

Upcoming DFO Field Trips

Barr Lake Periphery

Saturday, February 23

12:15 PM - 4:00 PM

Tammy Sanders & Ira Sanders (Email: amkestral@gmail.com Phone: 303-278-7172)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meeting Place: On access road to entrance station at Barr Lake State Park. Exit I-76 at Bromley Lane. Drive east 0.8 mile. Turn right (south) onto Picadilly Rd and continue 1.9 mi. Turn right onto entrance road and continue 0.2 mi to pull-off BEFORE entrance station. State Parks pass NOT required.

We will drive country roads around Barr Lake with several stops along the way, looking for raptors, sparrows and other prairie birds. This trip is especially suited for persons with limited mobility. Bring water and snacks and warm winter clothing. If you are interested in a full day of birding, join Tammy and Ira for the morning bird walk at Barr Lake Nature Center 9am. **Register online or contact leader.**

Denver City Park (Denver County)

Sunday, February 24

7:00 AM - 11:00 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.

Double-crested Cormorants begin returning this month to the park's Duck Lake island nesting colony. We'll check in on the first arrivals for DFO's Colonial Waterbirds citizen science project and survey the park for other early spring migrants as well as winter and year-round residents. Dress for the weather and bring water, snacks and, if you have one, a scope for viewing the cormorants and anything distant on Ferril Lake. Expect about 3 miles of easy walking on level ground and park paths. **Register online or contact leader.**

Larimer County

Monday, February 25

6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Dale Pate & Diane Roberts (Email: dalepate@gmail.com Phone: 575-706-4584)

Trail Difficulty: Strenuous

Maximum Participants: 8

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

There are many options to consider in Larimer County to explore for birds. We will determine best locations to visit as we get closer to the trip, but reservoirs, parks and other habitats in Larimer County will be likely targets. If there are rarities being seen we may try for them. The weather may be cold so be prepared for

typical late February weather. Bring lunch and liquids and plan to carpool from our meeting spot. We will send out an email a week or two before the trip detailing some of decisions on locations to visit and other important trip information. **Register online or contact Dale Pate (575-706-4584, dalepate@gmail.com) or Diane Roberts (720 278 9025, Samatha576@aol.com).**

Ken Caryl Valley Area

Tuesday, February 26

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Meet at the northern (main) parking lot for South Valley Park along South Valley Road just east of Valley Parkway. We will carpool to another site from there.

We will visit a few areas in search of a variety of birds at private Ken Caryl Ranch and Deer Creek Canyon. We will look for signs of spring, especially early nesting activity by raptors. Plan for some short, easy walks, and some driving to nearby spots. Bring light hiking shoes, water and snacks.

Register online or contact leader.

Second Creek Open Space (CommerceCity / Adams County

Sunday, March 3

6:45 AM - 11:00 PM

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

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: Meet at Buffalo Mesa trailhead parking (off Kittredge Street). Directions: From west and south: I-70 to Quebec Street exit. North on Quebec 4.7 miles to Colorado Hwy 2. Right on CO-2, northeast 4 miles to 104th Avenue. Right on 104th and east 2.5 miles to Kittredge (across Second Creek bridge). Left on Kittredge and north 2 blocks to parking lot on left. From north: I-25 to 104th Avenue exit, then 104th east 10 miles to Kittredge. Alt-route from east/south: I-70 to Tower Road exit, then north 9 miles on Tower to 104th. Left on 104th and west 1.5 miles to Kittredge.

Our first March spring trip to this location, where meandering Second Creek snakes like a garden hose through suburban open space north of Rocky Mountain Arsenal and west of DIA. Home to prairie songbirds, raptors and 20-plus other Plains species. We'll look for early spring migrants and returnees, walking fields and trees at north end to start. Then we loop upstream (south) and back past prairie dog towns, cattail marshes and an active red-tailed hawk nest in adjacent Buckley Ranch Open Space. Expect to walk 3-plus miles on level trail, with some bushwhacking through grass and weeds. Dress for the weather and bring water, snacks and sun protection (very few trees). Register online or contact leader for more information.

