

ROARING FORK RAPTOR

PUBLISHED BY
ROARING FORK AUDUBON
SOCIETY

www.roaringforkaudubon.org

VOL 14 NO. 4
JUNE-AUG 2011

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

Final Raptor in Paper Format

An end of an era and a new beginning

Thanks for your support of the RFAS Raptor newsletter over the years! The Board of Trustees of Roaring Fork Audubon has determined that this issue of the Raptor will be the last to be mailed to our members.

In the future, RFAS has decided to use a different communication method to keep in touch with its members. We will be sending important reminders for field trips and programs, along with articles and photos, in a periodic e-mail format. We welcome you to participate with your own photos and stories to share with our birding/nature community.

Please contact rfas2011@gmail.com, providing your name and e-mail contact, and you will receive timely e-mail information about Audubon activities.

RFAS Board News

We had a fun pizza party, open to the entire community, on May 4 in Carbondale. It was great to meet new people, hear new ideas, and get excited about enjoying our beautiful Rocky Mountains. We have some wonderful field trips (see pages 2-3) planned this summer and hope you can take advantage of them.

We thank the new volunteers who signed up to help us implement our mission: ...*“to promote the enjoyment, conservation and understanding of birds, other wildlife and their habitats through birding, education, advocacy and fellowship...”*

The board has been discussing ways to reach out to more nature lovers. With that in mind, starting in 2012, we will be partnering with ACES (Aspen Center for Environmental Studies) and Wilderness Workshop of Carbondale for their Naturalist Nights

rather than providing our usual monthly Audubon programs.

Please let us know if you have any ideas for programs you would like to see. Please visit page 4 for volunteer opportunities.



Summer Roaring Fork Audubon Field Trips and Events

June 11, 2011—Atlas Block work—Join Linda Vidal, Coen Dexter and Brenda Wright—all birders extraordinaire—to work the Basalt atlas block. (The 2007-2011 Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II volunteers observe breeding birds in Colorado for research purposes. Certain geographical blocks are designated for volunteers to watch and report on breeding activities. The information gathered will be compared to the 1987 Breeding Bird Atlas results, allowing for a “long” view of bird breeding behavior, sightings, migrations, etc. See <http://www.cobreedingbirdatlasii.org/>)

While the intent of this bird trip is to bird about 3/4 day, the Basalt block may be perfect for night observation of Flammulated Owls, also. If we do attempt owling, we will break mid-day, then meet again for an evening outing. Please be flexible. Call **Linda Vidal** if you'd like to participate.

June 12, 2011—2nd Annual Basalt Mountain owls, poorwills and pizza— Join Coen, Brenda and Linda on this trip. We'll meet for pizza early evening, then proceed up Basalt Mountain. Last year we saw a possible Common Poorwill and two Flammulated Owls—and this year we'll try again! Please contact **Linda Vidal** for details regarding meeting times and locations.

June 18, 2011—Express Creek, up Castle Creek, near Aspen—This is a special opportunity to see high-elevation birds. This will be an early morning trip up the Express Creek road, walking down looking for birds. Space will be limited, so make your reservations with **Linda Vidal** early. We'll have lunch at the Pine Creek Cookhouse—remember, it's all about lunch! This is one of Linda's atlas blocks (see Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas info in June 11 field trip description).

June 25, 2011—Thompson Creek—Join Linda for a repeat of this great trip near Carbondale. Linda says, “This is a busy time of year for birding, but I had such a good time on this trip last year, and we saw so many birds that I'm looking forward to leading it again.” We should see many nesting migrant and resident birds. This will last approximately 1/2 day, finishing when the weather heats up mid-day. Please be prepared to carpool, bring lunch and other needs. Contact **Linda Vidal**.

