



CFO Annual Convention
Lamar, Colorado
May 2-5, 2024

Registration Information Packet

Schedule

Schedule is subject to change. Check the schedule on the website or the Convention Info Packet for any changes prior to the convention.

All activities take place at the Historic Cow Palace except the Welcome Picnic.

Thursday May 2, 2024

7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Pre-convention field trips	
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Welcome picnic w/ packet pick up	Willow Creek Park
	Catering starts at 6 pm	
	<i>see location directions below, don't follow Google/Maps directions</i>	
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Rail Field Trip	Lobby

Friday May 3, 2024

5:00 am - 4:00 pm	Field trips (full & half day trips)	Lobby
5:00 am - 7:00 am	Breakfast/lunch pick up	Lobby
5:00 am - 7:00 am	Info Table w/ packet pick up	Lobby
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Info Table w/ packet pick up	Lobby
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Social	Empire Room
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Silent Auction	Empire Room

Saturday May 4, 2024

5:00 am - 12:00 pm	Field trips	Lobby
5:00 am - 7:00 am	Breakfast/lunch pick up	Lobby
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Silent Auction (last chance!)	Empire Room
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Scientific paper session	Empire Room
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Workshops	Empire Room
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Banquet & CFO Annual Meeting	Empire Room
8:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Silent Auction Payment/Pickup	Empire Room

Sunday May 22, 2022

5:00 am - 4:00 pm	Field trips (half & full day trips)	Lobby
5:00 am - 6:30 am	Breakfast/lunch pick up	Lobby
5:00 am - 6:30 am	Silent Auction Payment/Pickup	Empire Room

Venue Locations

Convention Hotel: Historic Cow Palace Inn. 1301 N. Main Street, Lamar, CO

Be sure to make your reservations before **April 1, 2024** to use the CFO group code.

Welcome Picnic: Willow Creek Park Pavilion. Corner of Parkview Ave. & Parkway Dr.

***IMPORTANT:** The Welcome Picnic will be held at Willow Creek Park pavilions just south of the Lamar swimming pool. There is a gravel entry at the corner of Parkview Ave and Parkway Dr. **This is NOT where most mapping apps will direct you** to Willow Creek Park on Rotary Way. If you follow your app, you will end up on the wrong side of Willow Creek without access to the Welcome Picnic.*

Convention Specials

Order your exclusive convention swag with your registration – they will not be available for sale at the convention. The convention art featured on the shirts is the work of the renowned birder and artist, Radeaux, featuring artwork highlighting specialty birds around Lamar. Shirts are screenprinted and caps are embroidered. The **last day** to order any of these items with your registration is April 10, 2024.

Short sleeve shirt (unisex) in black - \$20

Short sleeve shirt (ladies v-neck) in black - \$20

Long sleeve shirt (unisex) in royal blue - \$25

CFO logo ball caps in tan - \$25



Food Selections

During the convention registration, you will need to select food options for some ticketed events. Below are descriptions of food provided during different events. If you have a special dietary concern, please note it in the notes section of the registration form and we will try to accommodate requests.

A note on gluten-free meals: Please note that The Cow Palace kitchen cannot guarantee a gluten-free environment and does not offer gluten-free options for any of the catered events. Some items may be naturally gluten-free but they will not label any items as gluten-free due to possible cross-contamination.

Welcome Picnic

A picnic burger bar (with a veggie burger option) with sides of chips and salad. The Welcome Picnic is included in your registration but we ask you to indicate whether you plan to attend to help us with the catering numbers.

Breakfasts

The Historic Cow Palace has breakfast from 7:00 am - 10:00 am. Most convention field trips start before 7:00 am.

We recommend that all participants on field trips leave at or before 7:00 am, order the pre-packed breakfasts that can be picked up starting at 5:00 am each morning or bring their own food for breakfasts. **Please do not delay the start of your field trip by trying to grab hotel food and run.** All breakfasts must be ordered when you register.

Breakfast Bag - \$14 - All breakfasts come with a choice of main and juice (cranberry, apple, or orange).

- Breakfast Burrito - egg, potato, cheese
- Breakfast Burrito - bacon, egg, potato, cheese
- Cinnamon Roll & Fruit
- Fruit & Yogurt Parfait

Lunches

Participants on all-day field trips will need to bring their own lunches. With your registration, you may purchase the following pre-packed lunch options that will be available to pick up each morning starting at 5:00 am in the hotel lobby. All lunches must be ordered when you register.

Lunch Bag - \$16 -

Friday Lunch Options

- Poke Bowl - ahi tuna, white rice, edamame, slaw, sweet soy
- Garden Salad - lettuce; carrots; green onions; grape tomatoes; choice of ranch, bleu cheese or Italian dressing
- Hummus Wrap & Chips - feta, lettuce, red pepper hummus, carrot, cucumber
- Italian Sandwich & Chips - pepperoni, salami, ham, lettuce, cheese, Italian dressing
- Cobb Salad - lettuce, egg, bacon, cheese, chicken, green onion, ranch

Saturday Lunch Options

- Poke Bowl - ahi tuna, white rice, edamame, slaw, sweet soy
- Garden Salad - lettuce; carrots; green onions; grape tomatoes; choice of ranch, bleu cheese or Italian dressing
- Hummus Wrap & Chips - feta, lettuce, red pepper hummus, carrot, cucumber
- Chicken Caesar Salad - romaine, chicken, parmesan, croutons, Caesar dressing
- Turkey Club & Chips - turkey, bacon, cheese, lettuce, garlic mayo

