

Upcoming DFO Field Trips

Northeastern Colorado

Tuesday, October 23

5:30 AM - 7:00 PM

David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)

Trail Difficulty: Strenuous

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Meet at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Office in Denver, 6060 N Broadway. Exit I-25 at 58th Ave, go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right.

This full day trip will move among sites along the I-76 corridor beginning in Morgan County and continuing northeast to Washington and Logan counties. We will seek rare fall migrants and a wide variety of species. Be ready to carpool from the meeting place. There may be some long drives, and moderate walking. Bring lunch, drinks and scopes. **Register online or contact leader.**

Belmar Historic Park

Saturday, October 27

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Patrick O'Driscoll (Email: patodrisk@gmail.com Phone: 303-885-6955 (cell))

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet in the parking lot near the lake. Belmar Historic Park is at 800 S Wadsworth Blvd in Lakewood. From Alameda and Wadsworth go south on Wadsworth, turn west at the light on West Ohio Ave. Drive a short two blocks to the parking lot.

Details: The ducks are back, and who knows who else we'll find in Lakewood's popular in-town patch of prime bird habitat. We'll circumnavigate Kountze Lake, exploring its wooded thickets and marshes and sorting the birds on the water and the island. As always, dress for the weather and bring snacks, water, and sunscreen for an easy walk around the ponds. This is also a good trip for beginners and is accessible for those with disabilities. **Register online or contact leader.**

Prospect Park (Wheat Ridge Greenbelt)

Sunday, October 28

7:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Paul Slingsby (Email: paslingsby@comcast.net Phone: 720-347-5169 mobile)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 11

Directions: From I-70 exit 267, take Kipling south about 3/4 mile and turn right (west) on 44th Avenue. Go one mile west. Look for the entrance to Prospect Park on your left (south). Meet just inside the park in the lot right next to Prospect Lake.

Details: This is a trip with easy walking. Bring water and a snack; lunch optional. Good trip for novice birders and new members. We will walk many social trails (Mud?) in the cottonwoods and visit the boardwalk for a total of about 4 miles. There will be an optional extension to the ponds, we'll return to the cars to get scopes for this part. **Register online or contact leader.**

Park County Explorations

Monday, October 29

5:30 AM - 4:00 PM

David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Meet at SW corner of Safeway parking lot at NE corner of Yosemite and Lincoln Ave in Lone Tree about 1 mile west of I-25. Park away from store.

An informal series of trips to explore beautiful Park County's avifauna and interesting ecology. This trip will include another visit to some of the large and small bodies of water in Park County seeking uncommon and rare waterbirds, but we will also visit some other spots along the county's southern margin. Limited walking. Bring lunch, water, and scopes. **Register online or contact leader.**

Colorado Eastern Prairie

Tuesday, October 30

5:30 AM - 6:00 PM

David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)

Trail Difficulty: Strenuous

Maximum Participants: 8

Directions: Denver area meeting location to be announced before the trip

This full day trip will explore out to the eastern border of Colorado. Plans subject to change, but this trip will likely focus on Yuma and Kit Carson counties. Itinerary will be announced before the trip. We can hope for a nice variety of species, maybe some eastern specialties, and maybe a rare bird. Plan to carpool from the meeting spot, Some long drives between stops. Bring lunch and liquids. **Register online or contact leader.**

Mountain Lakes and Scoter Trip

Saturday, November 3

5:30 AM - 6:30 PM

Joey Kellner (Email: vireo1@comcast.net Phone: 303-978-1748)

Trail Difficulty: Strenuous

Maximum Participants: 11

Directions: Meet on the side of Deer Creek Canyon Rd just west of Wadsworth.

Join an all-day search for migrant grebes, loons, and scoters. Bring lunch and come prepared for all kinds of weather and the wide variety of driving conditions November can bring. A State Parks pass is required for the drivers of carpooling vehicles. **Register online or contact leader.**

First Creek at Denver Open Space

Sunday, November 4

6:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Patrick O'Driscoll (Email: patodrisk@gmail.com Phone: 303-885-6955 (cell))

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: From east Denver north of I-70, go east on 56th Avenue past Peoria and Chambers toward Peña Boulevard (airport highway). About 2 blocks before Peña, parking is on left (green sign, fenced lot). Or, take I-70 to Peña Blvd. exit. Drive north toward airport and exit at 56th Ave. At bottom of ramp, turn left at stoplight and go west under Peña overpasses. Parking lot is 2 blocks ahead on right.