Southeastern Colorado

Monday, March 4

4:00 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 focus on Otero County, and maybe neighboring Crowley and Bent Counties. We will visit reservoirs, fields, SWA's, cattle lots, wetlands, and the lovely Higbee region. Geese and waterfowl, bluebirds, and probably a surprise or two. Plan for a full exciting day with long drives to and from. **Register online or contact leader.**

Belmar Historic Park

Saturday, March 9

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Chuck Hundertmark (Email: chundertmark8@gmail.com Phone: 303-604-0531)

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.

Checking for early colonial waterbird arrivals such as Double-crested Cormorants and Great Blue Herons. Bring snacks, water, sunscreen for an easy walk around the ponds. Scopes helpful. Register online or contact the leader.

Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)

Sunday, March 10

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.

This is a half day of walking that passes through most important habitats found in the park over a distance of 3 miles. Trails can be slippery or muddy. Bring water and snacks and lunches optional. Beginning birders are welcome. Register online or contact leader.

Northeastern Colorado

Monday, March 11

5:00 AM - 7:00 PM

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

Trail Difficulty: Strenuous

Maximum Participants: 12

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 focus on birding Phillips, Sedgwick and Logan counties. We will be seeking to add county birds and valuable eBird data in the under-birded Phillips and Sedgwick in particular. In addition, we will visit Jumbo Reservoir and maybe some other big reservoirs. Scopes desired. Plan for a full day with long drives. Bring lunch, snacks and liquids. **Register online or contact leader.**

Bar CCC

Wednesday, March 13

7:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Tim Ryan & Diane Roberts (Email: Tryan4thebirds@yahoo.com Phone: 720-545-5084)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 9

Directions: Bar CCC Park, 10951 S. Twenty Mile Road, Parker, CO

I-25 exit to Ridgeway Parkway heading east. Ridgeway turns into Main Street in Parker, CO. Turn right on Twenty Mile Road & then a right onto a dirt parking lot.

Alternate: Parker Road to Main Street in Parker, CO. Right on Main Street then left on Twenty Road. Right turn into parking lot.

We will meet at Bar CCC to bird around the pond. There is use of a port a potty down a hill from the pond. Parker Water Department is generous enough to provide us with a short bus to ride to our next stop. We will proceed to Rueter-Hess Reservoir. Rueter-Hess is a drinking water source for Parker Water Department. Once in the gates, there is no leaving the group early due to security. Therefore, it is necessary to stay the length of the trip in the Reservoir. There is a port a potty there are well. Plan on winter gear with layers, snacks, binoculars and liquids. Scopes will be helpful but there will be a few there. **Register online or contact leader.**

Staunton State Park (Jefferson County)

Saturday, March 16

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 11

Directions: Meet at the Park-n-Ride at southwest corner of Hampden (CO 285) and Wadsworth to carpool to the park. State Parks pass or day pass required.

Bring binoculars, water, hat, sunscreen, bug repellent, snacks and sturdy hiking shoes. This is a moderate hike with potential for short, steep inclines. We will hike 2-4 miles on either the Davis Ponds Trail or a portion of the Mason Creek Trail. Habitat can include ponderosa pines, aspen, mountain riparian, meadows, and cliffs. Species may include a variety of woodpeckers, nuthatches, raptors and possible migrants. Our focus will be on observing bird behavior, analyzing field marks, and sounds. All levels of birders welcome. Register online or contact the leader.

First Creek at Denver Open Space

Sunday, March 17

7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

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.