Sunday Lunch Options

- Poke Bowl - ahi tuna, white rice, edamame, slaw, sweet soy
- Garden Salad - lettuce; carrots; green onions; grape tomatoes; choice of ranch, bleu cheese or Italian dressing
- Hummus Wrap & Chips - feta, lettuce, red pepper hummus, carrot, cucumber
- Chicken Caesar Wrap & Chips - chicken, lettuce, parmesan, croutons, caesar
- Beef Horseradish Wrap & Chips - shaved prime rib, cheese, lettuce, horsey mayo

Banquet

The CFO Banquet and Annual Meeting is a ticketed event. Banquet attendees will choose one of the following options for their meal. All meals will end with the dessert of your choice: bread pudding with whiskey caramel sauce or a brownie.

All attendees can purchase an additional ticket for the banquet for any non-convention attending individual. If you need more than one additional ticket, please contact CFO at info@cobirds.org.

Fajita Taco Bar

Build your own pork or chicken tacos on flour tortillas. Top them with beans, mixed peppers and onions, sour cream, cheese, pico de gallo, guacamole, and Morita chile salsa.

Butternut Squash Enchiladas (vegetarian)

This meal will be individually plated.

Veggie Linguine with Lemon Caper Cream Sauce (vegetarian)

This meal will be individually plated.

Chef's Choice (vegan)

A vegan option is available and will be Chef's Choice on the day of the banquet. This meal will be individually plated.

Field Trip Descriptions

All field trips will meet in the lobby of the Cow Palace Hotel unless otherwise noted. **Please arrive to meet your group 15 minutes prior to the departure time.** Also, make sure you have picked up or packed your breakfast and/or lunch before meeting your group.

All trips are limited to 16 people, including the trip leaders. The only exception to this is the Thursday evening Rails in the Dark trip.

Plan for the carpool group to reimburse the driver at the rate of 50 cents per mile. The cost is divided among the passengers and the driver is included in the calculations when figuring out the per person costs. Trip mileage in the descriptions is approximate and is intended to give participants an idea of how much driving there is likely to be.

State Parks – Field trips that include a State Park visit (e.g., John Martin Reservoir), will require **each driver** to have a Keep Colorado Wild Pass (pass purchased with CO vehicle registration) or a State Parks Pass (daily or annual, these can be obtained at most entrance stations or <https://cpw.state.co.us/buyapply/Pages/AnnualPassInfo.aspx>).

State Wildlife Areas – CFO has a Special Use Permit for all individuals visiting SWAs **as part of** a CFO field trip. If you're visiting SWAs on your own, even during the conference days, you must comply with the typical license/permit requirements.

The following abbreviations are used in the below trip descriptions.

Th – Thursday trips
Fr – Friday trips
Sa – Saturday trips
Su – Sunday trips

Th 1, Sa 1 – All trips have an alpha-number code in their description. Please reference this code if you are asking a question about a trip.

Full Day – full day trip ending at 4:00 pm

Half Day – half day trip ending by 12:00 pm

Difficulty Rating:

Easy – mostly flat on solid surfaces, less than one mile walking

Moderate – walking could include some moderate elevation changes at slower speeds, trails may be uneven, walking less than 2 miles

Difficult – 1,000-foot elevation change while walking at slow speeds, uneven trails, could walk as much as three miles

Strenuous – extremely variable terrain; may include trekking through a river

Arrival Trips

****Full** TH1 Arrival Trip from the Northern Front Range – Easy – Full Day**

Kyle Carlsen

7:00 am – 4:00 pm

****Just Added** TH5 Arrival Trip from the Northern Front Range – Easy – Full Day**

Nick Komar

7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Trip leader will contact everyone to determine where to meet. We will be birding hotspots on the way to Lamar. Please bring your lunch.

TH2 Arrival Trip from Colorado Springs Area – Easy – Full Day

Diana Beatty & Jenyva Turner

7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Trip leader will contact everyone to determine where to meet. We will be birding hotspots on the way to Lamar. Please bring your lunch.

TH3 Welcoming Locals to Birding in Lamar – Willow Creek Park – Easy

Helen Butts, Joanna Clark, Megan Jones Patterson, Travis Walker 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Welcome local developing birders with your extra binoculars and scopes to share. We will have a mellow viewing of this spring's migration at Willow Creek. Mississippi Kites and migrant songbirds are expected and we hope to introduce birding and CFO to some local residents in the southeast. White-eyed and Cassin's Vireos, Cape May, Blackpoll and other warblers are possible. Check for eastern species such as Northern Cardinals or Red-bellied Woodpecker – spring could have many possibilities.

Evening Trip – Thursday Only

TH4 Rails in the Dark – Easy – Evening

Sue Riffe, Debbie Barnes, Peter Burke & Scott Shaum

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

We will try for Black Rail, Virginia Rail, and Sora. In addition, you never know what birds might be migrating through the marsh. The Black Rail is a federally threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. We will all drive out to the same marsh together; carpooling is a must as there is limited parking. All parking will be on the same side of the road, no door slamming, all lights extinguished and no talking once arriving at our destination. We will walk a half mile in the dark. Only the leaders will be talking. Cupping your ears and concentrated listening will be required as the rails may be on the other side of the marsh. Call playback can be considered a form of harassment and will not be used. We will rely on listening for spontaneously calling birds and will not use flashlights to see these birds.

This trip is only offered on Thursday.

