



Colorado Field Ornithologists

2019 - Montrose Convention Field Trips

Participants for all field trips will meet at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose. This will also be the pickup point for any optional meals that you may have ordered. Vehicles not needed for the trips can be parked for the day in any of the lots at the hotel. **Trip departure times are the "wheels up" time**, so be sure to arrive at least 10 minutes before your scheduled departure time, fully ready to depart, so you won't be left behind. Some field trip sites are also more fully described in our Colorado County Birding website. NOTE: All leader assignments and itineraries are potentially subject to change! We are pleased to offer convention field trips at an incredibly productive time of year for birds and birders, but we also caution that road closures, high water, impassable snow banks, etc., are always possible and may not be known in advance. Note too that several field trips visit sites with day-use fees, that are not covered by your convention registration.

Thursday, June 13		
THA-1 - Grand Junction - arrival trip Depart: 7:00 AM (Full Day -) - Easy TBD Leader: Mike Henwood	THA-2 - Northern Front Range - arrival trip Depart: 7:00 AM (Full Day -) - Easy TBD Leader: Nicholas Komar	THA-3 - Colorado Springs - arrival trip Depart: 7:00 AM (Full Day -) - Easy TBD Leader: Gloria Nikolai
THA-4 - Glenwood Springs - arrival trip Depart: 7:00 AM (Full Day -) - Easy TBD Leader: Thomas C. McConnell		
Friday, June 14		

<p>FRF-0 - NEW! JUST ADDED! Colorado National Monument and Vicinity Depart: 5:30 AM (Full Day - 4 hrs 30 min drive time, 195 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>This great national landmark features mature Pinyon-Juniper forest, grandiose cliffs and fabulous views of the Grand Valley. Target birds include Gray Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow, Juniper Titmouse, Pinyon Jay and Gambel's Quail. A visit to Rabbit Valley may also provide views of Scott's Oriole and Sagebrush Sparrow. Entrance fee. Leader: Nicholas Komar</p>	<p>FRF-1 - Gunnison County Depart: 5:45 AM (Full Day - 2 hrs 37 min drive time, 123 miles r.t.) - Moderate</p> <p>We will explore along the Gunnison River on the Neversink 1.5 mile flat trail. Veery and Gray Catbirds are possible, both uncommon in this county. South of Gunnison has some great sagebrush habitat where Sage Thrasher, Green-tailed Towhee, Rock Wren, Willow Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird and Brewer's, Lark and Vesper Sparrows will be the targets. Gunnison Cemetery, Roaring Judy Fish Hatchery and McCabes Lake Wetlands will round out this loop. Leader: Eric DeFonso</p>	<p>FRF-2 - The Big Loop Depart: 5:45 AM (Full Day - 5 hrs 58 min drive time, 229 miles r.t.) - Moderate</p> <p>This is the trip to explore the less traveled Mesa, Delta and Montrose County hotspots. It is full of goodies like Purple Martin, Bobolink, and Sandhill Cranes. The route takes us to Hotchkiss, Paonia, Vega State Park, Collbran, up the Grand Mesa and down to Fruitgrowers Reservoir. Other targets include Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Bunting, Lewis's Woodpecker, Fox Sparrow, Dusky Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, MacGillivray's Warbler and sparrows. This trip list should be long. State Park pass required. Leader: Nic Korte</p>
<p>FRF-3 - San Juan County Depart: 6:00 AM (Full Day - 3 hrs 34 min drive time, 144 miles r.t.) - Moderate</p> <p>The classic western town of Silverton, Animas River, Red Mountain Pass, Molas Lakes, Andrews Lake and Coal Bank Pass are the hotspots we will bird our way through. The target birds for this trip include American Three-toed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Canada Jay, both Kinglets, Hermit Thrush, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows, MacGillivray's Warbler and Black-headed Grosbeak. The lowest elevation in this county is 8,251 and Red Mountain Pass is 11,017 feet so bring a layer or two. Cool off in this spectacular county. Leader: Andrew Bankert</p>	<p>FRF-4 - Off the Beaten Path Hiking and Birding Depart: 6:00 AM (Full Day - 3 hrs 8 min drive time, 115 miles r.t.) - More Difficult</p> <p>We will hike to places like Bear Pen Gulch, Beef Pasture Point, and The Tongue in northern Montrose County from the Divide Road on the Uncompahgre Plateau. This hike is difficult with 6-8 miles of hiking above 9,000 feet in a variety of terrain. Trails are not well-maintained. Our hikes will take us through spruce/fir, aspen and mixed conifers and willow carrs. We will also plan to visit some of the burn area from the Bull Draw Fire from last summer. Might be able to see as many as 7 woodpecker species on the day. Also, Canada Jay, Olive-sided Flycatcher, both Kinglets, Fox Sparrow, MacGillivray's & Orange-crowned Warbler, Wild Turkey, Dusky Grouse and Purple Martin are all possible. Leader: Mike Henwood</p>	<p>FRF-5 - Black Canyon of the Gunnison N.P. Depart: 6:15 AM (Full Day - 3 hrs 42 min drive time, 169 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>The Gunnison River exposed the gneiss and schist rocks forming one of the steepest most narrow canyon in the U.S. On this south rim we will look for Dusky Grouse, Peregrine Falcon, White-throated Swifts, Rock and Canyon Wrens, Olive-sided, Gray and Dusky Flycatchers, Clark's Nutcracker, Green-tailed Towhee, and warblers Virginia, MacGillivray's, Yellow and Black-throated Gray. On the sagebrush areas around the park we could see Mountain Bluebirds, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows. This trip will go well towards Gunnison; breeding Gunnison Sage-Grouse would be a real find. National Park pass required. Leader: Sue Riffe</p>

