Upcoming DFO Field Trips

Mt. Falcon Park (Jefferson County)
Wednesday, November 4
6:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Anne Craig & David Suddjian (Email: naturallyjax@gmail.com Phone: 904-629-4248)
Trail Difficulty: Strenuous
Maximum Participants: 8
Directions: Meet at Mount Falcon Park EAST trailhead, just south of the town of Morrison.

Let's have a Townsend's Solitaire Celebration on this Birds Plus+ photography and sound recording hike. Solitaires are a delight to see and listen to, and they have interesting territorial behavior in the fall and winter. They love the juniper woodland on the foothill slopes of Mt Falcon Park, and they are plentiful this fall. We hope to encounter many as we hike this three mile loop trail up Castle Trail and down Turkey Trot Trail. Anne will help participants in getting nice images of solitaires, and we can have a goal of capturing images of them feeding on juniper cones. We will take advantage of opportunities to record calls and songs, and then learn how to upload and add recordings and photos to your eBird checklists. Our three-mile loop trail has moderate to steep grades and many rocky areas with a 600' gradient. Sturdy footwear is recommended. Bring water and a snack. There is a restroom at the trailhead.

Littleton Leader's Choice (Developing Birder Trip)
Thursday, November 5
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)
Trail Difficulty: Easy
Maximum Participants: 8
Directions: Meet at the parking lot off South Van Gordon Way. From the intersection of South Simms Street and West Coal Mine Avenue go west on Coal Mine and take the first right onto South Van Gordon. The parking lot is immediately on the left, near the tennis courts.

We will look for birds at a few good birding spots in Littleton with details to be decided and announced by the leader before the trip based on recent sightings and habitat conditions. This is a good chance to learn some new locations and appreciate our local parks, greenways and ponds. Trip details will be confirmed for all in a pre-trip note, and any change in meeting location made at that time. Be ready for up to 2 miles of walking. Muddy, icy or snowy paths may occur (we can hope right?). Plan for at least one restroom opportunity. Bring snack and drink.

Washington Park (Developing Birder Trip)
Friday, November 6
6:45 AM - 8:00 AM
Ryan Corda (Email: ryan.corda@colorado.edu Phone: 3038547514)
Trail Difficulty: Easy
Maximum Participants: 8
Directions: Meet SE side of Grasmere Lake in Denver's Washington Park. Enter the Park on the southeast side, near where S. Franklin Street and E. Arizona Avenue meet. This intersection is close to the nesting island in the southern lake -- Grasmere Lake. Meet at the island area.

Join us for a weekly walk around Grasmere Lake in Washington Park in search of ducks and other birds! Our focus will be on duck identification, but we'll be on the lookout for sparrows, gulls, geese, and whatever else may show up; we'll also keep an eye on how the park's bird population evolves throughout the season. We'll be using a lot of the duck identification tips found in the "Better Duck" BIRD BOMBS episode: https://youtu.be/8wg_AX28bKk?si=szuB9ZbiByWVvvqL

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Plan for up to 2 miles of walking, mostly on paved paths. As always, birders of all experience levels are welcome. Bring binoculars, water, layers, and a scope if available (we'll have mine to share, too). There are a variety of porta-potties around the park.

Mountain Lakes and Scoter Trip
Saturday, November 7
5:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Joey Kellner (Email: vireo1@comcast.net Phone: 303-594-3638)
Trail Difficulty: Strenuous
Maximum Participants: 12
Directions: On Deer Creek Rd west of S Wadsworth Blvd, south of C-470.

Join an ALL-DAY search for migrant grebes, loons, scoters and other waterbirds. We will be driving a large loop (about 360 miles) through the southern Front Range and covering bodies of water in Park, Chaffee, Lake and Summit counties. Candidate reservoirs and lakes may be Dillon, Clear Creek, Twin, Antero, Eleven Mile, Spinney Mountain, the Mount Elbert Forebay and others. Bring breakfast and 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. I will drive and take three people. I will need to two additional volunteer drivers that can take three people each. This trip is tagged as "Strenuous" as it involves a long day with lots of driving and frequently getting in and out of vehicles to scan lakes from various angles. This trip is more enjoyable if you bring your own spotting scope, but if you don't have one, myself and others will share what we are seeing. :-)