Join us on a day of change: the "fall back" to Mountain Standard Time and the waning of autumn migration. Besides itinerant stragglers, we'll look for fresh winter residents, from Ferruginous Hawks and eagles to Townsend's Solitaires, juncos, and White-Crowned and American Tree sparrows. We'll cover the 1.5-mile paved path upstream to Tower Road and back and half a mile to the Buckley Road boundary with Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR. Time permitting, we'll dip into the Arsenal's own First Creek Trail. Dress for the weather and bring water and snacks. Note: No restrooms at this location, so "go before you go" at the King Soopers off Tower Road (Green Valley Ranch). **Register online or contact leader.**

Broomfield County

Monday, November 5

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Dale Pate & David Suddjian (Email: dalelpate@gmail.com Phone: 575-706-4584)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 8

Directions: We will meet at Broomfield Community Park which is located just north of W. 120th Ave and east of Main Street. It is a fairly large park so we will park in slanted parking spots along Community Park Road just to the west of the Broomfield Library. Coming from the south, go north on Federal Blvd (Hwy 287) to W 120th Ave, go west to Lamar St (turns into Spader Way), turn left on Community Park Rd, go past the library and there will be ample slanted parking spaces as you round a curve. I will provide more directions and can provide a map if needed as the trip time approaches.

We will visit several birding hotspots throughout the morning. Locations may vary depending on most recent sightings. Depending on time and bird activity, we may venture into nearby Boulder and Jefferson Counties. Weather may be cold or warm so plan accordingly. We will walk 1 to 3 miles on mostly level ground. Bring water, snacks and whatever else you may need. Hopefully we will have interesting migrants still passing through and the normal early winter species that show up in the area. Be ready to add Broomfield County or build you bird list. **Register online or contact leader.**

Elbert County

Tuesday, November 6

5:30 AM - 4:00 PM

David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 8

Directions: Meet at Bennett off I-70 at the south side of the King Soopers parking lot. Take I-70 east from Denver to the First Street exit and go north. Turn left on West Market Place, then go right into the King Soopers parking lot.

We'll explore some parts of Elbert County and, maybe, Lincoln and Arapahoe counties, too, driving roads and seeing what we can find. We can hope to find Winter Wren, longspurs, raptors, Northern Shrike, and maybe unexpected migrants. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Plan to carpool. Restroom opportunities will be very limited, but we will be out in the fields. **Register online or contact leader.**

Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)

Sunday, November 11

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: Meet at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP. From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to the Prairie Loop that is located at the south rim of the reservoir. State Parks pass or day pass required.

Details: This is a half day of walking that passes through most of the important habitats found in the park over a distance of about 3 miles. Trails could be slippery or muddy. Bring water and snacks; lunch is optional. Beginning birders are welcome.

Southwestern Metro Area

Monday, November 12

6:30 AM - 1:00 PM

David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Meet at the Home Depot at 4277 S Eldridge St, Morrison. From C-470 take the Quincy exit. Cross over the bridge on W Quincy Ave and park at the far end of the Home Depot parking lot that faces an open field to the south.

Specific birding spots will be selected the day of the trip based on what is around and weather, maybe following up on a stakeout rare bird that would be new for the Big Year, and visiting sites to seek a variety of species. Plan to carpool. Some sites may have moderate walking. **Register online or contact leader.**

Southeastern Colorado

Wednesday, November 14

5:00 AM - 7:00 PM

David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)

Trail Difficulty: Strenuous

Maximum Participants: 8

Directions: Meet at the Safeway on Lincoln Avenue and Yosemite (1 mile west of I-25 on the north side of Lincoln), Lone Tree, CO.