Approximately 50 miles round trip.

Friday Trips

****FULL** FR1 Carrizo & Cottonwood Canyon & Comanche National Grasslands – Moderate to Difficult – Full Day**

Chuck Hundertmark & Gary Witt

5:15 am – 4:00 pm

Located in Baca County, this trip will include canyons, grasslands, pinyon/juniper, riparian, and cactus, providing incredibly diverse habitats with a mix of western, eastern and southern species—and great migrant opportunities. Chihuahuan Raven, Curve-billed Thrasher, Bewick's and Canyon Wren, Canyon Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Cassin's Kingbird, may cross paths with Long-billed Curlew, Painted Bunting and any number of exciting migrants including an impressive array of sparrows. Big-horned sheep, elk and mountain lions are also all possible—and not just through their depictions in the petroglyphs. This trip may also stop at Blue Rose Ranch on the way.

This trip is offered on Friday and Sunday.

Approximately 180 miles round trip.

FR2 Picture Canyon – Moderate (due to potential heat) – Full Day

Linda Lee, Linda Hodges & Diana Beatty

5:30 am – 4:00 pm

Journey to the southern reaches of the state and back in time as we explore canyon birds and famous rock art at Picture Canyon. Target species include Rock Wren, Scaled Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Canyon Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Blue Grosbeak. It can get hot down there, so plan to bring plenty of water and shade. Trip leaders may make stops at Two Buttes or other spots along the way to and from the canyon. Vault toilet at the canyon.

This trip is offered on Friday and Sunday.

Approximately 200 miles round trip.

FR3 Baca County SWAs – Moderate – Full Day

Debbie Barnes Shankster & Joanna Clark

5:45 am – 4:00 pm

We'll make a loop to Turks Pond, Burchfield, and Two Buttes State Wildlife Areas, located in Baca County east of Highway 385 and containing a variety of habitats. We'll start at Turks Pond and Burchfield SWAs, two smaller areas that offer interesting potential for waterfowl and shorebirds, depending on water level, as well as migrating passerines. We'll aim to arrive at Two Buttes SWA around 11 a.m. Above the dam is the reservoir which is lined with cottonwood and rimrock. Below the dam are tall trees, marshy ponds, and areas of grass. Potential target species are Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black-and-White Warbler, Mountain Plover, Summer Tanager, and Western Screech Owl. High clearance vehicles are recommended due the nature of the roads, especially if there has been recent rainfall. A vault toilet is at the Lower Dam section. Gobblers Knob Rest Area is about 20 minutes to the northwest.

This trip is offered on Friday (full day), Saturday (half day), and Sunday (full day).

Approximately 75 miles round trip.

FR4 Lake Hasty & Environs – Easy – Full Day

Edward Landi & David Wade

5:00 am – 4:00 pm

Lake Hasty sits below the dam of John Martin Reservoir and offers amazing opportunities to see waterfowl and migrants. The Lake Hasty Campground is shielded by a grove of tall trees and offers a wonderful place for resting migrants. Join us for a day of birding where we will begin the morning leisurely walking among the trees in the Lake Hasty Campground looking and listening for migrants. Next, we will scope Lake Hasty for waterfowl, mixed flocks of swallows, and other interesting waterbirds. We will spend the afternoon exploring the northwest shore of John Martin Reservoir for any migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. This shoreline offers more opportunities to bird amongst groves of trees for migrants along dirt roads.

State Park pass/fee is required for the drivers.

This trip is offered on Friday (full day) and Sunday (half day).

Approximately 50 miles round trip.

****FULL** FR5 John Martin Reservoir and the Arkansas River Valley – Moderate – Full Day**

Duane Nelson & Don Marsh

5:00 am – 4:00 pm

The Arkansas River, the sixth longest in the United States, and its valley provide us plenty of fantastic birding spots to explore. The vast array of riparian areas, quiet wooded lots and marshes provide days of exploring. Destinations include John Martin Reservoir for Piping Plover and Least Terns. Other spots could include Van's Grove, Van's Marsh, Wood Thrush Grove, Fort Lyons Wildlife Easement and Lake Hasty Campground. Migrants, migrants, and even more migrants will be the targets for the day. Expect to walk around a bit at each location so a day pack might be useful.

State Park pass/fee is required for the drivers.

This trip is offered on Friday (full day) and Saturday (half day).

Approximately 75 miles round trip.

FR6 Thurston Reservoir, Melody Tempel Grove, and Queens Reservoirs – Moderate – Full Day

Kathy Kay & Nick Komar

5:15 am – 4:00 pm

Melody Tempel Grove, about 20 minutes north of Lamar, has an amazing tree-lined canal that attracts migrants galore. Expected species include Bullock's and Orchard Orioles, migrating warblers and thrushes, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and much more. Neenoshe is the largest reservoir of the Great Plains Reservoirs. Located approximately 28 minutes to the northeast of Lamar and east of Highway 287, it is surrounded by short grass prairie. Potential target species are Black Tern, Dunlin, Snowy Plover, Whimbrel, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Burrowing Owls. Two vault toilets are available. There is very little shade.

This trip is offered on Friday and Sunday.

Approximately 50 miles round trip.