A year ago on St. Patrick's Day, a DFO trip here had more than 30 species, from hawks and eagles to horned larks and nesting Great Horned Owl. Expect a similar array of raptors, songbirds, woodpeckers and

more. Dress for the weather and bring a hat, water and snacks. A reminder: No restrooms at this location, so "go before you go" at the King Soopers off Tower Road and 48th in nearby Green Valley Ranch. **Register online or contact trip leader.**

South-Central Colorado

Monday, March 18

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 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.

This trip will explore Huerfano and Custer counties at this transitional time of year. We will be seeking a variety of waterbirds and hints of spring as we range from the prairie to the mountains. This will be DFO's first trip to visit Custer County. Bring lunch, snacks, liquids. **Register online or contact leader.**

Broomfield County

Tuesday, March 19

7:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Dale Pate (Email: dalepate@gmail.com Phone: 575-706-4584)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

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 the 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 but should be on mostly level walking areas. Bring water, snacks and whatever else you may need. Hopefully, we will have interesting migrants still passing through the normal late winter species that show up in the area. DFO has only had a few trips to Broomfield County so lets add this to increase DFO's visits. Register online or contact the leader.

Wray Chamber Greater Prairie-Chicken

Saturday, March 23 - Sunday, March 24

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 12

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

The Wray Chamber of Commerce offers Greater Prairie-Chicken tours in late March and April. The tour includes an orientation the night before at the Wray Museum, viewing early the next morning in a blind, and a

ranch breakfast after the viewing. Because this is a two day trip, hotel reservations must be made for the night of Saturday March 23rd. There is a \$100 registration fee at:

<https://wraychamber.net/events/#!event/2019/3/23/greater-prairie-chicken-tour-2> We will tour number 2 on March 23-24, 2019. The tours are limited to 24 participants so early registration is advised.

Cañon City

Sunday, March 24

6:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 11

Directions: Meet at the Safeway at 9229 East Lincoln Ave, Lone Tree, Co 80124. From I-25 take the Lincoln Exit, number 193, West. Go west almost a mile. The Safeway will be on your right, just before Yosemite Street.

Expect to see Scaled Quail, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, and Mountain Bluebirds. We can hope for Juniper Titmouse, and Pinyon Jay. Pack a lunch, snacks, plenty of water and sunscreen. Register online or contact leader.

Southeastern Colorado

Monday, March 25

4:30 AM - 7:00 PM

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

Trail Difficulty: Strenuous

Maximum Participants: 10

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

This trip is planned to focus on Cheyenne and Kiowa Counties. Visiting Queens State Wildlife Area reservoirs, in Kiowa County, to see what is happening with migration. Our efforts in Cheyenne will add eBird data for this county that is seldom birded at this time of year.

Fountain Creek Regional Park (El Paso County)

Sunday, March 31

6:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Diane Roberts (Email: Samatha576@aol.com Phone: 7202789025)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 11

Directions: Meet at the Safeway, 9229 East Lincoln Ave. Lone Tree CO 80124. From I-25 take the Lincoln exit, number 193 West. Go west almost 1 mile. The Safeway will be on your right just before Yosemite Ave. Park away from the store

Fountain Creek Regional Park is a gem in El Paso County. The park includes creek-side trails, Willow Springs Ponds, beautiful Fountain Creek Nature Center and Hanson Nature Park. There is a possibility of going to other El Paso Hotspots with time allowing. The length of the trip would include lunch, snacks, fluids, sunscreen/hat and hopefully bug spray, ie flycatching birds :) Plan on walking on manicured trails for approximately 3-4 miles. **Register online or contact leader.**

Denver City Park (Denver County)

Sunday, March 31

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.

More looks at large waterbirds and the first return of migrants and spring-summer residents. The cormorant colony at Duck Lake should be busy, and the first night-herons and egrets should be arriving at the Ferril Lakes rookery. We will count both sites for the DFO Colonial Waterbirds Project but also comb the park for songbirds, woodpeckers, raptors and more. Dress for weather, including a hat, and bring water and snacks. Scopes welcome for viewing cormorant nests high in the trees. Register online or contact the leader.