



Get Involved. Make a Difference.

How often do you read something in the newspaper, or see it on television, and think, “That’s terrible! Someone should DO something!” But you really don’t know what to do, or how to start. You don’t believe that one person can make a difference.

Well, this is your chance. You can be that “someone” who gets involved.

There are lots of excuses—reasons not to take the first step: not enough time, not enough money, the need to fill the 42 feeders in your yard before the birds starve. Volunteering has to be intentional. You need to reprioritize to find the time, the money. (Just be sure to keep those feeders filled!)

Volunteering is a lot of fun. You make new friends. You gain the satisfaction of significance. You learn new skills. You find yourself smiling a lot. We guarantee—it’s worth it.

As Risë mentions in her President’s organization. In an area as populated of people would volunteer, but so Whether you have a lot of time once in a while—we need you!



Message, Aiken Audubon is a volunteer as El Paso County, you would think lots far that hasn’t happened. We need you. to offer, or just a few minutes every Here are some opportunities:

Hospitality

Do you like to eat? Could you recruit and maintain a list of individuals who sign up to bring some refreshments to the general meetings? You would also remind them when it is their turn. Current snacks include coffee and/or cold drinks, some sort of finger food, and paper plates, napkins, and cups.

Continued on page 5.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome to another wonderful issue of Aiken Audubon’s Aikorns. There are some interesting programs lined up for the upcoming year and hopefully you will attend the general meetings and field trips. You never know what bird might be in the wrong place at the right time so you can add it to your life list.

I’m sure you all know that the Aiken Audubon chapter is a volunteer organization. I just want to inform everyone that the current board’s tenure is ending in May 2009. I’m planting the “step up and volunteer” seed now so when it comes time to create a slate of new officers, you will be there. The more people we have helping the organization function, the easier it is. If you have any questions, read the above article, and talk with me or any other current board member—I will have job descriptions at every meeting. Please consider becoming a board member.

Mark your calendar for the October 3-5, 2008, “No Child Left Inside Weekend.” In partnership with other local agencies, AAS will have a table at the Pikes Peak Center on Friday afternoon before author Richard Louv’s 7:00 pm presentation about his book, “The Last Child in the Woods.” The Pikes Peak Library District and the Rampart Library District are also featuring this book as their book of the month in September. If you have children, this is a wonderful opportunity for them. Please look inside for more information about this event.

Keep on birding,

Risë

• RISË FOSTER-BRUDER
PRESIDENT, AIKEN AUDUBON SOCIETY

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COMING PROGRAMS

September 17
“Owls of North America”
presented by Steve Vaughan

October 17
“Birds of Peru”
presented by Gary Graham

November 19
“White-tailed Ptarmigan”
presented by Joyce Gellhorn

December 20
Christmas Bird Count

Newsletter Articles

Items and announcements of special interest to Aiken Audubon members are welcomed for consideration. We’d love to hear from you!

Deadline for the November/December 2008 issue of Aikorns is Wednesday, October 15.

Contact the editor, Leslie Holzmann:
leslie@icta.net, 719.495.8889

September 17 • Stephen Vaughan Owls of North America

Join us for an evening of photography and stories about Steve's travels and experiences over the past 35 years with North American owls. While his observations don't always agree with what the books say, as Steve puts it: "I guess the owls I have observed don't read the books!"

Steve holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology from Colorado State University. He has been a professional nature photographer since 1985. Stephen has photography credits from such prestigious magazines as Audubon, Birders World and Sierra. His photographs have appeared in calendars published by Audubon Society, Sierra Club and Arizona Highways. Stephen has been teaching nature photography at Pikes Peak Community College since 1998. He has led photography works shops to Cape May New Jersey, Garden of the Gods, Rocky Mountain National Park, Southeast Arizona, Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge New Mexico and Costa Rica.