FR7 Rocky Ford SWA, the Lakes of Otero County, Bent's Old Fort – Moderate – Full Day

Sue Riffe

5:15 am – 4:00 pm

It is all about the Arkansas River at Rocky Ford SWA. This is a good spot for migrating land birds and is the westernmost location where Northern Bobwhite may be heard calling from the thickets. Paths wander through sunny meadows and shaded woods along the riparian corridor, revealing all the usual suspects. Expect to walk a couple of miles here. Keep an eye out for Mississippi Kite, buntings, cardinals and warblers. Other places we will visit include Lakes Holbrook and Cheraw, shallow reservoirs that are terrific for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. Our targets here are double-digit shorebirds species, including Snowy Plovers. Walking for 2-3 hours along riparian areas. In the cattail marsh, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, rails, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Yellowthroat and other warblers are possible.

This trip is offered on Friday (full day), Saturday (half day) and Sunday (half day).

Approximately 160 miles round trip.

FR8 Picket Wire Canyonlands – Difficult – Full Day

Kyle Carlsen & Helen Butts

5:15 am – 4:00 pm

Permanent water, pinyon, cholla, saltbush, and cottonwoods create a great habitat for southeast specialties. Likely possibilities include Rock and Bewick's Wrens, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Cassin's Kingbird, Canyon Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher and Rufous-crowned Sparrow and, occasionally, Greater Roadrunner. Once the track turns towards the Purgatoire River, summer breeders include Lewis's Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-throated Sparrow, Golden Eagle, Scaled Quail, Rufous-crowned Sparrow and Eastern Phoebe. Participants can expect lots of walking, some of which is steep and uneven with limited shade. If time allows, a short side quest to nearby Higbee ought to be possible.

This trip is offered on Friday and Sunday.

Approximately 180 miles round trip.

FR9 Higbee and Purgatoire River Valley – Difficult – Full Day

Scott Shaum & John Haycraft

5:15 am – 4:00 pm

The Purgatoire River provides lush riparian habitat through arid pinyon-juniper canyonlands south of La Junta. Many species that are usually found further south can be seen in small numbers in this area. Patience is required but should pay off for a fantastic day list! Locations include Higbee Cemetery, Higbee Valley Road and along the river. Here we will hike about three miles on an uneven trail. Targets include Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Scaled Quail, Greater Roadrunner, Black Phoebe, Juniper Titmouse, Curve-billed Thrasher, Summer Tanager and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. The area around Higbee has attracted numerous rarities in the past including nesting Vermilion Flycatcher, Painted Bunting, Black-throated Sparrow and Zone-tailed Hawk. Hepatic Tanagers breed nearby as well.

Approximately 160 miles round trip.

FR10 Migration Hotspots of Lamar – Moderate – Full Day

Megan Jones Patterson & Joel Such

5:00 am – 4:00 pm

Lake Hasty Campground, Melody Tempel Grove, Lamar Community College and Willow Creek Park are our destinations for this adventure. We are looking for passerines that are migrating north to their breeding grounds and the eastern species that stray too far west from the Central Flyway. Anything is possible. Expect walking, standing, listening, and waiting to get on the birds for this field trip. What do all these locations have in common? They all have water, deciduous trees, shrubs, and thick undergrowth.

State Park pass/fee is required for the drivers.

This trip is offered on Friday (full day), Saturday (half day) and Sunday (half day).

Approximately 50 miles round trip.

FR11 May Ranch Keynote Speaker Trip – Moderate – Full Day

Philip McNichols & Peter Burke

5:30 am – 4:00 pm

Discover the 4,500 acres of high sage and sandy creek-bottom country that is both a sustainable conservation ranch and a renowned wildlife habitat. Owners Dallas May, a Colorado Parks & Wildlife commissioner, and his wife Brenda, an appointee to the board of Great Outdoors Colorado, work hard to support beaver dams that turn high plains water trickles into wetlands, which turn grasses into rushes and shade trees and aged cottonwoods good for nesting—even after an April 2022 fire destroyed thousands of acres. Intelligent and integrated ranching continues to bring back healthy foliage and wetlands as well as earning May Ranch the coveted Audubon Society endorsement as a bird-friendly place to raise beef. In addition to beavers and endangered black-footed ferrets, the May Ranch supports western and eastern plains species with a creek that forms ponds and wetlands.

This trip is offered on Friday & Sunday (full day) and Saturday (half day).

Approximately 60 miles round trip.

FR12 Elkhart, Kansas and Cimarron National Grasslands – Point of Rocks – Moderate – Full Day

Laura Steadman, Megan Miller, & Melissa Mezger

5:15 am – 4:00 pm

Elkhart, Kansas is our southern destination on this trip. We'll bird our way through Kansas as we drive about 2 hours southeast of Lamar. Possible species in the Elkhart area include Broad-winged Hawk, Hooded Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, and Veery. We'll likely spend some time in the Cimarron National Grasslands at Point of Rocks, where we hope to find species such as Bell's Vireo, Great Crested Flycatcher, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Upland Sandpiper. Expect hot temperatures, lots of sun, and plenty of fun on this trip.

Approximately 250 miles round trip.

FR13 Big Sit – Melody Tempel Grove – Easy – Half Day

Peter Gent

7:00 am – 11:30 am.

For this trip, we'll be mostly stationary! A "big sit" is when we stay in one place to observe the birds more deeply, and watch what shows up once they're comfortable with us being there. Melody Tempel Grove, about 20 minutes north of Lamar, has an amazing tree-lined canal that attracts migrants

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galore. Expected species include Bullock's and Orchard Orioles, migrating warblers and thrushes, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and much more. Bring your camp chair and have a seat, or take a leisurely stroll along the canal.

This trip is offered on Friday and Saturday.

