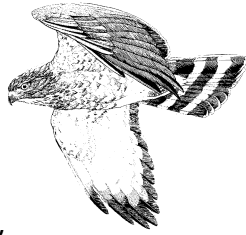


Roaring Fork



Raptor

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Roaring Fork Audubon Society (RFAS)

Nov/Oct. 2008 Vol. 12 No. 2

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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## “What a Hoot! Owls of Western Colorado”

Jason Beason ~November 18, 2008



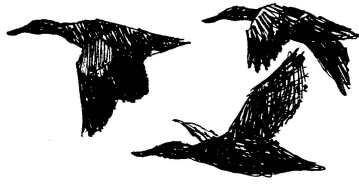
Screech owl courtesy Steve D'Amato

Twelve species of owls can be found in western Colorado. We are fortunate that so many owl species can be found close to our regional Audubon area, which includes Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin counties. This is mainly due to the fact that several different habitat types provide the specific requirements for each species. During this presentation Jason Beason, from the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, will discuss these owl species and their habitat preferences. Attendees will have the opportunity to listen to and comment on owl vocalizations and learn about techniques for finding owls and the etiquette of "owling." Join Roaring Fork Audubon for an informative and highly relevant program—find out why you should give a hoot about owls!

Meetings are held at the Glenwood Springs Community Center  
100 Wolfsohn Rd. ~ 7 p.m.  
Refreshments and a dessert potluck accompany the program.

*No program in December. The Christmas bird counts will be RFAS' activities for December. See p. 2...*

## Roaring Fork Audubon Field Trips and Special Activities - Please join us!



Courtesy Kirsten Munson

Enjoy natural places! Savor fellowship! See new sights and sites!

### Field Trip Leaders

Tom McConnell (970)379-7356

immac@rof.net

Linda Vidal (970)704-9950 birder@sopris.net

Dave Clark (970)963-3479 clark@sopris.net

### November, 2008

- **November 1—Roaring Fork Valley Waterfowl**—Migrant waterfowl numbers peak in late October and early November. This annual trip visits local reservoirs that host the largest numbers of common and unusual birds. Also, expect winter raptors to be seen on this trip. Contact **Tom McConnell**.

### December, 2008

- **Dec 13—Christmas Bird Count**—Join Roaring Fork Audubon for the annual Christmas Count. Our count circle includes Glenwood Springs and Carbondale and an interesting mix of habitats. More than 55,000 observers from all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda, the West Indies and Pacific islands participate in this all-day census of early winter birds. A potluck dinner will follow to compile the results. Contact **Dave Clark**.
- **Dec 14 - Aspen Christmas Bird Count** - Meet at Hallam Lake (Aspen Center for Environmental Studies) at 7:00 a.m. Contact **Lindsay Stinnett at ACES 925-5756 or Tom McConnell**.

#### 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.

# Programs and Special Events Calendar

Jan-May 2009

See [roaringforkaudubon.org](http://roaringforkaudubon.org) for last minute changes  
(Changes have been made since last newsletter.)

▶ January 20—Brian Kurzel—*Colorado Natural Areas*

▶ February 17—Dick Filby—*Antarctica*

▶ Late Winter/Early Spring—date TBA—*Family Nest Box Building Sessions*

▶ March 17—Liz Roberts—*Lynx in Colorado*

▶ April 21—Sherry Tippy--*Beavers*

▶ May 19— Nicola Ripley Johnson of Vail's Betty Ford Alpine Gardens "*The Dirt on Colorado Flora: a Look at Native Plant Collections and Monitoring Native Plants*"

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## Bird Seed Sale—RFAS' annual fund raiser

Our 2008 Audubon Bird Seed Sale, a major fundraiser for RFAS, was very successful, thanks to the efforts of many purchasers and Dave Clark, the Board member who has for years engineered the bird seed sale. Roaring Fork Audubon very much appreciates Steve Hyrup for his major support---for ordering seed, donating space for the sale, and helping to load the seed bags. In appreciation, RFAS urges you to support Hyrup Seed and Ranch Supply in El Jebel for your ongoing animal/bird food and supply needs. The cordial relationship between Steve and RFAS has flourished for a number of years. Thanks, Steve!

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Kendall Henry is selling shade-grown, organic, fair-trade coffee for our chapter.

- 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.

# Project FeederWatch Benefits Birds and People

*Connection with nature is good medicine*

*Ithaca, NY*-More than 100 studies have shown that getting closer to nature reduces stress and promotes a feeling of well-being in children and adults. Filling feeders and counting the birds that visit may be just what the doctor ordered! For more than 20 years, that's what participants in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project FeederWatch have been doing.