<p>FRF-6 - Uncompahgre National Forest Loop Depart: 6:15 AM (Full Day - 4 hrs 16 min drive time, 165 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>Up on the Uncompahgre Plateau any high elevation species is possible. We will be on the lookout for some great birds like American Three-toed Woodpeckers, Grace's Warbler and Purple Martin. Other fun species in the area include Red-naped Sapsucker, Warbling Vireo, Hermit Thrush and Dusky Flycatcher. The Nucla area will give us access to lower elevation species like Black Phoebe, Black-chinned Hummingbird and Black-throated Gray Warbler. Leaders: Coen Dexter and Brenda Wright</p>	<p>FRF-7 - Black Swifts and Ouray County Depart: 6:30 AM (Full Day - 2 hrs 33 min drive time, 91 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>First stop is Ridgway Reservoir and State Park with nice Pinyon-Juniper habitat. Here we'll look for Pinyon Jay, Juniper Titmouse, Bushtit, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Eared and Western Grebes. Next is the Ponderosa and Spruce/Fir forest on CR 5. accessing even more species. Finally, down to the beautiful town of Ouray where Black Swifts nest in the Box Canyon Falls Park (\$5 per person). They could be seen any time while in this area flying high above on sickle-shaped wings. Other targets include Grace's Warbler, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Cordilleran Flycatcher, American Dipper, Cassin's Finch, Evening and Black-headed Grosbeaks. State Park pass required. Leader: Peter Burke</p>	<p>FRF-8 - San Miguel County Sampler, Keystone & Tabeguache Depart: 6:30 AM (Full Day - 3 hrs 25 min drive time, 165 miles r.t.) Fee \$ 20 - Moderate</p> <p>We'll range broadly in San Miguel County...great opportunity for folks wishing to build up their county list...easy birding in and around Telluride and points west...including visits to TNC preserves with limited access... The Nature Conservancy's Keystone Gorge Tabeguache Preserve has a 2.5 mile loop trail which cuts through a scenic and rarely traveled gorge. Experience canyon walls, tall pines and the San Miguel River. Tabeguache Preserve has rich Rio Grande cottonwood, skunk brush sumac, coyote willow and other interesting riparian plant communities. Ted always finds birds and ecosystem gems. Leader: Ted Floyd</p>
<p>FRF-9 - Up the Grand Mesa Depart: 6:44 AM (Full Day - 3 hrs 24 min drive time, 160 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>Driving up the Grand Mesa will be refreshing and full of mountain species. Bring an extra layer as we explore the Mesa Lakes, Lake of the Woods and Visitors Center plus many other stops on this stunning mesa. Target species include Am. Three-toed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Canada Jay, Wilson's Snipe, Olive-sided Flycatcher, 5 Warbler species, Western Tanager, Cassin's Finch, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows. On the way back down we hit some different habitat to give us an extensive day list. Can't wait for this trip! Leader: John Drummond</p>	<p>FRF-10 - Escalante Canyon and Delta County Depart: 6:45 AM (Full Day - 3 hrs 26 min drive time, 116 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>If you want a chance at Chukar, than this is your field trip. Escalante Canyon is located at the northeast edge of the Colorado Plateau. The canyon was formed over 600 million years ago and was traditionally the winter range of the Ute Indians. Other birds of interest in the area include Loggerhead Shrike, Burrowing Owl, Black Phoebe, Golden Eagle, Northern Mockingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Plumbeous Vireo, Rock Wren and Blue Grosbeak. Expect a hot day, great birds and beautiful scenery so bring lots of water and sun protection. Leader: Christian Nunes</p>	<p>FRF-11 - Montrose to Ouray - easy trip Depart: 7:00 AM (Half Day - 1 hr 31 min drive time, 73 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>Black Swifts (may require \$5 fee per person), flycatchers, vireos, swallows, bluebirds and sparrows await you on this slower paced trip. We will leave a little later and back by lunch. Enjoy this relaxed paced trip with wonderful birds and scenery. State Park Pass required. Leader: Peter R. Gent</p>