Barred Owl by Stephen Vaughan

October 15 • Gary Graham Birds and Bats of Peru: Tall Tales from Tall Mountains



National bird of Peru: Cock of the Rocks

Gary Graham, Executive Director of Audubon Colorado, lived and studied in Peru for almost two years where he helped discover several new species of birds and bats for science and for the country. He will show slides of many of these rare and unique critters and places.

Gary will also tell stories of close calls with killer bees, exploration of places where no humans had ever visited, and the joys of biological fieldwork in the tropics. He will conclude with pictures of his favorite birds in the world.

Gary has been the Executive Director of Audubon Colorado for almost six years. He holds a Ph.D. in biology from the University of New Mexico, where he compared the distribution

patterns of birds and bats along elevation gradients in the Peruvian Andes. Gary has written the Texas Wildlife Viewing Guide, a Golden Guide entitled Bats of the World and numerous scientific and popular articles. An avid birdwatcher, Gary has studied and watched birds all over the world.

Aiken Audubon programs are free and open to the public. They are held at the Colorado State Division of Wildlife building located at 4255 Sinton Road. Coffee and socializing is at 6:30pm and programs begin at 7:00pm. Please use the back entrance. Note: Sinton Road runs parallel to I-25 on the east side, between Garden of the Gods Road and Fillmore Street.

Field Trip Tips

Here's a few reminders on how to be a welcome participant on birding trips:

- Contribute towards gas or plan to be a driver.
- Come prepared for Colorado's erratic weather: a hat and rain gear are a good idea.
- Wear subdued, natural colors; avoid white.
- Remember to speak softly so you don't scare away the birds everyone came to see.
- Along with your binos and ID book, bring bug spray, sun screen, snack and water.
- Pack a sack lunch for longer trips.
- Follow the ABA's Birding Code of Ethics.

AIKEN AUDUBON BOARD MEMBERS

President

Risë Foster-Bruder
719.282.7877

Vice President

Frank Dodge
719.548.9863

Secretary
(available)

Treasurer
(available)

Conservation Chair
(interim needed)

Publicity Chair

Stephen Vaughan
719.531.7076

Field Trips

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719.495.9305
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Aikorns Editor

Leslie Holzmann
719.495.8889
Leslie@icta.net

Christmas Count

Ben & Sally Sorensen
719.635.1716



AIKEN AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Everyone is welcome on Aiken field trips, regardless of experience level or membership in Audubon. Contact trip leader for details and to let them know you are coming. Current information is available at www.aikenaudubon.com.

Saturday, September 20 SE Colorado

Shorebirds are heading south for the winter. Let's go watch them as they stop for rest and refreshment at some of the many reservoirs along the Arkansas River. How far we get depends on what we see. Bring a scope if you have one. This all-day trip leaves from Broadmoor Town Center at 7:30 am. Be sure to pack a lunch, snacks, and water, as well as bug spray and sunscreen. Be prepared for any kind of weather.

Contact trip leader Leslie Holzmann at 719.495.8889 or Leslie@ICTA.net for more information.

Some Saturday in September or October

Somebody Arrange a Trip!

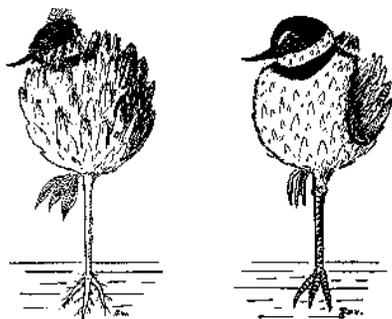
The birds are waiting. Don't just stare at your TV, watching the never ending parade of political ads. How about going to Aiken Canyon? Chico Basin? There's even a little-known pond in the north end of the county, in Sun Hills (just south of GlenEagle) that warrants exploring. And, if you are going to go birding, take us with you!

Check www.aikenaudubon.com to see who was volunteered to lead some trips.

ARKANSAS VALLEY AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

The Arkansas Valley Audubon Society welcomes you on their field trips. Check their website for current information: www.socobirds.org. Be sure to contact trip leaders to let them know you would like to join them.

From "How to Tell the Birds from the Flowers: A Manual of Ornithology for Beginners," by Robert Williams Wood, ©1907.



