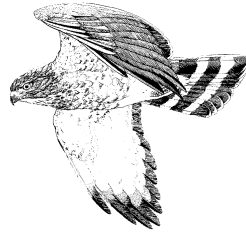


Roaring Fork



Raptor

A newsletter of the

Roaring Fork Audubon Society (RFAS)

July/August 2008 Vol. 11 No.6

To promote the enjoyment, conservation and understanding of birds, other wildlife and their habitats through birding, education, advocacy, and fellowship in Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin Counties

www.roaringforkaudubon.org

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## Roaring Fork Audubon's Annual Appeal a Success

Roaring Fork Audubon Board members and other helpers sent out our Annual Appeal fundraising letters about May 1, 2008. The response was most gratifying!!

Approximately \$2,240 has been donated. This money will be used to further Roaring Fork Audubon's projects. Some of our expenditures this past year have been a donation in memory of Rich Levad to the Colorado Bird Observatory, program expenses—such as Glenwood Springs Community Center room rental and advertising flyers' costs, and the purchase of a projector for Power Point presentations for our meetings.

Thanks to so many who have contributed so generously. The annual appeal letter may be found on-line (on this website), and if you still wish to donate, please send a contribution, designated "Annual Appeal," to Roaring Fork Audubon, Box 1192, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601.

Watch for the RFAS Annual Bird Seed Sale in September—  
Pick up Seed in October  
Info in September/October Newsletter

# Roaring Fork Audubon Field Trips/Special Activities (Updated)

## July 2008—August 2008

### Field Trip Leaders

Tom McConnell (970)379-7356 [immac@rof.net](mailto:immac@rof.net)  
Linda Vidal (970)704-9950 [birder@sopris.net](mailto:birder@sopris.net)  
Dave Clark (970)963-3479 [clark@sopris.net](mailto:clark@sopris.net)  
Pat Hammon (970)390-4686 [path@vail.net](mailto:path@vail.net)  
Ann Esson (970)476-7859 [alesson05@comcast.net](mailto:alesson05@comcast.net)

### EVERYONE IS WELCOME ON RFAS FIELD TRIPS

- You need not be a member. For most trips, bring your binoculars, field guides, water, snacks and a lunch. Dress for changing weather.
- If you have questions regarding a trip, need additional information, or would like to lead a field trip or hike, please contact Linda Vidal or Tom McConnell.

**July 20—Roan Plateau**—in conjunction with Trout Unlimited. Please contact **Tom McConnell** for more information.

**August 9—Hart's Basin/Fruitgrowers Reservoir on Grand Mesa.** On this outing, participants should see shore birds, waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes, as well as a number of Neotropical migrants. We'll meet at 7:00 a.m. at the CMC Lapala Campus in Carbondale. Please advise **Linda Vidal** if you will be joining the group. For this full day trip, bring lunch, water, and clothing and supplies for all weather conditions.



Courtesy Kirsten Munson

See  
[roaringforkaudubon.org](http://roaringforkaudubon.org)  
for the most current information about scheduled field trips  
and for information on added trips.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR INTENTIONS!** Please contact the field trip leader(s) at least three days in advance if you intend to participate in a RFAS field trip. In some cases, field trips visit areas where the number of participants is limited. In all cases, knowing the number in advance helps the leaders plan the best possible trip and ensures that you are aware of where/when to join the trip and other important information. Please arrive no later than the scheduled meeting time; leaders may not be able to delay departure for late arrivals. In case of inclement weather, it is the responsibility of the participant to check with the leader to see if the trip will be cancelled.

## June 7, 2008 Field Trip, "In Jack's Footsteps"

As reported and compiled by Anne Esson

Anne Esson states, "Could hardly believe...our luck Saturday [June 7]." The following day, Sunday, it snowed," snowing slow rain," in Vail, she says. But Saturday was a successful birding day!

There were thirteen birders (dwindling to 6 at the end) who met at the Eagle Rest Area, birding up Brush Creek, on Hardscrabble Mountain, west to Dotsero along the Eagle and Colorado Rivers, and at other spots in the Eagle area. The trip was to honor the late Jack Merchant.

Special birds seen on this field trip included: Virginia Rail, Baltimore Oriole, Western Wood Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Cordilleran Flycatcher, MacGillivray's Warbler, and a Yellow-breasted Chat and Northern Mockingbird near Dotsero. Other favorites were a Red-tailed Hawk with two young, and a Great Horned Owl, with two babies about to fledge.

Special thanks to leaders Anne Esson and Pat Hammon, for planning and coordinating the field trip, which tallied approximately 46 species! A fitting memorial to Jack!



### Recommended Birding Books, suggested by Jerry Fedrizzi

**Alderfer, Jonathan and Jon L. Dunn, *National Geographic Birding Essentials: All the Tools, Techniques, and Tips You Need to Begin and Become a Better Birder*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., 2007.** The title says it all! Great for beginners and more seasoned birders, alike.

***National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America***, edited by Jon L. Dunn and Jonathan Alderfer, 2006. Perfect size, thumb tabs on flaps.

**Sibley, David Allen. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, 2000.** Bible of many birders for its thorough treatment, background information, identification help. Use as reference, unwieldy as field guide.

**Contacts/websites—these friendly organizations welcome participation, volunteers, and inquiries:**

*The following list is intended to pique members' interest in local, regional, and national websites and organizations which specialize in nature programs/information. Please submit your favorite website, with explanatory notes to Jan Fedrizzi, Editor, defnaj@yahoo.com. The site is alphabetical by organization name. In the future, we hope to expand and "hot-link" these sites on the roaringforkaudubon.org page.*

**Aspen Center for Environmental Studies**—[www.aspennature.org](http://www.aspennature.org)—970.925.5756—ACES' mission is to inspire a life-long commitment to the earth by educating for environmental responsibility, conserving and restoring the balance of natural communities, and advancing the ethic that the earth must be respected and nurtured. ACES is a nonprofit environmental education center with three locations.

