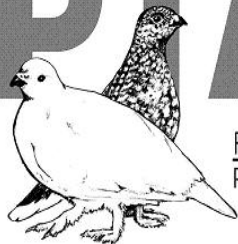


PTARMIGAN



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.

October 2011

Volume 42, Issue 7

“Where Do All the Monarchs Go?”

Presenter: Evi Buckner-Opler

Artist & Photographer

Thursday Evening Program – October 13, 2011

Fort Collins Senior Center-Multi-Use Room

1200 Raintree Drive, Fort Collins

Social Gathering: 7 p.m. — Program: 7:30 p.m.

Evi Buckner-Opler, artist, photographer, and teacher, will be speaking about the life cycle and the migration mystery of the Monarch butterfly. She will explore with us, “why and where,” Monarchs go every winter.

Evi was born in Oberammergau, Germany, and has lived in Loveland since 1975. She enjoys traveling, and doing art work and photography. Since her marriage to Author Paul Opler, she has focused more on photography during their extensive travels. Starting in 1999,

Evi and Paul got involved in Monarch migration research in cooperation with the University of Kansas. In 2007, they finally were able to go to

Angangueo, El Rosario and Sierra Chincua, Michoacán, Mexico, where the Monarchs overwinter. Some of Evi’s photography work has been exhibited in the Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis and used in several publications, including *Peterson’s Field Guides on Butterflies*, and the “Moths of Western North America” publication.

Butterfly books authored by Paul Opler and DVDs will be available for sale at the presentation.

Join us for this evening of Monarch butterfly facts and exquisite

photography on Oct. 13 at the Fort Collins Senior Center at 7:30 p.m. This program is free and open to the public.

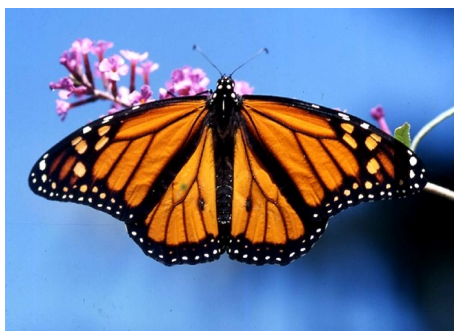


Photo by Evi Buckner-Opler.

Welcome New National Members

FCAS welcomes new National Audubon Society members by sending complementary copies of our newsletter for three months. Please join us at our monthly programs on the second Thursday of the month to find out more about FCAS. National dues do not cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, so if you’d like to keep receiving the *Ptarmigan*, please join FCAS. See details on the last page of the newsletter or on our Web site at www.fortnet.org/Audubon.

President's Corner

by Bill Miller

The mission of the 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.

Upcoming Elections and Membership Participation

Our chapter mission statement expresses the purposes for why we exist. To be able to deliver the elements of education, participation, stewardship, and advocacy requires member involvement at various levels.

Below are brief descriptions of the positions or committees that need to be filled or could use reinforcements. With the exception of the president's position, terms are for one year, with no limit on the number of terms one may serve.

Treasurer: Our current treasurer will serve for one more year; however, we need an "understudy" who would use next year to learn the position, and hopefully fill it next year.

Directors-at-large: We will have two or more vacancies in 2012. Directors often move into

either elected offices or into committee chair positions, assist the board in decision making, and often take on short-term, ad hoc, responsibilities.

Conservation Committee: The Conservation Committee keeps the membership advised of local, national, and international conservation issues through the *Ptarmigan* and through email alerts. Additional members are needed to provide more depth to the committee and to provide written and verbal communications to public decision makers. The conservation chair position will be vacant in 2012.

Education Committee: Two to four more volunteers are needed for this committee to staff our display at events or assist in providing programs to schools and at other opportunities.

Field Trip Committee: Members are needed to assist the chairperson in identifying field trip leaders and scheduling field trips. There also is a great need for more field trip leaders.

Public Relations Committee: At least one more volunteer is needed to assist in sending out electronic announcements to publicity outlets and to deliver program flyers to the Fort Collins Senior Center prior to our monthly meetings.

Membership Committee: One or more persons are needed to assist with simple data entry for our membership roster and mailing list.

Volunteer Coordinator: This person would maintain a list of volunteers and their areas of expertise.