"It is a great winter time activity for the whole family," says Alaska FeederWatcher Nancy Darnell. "If you have children, they will come to love watching the birds...it's fun and a chance to contribute to scientific studies, too!"

The 2008-09 season of **Project FeederWatch gets underway November 8** and runs through April 3. Participants count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders each week and send the information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participants submitted more than 115,000 checklists during the 2007-08 FeederWatch season, documenting unusual bird sightings, winter movements, and shifting ranges--a treasure trove of information used to monitor the health of the birds and of the environment.

"Being a FeederWatcher is easy and fun, and at the same time helps generate the world's largest database on project leader David contributions our birds and are proud of their busy lives. Since 40,000 people have engaging with the Scientists learn each year, too. season include the of Red-breasted project--part of an

Mary Strasser of Wisconsin:  
"The greatest reward for me as a participant in Project FeederWatch these many years has been observing birds and behavior that I might have missed had I not been part of this project."

feeder-bird populations," says Bonter. "We are grateful for the participants have made for the the joy they say it brings to we started in 1987, more than submitted observations, wildlife beyond their windows." something new from the data Highlights of the most recent largest southward movement Nuthatches in the history of the expected influx of northern

birds that fly farther south when their food supplies run short. Other northern species showing up in record numbers included Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins. Among the rare birds reported was a Streak-backed Oriole in Loveland, Colorado--the state's first report of this bird, native to Mexico. A December nor'easter deposited a Dovekie in Newton, Massachusetts, the first time this North Atlantic seabird has ever been reported to Project FeederWatch. Long-term data show some species increasing in number, such as the Lesser Goldfinch in the Southwest. Other populations continue a downward trend, such as the Evening Grosbeak throughout its range. Once one of the most common species seen at feeders in the northern half of the continent, the grosbeaks are declining for unknown reasons.

Beyond the benefits to birds and science, however, is the benefit to participants. "Nature is not merely an amenity; it is critical to healthy human development and functioning," says Nancy Wells, Cornell University Assistant Professor of Design and Environmental Analysis. Her studies find that a view of nature through the window or other methods of accessing the environment improves a child's cognitive functioning and reduces the negative effects of

Continued on next page→

stress on the child's psychological well-being. Wells also notes that when children spend time with nature early in life, they develop positive adult attitudes and behavior toward the environment.

Project FeederWatch welcomes participants of all ages and skill levels, from scout troops and retirees to classrooms and nature center visitors. To learn more and to sign up, visit [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org) or call the Lab toll-free at (800) 843-2473. There is a \$15 fee for participants, which supplies id materials, instructions, and other necessary supplies.



*Remember the hike when we saw the...?  
Did I tell you about the trip when we...?*

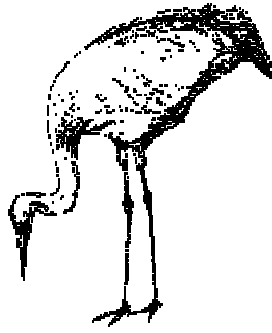
Give Your Adventure or  
Story a Life!  
*Get Published!*

*Do you have a short hiking story to tell? An anecdote about wildlife which you think other RFASers would enjoy? Always hankered to share your art work? To enrich the offerings of and vary the submittals to the Raptor, the Roaring Fork Audubon Society invites readers to submit original articles, art work, poems, or other items of interest. At this time we are able to accept only black and white line drawings, no photos. Deadlines are:*

- *August 1 for the September/October newsletter;*
- *October 1 for the November/December newsletter;*
- *December 1 for the January/February newsletter;*
- *February 1 for the March/April newsletter and*
- *April 1 for the May/June newsletter.*

*Priority is given to original articles about Western Slope/local nature-related occurrences, news items, programs, or related subjects. We suggest articles/sketches about local field trips, plants, or animals of common interest. Children's work is encouraged.*

*Any submissions gratefully accepted. Textual items can be accepted digitally in Word format at [defnaj@yahoo.com](mailto:defnaj@yahoo.com). Mail to Jan Fedrizzi, Box 487, Eagle, CO 81631. Please give proper acknowledgment for articles or art work which you are borrowing from another source. Note that items may be edited at editor's discretion due to length, copyright issues, or other constraints. Editor is not responsible for acknowledging or returning submissions. Please call Jan Fedrizzi, newsletter editor, 970-328-6961, for more information.*



*Status Grus americana (Long-legged limbo)*

*Kristine Crandall*

First published in the *Naropa University Summer Writing Program Magazine*, 2008

It used to be the whooping crane was the tallest bird in North America,  
now the whooping crane is the tallest bird in North America.