**Betty Ford Alpine Gardens**—[www.bettyfordalpinegardens.org](http://www.bettyfordalpinegardens.org)—970.476.0103—respected alpine garden in Vail—free admission with programs, guided tours

**Buying binoculars**—[www.birds.cornell.edu/Publications/LivingBird/Winter2005/Age\\_Binos.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Publications/LivingBird/Winter2005/Age_Binos.html)

**Colorado Birding Trail**—[www.coloradobirdingtrail.com](http://www.coloradobirdingtrail.com)—up-and-coming site for car trips and dreaming

**Cornell**—[www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu)—Renowned national birding central

**Eagle River Watershed Council**—[www.eagleriverwatershedcouncil.org](http://www.eagleriverwatershedcouncil.org)—The Eagle River Watershed Council (ERWC) advocates for the health and conservation of the Eagle River watershed through education, research and projects.

**Gore Range Natural Science Center**—[www.gorerange.org](http://www.gorerange.org)—Premier nature educational institution in the Eagle Valley, sponsors classes, programs, events for all ages

**National Audubon Society**—[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

**Roaring Ford Audubon Society**—[roaringforkaudubon.org](http://roaringforkaudubon.org)—Eagle/Pitkin/Garfield Counties Audubon—[roaringforkaudubon.org](http://roaringforkaudubon.org)—monthly field trips, programs with emphasis on tri-county, western Colorado area

**Roaring Fork Conservancy**—[www.roaringfork.org](http://www.roaringfork.org)—970.926.1290—"Bringing people together to protect our rivers"

**Sylvan Lake State Park**—970.328.2021—Colorado State Park with camping and programs near Eagle

**Trout Unlimited**—[www.tu.org/](http://www.tu.org/)—Colorado Director, Drew Peterzell—303.440.2038—Trout Unlimited's mission is to protect, conserve and restore cold-water fisheries and their watersheds.

**White River National Forest**—[www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/)  
WRNF—Eagle—970.328.6388; Meadow Mountain (Minturn)—970.827.5715

**Vail Nature Center**—970.479.2291—(Summer)—The Vail Nature Center, along the banks of Gore Creek, features seven acres of forest, meadow and stream, including many indigenous Colorado plant species. Tours/classes. Tours and classes.

**Western Colorado Congress** [www.wccongress.org](http://www.wccongress.org) —970.256.7650

**Wilderness Workshop**—[www.wildernessworkshop.org](http://www.wildernessworkshop.org)—970.963-3977—The Wilderness Workshop, the conservation watchdog of the White River National Forest and adjacent federal public lands, attempts to keep the backcountry more or less "as is" and where possible, to restore wildness to this landscape. Sponsors trips and educational sessions.



### Chapter Fund Raisers

Shade-grown, organic, fair-trade coffee. You may select whole bean or ground.

- \$10.00 for a 12 oz. bag of breakfast, rainforest, French roast, or decaf.
- Please send order to [kendall@sopris.net](mailto:kendall@sopris.net) or call 970-928-8358 by the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month to pick up at the next Audubon meeting or to arrange a pick-up.

**A-1 Hummingbird Feeder**--Delight any bird lover with this easy-to-clean hummingbird feeder. The A-1 hummingbird feeder may be purchased through Roaring Fork Audubon for \$15.00. Available at RFAS meetings at the Glenwood Springs Community Center. If you're unable to make the next meeting, please call Linda at 704-9950 to buy feeders.

#### Officers

President- Vacant

Secretary-Dave Clark ▶ 970-963-3479

Treasurer-Linda Vidal ▶ 970-704-9950

Programs-Ann Johnson ▶ 970-963-0661

Publicity-Kendall Henry ▶ 970-928-8358

Raptor Editor-Jan Fedrizzi ▶ 970-328-6961

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Dave Clark 970-963-3479

Kristine Crandall 970-963-5936

Jan Fedrizzi 970-328-6961

Kendall Henry 970-928-8358

Ann Johnson 970-963-0661

Delia Malone—970-963-2143

Tom McConnell 970-379-7356

Linda Vidal 970-704-9950

Laurel Williams 970-945-9621

Regular monthly Audubon meetings and programs are held the third Tuesday of every month, September through May, with the exception of December.

We meet at the Glenwood Springs Community Center at 7:00 pm.

A dessert potluck follows program. Everyone is welcome; join us and bring a friend!

**National Audubon Society  
Chapter Membership Application**

Yes, I'd like to join. Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and my local chapter.

I have enclosed a check payable to:

**National Audubon Society, Roaring Fork Chapter**

I have enclosed \$20 to begin a new membership

I have enclosed \$20 for a regular membership, but I do not want the Audubon Magazine

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:

National Audubon Society

Membership Data Center

P.O. Box 51001

Boulder, CO 80322-10017

**DO8  
XCH**

**Have questions about your membership  
or address change??? Call 1-800-274-4201.**

Subscription to Roaring Fork Audubon's bi-monthly Roaring Fork Raptor

\$15.00 per year—stay current on tri-county Audubon events, birding, and environmental advocacy.

**Inscribe check to Roaring Fork Audubon Society, Box 1192, Carbondale, CO 81623.**

**Calendar Reminders**

July 20—Roan Plateau Field Trip • August 9—Hart's Basin/Fruitgrowers Reservoir Field Trip  
Early Sept.—**Next newsletter** in your mailbox! • Sept. 16—Fall's 1<sup>st</sup> Audubon program