master, and Ron Harden – Audubon Colorado Board of Directors.

Last year we recognized the service of the Past Presidents, going back to the early 1970's. This year I had the pleasure of recognizing eight individuals who have made a difference for FCAS. Collectively they have contributed over **89 YEARS** of service to our chapter. The last three individuals have chosen to remain active in the coming year – the other five are "retiring." Their names and last positions held are:

Ann Molison –Membership Chair - 3 years;

Laurie Zuckerman – Ptarmigan Graphic Designer – 5 years;

Rick Harness – Director-at-Large – 5 years;

Barb Turnbull – Hospitality Chair – 8 years;

Dale Agger – Ptarmigan Editor – 12 years;

Cynthia Melcher – Education Chair – 13 + years;

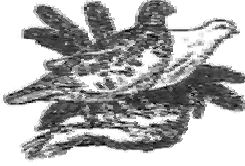
Rick Schroeder – Publicity Chair, Birdathon Coordinator – 19 + years; and

Ron Harden – Audubon Colorado Delegate – 24 + years.

A volunteer organization such as ours cannot function without the time and service of many dedicated individuals. Wouldn't you like to become a member of such a group, by volunteering to help in some small way, such as on a committee?

NEW MEMBERS:

We'd like to welcome four new Audubon members: J. L. Hull, Eleanor Oyen, Lisa Fay Barnes, and Maureen O'Mara.



Fort Collins Audubon Society
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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

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MORE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER — Bill Miller

THANK YOU:

The Silent Auction was successful— we grossed approximately \$1300. Some items were donated at the time of the auction and we regret that we didn't obtain the names of the donors.

We want to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the auction: those who donated items, those who purchased items, and the businesses who donated door prizes. I especially want to thank the members of the Annual Meeting Committee: Scott Cobble, Beth Dillon, Diann Johnston, and Marcia Maeda.

SPECIAL THANKS TO SCOTT COBBLE:

The same image that is also the logo on the front of each issue of the Ptarmigan was incorporated as a watermark on both the Service Awards and the bid sheet forms. I wish to thank our Secretary, Scott Cobble, for the many extra hours that were required to produce both forms.

SPECIAL THANKS TO JAMES DONNAN:

On Dec. 11, FCAS was the fortunate recipient of a \$5,000 contribution from James Donnan, a Senior Vice-President with Kroll Factual Data in Loveland. We will discuss the best possible use of this very generous donation at our Strategic Planning Session on February 8, 2004.

MORE FROM CONSERVATION CORNER — Carol Fiore

I'd like to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself. I am honored to be chosen as the new chairperson of the Conservation Committee for the Ft. Collins Audubon Society. I moved to Loveland about 2 years ago from Wichita, Kansas (where I had lived for approximately 7 years). I was very active in the Wichita Audubon Society for many years, and I served as Vice-President for a term. My two girls grew up going on field trips and watching birds. I am a former bird zoo keeper for the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, and I also worked in the Zoo Education Department for a time. My second M.S. degree is in Environmental Science (major emphasis in ecology), and I was fortunate to have studied in Belize (geology and reef ecology) and in Costa Rica (tropical field biology). I am quite the animal lover (and a vegetarian); birds are my favorite of course, but I am particularly fascinated with ants-- I'm a huge E.O. Wilson fan.

I am passionate about conservation and for my graduate thesis I studied the impact of domestic cats on urban bird populations. Don't get me started or I'm liable to talk your ear off about my research!

Being new to Colorado, I do not have many contacts here, but I am excited about making some. So introduce yourself and let's talk conservation! What can Ft. Collins do to help the cause? I am here to spearhead the effort, so let's get involved! I need your help to educate me about the issues in our area. Call me at 461-8760 or email at rockyzoo@earthlink.net

Don't like what you see out there? Want to do something about it? Together we can make the world a better place.

SUPPORT FROM LOCAL MERCHANTS

Donations for our Annual Meeting and Silent Auction were contributed by local merchants. Calls were cheerfully received and directed to the appropriate person, and in each case, positive, friendly support of our local chapter was demonstrated by a generous donation. Bonnie of **Ranchway Feeds** was really excited about the new birdseed, "Wild Delight Fruit and Berry" which she donated along with "Wild Delight Squirrel Food". **Fort Collins Nursery, Bath Nursery and Garden Center** and **Fossil Creek Nursery** provided gift certificates. Karen at **Poudre Pet and Feed Supply** gave 6 great big birdseed blocks. **Wild Birds Unlimited** donated a well designed bird house, and **Jax** very generously provided a wonderful set of binoculars, an interactive CD-ROM Travel Guide to Outdoor Travel, Wildlife Watching, Plants and Geography as well as coffee they are now carrying, Audubon Coffee that is shade grown, organic and of course, bird friendly. We also had a mystery donation, a 25-lb. sack of No Mess Birdseed. Let's thank these local merchants and be sure to show our support by patronizing these businesses!