Saturday, June 15

<p>SAH-0.5 - NEW! JUST ADDED! Colorado National Monument Depart: 5:30 AM (Half Day - 3 hrs driving, 180 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>This great national landmark features mature Pinyon-Juniper forest, grandiose cliffs and fabulous views of the Grand Valley. Target birds include Gray Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow, Juniper Titmouse, Pinyon Jay and Gambel's Quail. Entrance fee. Leader: Amber Carver</p>	<p>SAF-1 - The Big Loop Depart: 5:45 AM (Full Day - 6 hrs drive time, 229 miles r.t.) - Moderate</p> <p>This is the trip to explore the less traveled Mesa, Delta and Montrose County hotspots. It is full of goodies like Purple Martin, Bobolink and Sandhill Cranes. The route takes us to Hotchkiss, Paonia, Vega State Park, Collbran, up the Grand Mesa and down to Fruitgrowers Reservoir. Other targets include Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Bunting, Lewis's Woodpecker, Fox Sparrow, Dusky Flycatcher, MacGillivray's Warbler and sparrows. This trip list should be long. State Park pass required. Leaders: Mark Miller and Bruce Ackerman</p>	<p>SAF-3 - San Juan County Depart: 6:00 AM (Full Day - 3 hrs 34 mins drive time, 144 miles r.t.) - Moderate</p> <p>The classic western town of Silverton, Animas River, Red Mountain Pass, Molas Lakes, Andrews Lake and Coal Bank Pass are the hotspots we will bird our way through. The target birds for this trip include American Three-toed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Canada Jay, both Kinglets, Hermit Thrush, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows, MacGillivray's Warbler and Black-headed Grosbeak. The lowest elevation in this county is 8,251 and Red Mountain Pass is 11,017 feet so bring a layer or two. Cool off in this spectacular county. Leader: Nicholas Komar</p>
<p>SAH-4 - Buckhorn Lakes and the Uncompahgre N.F. Depart: 6:00 AM (Half Day - 1 hr 41 min drive time, 46 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>Enjoy the cooler temperatures as we explore the forest and two beautiful mountain lakes. Expect most of the high elevation species with water birds thrown in. Some possibilities include Dusky Grouse, Spotted Sandpiper, Williamson's and Red-naped Sapsucker, Western Wood-Pewee, Canada Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Hermit Thrush, Pine Grosbeak and Western Tanager. Leaders: Coen Dexter and Brenda Wright</p>	<p>SAF-5 - Uncompahgre National Forest Loop Depart: 6:15 AM (Full Day - 4 hrs 16 min drive time, 165 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>Up on the Uncompahgre Plateau any high elevation species is possible. We will be on the lookout for some great birds like American Three-toed Woodpeckers, Grace's Warbler and Purple Martin. Other fun species in the area include Red-naped Sapsucker, Warbling Vireo, Hermit Thrush and Dusky Flycatcher. The Nucla area will give us access to lower elevation species like Black Phoebe, Black-chinned Hummingbird and Black-throated Gray Warbler. Leader: Christian Nunes</p>	<p>SAH-6 - Black Canyon of the Gunnison N.P. Depart: 6:15 AM (Half Day - 2 hrs drive time at most, 44 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>The Gunnison River exposed the gneiss and schist rocks forming one of the steepest most narrow canyon in the U.S. On this south rim we will look for Dusky Grouse, Peregrine Falcon, White-throated Swifts, Rock and Canyon Wrens, Olive-sided, Gray and Dusky Flycatchers, Clark's Nutcracker, Green-tailed Towhee, and warblers Virginia, MacGillivray's, Yellow and Black-throated Gray. On the sagebrush areas around the park we could see Mountain Bluebirds, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows. Unlike the full-day trips to the park, this trip will be focused on areas near the campgrounds and areas west of there. National Park pass required. Leader: Andrew Bankert</p>

