



CFO Annual Convention  
Grand Junction, Colorado  
June 5-8, 2025

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 are at the Hilton DoubleTree Grand Junction except the Welcome Picnic.*

## Thursday June 5, 2025

7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Arrival field trips	
5:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Uncompahgre Evening Trip	
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Welcome picnic w/ packet pick up <i>Catering starts at 6 pm</i>	Lincoln Park, Oak Pavillion

## Friday June 6, 2025

5:00 am - 4:00 pm	Field trips (full & half day trips)	Ballroom Foyer
5:00 am - 7:00 am	Breakfast/lunch pick up	Ballroom Foyer
5:00 am - 7:00 am	Info Table w/ packet pick up	Ballroom Foyer
2:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Exhibits/Vendors open	Monument Room
4:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Info Table w/ packet pick up	Ballroom Foyer
4:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Silent Auction	Ballroom
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Social	Peachtree Terrace
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Student Social	Ballroom

## Saturday June 7, 2025

5:00 am - 4:00 pm	Field trips (full & half day trips)	Ballroom Foyer
5:00 am - 7:00 am	Breakfast/lunch pick up	Ballroom Foyer
5:00 am - 7:00 am	Info Table	Ballroom Foyer
12:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Exhibits/Vendors open	Monument Room
12:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Silent Auction (last chance!)	Ballroom
12:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Info Table	Ballroom Foyer
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Science Session	Ballroom
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Banquet & CFO Annual Meeting	Ballroom
8:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Silent Auction Payment/Pickup	Ballroom

## Sunday June 8, 2025

5:00 am - 4:00 pm	Field trips (half & full day trips)	Ballroom Foyer
5:00 am - 6:15 am	Breakfast/lunch pick up	Ballroom Foyer
5:00 am - 6:15 am	Info Table	Ballroom Foyer
5:00 am - 6:15 am	Silent Auction Payment/Pickup	Empire Room

## Monday June 9, 2025

10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Brown Park Trail Extension Trip	Maybell, CO
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# Convention Shirts & Hats

Order your exclusive convention merch with your registration – they will not be available for sale at the convention.

The 2025 convention art featured on the shirts is the work of [TJ Smith \(Stray Wild\)](#) and portrays the Colorado landscape around Grand Junction and a Scott's Oriole, a species that can be found around Grand Junction.

The shirts are from Comfort Colors and are 100% cotton. Expect some shrinkage and washing in cold water is recommended. Both shirts are available in S, M, L, XL, XXL.

The **last day** to order any of these items with your registration is May 12, 2025. Shirts cannot be purchased with Late Registration.

**Short-sleeved Unisex Shirt - \$22** - In a beautiful yam color echoing the Kayenta sandstone in Colorado National Monument. TJ says, for his other shirts, this is the most popular color!

**Long-sleeved Unisex Shirt - \$28** - In a rich brick, this shirt hints at the rich burgundy colors that the canyons look after the sun goes down.

**CFO Hat - \$25** - Embroidered CFO logo on front of ballcap.



# 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 Dietary Restriction box of the registration form and we will pass the information to the caterer.

## Welcome Picnic

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. You can purchase additional tickets for the Welcome Picnic for any non-convention attending individual.

*If you sign up for the Thursday Uncompahgre Evening trip, do not sign up for the Welcome Picnic as the trip starts before the picnic starts.*

The Welcome Picnic is catered by [Hillbilly Catering](#) and features their Hillbilly Buddha Bowls. A bowl full of flavor and vibrant goodness! Hillbilly Buddha Bowls start with a hearty base of quinoa, packed with fresh, seasonal veggies, and topped with a delicious homemade sauce. Guests can choose their favorite protein to make it their own. Naturally gluten-free and vegan to start, these bowls are a feel-good, customizable option that's sure to satisfy every guest!

### Protein Options

- Lemon Rosemary Chicken (GF)
- Pineapple Pulled Pork (GF)
- Herby Tofu with Lemon Butter (V + GF) (Contains Dairy)

## Breakfasts

For your convenience, Grab and Go breakfasts that can be picked up starting at 5:00 am each morning. All breakfasts must be ordered when you register.

Gluten-Free Option (GF): Only the breakfast burrito can be prepared gluten-free. When registering, please select your burrito option and denote that you need it gluten-free in the Dietary Preferences box.

### **Breakfast Bag Details - \$22**

In addition to your selected main option, all bagged meals come with juice and a piece of whole fruit.