This trip will seek late migrants, waterfowl, geese, raptors, stragglers and rare birds as we explore east from Otero County to Kiowa County, probably also visiting Bent and Crowley counties. Plan to carpool. Be ready for long drives. Forecast of winter weather may lead to a modification of the plans for the day. **Register online or contact leader.**

Cherry Creek State Park (Arapahoe County)

Wednesday, November 14

8:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Robert Righter (Email: Rorighte@earthlink.net Phone: 303-9081666)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the west marina parking lot. State Parks pass or day pass required.

Look for gulls, waterfowl, and a variety of birds. Habitats include deep water, marshlands, mixed grasses, and cottonwoods. We will carpool to the various stops and walk 1-2 miles. November and December are great times to bird reservoirs and Cheery Creek is one of the best locations. Bring binoculars, water, snacks, sunscreen, and bug repellent. Scopes are useful. **Register online or contact leader.**

South Platte River Reservoir and River Trail

Thursday, November 15

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Gregg Goodrich (Email: GreggGoodrich@gmail.com Phone: 303-655-9135)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 14

Directions: Meet at parking lot adjoining the South Platte Reservoir. The reservoir is just north of Chatfield off of C-470. Take C-470 to the Wadsworth Blvd exit and turn north onto Wadsworth. Turn right (east) on West Chatfield Avenue and follow the road for 1.5 miles. Make a sharp turn right at the sign that says South Platte Reservoir and follow the access road around to the parking lot.

This is an eBird Mobile app training trip. Please come to the site with your eBird Mobile already downloaded on your smart phone and have your eBird logon ID and password already entered into the app. You will learn many tips and tricks of easy entry on the app for your lists. We will all do our own lists and I will help you the whole way. We will bird the reservoir and a few lakes in the park. Each will be separate eBird lists.

Register online or contact leader.

Guanella Pass

Friday, November 16

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Mark Amershek (Email: mamershek@msn.com Phone: 303-329-8646)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 11

Directions: We will meet at the Stegosaurus Parking Lot at I-70 and Highway 93. It is in the southeast corner of the intersection.

We will encounter a variety of habitats including coniferous forests, mixed forest, willow carr, subalpine and alpine regions. We may take short walks up to 1-2 miles at high altitude. Bring water, snacks, lunch, sunscreen, and clothing layers. Wear sturdy shoes. We will be looking for sparrows, woodpeckers, and perhaps the elusive ptarmigan. **Register online or contact leader.**

Bluff Lake Nature Center

Saturday, November 17

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Colleen Nunn (Email: cnunn6789@gmail.com Phone: 303-520-7496)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 14

Directions: From I-70 East, go south on Havana Street and left onto E 29th Dr, which then joins Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. Continue on Martin Luther King Jr Blvd to Bluff Lake Nature Center in the park on left side.

Bluff Lake offers a great range of habitat: wetland, yucca, and large cottonwoods. This attracts a variety of raptors, songbirds, and ducks in winter. Portable toilets are on site but no potable water. The pond paths are easy walking trails. We'll be walking 1-1.5 miles around the pond for the first part of the trip. Then, if the weather is agreeable and people are interested, we will walk overland, up the creek area. Ducks have been seen on the creek in the past. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen. Scopes are optional. **Register online or contact leader.**

Pueblo and Cañon City Areas

Monday, November 19

5:00 AM - 7:00 PM

David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)

Trail Difficulty: Strenuous

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Meet at the Safeway on Lincoln Ave and Yosemite (1 mile west of I-25 on the north side of Lincoln), Lone Tree CO.

A full, fast-paced day of birding, hitting many hotspots seeking the Big Year target Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, scoters, loon, interesting gulls, and rare migrant landbirds. We will focus on Canyon City areas and the Pueblo Reservoir area, and seeking stakeout rarities. **Register online or contact leader.**

Northeastern Colorado

Tuesday, November 20

5:30 AM - 6:00 PM

David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)

Trail Difficulty: Strenuous

Maximum Participants: 8

Directions: Meet at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Office in Denver, 6060 N Broadway. Exit I-25 at 58th Ave, go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right.