Lake Pueblo State Park
Saturday, November 7
6:00 AM - 4:00 PM
David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)
Trail Difficulty: Moderate
Maximum Participants: 8
Directions: Meet at Lowe's in Castle Rock near the outlet stores. I-25 south, exit at Founders/Meadows Pkwy (exit 184), turn right (west), then right on Santa Fe Dr (Hwy 85), then right on New Beale St. Exact address 1360 New Beale St, Castle Rock, CO 80108

We will look for birds at Lake Pueblo State Park and nearby spots. Waterbirds will be a major focus – we'll scan for loons, ducks, grebes, gulls and more from the lake's best vantage points – but we'll also be alert for raptors and land birds in the park's upland habitats. Our itinerary will be flexible based on recent reports, weather conditions and time. We'll spend the morning and a several hours of the afternoon in or near the park, so pack a lunch, water and such and remember to bring along warm layers in the event of chilling fall breezes. Bring a spotting scope if you habe one. State Parks pass required for vehicles in the park, and everyone needs a Parks and Wildlife habitat pass or fishing lisence for a visit to the Swallows SWA. A Pueblo area meet-up spot will be announced for birders from El Paso or Pueblo counties.

Downtown Denver
Saturday, November 7
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Jason Bidgood (Email: jbidgood@hotmail.com Phone: 303-919-4591)
Trail Difficulty: Easy
Maximum Participants: 12
Directions: Meet at Skyline Park at 17th Street and Arapahoe in Denver

This will be a short outing focused on the American Crow. Let's learn about crows and watch them as them arrive near sunset at their evening roost site. Expect to see hundreds if not over 1,000 crows converge on downtown Denver. We'll gather at Skyline Park, near the northwest corner of 17th Street and Arapahoe Street (one block north of Denver's iconic landmark, Daniels &Fisher Clock Tower). Metered street parking is available on Arapahoe Street and other nearby locations. Public restrooms may not be available for this trip. Binoculars are recommended but large cameras and scopes are discouraged.

Washington Park (Developing Birder Trip)
Friday, November 13
6:45 AM - 8:00 AM
Ryan Corda (Email: ryan.corda@colorado.edu Phone: 3038547514)
Trail Difficulty: Easy
Maximum Participants: 8
Directions: Meet SE side of Grasmere Lake in Denver's Washington Park. Enter the Park on the southeast side, near where S. Franklin Street and E. Arizona Avenue meet. This intersection is close to the nesting island in the southern lake -- Grasmere Lake. Meet at the island area.

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Plan for up to 2 miles of walking, mostly on paved paths. As always, birders of all experience levels are welcome. Bring binoculars, water, layers, and a scope if available (we'll have mine to share, too). There are a variety of porta-potties around the park.

Littleton Leader's Choice (Developing Birder Trip)
Saturday, November 14
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)
Trail Difficulty: Easy
Maximum Participants: 8
Directions: Meet at the parking lot off South Van Gordon Way. From the intersection of South Simms Street and West Coal Mine Avenue go west on Coal Mine and take the first right onto South Van Gordon. The parking lot is immediately on the left, near the tennis courts.

We will look for birds at a few good birding spots in Littleton with details to be decided and announced by the leader before the trip based on recent sightings and habitat conditions. This is a good chance to learn some new locations and appreciate our local parks, greenways and ponds. Trip details will be confirmed for all in a pre-trip note, and any change in meeting location made at that time. Be ready for up to 2 miles of walking. Muddy, icy or snowy paths may occur (we can hope right?). Plan for at least one restroom opportunity. Bring snack and drink.

Prospect Park (Wheat Ridge Greenbelt) (Developing Birder Trip)
Saturday, November 14
8:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Cassandra Stroud & Dawn Baudek-Smith (Email: cassandrasadair@gmail.com Phone: 9174996841)
Trail Difficulty: Easy
Maximum Participants: 10
Directions: See Narrative

Prospect Park and the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt feature a variety of habitats, including wetlands with Virginia rails, creeks lined with trees full of songbirds, and a lake with waterfowl and a large Double-crested Cormorant rookery (though the cormorants are gone at this time of year). All trails are flat and accessible. We will cover about 2-3 miles on paved or hard-packed gravel trails, with a short boardwalk section in the wetlands portion of Prospect Park. There is a restroom (port-a-potty) at the beginning and end of the trip. Bring binoculars, water, sunscreen, and a snack. Feel free to bring a scope if you would like to use one. Beginners are encouraged to join and all levels are welcome!

Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR
Sunday, November 15
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Jason Bidgood (Email: jbidgood@hotmail.com Phone: 303-919-4591)
Trail Difficulty: Moderate
Maximum Participants: 8

Directions: Meet at the Arsenal Visitors Center, 6550 Gateway Rd, Commerce City, CO. General directions: On I-70 east, take exit 278, turn left onto Quebec St, turn right onto E 64th Ave, turn left onto Trenton St, continue onto Gateway Rd to Visitor Center.

For this trip we'll visit several of the lakes - Lower Derby, Lake Ladora, Lake Mary and Havana Ponds. Plan to walk 2 to 3 miles on mostly level, well maintained trails. We'll be looking for fall migrants and our winter resident birds. Expect to spend time looking for a variety of water birds such as ducks, geese, grebes, and gulls. Birders of all experience levels are welcome. Please bring water and snack. Binoculars and a scope, if you have one, are recommended. Restrooms will be available between stops.

Cherry Creek State Park (Developing Birder Trip)
Monday, November 16
6:30 AM - 10:30 AM
David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)
Trail Difficulty: Easy
Maximum Participants: 12
Directions: Meet at the Pelican Point parking area at the southeast end of the lake. Enter the east side of Cherry Creek State Park via Lehigh off of Parker Road. Go just past the entrance station and turn left (south) at the first intersection. The road bends and heads west with the reservoir ahead of you. Go about 1/4 mile, just past the next intersection. The parking for Pelican Point will be on your left.

Let's see which birds are on the lake today and along the shore. This is a good time for something less common, and maybe we can find a loon or scoter or something else to get us excited. We can look for late shorebirds, returning ducks and gulls, and some raptors and sparrows are to be expected. Plan for about 1 mile of walking, sometimes on muddy or soft reservoir margins. Restrooms available. Bring a scope if you have one. A state parks pass is required for each vehicle.

Northeast Colorado and nearby Nebraska
Wednesday, November 18 - Friday, November 20
6:00 AM - 6:00 PM
David Suddjian & Ryan Corda (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)
Trail Difficulty: Strenuous
Maximum Participants: 8
Directions: See Narrative

A two-night adventure to visit hotspots in far northeast Colorado and adjacent areas of Nebraska. The number of particiapnts may be expanded depending on interest and commited drivers. Geese (Snow, Ross's, Greater White-fronted) and maybe swans will be returning, along with many ducks and other water birds. We'll look for large flocks of geese that gatehr in favored areas. It is a good time for scoters and loons, and tardy shorebirds. We may see Rough-legged and Ferruginous hawks, harriers, eagles, Northern Shrike and Lapland Longspurs. Sparrows of a more easterly flavor like Harris', Swamp and White-throated are possible.

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Longspurs. Sparrows of a more easterly flavor like Harris', Swamp and White-throated are possible.
Note the Nebraska portion of this trip will have an exploraory element as we visit new areas. Day 1 will include birding in Colorado in Logan and Sedgwick counties, and then heading into Nebraska. We will overnight at Ogallala. Day 2 will focus on birding in Nebraska, and we will overnight at Scottsbluff. Day 3 will focus on the Scotts Bluff National Monument and vicinity and then the drive home with a stop or two in Colorado on the way. Specific locations will be provided as the trip draws nearer. We will be viewing reservoirs, so a spotting scope is recommended if you have one.

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Registrants are responsible for lodging and meals. The leaders will recoemmend hotels in the two cities where we will stay, and we hope everyone will stay in the same lodging or closeby. Weather will probably be cold. Dress accordingly and sturdy footwear, gloves and hat are recommended. Stormy conditions in the forecast - including rain, snow or high wind - might lead to cancelation of the trip. Be sure to have a cancelation policy for your hotels.

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We will carpool from the meeting spot. Committed volunteer drivers are needed. A specific recommended

amount for reimbursement to drivers will be suggested for riders, which may be near $80/person for the three day outing, plus a shared group fee of about $10 each for car washes fro the drivers' vehicles. Bring snacks, lunches and drinks, and there will be opportunities at stores to replenish supplies. We will plan for hotel breakfasts and an optional group dinner each night, lunch in the field. This trip is rated strenuous for full days and long drives. We will have short walks and walk up to 1.5 miles per day.