Approximately 35 miles round trip.

Saturday Trips

All trips will have you back at the convention headquarters in time for the science sessions at 1:00 pm on Saturday.

SA1 Big Sit – Lake Hasty – Easy – Half Day

Megan Jones Patterson

5:45 am – 11:00 am

For this trip, we'll be mostly stationary! A "big sit" is when we stay in one place to observe the birds more deeply, and watch what shows up once they're comfortable with us being there. Lake Hasty and campground, in John Martin Reservoir State Park, is a well-known migrant trap. Bring your camp chair and have a seat while we watch flocks of Black Terns, Black-necked Stilts and other shorebirds, Western Kingbirds, swallows, and more! You might also take a stroll through the campground for a wide variety of migrants – anything can and does show up here!

State Park pass/fee is required for the drivers.

Approximately 45 miles round trip.

SA2 Big Sit – Melody Tempel Grove – Easy – Half Day

Linda Lee & Crystal Reser

7:00 am – 11:30 am

For this trip, we'll be mostly stationary! A "big sit" is when we stay in one place to observe the birds more deeply, and watch what shows up once they're comfortable with us being there. Melody Tempel Grove, about 20 minutes north of Lamar, has an amazing tree-lined canal that attracts migrants galore. Expected species include Bullock's and Orchard Orioles, migrating warblers and thrushes, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and much more. Bring your camp chair and have a seat, or take a leisurely stroll along the canal.

This trip is offered on Friday and Saturday.

Approximately 35 miles round trip.

SA3 Wiley Town – Easy – Half Day

Travis Walker & Michelle Puplava

7:00 am – 11:00 am

Experience birding in small-town southeastern Colorado with a visit to Wiley, just 11 miles northwest of Lamar off of Highway 287. We'll start watching birds at Main Street Park and Harald Smith Park, and take a stroll around town. Main Street is a hotspot for Mississippi Kite. Hummingbird and oriole feeders will be available for relaxed viewing from a home next to Main Street Park with Black-chinned Hummingbird and Bullock's Oriole, Ruby-throated and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds are possible. Other likely spring migrants include Lazuli and Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted and Black-headed

Grosbeak, along with Yellow, Yellow-rumped, and Wilson's Warblers. Bring a chair if you'd like to watch from one of the parks or the bird feeders.

Approximately 22 miles round trip.

SA4 Migration Hotspots of Lamar – Easy – Half Day

Dave Leatherman & Joanna Clark

5:30 am – 12:00 pm

Join the expert on the foods of Colorado Birds, Dave Leatherman for birding at Lamar Community College, local cemeteries and other hotspots. We are looking for passerines that are migrating north to their breeding grounds and the eastern species that stray too far west from the Central Flyway. Anything is possible. Expect walking, standing, listening, and waiting to get on the birds for this field trip.

This trip is offered on Friday (full day), Saturday (half day) and Sunday (half day).

Approximately 15 miles round trip.

****FULL** SA5 May Ranch–Keynote Speaker Trip – Moderate – Half Day**

Sue Riffe & Gary Witt

5:30 am – 12:00 pm

Discover the 4,500 acres of high sage and sandy creek-bottom country that is both a sustainable conservation ranch and a renowned wildlife habitat. Owners Dallas May, a Colorado Parks & Wildlife commissioner, and his wife Brenda, an appointee to the board of Great Outdoors Colorado, work hard to support beaver dams that turn high plains water trickles into wetlands, which turn grasses into rushes and shade trees and aged cottonwoods good for nesting—even after an April 2022 fire destroyed thousands of acres. Intelligent and integrated ranching continues to bring back healthy foliage and wetlands as well as earning May Ranch the coveted Audubon Society endorsement as a bird-friendly place to raise beef. In addition to beavers and endangered black-footed ferrets, the May Ranch supports western and eastern plains species with a creek that forms ponds and wetlands.

This trip is offered on Friday & Sunday (full day) and Saturday (half day).

Approximately 35 miles round trip.

SA6 East of Lamar – Easy – Half Day

Brandon Percival

5:15 am – 12:00 pm

This trip will explore environs east of Lamar. Stops will include places such as Granada, the Amache Japanese-American Internment Camp National Historic Site, the famed migrant trap at Holly Rest Area, and likely a dip over the state line into Kansas. Other stops along US Rt 400 are likely. Target species include migrating warblers, shrikes, orioles and much much more!

Approximately 70-120 miles round trip.

SA7 Kiowa/Bent (Kiowa Creek Wetlands), Adobe Creek/Blue Reservoir & Raven Lane – Easy – Half Day

Debbie Barnes & Nick Komar

5:15 am – 12:00 pm

This trek will take you from short-grass prairie to reservoirs with all of the migration possibilities in between. Depending on which reservoirs have the right levels of water and where the shorebirds are—we could have mountain or piping plovers, least terns, or any shorebirds. In the prairies we could

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have Long-billed Curlews, Burrowing Owls, Scaled Quail, and Cassin's, Lark, or Grasshopper Sparrows to enrich your Kiowa county list! Bring your scope!

Approximately 80 miles round trip.