<p>SAH-7 - Escalante Canyon and Delta County Depart: 6:30 AM (Half Day - 3 hrs 26 min drive time, 116 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>If you want a chance at Chukar, than this is your field trip. Escalante Canyon is located at the northeast edge of the Colorado Plateau. The canyon was formed over 600 million years ago and was traditionally the winter range of the Ute Indians. Other birds of interest in the area include Loggerhead Shrike, Burrowing Owl, Black Phoebe, Golden Eagle, Northern Mockingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Plumbeous Vireo, Rock Wren and Blue Grosbeak. Expect a hot day, great birds and beautiful scenery so bring lots of water and sun protection. Leader: Mike Henwood</p>	<p>SAH-8 - Black Swifts and Ouray County Depart: 6:30 AM (Half Day - 2 hrs 26 min drive time, 91 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>First stop is Ridgway Reservoir and State Park with nice Pinyon-Juniper habitat. Here we'll look for Pinyon Jay, Juniper Titmouse, Bushtit, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Eared and Western Grebes. Next is the Ponderosa and Spruce/Fir forest on CR 5. accessing even more species. Finally, down to the beautiful town of Ouray where Black Swifts nest in the Box Canyon Falls Park (\$5 per person). They could be seen any time while in this area flying high above on sickle-shaped wings. Other targets include Grace's Warbler, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Cordilleran Flycatcher, American Dipper, Cassin's Finch, Evening and Black-headed Grosbeaks. State Park pass required. Leaders: Sue Riffe and Sue E. Hirshman</p>	<p>SAH-9 - Fruitgrowers Reservoir Depart: 6:44 AM (Half Day - 1 hr 28 min drive time, 67 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>The area farmers use this water source for their fruit trees in the growing season. This reservoir and extensive wetland holds some amazing birds in this dry area. It is rich in shorebirds, ducks, grebes and all sorts of wetlands species. We will also explore some canyon cliffs in the area. Some targets include Cinnamon Teal, Clark's Grebe, American Bittern, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Marsh Wren, Willets, Green-tailed Towhee, Lewis's Woodpecker, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Rock and Canyon Wren. Leader: Peter R. Gent</p>
<p>SAF-10 - Up the Grand Mesa Depart: 6:45 AM (Full Day - 3 hrs 24 min drive time, 160 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>Driving up the Grand Mesa will be refreshing and full of mountain species. Bring an extra layer as we explore the Mesa Lakes, Lake of the Woods and Visitors Center plus many other stops on this stunning mesa. Target species include American Three-toed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Canada Jay, Wilson's Snipe, Olive-sided Flycatcher, 5 Warbler species, Western Tanager, Cassin's Finch, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows. On the way back down we hit some different habitat to give us an extensive day list. Can't wait for this trip! Leader: Peter Burke</p>	<p>SAH-11 - Montrose to Ouray, Black Swifts Depart: 7:00 AM (Half Day - 1 hr 31 min drive time, 73 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>Black Swifts (\$5 per person), flycatchers, vireos, swallows, bluebirds and sparrows await you on this slower paced trip. We will leave a little later and back by lunch. Enjoy this relaxed paced trip with wonderful birds and scenery. State Park Pass required. Leaders: Michael King and Diana King</p>	<p>SAW-12 - Workshop - Bird Sound Recording & ID with Nathan Pieplow Depart: 7:00 AM (Half Day -) Fee \$ 20 - Easy</p> <p>Join Nathan Pieplow, author of the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds, for a four-hour workshop on how to record and identify bird sounds using your smartphone. In 2018, birders uploaded 40 times more photographs to their eBird checklists than sound recordings. Yet sound recordings are more scientifically valuable. We will start with a one-hour classroom session in which we discuss the best apps to use for recording, and how to get the best recordings possible. We will then head into the field for two hours to record sounds and practice our sound identification skills. For the final hour, we will return to the classroom to find out how to share and analyze our recordings after we've made them, and Nathan will answer any questions you have about bird sound identification. All proceeds go to the CFO Project Fund. Leader: Nathan Pieplow</p>