Chatfield State Park
Thursday, November 19
6:15 AM - 8:00 AM
Cynthia Breidenbach & Joey Kellner (Email: thebreidenbachs1@comcast.net Phone: 3038756516)
Trail Difficulty: Easy
Directions: Meet at the Lakeview Parking Area located within the campground area. Take Campground Loop B to enter from the perimeter Road and proceed to the parking lot at the end.

Drop-in anytime to watch the birds as the sun rises over the reservoir in Chatfield State Park. This month the field trip will be at the Lakeview location to observe sunrise from a different view. Bring binoculars, scopes, cameras, a lawn chair (or sit on the bench), and a jacket. Donuts and coffee provided. Expect to see winter waterfowl, herons, sparrows, raptors, corvids, finches. A Colorado State Park pass is required. Go to the Lakeview Parking Lot. Meet at the nearby bench. Vault toilets are available. Sunrise time for 11/19/2026 is 6:49 am. Astronomical twilight begins at 5:15 am, nautical twilight begins at 5:47 am and civil twilight at 6:20 am.

Washington Park (Developing Birder Trip)
Friday, November 20
6:45 AM - 8:00 AM
Ryan Corda (Email: ryan.corda@colorado.edu Phone: 3038547514)
Trail Difficulty: Easy
Maximum Participants: 8
Directions: Meet SE side of Grasmere Lake in Denver's Washington Park. Enter the Park on the southeast side, near where S. Franklin Street and E. Arizona Avenue meet. This intersection is close to the nesting island in the southern lake -- Grasmere Lake. Meet at the island area.

Join us for a weekly walk around Grasmere Lake in Washington Park in search of ducks and other birds! Our focus will be on duck identification, but we'll be on the lookout for sparrows, gulls, geese, and whatever else may show up; we'll also keep an eye on how the park's bird population evolves throughout the season. We'll be using a lot of the duck identification tips found in the "Better Duck" BIRD BOMBS episode: https://youtu.be/8wg_AX28bKk?si=szuB9ZbiByWVvvqL

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Plan for up to 2 miles of walking, mostly on paved paths. As always, birders of all experience levels are welcome. Bring binoculars, water, layers, and a scope if available (we'll have mine to share, too). There are a variety of porta-potties around the park.

South Platte Park and Carson Nature Center

Friday, November 20

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Cynthia Breidenbach & Julia Gwinn (Email: thebreidenbachs1@comcast.net Phone: 3038756516)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 15

Directions: Meet at Carson Nature Center, north of Mineral Ave, 1 block west of S Santa Fe Drive. 3000 W Carson Dr, Littleton, CO 80120

Surprise! We are doing something different this month at South Platte Park. DFO and Denver Audubon are partnering with South Suburban Parks and Recreation District (SSPRD) to see the restricted-access Cooley Lake area in South Platte Park. A Park Interpreter from SSPRD will help guide our group into this area. In the past three years at this time in November, Common Mergansers have been seen in large numbers using Cooley Lake as a stopover during their migration. The area includes established trails and sage grass fields with no trails. Long pants are advised and sturdy shoes are advised. Dress for the weather in layers. Meet at Carson Nature Center on the west deck. The walk will be about 2 miles round trip. Bring binoculars, water, snack, and sunscreen. Scopes will be very helpful and the leaders will have scopes to share. A bathroom is available at Carson Nature Center at the beginning of the walk. That will be the only rest room. Note that parking can be challenging at the parking lot next to the Nature Center. The RTD Light Rail Parking Lot is one block away if needed.

South Platte River Trail at 88th Avenue and vicinity (Developing Birder Trip)

Saturday, November 21

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Cassandra Stroud & Kelly Hollar (Email: cassandrasadair@gmail.com Phone: 9174996841)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: See Narrative

The river here provides a good opportunity for a close study of some of our beautiful winter ducks. We'll likely see some more common species such as Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, and Bufflehead, but we may also have some fun finds like the Northern Pintail or Common Goldeneye. We will meet at the trailhead parking lot at 88th and the South Platte and will likely walk north along the river from there. The trail is mostly flat and completely paved, and we'll walk around 3 miles total, out and back. For those who are interested in staying later for an optional add-on, we can walk a bit further south to check out the bigger reservoirs to see if we can catch some diving ducks. It may be cold on this late fall morning, so plan to dress for the weather and bring binoculars, water, sunscreen, and a snack. Feel free to bring a scope if you would like to use one. Beginners are encouraged to join and all levels are welcome!