### Friday

- Breakfast burrito with chorizo - tortilla filled with scrambled eggs, cheddar cheese, chorizo, peppers, and onions. (GF optional)
- Breakfast burrito w/o chorizo - tortilla filled with scrambled eggs, cheddar cheese, peppers, and onions. (GF optional)

- Breakfast burrito with vegan chorizo - tortilla filled with scrambled eggs, cheddar cheese, vegan chorizo, peppers, and onions. (GF optional, vegetarian)
- Breakfast bagel ham sandwich - Bagel with honey ham, Swiss cheese, and scrambled eggs.

#### Saturday

- Breakfast burrito w/ chorizo - same as Friday (GF optional).
- Breakfast burrito w/o chorizo - same as Friday (GF optional, vegetarian).
- Breakfast bagel bacon sandwich - Bagel with scrambled eggs, applewood smoked bacon with cheddar.
- Breakfast bagel sandwich - Bagel with scrambled eggs (vegetarian).

#### Sunday

- Breakfast burrito w/ chorizo - same as Friday (GF optional)
- Breakfast burrito w/o chorizo - same as Friday (GF optional, vegetarian)
- Breakfast bagel ham sandwich - Bagel with honey ham, Swiss cheese, and scrambled eggs.
- Breakfast bagel vegan chorizo sandwich - Bagel with scrambled egg and vegan chorizo. (vegetarian)

## Lunches

Participants on all-day field trips will need to bring their own lunches. Participants on half day trip may also want the convenience of a To Go lunch. 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.

Gluten-Free Option (GF): All sandwiches can be prepared gluten-free. When registering, please select your option and denote that you need it gluten-free in the Dietary Preferences box.

### **Lunch Bag Details - \$25**

All are served with fresh fruit, individual bags of potato chips, and a signature DoubleTree chocolate chip cookie.

#### Friday

- Turkey and Swiss sandwich - Roasted turkey and Swiss cheese on whole wheat with cranberry aioli, lettuce, and sliced tomato.
- Italian sandwich - Sliced salami and pepperoni on a baguette with extra virgin olive oil and balsamic glaze, shredded lettuce, sliced tomato, and pepperoncini.
- Italian vegetable sandwich – Sliced grilled seasonal vegetables on a baguette with extra virgin olive oil and balsamic glaze, shredded lettuce, sliced tomato, and pepperoncini.

## Saturday

- Turkey and Swiss sandwich - Roasted turkey and Swiss cheese on whole wheat with cranberry aioli, lettuce, and sliced tomato.
- Ham and cheddar sandwich - Honey ham and cheddar on sourdough with whole-grain honey mustard aioli, lettuce, and sliced tomato.
- Red pepper hummus vegetable wrap - Red pepper hummus with sliced seasonal vegetables.

## Sunday

- Italian sandwich - Sliced salami and pepperoni on a baguette with extra virgin olive oil and balsamic glaze, shredded lettuce, sliced tomato, and pepperoncini.
- Ham and cheddar sandwich - Honey ham and cheddar on sourdough with whole-grain honey mustard aioli, lettuce, and sliced tomato.
- Greek wrap - A Greek-inspired wrap with seasonal vegetables.

## Banquet

The CFO Banquet and Annual Meeting is a ticketed event. All attendees can purchase additional tickets for the banquet for any non-convention attending individual.

### Menu

Garden salad with balsamic vinaigrette or ranch dressing

Main Course Options (select when registering)

- Pork Cutlet- crispy breaded pork cutlet with white bean cassoulet and seasonal vegetables.
- Chicken Breast- Prosciutto-wrapped chicken breast with herb quinoa seasonal vegetables and a wild mushroom ragout. (GF)
- Seared Tofu - Seared tofu with herb quinoa seasonal vegetables and a wild mushroom ragout. (GF & Veg)

Dessert of assorted berries with Chantilly cream (Veg/GF)

# Venue Locations

**Convention Hotel:** Grand Junction DoubleTree - 743 Horizon Dr. Grand Junction, CO

You can find a link to book a room at the DoubleTree on the [convention webpage under Logistics](#), then Housing to get a reduced CFO block rate. Be sure to make your reservations before **May 16, 2025** to get the discount.

**Welcome Picnic:** Lincoln Park Oak Shelter -- 12th Street and Gunnison Avenue. The Oak Pavilion is south of the pickleball courts.

# Field Trip Descriptions

## General Information

All trips are limited to 16 individuals, except Saturday full-day trips (12 people). All field trips will meet in the lobby of the [DoubleTree by Hilton Grand Junction](#) unless otherwise noted. Please arrive to meet your group **15 minutes prior to the departure time**. Make sure you have picked up or brought your breakfast and/or lunches as needed.