SA8 Baca County SWAs – Moderate – Half Day

Don Marsh & Joel Such

5:15 am – 12:00 pm

We'll make a loop to Turks Pond, Burchfield, and Two Buttes State Wildlife Areas, located in Baca County east of Highway 385 and containing a variety of habitats. We'll start at Turks Pond and Burchfield SWAs, two smaller areas that offer interesting potential for waterfowl and shorebirds, depending on water level, as well as migrating passerines. We'll aim to arrive at Two Buttes SWA around 11 a.m. Above the dam is the reservoir which is lined with cottonwood and rimrock. Below the dam are tall trees, marshy ponds, and areas of grass. Potential target species are Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black-and-White Warbler, Mountain Plover, Summer Tanager, and Western Screech Owl. High clearance vehicles are recommended due the nature of the roads, especially if there has been recent rainfall. A vault toilet is at the Two Buttes Lower Dam section. Gobblers Knob Rest Area is about 20 minutes to the northwest.

This trip is offered on Friday (full day), Saturday (half day), and Sunday (full day).

Approximately 75 miles round trip.

SA9 The Lakes of Otero County & Bent's Old Fort – Moderate – Half Day

Van Truan & Laura Steadman

5:15 am – 12:00 pm

These lakes are a good spot for migrating land birds. Paths wander through sunny meadows and shaded woods along the riparian corridor, revealing all the usual suspects. Expect to walk a couple of miles. Keep an eye out for Mississippi Kite, buntings, cardinals and warblers. Other places we will visit include Lakes Holbrook and Cheraw, shallow reservoirs that are terrific for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. Our targets here are double-digit shorebirds species, including Snowy Plovers. Some walking, 2-3 hours along riparian areas. Cattail marsh: Yellow-headed Blackbirds, rails, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Yellowthroat.

This trip is offered on Friday (full day), Saturday (half day) and Sunday (half day).

Approximately 160 miles round trip.

SA10 John Martin and the Arkansas River Valley – Moderate – Half Day

John Drummond & John Haycraft

5:15 am – 12:00 pm

The Arkansas River, the sixth longest in the United States, and the valley provides us with plenty of fantastic birding spots to explore. The vast array of riparian areas, quiet wooded lots and marshes provide days of exploring. We have picked the best for you. Destinations include Van's Grove, Van's Marsh, Wood Thrush Grove, Fort Lyons Wildlife Easement and Hasty Campground. Migrants, migrants, and even more migrants will be the targets for the day. Expect to walk around a bit at each location so a small day pack might be useful. The final spot is John Martin Reservoir State Park. Piping Plovers and Least Terns have bred here in the past so keep an eye out.

State Park pass/fee is required for the drivers.

This trip is offered on Friday (full day) and Saturday (half day).

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Approximately 75 miles round trip.

SA11 Lake Hasty – Easy – Half Day

Edward Landi

4:30 am – 12:00 pm

This trip has an early start for some potential owling. We'll spend the bulk of our time around Lake Hasty, which sits below the dam of John Martin and offers amazing opportunities to see waterfowl and migrants. The Lake Hasty Campground is shielded by a grove of tall trees and offers a wonderful place for resting migrants. We'll survey the trees in the Lake Hasty Campground for migrants. Next, we will scope Lake Hasty for waterfowl, mixed flocks of swallows, and other interesting waterbirds. We will spend any remaining time exploring the northwest shore of John Martin Reservoir for any migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. This shoreline offers more opportunities to bird amongst groves of trees for migrants along dirt roads. **IMPORTANT: This trip leaves BEFORE pick-up breakfast/lunches will be ready. If you go on this trip, do not purchase Saturday pick-up breakfasts/lunches. You must bring your own.**

State Park pass/fee is required for the drivers.

Approximately 50 miles round trip.

SA12 The Best of Lake Hasty & John Martin – Easy – Half Day

Peter Burke & Owen Robertson

6:30 am – 12:00 pm

Lake Hasty sits below the dam of John Martin and offers amazing opportunities to see waterfowl and migrants. The Lake Hasty Campground is shielded by a grove of tall trees and offers a wonderful place for resting migrants. Join us for a day of birding where we will begin the morning leisurely walking among the trees in the Lake Hasty Campground for migrants. Next, we will scope Lake Hasty for waterfowl, mixed flocks of swallows, and other interesting waterbirds. We will spend any remaining time exploring the northwest shore of John Martin Reservoir for any migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. This shoreline offers more opportunities to bird amongst groves of trees for migrants along dirt roads.

State Park pass/fee is required for the drivers.

Approximately 50 miles round trip.

SA13 Heartland Ranch Nature Preserve with Southern Plains Land Trust – Moderate – Half Day

Diana Beatty

5:00 am – 12:00 pm

This field trip will travel to southern Bent County to visit the Heartland Ranch Nature Preserve. With 47,000 acres available for us to explore, we certainly won't be able to see it all! This protected refuge is home to many prairie bird species from Horned Larks to Burrowing Owls, sparrows, kingbirds, ducks, raptors, and more. Non-bird wildlife includes prairie dogs, badgers, pronghorn, and bison! Southern Plains Land Trust Director, Dr. Henry Pollack, plans to accompany the group, so this is truly an "insiders" tour of this special place.

This trip is offered Saturday (half-day) and Sunday (half-day).

Approximately 75-100 miles round trip.

Sunday Half Day Trips

SU1 Loggerhead Shrikes–Befriending the Butcherbird – Moderate – Half Day

Dave Leatherman

5:15 am – 12:00 pm

Join a trip with author of the CFO's Hungry Bird, Dave Leatherman, to focus on finding impaled prey of Loggerhead Shrikes. We will head to proven, productive, scouted spots including along Bent CR JJ west of Hasty and north of John Martin Reservoir.

State Park pass/fee is required for the drivers.