Prospect Park (Wheat Ridge Greenbelt) (Developing Birder Trip)

Sunday, November 22

7:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Shay Lyons (Email: saratone@gmail.com Phone: 3034085182)

Trail Difficulty: Easy
Maximum Participants: 10
Directions: From I-70 exit 267, take Kipling south about 3/4 mile and turn right (west) on 44th Avenue. Go 1 mile and look for the entrance to Prospect Park (small sign) on left (south side). Follow park road south past and around Prospect Lake on right to parking lot (by restrooms and picnic shelter).

We'll walk 2ish miles on mostly paved, some dirt, some boardwalk surfaces, exploring 3 or 4 lakes and some woodlands depending on time. Expect to see some year round and migratory ducks, winter songbirds, and raptors. Bring water, snacks, layers, a hat, and binoculars. You're welcome to bring a scope if you have one, and the trip leader will be bringing theirs. This is a great trip for developing and experienced birders alike!

Greenwood Gulch and Marjorie Perry Nature Preserve (Developing Birder Trip)
Tuesday, November 24
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Sue Summers & Denise Reznicek (Email: summerssue@hotmail.com Phone: 253-678-3721)
Trail Difficulty: Moderate
Maximum Participants: 12
Directions: Meet at Castlewood Park, 5601 East Orchard Drive, Greenwood Village CO 80111. It is at the intersection of south Holly Street and East Orchard Drive (not east Orchard Road).

We will follow a paved trail along Greenwood Gulch waterway northwest for .75 mile, then join the dirt High Line Canal Trail that surrounds the Marjorie Perry Nature Preserve. We'll walk a 1.5 mile loop along the High Line and through the Preserve back to Greenwood Gulch trail then return to our starting point. Total distance is about 3 miles. The trails border cattail marshes, wet meadows and the typical High Line riparian strip. There are a couple of small ponds in the Marjorie Perry Nature Preserve at the northwest part of the loop. With the variety of habitats we should have a nice variety of ducks, songbirds and other winter residents, and with luck possibly spot a Virginia Rail working the ponds.

Littleton Leader's Choice (Developing Birder Trip)
Wednesday, November 25
6:30 AM - 12:00 PM
David Suddjian (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)
Trail Difficulty: Moderate
Maximum Participants: 8
Directions: Meet at the parking lot off South Van Gordon Way. From the intersection of South Simms Street and West Coal Mine Avenue go west on Coal Mine and take the first right onto South Van Gordon. The parking lot is immediately on the left, near the tennis courts.

Let's have a "Little Big Morning" in Littleton on the day before Thanksgiving. We'll use just the morning to see how many species we can find with visits to a variety of Littleton locations, ending at 12 Noon sharp. From juncos to woodpeckers, ducks to hawks, how many species can we find in one morning's birding? Details to be decided and announced by the leader before the trip. This is a good chance to learn some new locations and appreciate our local parks, greenways and ponds. Trip details will be confirmed for all in a pre-trip note, and any change in meeting location made at that time. Be ready for up to 3 miles of walking. Muddy, icy or snowy paths may occur (we can hope right?). We will include a few restroom opportunities. Bring snack and drink. We will seek to carpool among our spots.

Wild Turkey Search at South Platte Park

Thursday, November 26

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Cynthia Breidenbach & Julia Gwinn (Email: thebreidenbachs1@comcast.net Phone: 3038756516)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 16

Directions: Meet at Carson Nature Center, north of Mineral Ave, 1 block west of S Santa Fe Drive. 3000 W Carson Dr, Littleton, CO 80120

Mission: Find a rafter of Wild Turkeys on Thanksgiving Day. Are you up for the challenge? This adventure will begin at the parking lot of Carson Nature Center in South Platte Park. From there, our posse will slowly trot along the east side of South Platte River looking for our target bird. We hope to see other birds, too, such as woodpeckers, hawks, sparrows, kingfishers and waterfowl. The trip is designated as moderate difficulty because the trail is dirt and could be muddy or slushy or strewn with turkeys depending on the weather. We will be walking about 3 miles with no elevation gain. Restrooms (nice indoor ones) are available at the Carson Nature Center. This will be the only restroom available. The trip will have 3 leaders: Cindy Breidenbach, Julia Gwinn, and Nadiyah Watts