Two weeks prior to the convention, trip leaders will contact the participants in their trip and arrange for carpooling (excluding arrival/departure trips). Plan for the carpool group to reimburse the driver at the rate of 70 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. Any trip mileage listed in this document is approximate and is intended to give participants an idea of how much driving there is likely to be. Drivers should have a full tank of gas or a fully charged vehicle prior to meeting with their group.

TH1, SA1 – All trips have an alpha-number code in their description. Please reference this code if you are asking a question about a trip.

TH – Thursday trips  
FR – Friday trips  
SA – Saturday trips  
SU – Sunday trips  
MO – Monday trip

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

Half Day – half-day trip end by 12:00 pm on Friday & Saturday, by 1:00 pm Sunday

All trip leader assignments and start times are tentative and changes may occur.

## Additional Passes/Fees

**State Parks** – Field trips that include a State Park visit will require each vehicle entering to have a Keep Colorado Wild Pass (pass purchased with vehicle registration) or a State Parks Pass (daily or annual, these can be obtained at most entrance stations or on the [CPW website](#)).

**National Parks & National Monuments** – Field trips that visit Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park or Colorado National Monument will require each driver (or someone in each vehicle) to have a [National Park Service system pass](#). Daily passes can be purchased if necessary.

**State Wildlife Areas** – Any person 16 years or older must have a State Wildlife Area Pass -or- a current hunting or fishing license to recreate on Colorado State Wildlife Areas. During the convention trips, please comply with the license/permit requirements. You can purchase your [pass online](#).

## 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

IMPORTANT: Designations of a trip as FULL is for informational purposes only. Other trips may become full between when this document was last updated and when you register. Full trips may become open if there are cancellations on a trip.

## Thursday Trips

### Arrival Trips

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

7:00 am - 4:00 pm  
TBA

We will be birding hotspots on the way to Grand Junction. Please bring your lunch. The trip leader will contact everyone to determine where to meet.

#### TH2 Arrival Trip from the Northern Front Range – Easy – Full Day

7:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Carly Crow

We will be birding hotspots on the way to Grand Junction. Please bring your lunch. The trip leader will contact everyone to determine where to meet.

#### TH3 Self-Guided Arrival Trip from Colorado Springs – Easy – Full Day

All participants who sign up for this trip will be emailed a list of recommended birding stops between Colorado Springs and Grand Junction. Bird at your own pace on your drive to Grand Junction. (No maximum participant size for this trip.)

#### TH4 Arrival Trip from Southern Front Range – Easy – Full Day

7:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Scott Shaum

Starting near Colorado Springs, this caravan trip will bird through Park, Chaffee, and Gunnison counties. We will be birding hotspots on the way to Grand Junction. Please bring your lunch. The trip leader will contact everyone to determine where to meet.



## Evening Trip

### FULL – TH5 Uncompahgre – Moderate – Evening

5:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Logan Wagner, Luke Phenegar & Brian Genge

*This trip prevents you from attending the Welcome Picnic. **Do not sign up for the Welcome Picnic during registration.***

This outing focuses on a sampling of diurnal and nocturnal ponderosa-specialist bird species on the Uncompahgre Plateau. The upper reaches of the Uncompahgre Plateau is a unique place to Colorado due to the stands of Ponderosa trees and manzanita which resemble the California Chaparral. Ponderosa specialist birds can be found here like Pygmy Nuthatch, Grace's Warbler, and Williamson's Sapsucker. The Flammulated Owl is another bird that calls this unique place home.

We will drive up to the cliffs of Unaweep Canyon where you can look down at White-throated Swifts and other pinyon/juniper birds. Then we will make our way up in elevation and habitats from pinon to scrub oak, then ponderosa, and finally, mixed aspen forests where we can find an assemblage of different birds in each habitat. At the top, the sun will go down and we will shift our focus to nocturnal species: Common Poorwill and then Flammulated Owl on the way back down.

Bring snacks, water, binoculars, a headlamp or flashlight, long pants and an extra jacket (higher elevations (8700') can be cool in the evening). Walking is minimal <1 mile.

Approximately 80 miles driven round trip.