July 16-17, 2011—Black Swifts in Ouray—This will be a weekend trip, driving over to Ouray, birding along the way and overnighing Saturday night in Ouray. We'll plan on seeing the swifts in Box Canyon behind the waterfalls Sunday morning, after which we'll bird our way home. **Linda Vidal** and **Tom McConnell** will lead this trip. Contact Tom for more trip details. (*Ed. note: RFAS donated money to affix radio transmitters onto Black Swifts, hoping to discover where they winter. One swift was tracked to Peru, not previously known. Our knowledge about the Black Swifts, which nest in our area behind waterfalls, will be further enhanced by this trip.*)

~field trip info~

Dave Clark

970-963-3479

Tom McConnell

(970) 379-7356

immac@rof.net

Linda Vidal

(970) 704-9950

birder@sopris.net

**Everyone is
welcome on RFAS
field trips:**

**You need not be a
RFAS member for
most trips. For
field trips, bring
your binoculars,
field guides, wa-
ter, snacks and a
lunch; dress for
changing weather.**

**Please notify
leader 3 days
before trip of your
intention to
attend. If you have
questions regard-
ing a trip, need
additional infor-
mation, or would
like to lead a field
trip or hike,
please contact
Linda Vidal or
Tom McConnell.**

Roaring Fork Audubon 2011 field trips *continued...*

August 13, 2011—Hart's Basin—a favorite trip to see migrating shorebirds near Eckert. We will also visit other hotspots in Delta County, looking for additional migrant and resident birds. Bring lunch, drinks, and other field trip needs. Please advise leader **Linda Vidal** if you are planning to join up.

August 19-21, 2011—Wet Mountain Valley with Arkansas Valley Audubon—For the past 26 years Arkansas Valley Audubon has done an August trip to the Wet Mountain Valley near Westcliffe. Birds and scenery are great, with the Sangre de Cristos to the west and the Wet Mountains to the east. Typically this trip produces over 100 bird species, thanks to the varied habitats found in this area. We will meet Friday evening for the drive to Westcliffe. We may go in two groups, one from Glenwood-Eagle and one from Carbondale-Aspen. We will bird in the Wet Mountain Valley on Saturday and return home on Sunday. Please contact **Tom McConnell**.

Grab Your Binocs

(from the Arkansas Valley Audubon website)

“In the mountains one can find Flammulated Owls, Three-toed Woodpeckers, Western Tanagers and a variety of flycatchers. Spotted Owls can be heard in canyons of the Wet Mountains, but are difficult to find. Mountain grassland and sage country contain Sage Thrashers, as well as Brewer's and Sage Sparrows. By scrambling, ten members of the Corvid family—jays, nutcracker, and magpies—can be seen in a single day. Green-tailed and Spotted Towhees are numerous in the Gambel Oak groves.”

Don't miss these exciting trips! Last minute field trip changes on roaringforkaudubon.org

Hummingbird feeders and self-stick decals for windows, as well as other bird-feeding and bird-conserving accessories, are available through RFAS. Call Mary Harris, 970-963-0319, or Linda Vidal, 970-704-9950 for details, or visit roaringforkaudubon.org, and click on “Marketplace.”

Coffee for sale! Kendall Henry is selling shade-grown, organic, fair-trade coffee for our chapter. You may select a 12 oz. bag of breakfast, rainforest, French roast or decaf—beans or ground—for \$10.

Please order from kendall@sopris.net or call 970-928-8358.



*Black-crowned
Night Heron*

RFAS Membership Changes

As we will no longer send the Raptor through the mail with its membership reminders, we have chosen May—because it is spring and migration time for us in the mountains—for membership month. We hope you will associate Roaring Fork Audubon with this special time of year. Membership dues will be due May 1 each year.

We will start this new membership plan May 1, 2012. Any members who owe for 2011 may send in \$20 or add it to their annual appeal donation. See the membership application form on right or find it on-line at roaringforkaudubon.org.

Remember that the annual \$20 membership to Friends of Roaring Fork Audubon is for the local organization only. National Audubon will bill you separately.

Please call Linda Vidal, Membership Coordinator, 970-704-9950, if you have membership questions.

ROARING FORK AUDUBON LOCAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me/us in the Roaring Fork Audubon Society. I/we may participate in all chapter activities. Dues are used for local chapter activities.

Date _____

Individual/family (\$20) _____

I have included an additional donation of _____

Total _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____ Email (please) _____

I do not want solicitations from National Audubon

Check enclosed, payable to : Roaring Fork Audubon, P. O. Box 1192, Carbondale, CO 81623

To join or donate to the National Audubon Society directly and receive the Audubon Magazine, use chapter code DO87XCH and call 1-800-274-4201.

BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Biebl	jbiebl@sopris.net
Liz Bokram	lizjohnb@msn.com
Dave Clark	clark@sopris.net
Jan Fedrizzi	defnaj@yahoo.com
Dick Filby	dickfilby@hotmail.com
Pat Frank	ticoachpat@yahoo.com
Mary Harris	smnharris@gmail.com
Kendall Henry	kendall@sopris.net
Ann Johnson	weekeepemee67@yahoo.com
Dee Malone	deliamalone@earthlink.net
Linda Vidal	birder@sopris.net
Laurel Williams	wenterr@rof.net

OFFICERS

President— Mary Harris
 Vice President – Dee Malone
 Secretary –Liz Bokram
 Treasurer – Linda Vidal

RFAS COMMITTEES

Publicity – Kendall Henry
 Winter 2011/Summer 2012 Field Trips Planning – Dick Filby and Mary Harris
 (Much thanks to Linda Vidal and Tom McConnell for providing field trips over the past many years)
 Winter 2011 Programs – Mary Harris
 (Special appreciation to Ann Johnson for organizing programs for the last decade)
 Fund Raising – Dave Clark +need 2 more people
 Annual Appeal – Need 1-2 people
 Website and Constant Contact (e-mail contact program) – Liz Bokram, Dee Malone, and Jim Biebl (who gets special thanks for setting up and maintaining our website)
 Membership – Linda Vidal + need 1 more person

If you would like to be a part of RFAS and help with any of the above committees, please contact Mary Harris at smnharris@gmail.com

Who-o-o-o Knew?

- **Please visit the RFAS website, *roaringforkaudubon.org* for up-to-date news.**
- **Be sure to send us your e-mail address, so that you will be informed about every RFAS event! Send your name and e-mail address to *rfas2011@gmail.com*. We respect your privacy and will not share your name or address.**
- **Our Annual Appeal letter asking for donations to help support RFAS's efforts in education , advocacy and conserving bird habitat has recently been mailed. If you wish to contribute, please know we will be most grateful. You may send a check to RFAS, PO Box 1192, Carbondale, CO 81623. This money stays within the local Audubon area for chapter projects and support.**



Sites in the 'Hood

Try surfing these links for a painless environmental overview of our area, state and nation:

Arkansas Valley Audubon—socobirds.org

Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES)—aspennature.org—mission is “to inspire a life-long commitment to the earth...” ; a nonprofit group with four locations, tours and activities, advocacy

Audubon Society of Greater Denver—denveraudubon.org

Betty Ford Alpine Gardens—bettyfordalpinegardens.org—outstanding alpine garden in Vail—free admission with programs, guided tours, rare plant conservation

Black Canyon Audubon—blackcanyonaudubon.org

Colorado Birding Trail—coloradobirdingtrail.com—maps and narratives for Colorado birding destinations, routes, accommodations; especially recommended is W. Colorado area trail: coloradobirdingtrail.com/trails/western-colorado.php

Colorado Environmental Coalition—ourcolorado.org

Cornell Lab of Ornithology—www.birds.cornell.edu—Renowned national birding research site

Eagle River Watershed Council—eagleriverwatershedcouncil.org—advocates for health and conservation of the Eagle River watershed through education, research and projects

Eagle Valley Alliance—eaglevalleyalliance.org—sponsors sustainability programs, e.g., recycling electronics, composting

Ft. Collins Audubon—fortnet.org/audubon/

Grand Valley Audubon—audubongv.org

National Audubon Society—audubon.org

Roaring Fork Audubon Society—roaringforkaudubon.org—monthly field trips, nature programs, advocacy

Roaring Fork Conservancy—roaringfork.org—“Bringing people together to protect our rivers”

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory—rmbo.org

Rifle Gap, Rifle Falls, and Sylvan Lake State Parks—parks.state.co.us—camping, hiking, fishing, boating

Trout Unlimited—tu.org/—TU’s mission is to protect, conserve and restore cold-water fisheries and their watersheds

Western Colorado Congress—wcongress.org—consortium of Western Colorado environmental groups

White River National Forest—fs.fed.us/—click on “regional offices,” then “White River”