El Paso County

Friday, November 27

6:30 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at Lowe's in Castle Rock near the outlet stores. I-25 south, exit at Founders/Meadows Pkwy (exit 184), turn right (west), then right on Santa Fe Dr (Hwy 85), then right on New Beale St. Exact address 1360 New Beale St, Castle Rock, CO 80108

Let's get out and about to explore El Paso County hotspots, looking for bird variety from the forests to the prairie. We'll visit some good birding spots from Colorado Springs area to Fountain and maybe seek a rarity, too, if something good is around. Stops may include North Cheyenne Mountain, Fountain Creek Regional Park and Big Johnson Reservoir. Our timing is good for loons, scoters, and such and many migrant water birds. We can hope for a variety of forest birds, too, maybe nutcrackers, crossbills and "hoo knows" what else? We will carpool from the Castle Rock meeting spot. A Colorado Springs rendezvous spot will be announced for 7:15 am. Bring lunch, snacks and drink. We will walk short distances at several spots. Scopes will be helpful, and the leaders will share. Restrooms at intervals.

Washington Park (Developing Birder Trip)

Friday, November 27

6:45 AM - 8:00 AM

Ryan Corda (Email: ryan.corda@colorado.edu Phone: 3038547514)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 8

Directions: Meet SE side of Grasmere Lake in Denver's Washington Park. Enter the Park on the southeast side, near where S. Franklin Street and E. Arizona Avenue meet. This intersection is close to the nesting island in the southern lake -

- Grasmere Lake. Meet at the island area.

Join us for a weekly walk around Grasmere Lake in Washington Park in search of ducks and other birds! Our focus will be on duck identification, but we'll be on the lookout for sparrows, gulls, geese, and whatever else may show up; we'll also keep an eye on how the park's bird population evolves throughout the season. We'll be using a lot of the duck identification tips found in the "Better Duck" BIRD BOMBS episode: https://youtu.be/8wg_AX28bKk?si=szuB9ZbiByWVvvqL

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Plan for up to 2 miles of walking, mostly on paved paths. As always, birders of all experience levels are welcome. Bring binoculars, water, layers, and a scope if available (we'll have mine to share, too). There are a variety of porta-potties around the park.

Centennial Park and Nearby Hotspots (Developing Birder Trip)
Saturday, November 28
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Linda Purcell (Email: purcellzz@hotmail.com Phone: 13035037989)
Trail Difficulty: Easy
Maximum Participants: 6
Directions: Meet at Centennial Park in Englewood, 80110. The address is technically 4630 South Decatur Street, but the easier direction is to access the park by Union Avenue between South Santa Fe and South Federal Blvds, and meet in the parking lot on the south side of the lake, just off of Union.

A Denver area favorite Hotspot, with 204 reported species, Centennial Park is 'metro-central' bordered by residential, commerical and industrial areas, and yet it can feel quite peaceful. A diverse habitat - the park lake, the dry hillside to the north, the oxbow, and the adjacent South Platte that supports a variety of species. Let's look for some ducks, raptors, and winter passerines! Bathroom porta john is available, there is plenty of parking. NEARBY HOTSPOT - We will take some time to explore the Big Dry Creek Trail area, it doesn't get much attention but there is good habitat for winter passerines. This trip is rated EASY There will be minimal bushwacking, the terrain and ground conditions are a seasonal consideration. Bring your kit - water, layers, sun protection, long pants, good shoes, a snack. Leader will bring a scope, a second one will be helpful. Bring your binoculars, and your camera if you are so inclined. Birders of all levels are welcome. Duck ID have you anxious??? Check out this Bird Bombs from December 2022!
https://dfobirds.org/Programs/BirdBombs.aspx

Rosy-Finch Ramble
Saturday, December 5
6:30 AM - 3:00 PM
David Suddjian & Anne Craig (Email: dsuddjian@gmail.com Phone: 831-713-8659)

Trail Difficulty: Easy
Maximum Participants: 8
Directions: Meet at the Aspen Park RTD Park-N-Ride on Hwy 285. The address is 26137 Conifer Rd, Aspen Park, CO.