## Friday Trips

### FR 1 Avant Vineyard Birds & Wine Trip – Moderate – Half Day

7:00 am - 12:00 pm

Nic Korte & Linda Hodges

Beautiful wetlands along the Colorado River and with a land trust easement. Birding and a moderate hike, followed by setting up scopes and watching the ponds and area until about 11. Portions of this private, riverside wetland/cottonwood gallery forest are protected by Conservation Easement. Nesting species include Wood Duck, Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, Black Phoebe, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bullock's Oriole and more. Expect a short, relatively steep walk on a gravel slope followed by easy, possibly muddy, walking. Mosquito repellent is advised.

Lunch and wine tasting with one of the best views in the valley will follow: \$12/person or couple, but with a 10% discount/bottle (not included with registration fee).

Approximately 28 miles round trip.

## FULL – FR2 Black Canyon of the Gunnison – Moderate – Full Day

5:15 am - 4:00 pm

Peter Burke & Archer Silverman

This stunning park rivals the Grand Canyon for beauty and abounds with bird life. Gray Flycatcher, Dusky Grouse, and Chukar are possible in this combination of lowland riparian, pinyon/juniper forest, cliff face, sagebrush, grassland/prairie, scrub oak forest. Common Merganser, Belted Kingfisher, Rock and Canyon Wren, and American Dipper are all possible and Pinyon Jay, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Black-throated Gray Warbler have been found along the river by some lucky birders. On the rim, some of the fastest species zip across the canyon: Peregrine and Prairie Falcons. Common Nighthawk, White-throated Swift, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, woodpeckers, flycatchers, bluebirds, and sparrows are also all possible. National Park passes are needed for each car in this trip.

Approximately 155 miles driving round trip

## FR3 Colorado River State Park East – Easy – Half Day

6:45 am - 12:00 pm

Audrey Hicks & Steve Williams

The Pear Park section of Colorado River State Park is largely undisturbed, and it offers birders the chance to enjoy a variety of riparian birding on this short hike. Boating and surface contact are prohibited on the lakes to protect the ecosystem. The Pear Park Trail section features several small lakes that are vital habitats for endangered fish species. While recreation facilities remain minimal to preserve the natural environment, birders can explore the area for a chance to observe a variety of waterfowl and other wildlife in this tranquil, protected landscape.

Approximately 15 miles driving round trip

## FR4 Colorado River State Park West & Northwest – Easy – Half Day

6:00 am - 12:00 pm

Linda Lee & Pam Lauman

This trip will include the west section of Colorado River State Park, Connected Lakes State Park and Grand Valley Audubon Nature Center & Audubon Trail section. The park has hosted a variety of rare sightings. Potential target species include Black Phoebe, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Gray Flycatcher, and Indigo Bunting. Gambel's Quail and Western Screech-Owl are present year-round, though the owl can be more elusive than the quail. Birding in this park is always full of surprises, no matter the season. The trails lead through diverse riparian habitats and small lakes, offering excellent birding opportunities. These sites include large cottonwood groves. Connected Lakes SP, part of the Colorado River Corridor, is a riparian habitat with plenty of tree-lined trails and several ponds. The majority of the trails are paved and accessible. Vault facilities are located at Connected Lakes only. Insect repellent and sun protection are also recommended.

Approximately 16 miles round trip

## FR5 Cameo and Coal Canyon, Mogensen Ponds, Colbran Bobolink Area – Easy – Half Day

5:30 am - 12:00 pm

Luke Pheneger, Brian Genge, Christine Alexander

We will listen for the distinctive calls of the Chukar echoing off the cliff faces and scan the rocky terrain where they often perch. While they can be tricky to spot, with patience and a keen eye and attentive ears, we will hope for success. The surrounding shrubland may have Lazuli Bunting, Black-Throated Sparrow, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Rock Wren, and perhaps some wild horses and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

This trip will be combined with a great spot for Bobolink in Plateau City area with Least Flycatchers, Black-Chinned Hummingbirds and Yellow-breasted Chats. In addition, [superb fruit stand](#) lies on the opposite side of the highway from Cameo & Coal Canyon!

Approximately 84 miles round trip.

## FR6 Colorado National Monument-East (GJ) – Easy – Half Day

6:00 am - 12:00 pm

TBA & John Higgins

Only 10 minutes from downtown, the immediate back door of the Grand Junction is the Colorado National Monument. Below imposing sandstone cliffs of the Colorado Plateau, trails wend through canyons with habitats ranging from sagebrush, pinyon-juniper woodland, riparian woodland, to rimrock. Peregrine Falcon and White-throated Swifts course along the rimrock while Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, Gray Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Black-throated Sparrow sing below. Year-round residents like Juniper Titmouse, Canyon Wrens, and Pinion Jays can also be found.