Approximately 50 miles round trip.

SU2 Lake Hasty & Environs – Easy – Half Day

Debbie Barnes & Edward Landi

5:00 am – 12:00 pm

Lake Hasty sits below the dam of John Martin and offers amazing opportunities to see waterfowl and migrants. The Lake Hasty campground is shielded by a grove of tall trees and offers a wonderful place for resting migrants. Join us for a day of birding where we will begin the morning leisurely among the trees in the Lake Hasty campground for migrants. Next, we will scope Lake Hasty for waterfowl, mixed flocks of swallows, and other interesting waterbirds. We will spend the afternoon exploring the North West shore of John Martin Reservoir for any migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. This shoreline offers more opportunities to bird amongst groves of trees for migrants along dirt roads.

State Park pass/fee is required for the drivers.

This trip is offered on Friday (full day) and Sunday (half day).

Approximately 60 miles round trip.

SU3 Rocky Ford SWA, the Lakes of Otero County, Bent's Old Fort – Moderate – Half Day

Michelle Puplava & Melissa Mezger

5:15 am – 2:00 pm

It is all about the Arkansas River at Rocky Ford SWA. This is a good spot for migrating land birds and is the westernmost location where Northern Bobwhite may be heard calling from the thickets. Paths wander through sunny meadows and shaded woods along the riparian corridor, revealing all the usual suspects. Expect to walk a couple of miles here. Keep an eye out for Mississippi Kites, buntings, cardinals and warblers. Other places we will visit include Lakes Holbrook and Cheraw, shallow reservoirs that are terrific for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. Our targets here are double-digit shorebirds species, including Snowy Plovers. Some walking, 2-3 hours along riparian areas. Cattail marsh: Yellow-headed Blackbirds, rails, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Yellowthroat.

This trip is offered on Friday (full day), Saturday (half day) and Sunday (half day).

Approximately 160 miles round trip.

SU4 Migration Hotspots of Lamar – Easy – Half Day

Peter Gent

6:30 am – 11:00 am

Birding locally at Lamar Community College, local cemeteries and other hotspots. We are looking for passerines that are migrating north to their breeding grounds and the eastern species that stray too far west from the Central Flyway. Anything is possible. Expect walking, standing, listening, and waiting to get on the birds for this field trip.

This trip is offered on Friday (full day), Saturday (half day) and Sunday (half day).

Approximately 15 miles round trip.

SU11 East of Lamar – Easy – Half Day

Kathy Kay & Kieran Schnitzspahn

6:30 am – 12:00 pm

This trip will explore environs east of Lamar. Stops will include places such as Granada, the Amache Japanese-American Internment Camp National Historic Site, the famed migrant trap – Holly Rest Area, and likely a dip over the state line into Kansas. Other stops along US Rt 400 are likely. Target species include migrating warblers, shrikes, orioles and much much more!

Approximately 70-120 miles round trip.

SU12 Heartland Ranch Nature Preserve with Southern Plains Land Trust – Moderate – Half Day

Helen Butts

5:30 am – 1:00 pm

This field trip will travel to southern Bent County to visit the Heartland Ranch Nature Preserve. With 47,000 acres available for us to explore, we certainly won't be able to see it all! This protected refuge is home to many prairie bird species from Horned Larks to Burrowing Owls, sparrows, kingbirds, ducks, raptors, and more. Non-bird wildlife includes prairie dogs, badgers, pronghorn, and bison! Southern Plains Land Trust Director, Dr. Henry Pollack, plans to accompany the group, so this is truly an "insiders" tour of this special place.

This trip is offered Saturday (half-day) and Sunday (half-day).

Approximately 75-100 miles round trip.

Sunday Full Day Trips

SU5 Carrizo Canyon & Comanche National Grasslands – Moderate to Difficult – Full Day

Peter Burke & Laura Steadman

5:30 am – 4:00 pm

Located in Baca County, this trip will include canyons, grasslands, pinyon/juniper, riparian, and cactus, providing incredibly diverse habitats with a mix of western, eastern and southern species—and great migrant opportunities. Chihuahuan Raven, Curve-billed Thrasher, Bewick's and Canyon Wren, Canyon Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Cassin's Kingbird, may cross paths with Long-billed Curlew, Painted Bunting and any number of exciting migrants including an impressive array of sparrows. Big-horned sheep, elk and mountain lions are also all possible—and not just through their depictions in the petroglyphs. This trip may also stop at Blue Rose Ranch on the way.

This trip is offered on Friday and Sunday.

Revised 15 March 2024

Approximately 180 miles round trip.

SU6 Chase Trip – Moderate – Full Day

Tyler Stewart & Diana Beatty

5:00 am – 4:00 pm

With so many sharp birders in southeast Colorado, it's a given that we'll find some cool things throughout the conference. The goal of this trip will be to see as many rare and interesting species as possible, based on the previous days' findings. The trip leaders will develop the plan for target areas and species the evening prior, so no guaranteed stops or species on this one.

State Park pass/fee is required for the drivers.

Expect potentially high vehicle miles.

SU7 Picture Canyon – Moderate (due to potential heat) – Full Day

John Drummond & John Haycraft

5:30 am – 4:00 pm

Journey to the southern reaches of the state and back in time as we explore canyon birds and famous rock art at Picture Canyon. Target species include Rock Wren, Scaled Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Canyon Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Blue Grosbeak. It can get hot down there, so plan to bring plenty of water and shade. Trip leaders may make stops at Two Buttes or other spots along the way to and from the canyon. Vault toilet at the canyon.