The Clover: The Plover.

The Plover and the Clover can be told
apart with ease,
By paying close attention to the
habits of the Bees,
For ento-molo-gists aver, the Bee
can be in Clover,
While ety-molo-gists concur, there
is no B in Plover.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Saturday, September 13, 7 – 11 am Fountain Creek 17th Annual Fall Bird Count

The fall migration is underway and beginning to advanced birders are invited to assist park naturalists in observing and recording the number of bird species and their populations in the park.

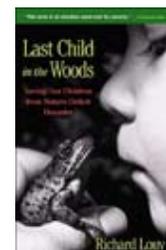
Call 719.520.6745 to confirm your participation. Free.

Saturday, September 20, 7 – 10 am Bear Creek Fall Bird Count & Breakfast

Bird enthusiasts of all ages and abilities are invited to learn about our feathered friends while identifying and counting them in Bear Creek Park. Bagels and OJ provided.

Call 710.520.6745 to confirm your participation. Free.

Friday, October 3: Exhibits open 5:30 pm, presentation 7 pm



Richard Louv, author of "LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS"

A terrific opportunity awaits for parents, educators, and anyone else who influences children. Richard Louv will be speaking at the Pikes Peak Center here in Colorado Springs. Why should you attend?

The recipient of the 2008 Audubon Medal, Richard Louv identified a phenomenon we all knew existed but couldn't quite articulate: nature-deficit disorder. Since its initial publication... *Last Child in the Woods* has created a national conversation about the disconnection between children and nature. His message [is]... inspiring Leave No Child Inside initiatives throughout the country.

Last Child in the Woods is the inspiring work that proves children need nature as much as nature needs children.

—[HTTP://RICHARDOUV.COM](http://RICHARDOUV.COM)

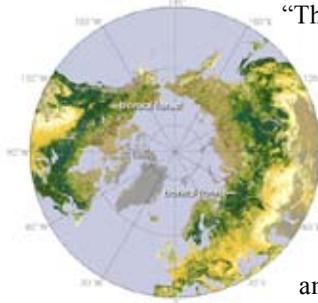
This event promotes a "Leave No Child Inside" weekend here in Colorado Springs. Many parks and nature centers in the Pikes Peak area will be sponsoring events and activities that will encourage families to enjoy the outdoors. For the latest information, go to www.nps.gov/flfo/parknews/no-child-left-inside-weekend.htm

Tickets are available now, through Tickets West, 719.520.SHOW. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for educators/docents and \$5 for students. For more information, contact the Catamount Institute at 719.471.0910 ext 106.

Good News for Canadian Birds

A new initiative by the government of Ontario, Canada, will protect an area of Boreal Forest almost as large as the entire state of Colorado. Located in the Canadian far north, the forest is critical nesting habitat for nearly half of all bird species found in North America. Many of the birds we see here spend part of their lives in these remote northern forests.

The Boreal Forest



“The more we study the Boreal region, the more we discover that it is essentially responsible for the abundance of bird life in the U.S. and Canada,” said Jeff Wells, PhD, a scientist with the Boreal Songbird Initiative, based in Seattle. “Simply put, the future of bird life across North America depends on how well we steward the Boreal Forest Region.” *

The Canadian program will “permanently protect an interconnected network of conservation lands across the Far North” of Ontario. Plus, it allows for scientists and native peoples of the region to heavily influence decisions that impact development

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty explains, “Although the Northern Boreal region has remained virtually undisturbed since the retreat of the glaciers, change is inevitably coming to these lands. We need to prepare for development and plan for it. It’s our responsibility as global citizens to get this right, and to act now.”

Birds aren’t the only beneficiaries of Ontario’s Far North Planning initiative. A total of 134 species of plants and animals that make this their home are listed as either threatened or endangered by the province.