Explore lovely Park County (and some Jefferson, too), visiting homes with feeders and natural spots to search for rosy-finches (three species, maybe), Cassin's Finch, Evening and Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Clark's Nutcrackers and more. Rough-legged Hawk is possible, and we might see elk and pronghorn, too. And we can learn about the trees in the mountain region we will be visiting. Plan for cold conditions and maybe windy. We will be indoors at times and outdoors for short periods if it is cold, with minimal walking. Bring lunch, snack and drinks. Restrooms available at intervals.

South Platte Park--South End
Friday, December 18
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Cynthia Breidenbach & Julia Gwinn (Email: thebreidenbachs1@comcast.net Phone: 3038756516)
Trail Difficulty: Moderate
Maximum Participants: 10
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.

Join us as we explore the lakes and river at South Platte Park in Littleton. Year-round birds include kingfishers, woodpeckers, nuthatches, raptors, finches, herons and sparrows. In December, expect to see many waterfowl returning for the winter with some stopping on their migration south. Our walk is approximately 2 miles on cement and dirt trails with no elevation gain. The bird walk is rated as moderate because we MAY cross a cement walkway with large boulders. No special equipment is required but expect some light scrambling if we choose this path. Trails can be muddy following precipitation. Bring binoculars, water, snacks, sunscreen and appropriate clothing layers. Scopes and cameras are welcome. A vault toilet restroom is available at the beginning of the walk near the parking area. This will be the only restroom and it will be our first stop once we leave the parking lot.

South Platte River Trail at 88th Avenue and vicinity
Saturday, December 19
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Cassandra Stroud & Kelly Hollar (Email: cassandrasadair@gmail.com Phone: 9174996841)
Trail Difficulty: Easy
Maximum Participants: 10
Directions: See Narrative

The river here provides a good opportunity for a close study of some of our beautiful winter ducks. We'll likely see some more common species such as Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, and Bufflehead, but we may also have some fun finds like the Northern Pintail or Common Goldeneye. We will meet at the trailhead parking lot at 88th and the South Platte and will likely walk north along the river from there. The trail is mostly flat and completely paved, and we'll walk around 3 miles total, out and back. For those who are interested in staying later for an optional add-on, we can walk a bit further south to check out the bigger reservoirs to see if we can catch some diving ducks. It may be cold on this late fall morning, so plan to dress for the weather and bring

binoculars, water, sunscreen, and a snack. Feel free to bring a scope if you would like to use one. Beginners are encouraged to join and all levels are welcome!

Broomfield CBC (Section 5)

Sunday, December 27

7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Brian Genge (Email: bgenge2@gmail.com Phone: 7203765087)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: From Hwy 85 take Henderson Road west to Park Blvd. Go north on Park, then right on Campground Road. Meet in the parking area across from Riverdale Park Playground. Coordinates 39.929807, -104.869958

This field trip is a dedicated segment of the annual Broomfield Christmas Bird Count, focusing exclusively on Section 5. Section 5 is a large, diverse area running from the South Platte River in the East to I-25 in the West, and from Highway 7 in the North to 128th Avenue in the South. Here is a full map of this section and the count circle.
https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/viewer?mid=1e_NlnDWgYhxNjhHaMh_ctDbqO8VCXAs&ll=39.97609059689232%2C-104.99369700000001&z=11 We will start our day at the Adams County Fairgrounds, located in the southeastern part of our count area. The day's birding will cover a variety of key habitats, including the Adams County Fairgrounds, the South Platte adjacent reservoirs and accessible river portions, Marshall Lake, Hunters Glenn, Trail Winds Park, and Big Dry Creek Open Space, and more hotspots. A significant part of our count will also involve neighborhood birding within this developed area. Participants should be prepared for a full day of activity, which may involve as much as 6-8 miles of walking throughout the day. However, since the count is within a relatively developed area, we will never be far from facilities. We will make stops as needed for restrooms, water, and food. We will be conducting the count as a single, coordinated group throughout the section. We will carpool from our meeting location to make this more efficient. The counting is expected to conclude by no later than 4:00 PM, though we will likely finish earlier. After the count, there is an optional final tally at a Broomfield city facility where all teams from the various sections will gather to report their findings.