This trip is offered on Friday and Sunday.

Approximately 200 miles round trip.

SU8 Picket Wire Canyonlands – Difficult – Full Day

Gary Witt & Jenyva Turner

5:45 am – 4:00 pm

Permanent water, pinyon, cholla, saltbush, and cottonwoods create a great habitat for southeast specialties. Likely possibilities include Rock and Bewick's Wrens, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Cassin's Kingbird, Canyon Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and, occasionally, Greater Roadrunner. Once the track turns towards the Purgatoire River, summer breeders include Lewis's Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-throated Sparrow, Golden Eagle, Scaled Quail, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Eastern Phoebe. Participants can expect lots of walking, some of which is steep and uneven with limited shade. If time allows, a short side quest to nearby Higbee ought to be possible.

This trip is offered on Friday and Sunday.

Approximately 180 miles round trip.

SU9 Baca County SWAs- Moderate – Full Day

Chuck Hundertmark & Paul Slingsby

5:45 am – 4:00 pm

We'll make a loop to Turks Pond, Burchfield, and Two Buttes State Wildlife Areas, located in Baca County east of Highway 385 and containing a variety of habitats. We'll start at Turks Pond and Burchfield SWAs, two smaller areas that offer interesting potential for waterfowl and shorebirds, depending on water level, as well as migrating passerines. We'll aim to arrive at Two Buttes SWA around 11 a.m. Above the dam is the reservoir which is lined with cottonwood and rimrock. Below the

dam are tall trees, marshy ponds, and areas of grass. Potential target species are Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black-and-White Warbler, Mountain Plover, Summer Tanager, and Western Screech Owl. High clearance vehicles are recommended due the nature of the roads, especially if there has been recent rainfall. A vault toilet is at the Two Buttes Lower Dam section. Gobblers Knob Rest Area is about 20 minutes to the northwest.

This trip is offered on Friday (full day), Saturday (half day), and Sunday (full day).

Approximately 165 miles round trip.

SU10 Thurston Reservoir, Melody Tempel Grove, and Queens Reservoirs – Moderate – Full Day

David Wade, Joel Such, Owen Robertson, Kieran Schnitzspahn 5:15 am – 4:00 pm

Melody Tempel Grove, about 20 minutes north of Lamar, has an amazing tree-lined canal that attracts migrants galore. Expected species include Bullock's and Orchard orioles, migrating warblers and thrushes, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and much more. Neenoshe is the largest reservoir of the Great Plains Reservoirs. Located approximately 28 minutes to the northeast of Lamar and east of Highway 287, it is surrounded by short grass prairie. Potential target species are Black Tern, Dunlin, Snowy Plover, Whimbrel, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Burrowing Owls. Two vault toilets are available. There is very little shade.

This trip is offered on Friday and Sunday.

Approximately 48 miles round trip.

SU13 May Ranch Keynote Speaker Trip – Moderate – Full Day

Nick Komar & Megan Jones Patterson 5:30 am – 4:00 pm

Discover the 4,500 acres of high sage and sandy creek-bottom country that is both a sustainable conservation ranch and a renowned wildlife habitat. Owners Dallas May, a Colorado Parks & Wildlife commissioner, and his wife Brenda, an appointee to the board of Great Outdoors Colorado, work hard to support beaver dams that turn high plains water trickles into wetlands, which turn grasses into rushes and shade trees and aged cottonwoods good for nesting—even after an April 2022 fire destroyed thousands of acres. Intelligent and integrated ranching continues to bring back healthy foliage and wetlands as well as earning May Ranch the coveted Audubon Society endorsement as a bird-friendly place to raise beef. In addition to beavers and endangered black-footed ferrets, the May Ranch supports western and eastern plains species with a creek that forms ponds and wetlands.

This trip is offered on Friday & Sunday (full day) and Saturday (half day).

Approximately 60 miles round trip.

Workshop Descriptions

Workshops will be held after the Science Session on Saturday from 2:30-4:00 pm.

From Next Door to the Texas Gulf Coast, Finding the Best Spots to Bird

Chuck Hundertmark

Since the 1950s, birders have used bird-finding guides to help plan their birding trips. With the emergence of eBird, many birders have started using that application to find popular “hotspots”. But the eBird hotspot maps don’t provide directions to each hotspot. Now there’s a new website that provides directions and more information about every eBird hotspot in 38 states and more.

In this workshop, we’ll walk through the ways birdinghotspots.org can help you plan your birding trips in Colorado, most other states, and in a growing number of other countries. We’ll explore the ways the website links directly to eBird. The website can also be accessed through [CFO’s County Birding pages](#). Finally, we’ll explore how all of us can help grow and improve the website providing us new challenges and helping other birders.

Impaled Prey of the Loggerhead Shrike in Southeastern Colorado

David Leatherman

The loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), the only breeding predatory songbird in Colorado, is known for its habit of impaling prey on thorns, in branch crotches and on barbed wire. Its documented reasons for impaling are holding/storing prey and mate recruitment. This workshop will illustrate via photographs taken over the last few decades the varied diet of loggerhead shrikes in southeastern Colorado as evidenced by impaled prey. Some of these items are surprising, some break federal law. We will also discuss other unproven reasons for impaling such as messaging to other birds.

David Leatherman is a former entomologist with Colorado State Forest Service, a former CFO Journal Editor, and author of the *Colorado Birds* column titled “The Hungry Bird.”