None of the positions described above require a large time commitment. Please consider becoming more involved with your chapter. If you can assist, please contact Bill Miller at:

5mcorp@comcast.net or at (970) 493-7693.

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Keystone Pipeline Could Push Endangered Whooping Crane into Extinction

There has been a lot of public opposition to the permitting of and the construction of the 1,700-mile Keystone Pipeline by TransCanada from the Athabasca tar-sands in Alberta, Canada, to refineries along the Texas gulf coast. Detractors to the construction of this pipeline cite the following objections.

- Oil derived from tar sands is even dirtier than conventional oil pumped from the ground. This oil is one of the most corrosive and dirty fuels known to man.
- The process to separate the oil from the sands emits high amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and also contributes to the pollution of adjacent waters.
- The mining of the tar sands destroys large swaths of boreal forest that are vital for nesting migrant songbirds.
- The construction of another pipeline increases the probability of pipeline leaks. TransCanada predicts just one spill in the first seven years, yet their existing Keystone Pipeline has experienced 12 spills in the last 12 months of operation.
- The pipeline will be routed through habitat that is critical for not only Whooping Cranes, but as many as 10 other endangered species, putting them all at great risk.

Unfortunately, Whooping Cranes use the same 1,700-mile proposed Keystone XL Pipeline route each spring as they migrate from Texas to their breeding grounds in Canada. During this journey they use the rivers and wetlands along their way for resting and feeding habitat. Of major concern is the consequence of a pipeline leak where it crosses the Platte River in Nebraska, a major stopover point for not only Whooping

Cranes, but also the half-million strong Sandhill Crane flock that uses the same reach of the Platte River during their spring migration northward.

The Society for Conservation Biology recently released a press release sounding the alarm about the cranes. They found that a major spill on the Platte River in Nebraska could release 5.9 million gallons or more of sludgy, corrosive and toxic tar-sands oil at any time throughout the year. Such a spill would devastate wildlife along the Platte River.



Tar sands oil is very difficult to clean up and birds, once coated with sticky oil, are unable to insulate and regulate their body temperatures. They slowly die from hypothermia or acute toxicity from ingesting the oil during preening.

Another risk to the cranes is the installation of miles of aerial power lines to power pipeline pumping stations along the proposed route. Collisions with power lines are the single largest cause of death for Whooping Cranes. These aerial lines would not be constructed if the pipeline is not built.

Recently the State Department published its Final Environmental Impact Statement asserting that there would be no significant impacts along the proposed corridor. Alarming, the State Department also declined to include any analysis from the soon to be completed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biological opinion regarding the Keystone XL Pipeline. In doing so, the State Department has completely ignored the impacts of the proposed pipeline on the highly endangered Whooping crane and the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

The Obama administration could still block this flawed proposal and needs to hear from you. Please go to stopextinction.org to tell the President to block the Keystone XL Pipeline.



It is so good to be home! Not that I wasn't excited about seeing my family again, or taking care of my mother during her recovery from a serious surgery, or seeing new and/or different birds in Florida, but home is where the heart is!

My two month sojourn in the south was rejuvenating and comforting. Friends and family and familiar birds welcomed me. But, as often with birding stories, where were the birds I wanted to see? I excitedly looked for the Swallow-tailed Kite in every field. They nest in those pine trees over there, I was told. For three days I returned to that field with nary a sighting.

My nephew called: "Aunt Joann, you should have been here a week ago. We had a flock of Painted Buntings in our backyard for three days." This was the bird that really hooked me on bird watching. The first and only time I have seen it was in the swamps of Louisiana at Avery Island, the home of Tabasco hot sauce. It perched on the end of a long grass singing its heart out. My friend and I watched for as long as



Painted Bunting.

it sang. My heart still leaps at the memory of that experience. The sensory experience of sight and sound of that bird resonates for a long time. But, alas, they were gone and I did not see one this trip.

I had one revealing birding discovery and that was with dialect. I am not a very good birder by sound, but this experience was startling. Sitting in the backyard around the pool one evening, my brother noted a bird song that he believed to be a Cardinal. I whipped out the Sibley's Guide that is downloaded on my new iPhone and there were three regional sounds listed for Cardinal. We listened to Ohio, Missouri, and New York; surprisingly to me, the exact match was New York. My sister-in-law said that 85 percent of the residents of Volusia County were from New York and it must be true of the birds, too!