* <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/may2005/2005-05-11-03.asp>

MAP BY ROBERT SIMMON

• WRITTEN BY LESLIE HOLZMANN

Keeping Common Birds Common

Last year, Audubon released “Common Birds in Decline: A State of the Birds Report,” detailing alarming declines in bird populations in recent years. Species especially hard hit in Colorado included:

- **Evening Grosbeak** populations are down 95 percent. Evening Grosbeaks mostly live year-round in coniferous forests in the western half of the state amid increasing habitat damage and loss from logging, mining, drilling and development.
- **Northern Harrier** populations in Colorado are down nearly 77 percent and have the highest reported decline of any raptors in the state. Harriers are year-round residents across the state.
- **Lark Bunting** populations, Colorado’s state bird, have declined, from being one of the most common birds in the eastern part of the state, by 64 percent over the past 40 years. They are typically found breeding throughout eastern Colorado, especially in the higher quality grasslands, and show increases in abundance during wet years.
- **Western Meadowlarks**, down 71 percent, are threatened by the loss of grasslands to industrialized agricultural practices. Further, the potential conversion of acres currently protected for conservation to biofuel crops like corn puts both Eastern and Western Meadowlarks at even greater risk.
- **Horned Larks**, down by 72 percent, are common year-round residents in grasslands throughout the state, particularly in eastern shortgrass prairies.

Future issues of the *Aikorns* will be presenting items from National Audubon’s list of what a concerned birder can do to help reverse these trends.

Colorado Audubon on Global Warming

Holly Carpenter is the new Global Warming Intern at Audubon Colorado in Boulder. As part of her duties, she follows energy and environmental issues related to global warming in the state of Colorado, and for the nation at large.

If you would like to read her reports, they will be posted as a link on our website. Go to: www.aikenaudubon.com/conservation_global-warm.html.

FIELD TRIP REPORT



Emerald Valley Field Trip Summary

JUNE 23, 2008—Aiken Audubon’s field trip to Emerald Valley on Monday, June 23 provided a great opportunity to look at birds, blooms and butterflies. Twelve people participated in the hike, led by Ken Pals. Twenty-six bird species, over 40 blooming wildflowers, at least 12 butterfly species, a Western Terrestrial Garter Snake and Brook Trout were identified.

Bird highlights included: Red-naped Sapsucker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Swainson’s Thrush and MacGillivray’s Warbler. Shooting Stars, Green Bog Orchid, Spotted Coralroot Orchid, Yellow Ladyslipper and Blue-eyed Grass were among the showy wildflowers observed.

Butterflies species identified included Hoary Comma, Western Pine Elfin, Field Crescent, Western Tiger Swallowtail, Chryxus Arctic, Common Ringlet, Weidemeyer’s Admiral, Mourning Cloak, Spring Azure and Orange Sulphur.

• SUBMITTED BY KEN PALS,
FIELD TRIP LEADER

Field Trip Leaders

Do you like to go birding? Would you like to have some company on your birding outings? You can be a beginner or an expert at bird identification. We are looking for people who know an area where birds are plentiful. You set the date and time and we advertise the trip. This is one of those opportunities that can flex to accommodate your available time—it can be a one-time trial, or you can lead trips on an ongoing basis.

Program Assistant

Do you enjoy the various presenters we have at our monthly programs? Would you like an opportunity to influence the choice of speaker and topics? The entire Board works to discover interesting programs. The Program Assistant is responsible for contacting each speaker to find out what, if any, audio/visual equipment they require, and sending out confirmation messages and reminders when their program is scheduled.

Newsletter/Website Contributor

Would you like to write interesting or amusing articles about birds, birding, or related topics? Do you paint, sketch, or photograph bird-related subjects? Have you read a good book that other birders would enjoy? Are you aware of an upcoming event that would interest other Aiken members? What birding adventures have you had? Know any good bird jokes?

Share your knowledge and experience with us. We'll consider anything you send in. Submissions go to: Leslie@ICTA.net, or give her a call at 495-8889.

The more people who are involved, ... the less work any one person has to perform.