Sunday, June 16

<p>SUF-1 - Chase Trip - Best of the Convention Depart: 5:30 AM (Full Day) - Easy</p> <p>Peter will try to track down the best birds of the convention. Be ready with a full tank of gas, layers, sun protection and ready to cover some ground. Today's trip list might not be huge, but it will be special! Leader: Peter Burke</p>	<p>SUF-2 - Gunnison County Depart: 5:45 AM (Full Day - 2 hrs 37 mins drive time, 123 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>We will explore along the Gunnison River on the Neversink 1.5 mile flat trail. Veery and Gray Catbirds are possible, both uncommon in this county. South of Gunnison has some great sagebrush habitat where Sage Thrasher, Green-tailed Towhee, Rock Wren, Willow Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird and Brewer's, Lark and Vesper Sparrows will be the targets. Gunnison Cemetery, Roaring Judy Fish Hatchery and McCabes Lake Wetlands will round out this loop. Leaders: Mark Miller and Bruce Ackerman</p>	<p>SUF-3 - The Big Loop Depart: 5:45 AM (Full Day - 6 hrs drive time, 229 miles r.t.) - Easy</p> <p>This is the trip to explore the less traveled Mesa, Delta and Montrose County hotspots. It is full of goodies like Purple Martin, Bobolink and Sandhill Cranes. The route takes us to Hotchkiss, Paonia, Vega State Park, Collbran, up the Grand Mesa and down to Fruitgrowers Reservoir. Other targets include Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Bunting, Lewis's Woodpecker, Fox Sparrow, Dusky Flycatcher, MacGillivray's Warbler and sparrows. This trip list should be long. State Park pass required. Leader: Sue Riffe</p>
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Monday, June 17

<p>MOF-1 - Gunnison River Half Day Rafting, Half Day Birding Depart: 6:30 AM (Full Day - 1 hr 42 min drive time, 74 miles r.t.) - Moderate</p> <p>Note: this trip is not sponsored by CFO, and not part of the CFO convention. Escalante to Dominguez Canyon is deep in the Gunnison River Canyon between Delta and Grand Junction. This wilderness area can be visited only by boat. Waterfalls and plunge pools have chiseled cliffs through the Wingate, Entrada, Morrison, and Dakota formations. Dominguez Canyon features Ute and Fremont Indian petroglyphs and dwellings, as well as remnants of dinosaurs. Escalante to Dominguez is an excellent beginner raft trip featuring gentle Class I and II rapids. We will have a chance to get out of the rafts to get in some light walking and birding. They provide lunch, shuttle back to our cars, a dry bag for phones and a life jacket. Wear clothes that can dry quickly, and bring binoculars and sun protection. Do not bring spotting scopes or cameras that can't get wet. Possible species include Chukar, White-throated Swift, Golden & Bald Eagles, Black & Say's Phoebes, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, swallows, Rock & Canyon Wrens, Black-headed & Blue Grosbeaks and Bullock's Oriole. This trip will be run by Gunnison River Expeditions and not Colorado Field Ornithologists. You must sign up through Gunnison River Expeditions at www.gunnisonriverexpeditions.com. (Cost \$130) Please email Sue Riffe, the field trip leader, once you have signed up with GRE. Her email is sheflew@gmail.com. Leader: Sue Riffe</p>	<p>MOD-2 - Departure Trip to the southern Front Range Depart: 7:00 AM (Full Day) - Easy</p> <p>TBD Leader: Diana Beatty</p>	<p>MOD-3 - Departure Trip to the northern Front Range Depart: 7:00 AM (Full Day) - Easy</p> <p>TBD Leader: Nicholas Komar</p>
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