It used to be the whooping crane lived from central Canada to Mexico and Utah to the Atlantic Ocean,  
now the whooping crane lives within two narrow strips: from Texas to the Northwest Territories, and Wisconsin to Florida.

It used to be the whooping crane had a white body, black wingtips, a red forehead and cheeks, long legs, a long neck, and tufted feathers over the rump,  
now the whooping crane has a white body, black wingtips, a red forehead and cheeks, long legs, a long neck, and tufted feathers over the rump.

It used to be the whooping crane taught its young to migrate throughout its range,  
now the young whooping crane follows an ultralight aircraft from Wisconsin's Necedah wildlife refuge to Florida's Chassahowitzka wildlife refuge.

It used to be the whooping crane danced,  
now the whooping crane dances with the explanation that dancing strengthens pair bonds, develops motor skills, and thwarts aggression.

It used to be the world whooping crane population was self-sustaining,  
then the world whooping crane population was 16 (1942),  
now the world whooping crane population is 503 (355 in the wild, 148 in captivity).

It used to be the whooping crane leaped, flapped wings, tossed its head, and flinged feathers and grass in the air in courtship,  
now the whooping crane leaps, flaps wings, tosses its head, and flings feathers and grass in the air in courtship.

It used to be the whooping crane didn't get collected for its eggs and bodies, wasn't shot for sport and food, didn't lose its habitats to settlers' productivity, and didn't collide with power lines,  
now the whooping crane's wintering stronghold in Texas is eroded by the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, barge traffic carrying petrochemicals, oil drilling, and diversion of freshwater.

It used to be the whooping crane had a trachea that coiled nine inches into its breast bone so it could whoop and bugle in multiple keys,  
now the whooping crane has a trachea that coils nine inches into its breast bone so it can whoop and bugle in multiple keys.

It used to be the whooping crane sang in unison with its mate,  
now a few whooping cranes sing in unison with their mates.

Above illustration courtesy David H. Ellis, George F. Gee, and Claire M. Mirande, editors. 1996 [Cranes: their biology, husbandry and conservation](#). U.S. Department of the Interior, National Biological Service, Washington, DC and International Crane Foundation, 1996

*Listen*

## Holiday Gift Ideas (for the environmentally concerned)

.....from RFAS

\***A-1 Hummingbird Feeder**—Delight any bird lover with this easy-to-clean hummingbird feeder. The A-1 hummingbird feeder is now available in this region exclusively through Roaring Fork Audubon Society. Feeders make thoughtful gifts that give back to wildlife. **The feeders, \$15.00, are available at the 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.**

\***Shade Grown Coffee**—see p. 5 for details

\***Subscription to Roaring Fork Audubon's bi-monthly Roaring Fork Raptor**—\$15.00 per year—stay current on Pitkin County, Garfield County, and Eagle County Audubon events, birding, and environmental advocacy. **Inscribe check to Roaring Fork Audubon Society, Box 1192, Carbondale, CO 81623**

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**

Check [roaringforkaudubon.org](http://roaringforkaudubon.org) for changes in programs, field trips, and for the current newsletter!!

## Officers

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Raptor Editor-Jan Fedrizzi ▶ 970-328-6961

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Linda Vidal 970-704-9950

Laurel Williams 970-945-9621

## Roaring Fork Raptor

This newsletter is published bi-monthly, September through May, by the Roaring Fork Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Members are encouraged to submit original articles, photos or art. Please state if the article or art has been published elsewhere, requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to edit and to select suitable articles for publication. Please feel free to reproduce and distribute all or any part of this publication. The deadline for the newsletter is the 1st of the month prior to publication. Please send copy to editor no later than this date. Send to Roaring Fork Audubon Society, % Jan Fedrizzi, Box 487, Eagle, CO 81631 or [dfnajt@yahoo.com](mailto:dfnajt@yahoo.com). A subscription to this newsletter (newsletter only, not a membership) is \$15/year. Make checks payable to Roaring Fork Audubon Society, send to Roaring Fork Audubon, Box 1192, Carbondale, CO 81623.

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

## Calendar Reminders

Nov 1--Fall Waterfowl field trip • Nov. 8—Project Feeder Watch begins • Nov 18—What a Hoot owl program  
December 13, 14--Christmas Bird Counts • Early Jan —**Next newsletter** in your mailbox! Jan 20—Colorado Natural Areas program

Roaring Fork Audubon  
Box 1192  
Carbondale, CO 81623