This trip will probably focus on Morgan County, but may also reach farther northeast, depending on what is known to be around and weather conditions. We will seek a wide variety of species, including Winter Wren, Long-eared Owl, Swamp Sparrow, and rare stragglers or montane wanderers. Plan for a full day afield. Bring lunch and drinks. **Register online or contact leader.**

Park County Explorations

Friday, November 23

6:00 AM - 3:00 PM

David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 8

Directions: Meet at King Soopers in Aspen Park off Highway 285 at 25637 Conifer Road. Meet at the south side of the parking lot overlooking Hwy 285.

Come away to Park County on this holiday to explore for rare birds at the big reservoirs, plus forest and feeder birds. If there has been snow, we might find rosy-finches. We might even find a left-over turkey! Bring scopes, lunch and drinks. Some short walking possible. **Register online or contact leader.**

South Platte River Trail at E 88th Ave and I-76

Saturday, November 24

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Mark Amershek (Email: mamershek@msn.com Phone: 303-329-8646)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the parking area at 88th Ave and South Platte River Trail. From I-76 take E 88th Ave exit, go west on 88th for 1.6 miles, then turn south at Colorado Blvd. Turn left again into the parking lot for the South Platte River

Greenway Trailhead.

We will see lots of ducks, a few raptors, and some hardy winter residents. Hike along paved trails and, occasionally, in the adjacent mud for up to 3 miles. **Register online or contact leader.**

Denver City Park (Denver County)

Sunday, November 25

7:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Patrick O'Driscoll (Email: patodrisk@gmail.com Phone: 303-885-6955 (cell))

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at parking strip on north side of Ferril Lake. Directions: Enter park from Colorado Blvd. Northbound turns left onto 22nd Ave. past Museum of Nature & Science; southbound turns right onto 22nd at police station. Go past museum parking until road curves toward zoo. Take immediate left at "To Pavilion Bandstand" sign and go 300 yards down to corner with tall spruce trees, where lake comes into view. Park diagonally on left beneath spruces.

We can't promise a post-Thanksgiving wild turkey, but almost anything is possible as winter returns to this urban haven of trees, fields, and ponds. Expect several species of ducks and geese, plus winter residents from creepers, kinglets, and juncos to solitaires. We'll walk the park from end to end and check both Ferril and Duck lakes for surprises. Dress for the weather. **Register online or contact leader.**

Aurora Reservoir and Cherry Creek State Park

Monday, November 26

6:30 AM - 2:00 PM

David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at the Aurora Reservoir entrance road (S. Powhaton Rd) at E Quincy Avenue, about 1.5 miles east of E470.

Standing atop the dam at sunrise is usually a pretty cool way to begin the day, with geese and gulls on the move. We will hope for scoters, long-tailed duck, loons, interesting gulls (Mew maybe), and more. And we'll spend some time checking for landbirds, too. From there we visit a few spots at Cherry Creek SP, or go elsewhere if a good rare bird calls us. State Park pass or day use fees required. Bring scopes, lunch and drinks. Plan for a few moderately long walks. **Register online or contact leader.**

North-Central Colorado

Tuesday, November 27

6:30 AM - 4:00 PM

David Suddjian & John Malenich (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Meet at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Office in Denver, 6060 N. Broadway. Exit I-25 at 58th Ave, go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right. Meeting place may change and will be announced before trip.

We intend to focus on Larimer County, but may also visit Boulder or Weld counties as we seek rare migrants We will seek our own rarities, from warblers to gulls, and from sparrows to loons. This fast-paced trip will target several sites. Bring scopes, lunch and drinks. Plan to carpool. **Register online or contact leader.**

Annual Barrow's Goldeneye Count to Silverthorne

Thursday, November 29

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Paul Slingsby (Email: paslingsby@comcast.net Phone: 720-347-5169 mobile)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at the lower end of the Stegosaurus Park-n-Ride located just south of I-70, exit 259, on the east side of CH-26.

We will count Barrow's Goldeneyes and other birds at the Silverthorne water treatment plant and then drive to Hot Sulphur Springs for rosy-finches, Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Lake, and Grand Lake. Spotting scopes, binoculars, and 2-way radios will be useful. Dress for cold, windy weather. Insulated, wind-proof leg coverings and warm boots are recommended. Bring water and snacks; we'll find a warm place to buy lunch. Plan to be back at the meeting place by dark. **Register online or contact leader.**