



Fort Collins Audubon Society presents

Birds of Colorado - An Exceptional Opportunity

Join us for an exceptional opportunity to learn about the birds of Colorado from birding professionals. Fort Collins Audubon Society presents a series of five one-day educational field trips. This exceptional program allows you to learn from the experts while traveling through five Colorado life zones. Each trip is limited to nine participants along with a leader and a driver. Trips are scheduled for the third weekend of each month.

March 17 or 18: *Inland Ocean*

Much of Colorado's lowlands were once under water, which may explain the inland route of some migrating oceanic birds through Colorado. This outing visits large reservoirs in northeast Colorado, including Jackson Lake, Boyd Lake, Fossil Creek Reservoir, Windsor Lake and Timnath Reservoir during late March, when oceanic migrants are returning to their breeding grounds in the Arctic Circle.

Birds: March 17 – 51 spp.; March 18 – 48 spp. (Horned Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Franklin's Gull, Herring Gull, Red-breasted Merganser, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye)

Leaders: Nick Komar and Cole Wild, co-authors, *Wild Birding Colorado*



April 21 or 22: *Chihuahuan Desert*



South-central Colorado represents the northern margin of the 1,000-mile wide Chihuahuan Desert, with many bird species more typical of Texas and New Mexico.

Expected Birds: Scaled Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Greater Roadrunner, Chihuahuan Raven, Juniper Titmouse, Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee & Rufous-crowned Sparrow

Leader: Jeff Gordon, president, American Birding Association

Over....

May 19 or 20: Eastern Plains.



Migrating passerine birds of the east and west mix together at Great Plains migration hot spots provided by islands of forest habitat among an enormous grass sea. The tour will visit a variety of birding hot-spots in Weld County in search of rare passerine migrants of the eastern forests among the breeding birds of the western High Plains

Expected Birds: Flycatchers, warblers, vireos, Ferruginous Hawk, Mountain Plover, Burrowing Owl, Lark Bunting & McCown's Longspur

Leader: Nick Komar (May 19), Cole Wild (May 20), co-authors, *Wild Birding Colorado*

June 16: Rocky Mountains

In June, about a hundred species of Colorado's montane-nesting birds are on their breeding territories. An elevational tour of western Boulder County will start at the foothill canyons and end at the alpine tundra, noting the changing bird populations in each habitat belt.



Expected Birds: Virginia's and MacGillivray's Warblers in the foothills, Red-naped and Williamson's Sapsuckers higher up, Fox Sparrow and Pine Grosbeak near treeline. Weather and snowpack permitting, possibly Brown-capped Rosy-Finch and White-tailed Ptarmigan. And you never know when a Black Swift will zoom by, or an American Three-toed Woodpecker will pause along the trail for us.

Leader: Ted Floyd, editor, *Birding* magazine

July 21: High Plains of North Park

Water bird nesting in the High Plains is no more interesting than in North Park (Jackson County). Mammal encounters can include moose, elk, mule deer, pronghorn, muskrat, yellow-bellied marmot, prairie dogs, porcupine, ground squirrels, chipmunks and others.



Expected Birds: Pied-billed and Eared Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants, American White Pelicans, American Coots, California Gulls, Willets, Wilson's Phalaropes, Marsh Wrens and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Greater Sage-Grouse, Sage Thrasher & Brewer's Sparrow

Leader: Chuck Hundertmark, President, Denver Field Ornithologists

Cost:

\$75 per trip for FCAS members. \$100 per trip for non-members.

For more information and/or reservations, contact Joann Thomas at 970-482-7125 or 970-222-0741 or jthomas91@aol.com; or Bill Miller, 5mcorp@comcast.net, or Nick Komar, quetzal65@comcast.net, 970-449-3645.