Well, my summer wanderings are over and it's good to be home with familiar sights, familiar sounds, and my Colorado family. Here's to the great birds of Colorado!

Send in the Birds!

The FCAS Education Committee is asking for your old bird or general nature magazines. The collected magazines will be donated to local second and third grade teachers to use to entice and inspire kids to write about birds and nature. If you have magazines to contribute, please contact Hildy Morgan, 4824 Regency Drive, Fort Collins, 80526, 970-223-3493, or gmorgan@lamar.colostate.edu. Hildy will even come to your house to pick up the magazines!



Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser

FCAS, in partnership with Ranch-Way Feed Mills, will hold its first annual Bird Seed Sale Fundraising event during October. An order form is available on **Page 5** of this newsletter and order forms also will be available at the October program meeting. Orders must be prepaid by check and sent to Program Chair Jessie Meschievitz, (address on form), by October 27. You will be sent a proof of purchase voucher that you will present to Ranch-Way Feed Mills (information on form) when you pick up your order between Nov. 5 and 12.

Please take this opportunity to feed your backyard birds with quality seed from Ranch-Way.

Lifetime Memberships Offered

Recently the FCAS board authorized a Lifetime Membership category for a one-time charge of \$750. Lifetime members will never need to renew their chapter dues, and they will aid the chapter with special projects, such as building an endowment fund that generates interest to underwrite our scholarship program.

Upcoming Field Trips

Oct. 9, Sunday, Bobcat Ridge Natural Area bird survey. Leader: Denise Bretting dbretting@swloveland.com. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot. FCAS performs a monthly bird census for the City of Fort Collins. All levels welcome.



Bird Seed Order Form



**Fort Collins
Audubon**

Buying bird seed for the pleasure of birdwatching in your backyard? Buy your bird seed from FCAS and have the pleasure of knowing you have financially supported the FCAS efforts to promote the appreciation, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, through education, participation, stewardship, and advocacy.

Fill out this form to place your order

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Select your items

All orders are to be prepaid by check made out to Fort Collins Audubon Society by October 27, 2011

ITEM		BAG SIZE	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
NYJER SEED (known as niger thistle)		5 lbs.	\$11.00		\$
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED		25 lbs.	\$17.00		\$
		50 lbs.	\$32.00		\$
WHITE PROSO MILLET		50 lbs.	\$14.00		\$
WILD DELIGHT SONGBIRD	(sunflower seed and kernels, safflower seed, peanuts, dried cherries, dried raisins)	20 lbs.	\$18.00		\$
SUET (CASE OF 12 CAKES)	(sunflower seed and kernels, peanuts, pumpkin and safflower seed, dried raisins, dried cranberries)	1 Case	\$18.00		\$
SUBTOTAL:					\$
I would like to provide additional support for Fort Collins Audubon Society's mission:					\$
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:					\$

Send Order with Prepaid Check to:

Jessie Meschievitz (FCAS Program Chair)
36685 County Road 21
Windsor, CO 80550
Ph: (970) 686-1424 (Home)
(970) 324-1550 (Cell)

**You will be sent a
Proof of Purchase Voucher**

Bring Proof of Purchase Voucher to:

Ranch-Way Feed Mills
546 Willow Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524
Ph: (970) 482-1662
M – F. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sat. 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Closed Sundays



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www.fortnet.org/audubon

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Membership Application

Join Fort Collins Audubon Society (FCAS), National Audubon Society (NAS), or both. Check all applicable::

- ☐ **New or renewing FCAS Chapter Member** \$20
(Receive *Ptarmigan* by email)
- ☐ **New or renewing FCAS Chapter Member** \$30
(Receive *Ptarmigan* by postal mail)
- ☐ **Lifetime Chapter Member** \$750
Receive *Ptarmigan* by email _____
Or receive *Ptarmigan* by post _____
- ☐ **Additional Support for FCAS's Mission** \$ _____
- ☐ **New NAS Member** \$20
(Receive *Audubon* magazine by postal mail)
- ☐ **Renewing NAS Member** \$35
(Receive *Audubon* magazine by postal mail)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make your tax exempt checks payable to FCAS and mail with this form to:
Fort Collins Audubon Society, P.O. Box 271968, Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968
Membership applications may be completed online at: www.fortnet.org/Audubon