

Fort Collins Audubon Society Presents...



Our 2017 Fundraiser:

A Silent Auction Including original art, sculptures, classic out-of-print books, field guides, photographic equipment, matted photos, wildlife memorabilia, and many more items

Refreshments, coffee, tea and punch will be served

October 12, 2017 beginning at 6:30

Fort Collins Senior Center

1200 Raintree Dr.

Special Guest Speaker: Kevin Cook

Author, Columnist, and Naturalist

“Life as a Naturalist”



To know what Horned Larks do on windy days, one must go afield on windy days and look for Horned Larks. To know what Flam-mulated Owls do on rainy nights, one must go into the mountain forests on rainy nights. To know how much blizzard a White-tailed Ptarmigan will tolerate before even it takes shelter, one must explore the high willow carrs in a blizzard or two. To know what pollinates a tiny twayblade flower, one must lie on wet ground where mosquitos outnumber stars in the sky. Some details about life and living can be gleaned from books and journals and websites, but the life of a naturalist requires more than just reading a lot. Being a naturalist is about engaging life as richly and fully as possible then sharing the experiences with others.

Kevin J. Cook moved from Iowa to Colorado in 1974 to attend Western State College where he earned his BA in biology before moving on to Colorado State University where he earned his MS in wildlife biology. He began writing professionally by freelancing for the *Gunnison Country Times*; he began guiding nature tours to show people Whooping Cranes in the San Luis Valley; and he began teaching when he spent five years as a seasonal naturalist with the National Park Service. He is now the longest running columnist for the *Ft. Collins Coloradoan* (since 1981), and he has been doing monthly nature programs at the Ft. Collins library since 1991. He teaches natural history courses for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU, and he teaches more than a dozen seminars for the Rocky Mountain Conservancy at Rocky Mountain National Park.

This program is free and the public is welcomed.