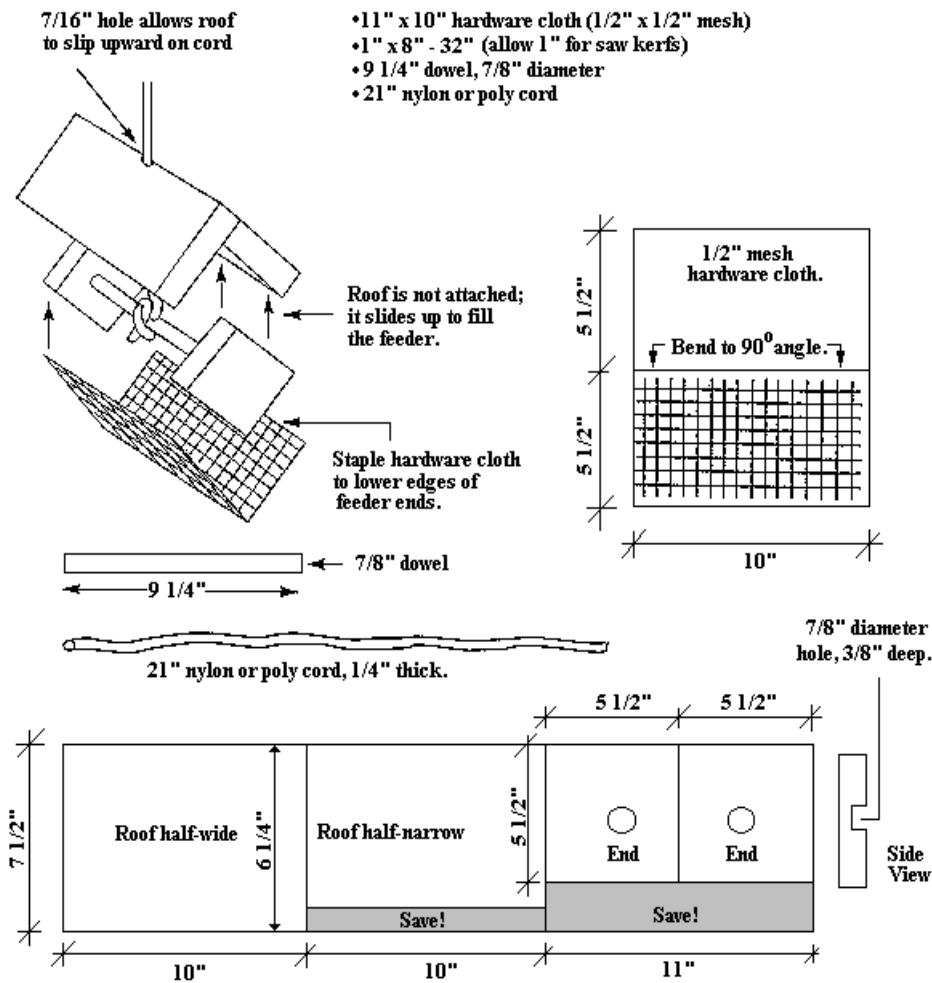
Vail Nature Center—vailrec.com/nature.cfm—programs, hikes, camps

Walking Mountains Science Center—walkingmountains.org— environmental education for all ages
(compiled by Jan Fedrizzi, 05/2011)

Hardware Cloth Suet Feeder

Materials:

- 11" x 10" hardware cloth (1/2" x 1/2" mesh)
- 1" x 8" - 32" (allow 1" for saw kerfs)
- 9 1/4" dowel, 7/8" diameter
- 21" nylon or poly cord



<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/wildlife/ndblinds/suetfeed.htm>

Remember:
RFAS Bird Seed Sale
October, 2011
Order by end of
September:
Dave Clark,
970-963-3479 or
roaringforkaudubon.org
for details
a fundraiser for RFAS

The Last Gasp

I would like to thank the Raptor proofreaders, Jerry Fedrizzi and Kristine Crandall, for their superb help over the last few years. Both have made suggestions, re-written passages and spotted errors—helping to immensely improve the publication.

Former board member Kristine has been a backer and contributor cum laude. Other RFAS board members have also contributed material, ideas, and support. Other contributors have lent diversity and interest. To all of you, I am most appreciative.

Jan Waggoner, our knowledgeable printer at Wag's World Printing in Eckert, has given RFAS a valuable boost in producing and mailing the Raptor. She has always been very responsive and has staunchly deflected the flow of many possible bloodlettings. Thanks, Jan!

And thanks to all our readers!

Jan Fedrizzi, Editor

Roaring Fork Audubon

Box 1192

Carbondale, CO 81623