Publicity Chair

Do you love to chat with people about birds? Would you like to see more people attend Aiken's programs and take advantage of our birding trips? The more people we can impact, the more advocates the birds will have.

The Publicity Chair contacts local newspapers, radio stations, and other media to get our upcoming program and event information out to the public. This is mostly done using email, but we would also like to distribute fliers at appropriate locations. You would need to be responsible—there are time schedules and deadlines to meet. This is an appointed Board position; the Board meets approximately five times per year.

Interim Conservation Chair

Are you passionate about topics of ecological concern relating to birds? Our current Conservation Chair, Sandra McNew, has taken a 6-month leave-of-absence from her position, and needs someone to fill her shoes during this time. Responsibilities center around being the connection between Aiken Audubon and policy makers at the local, state and national levels. As liaison, you would keep Aiken informed on current issues. As Aiken's representative, you would advocate for the birds. This is a chance to really get involved.



Aiken Audubon Society Membership/Subscription

Sign Up For:

<input type="checkbox"/> One Year	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years	\$18.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation	<input type="text"/>
Total _____	

Name

Address

Mail Check To:

Aiken Audubon Society
6660 Delmonico Dr. D-195,
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Education Chair

Can you make a few phone calls, encourage others to volunteer, or use a computer? Perhaps you enjoy kids, and would like to astound a class of school children with tales of your birding prowess.

The Education Chair handles speaker requests that come from schools, scouts, and other groups. You may fill some of these program requests yourself, or schedule others to do the requested program. While we currently have several individuals doing programs, we could always use more. Recruitment would be part of the job. We plan on putting together PowerPoint presentations to use in our educational programs. Experience or a desire to learn PowerPoint would be helpful. This is an appointed Board position; the Board meets approximately five times per year.

Elected Board Members

According to Aiken tradition, the elected board's tenure lasts for a three-year term. This allows outgoing members to rest and recharge while new volunteers bring in fresh ideas and enthusiasm. The current terms expire in May, 2009. Consider if you might be the right person for one of these jobs: Chapter President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer. Forthcoming issues of the Aikorns will have detailed descriptions of the responsibilities that come with each position.

Remember, no one expects you to do all the work yourself. A successful leader delegates responsibilities and tasks. The more people who are involved, the more chapter stakeholders we have, and the less work any one person has to perform. Let's all get involved. Let's do something for the birds!

• WRITTEN BY LESLIE HOLZMANN
& RISÉ FOSTER-BRUDER

There are more chickens in the world than people.



Aiken Audubon Society

6660 Delmonico Dr. D-195
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL TO SEE IF
YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS EXPIRING!

President Risë Foster-Bruder
719.282.7877

www.aikenaudubon.com

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN AIKEN'S ACTIVITIES

BOOK REVIEW

Good Birders Don't Wear White:

Becoming a Better Birder

Looking for some good advice on how to be a better birder? This book is fun to read, and provides valuable insights from 50 noted birders including Kenn Kaufman, David Sibley, and Pete Dunne

Each contributor has written a short article, about four pages long, imparting one nugget of birding wisdom. Examples include "Bird by Impression," by Kevin Karlson, "Go Birding in Bad Weather," by Bill Schmoker, and "Go Birding at Night," by Ted Floyd.

Some of the articles are tongue-in-cheek. I especially enjoyed "Follow These Rules to See a Mangrove Cuckoo," by Don & Lillian Stokes. Rule 4 (out of 6) proclaims, "Your chances of finding a Mangrove Cuckoo are increased if you have a nonbirder with you, preferably someone who has never even heard of a Mangrove Cuckoo." While seeing a Mangrove Cuckoo is rather unlikely in Colorado, it's easy to reapply the "rules" to looking for hard-to-find local birds.

With the summer doldrums over and fall migration underway, this is a great time to brush up on your birding skills. This book is a perfect way to do just that.

● REVIEWED BY LESLIE HOLZMANN

If you have read a bird-related book that you particularly enjoyed, please share it with us. Write a short review and send it to the Aikorns editor at Leslie@ICTA.net.