The best way to see these birds is away from roads and to the wetter drainages bordered by canyon walls. For this hiking-focused trip be sure to bring plenty of water, snacks, sunblock, binoculars, and sturdy shoes. The terrain is hilly and rocky—up to 3 miles and 500 ft of elevation gain and up to 1 hour of drive time.

Approximately 34 miles round trip.

## FR7 Colorado National Monument-West (Fruita) – Easy – Half Day

6:30-12:00 pm

Chuck Hundertmark & Travis Walker

Colorado National Monument, located near Grand Junction, Colorado, is a stunning National Park Service site that offers birders a unique opportunity to explore a diverse range of habitats. The park is known for its dramatic, sheer-walled canyons carved into ancient sandstone, granite, and gneiss rock formations. Situated on the Colorado Plateau, the monument features high desert landscapes, with pinyon pine and juniper forests covering the plateau. This varied

terrain supports a rich array of bird species, making it an excellent destination for year-round birdwatching.

The Fruita side would include the West Side entrance, Balanced Rock area, Visitor's Center & Alcove Nature Trail, Saddlehorn CG & Liberty Cap Trailhead Area. Sage Thrashers, Sagebrush Sparrows, and Cassin's Kingbirds would be the target species. This side could be paired with areas west and north of the Glade Park Store.

Approximately 56 miles roundtrip

## FR8 Gateway Cottonwoods & Rte 141 – Moderate – Full Day

5:45 - 4:00 pm

Jenyva Turner & Joanna Clark

This full-day trip starts in lowland riparian habitat along the Delores River in Gateway. We will be combing the cottonwoods and underbrush in search of Lucy's Warbler (this is probably the most likely spot for one during the convention). Black Phoebe and Black-throated Sparrow are also possibilities here. From Gateway, we will be stopping at locations along Highway 141 and along Divide Road as we work our way back to Grand Junction. This part of the trip will target lower elevation pinyon-juniper species, including vireos, woodpeckers, flycatchers, and other warblers such as Virginia's, Grace's, MacGillivray's, and Black-throated Gray.

Plan for 2-3 miles of walking, mostly on accessible paths, but a chance for some dirt trails with steeper inclines. Bring plenty of water, lunch and snacks, appropriate clothing for HOT weather and sunblock. There will be a limited need for scopes. There will be limited access to bathroom facilities.

Approximately 145 miles round trip.

## FR10 Grand Mesa - Land's End – Moderate – Full Day

5:45 - 4:00 pm

Crystal Reser & Natalie Vande Vuss

This trip will cover habitat from pinyon-juniper to aspen and mixed conifer to spruce fir forest. Early stops will be in pinyon juniper habitat with Black-throated Gray Warbler, Gray and Ash-throated Flycatcher among the specialties. Later stops will include riparian habitat in addition to mountain shrubs and aspen and include a good number of species. Dusky Grouse are a possibility. Higher elevation stops will include aspen and mixed conifer with good overlooks for viewing birds such as Clark's Nutcracker, Olive-sided and Hammond's Flycatcher. Grassland sparrows and Green-tailed Towhee are abundant at the Grand Mesa Visitor's Center in addition to great overlooks. This trip will consist of driving interspersed with short walking trips on dirt roads/trails.

Approximately 110 miles round trip.

## FULL – FR11 Pinon Mesa & Glade Park – Moderate – Full Day

6:00 am - 4:00 pm

John Haycraft & Mike Henwood

On this trip, we will travel through a variety of habits from pinyon-juniper to spruce-fir forest. The first stop would be in pinyon juniper habitat with Black-throated Gray Warbler as the primary target species. We will visit some sparse Ponderosa Pine habitat with Grace's Warbler – the target. We will continue on to Mud Springs Campground Day Use area which has some good aspen habitat with a variety of woodpeckers. Northern Pygmy Owl is a possibility here. We will continue through aspen and sage to the Fruita Picnic Area, which has good aspen, as well as willow carrs. Lewis Woodpecker, Fox Sparrows, Dusky Grouse, and a variety of other species might be seen in this area. At Fruita Reservoir #1, which is surrounded by spruce/fir habitat, we have the possibility of Three-toed Woodpecker, Golden-crowned kinglet, Dusky Grouse, and perhaps a Northern Goshawk. Overall, the day's list will be extensive with the variety of habitats. Should be a good variety of woodpeckers, warblers, and sparrows. Moderate trip with driving interspersed with short walking trips on dirt roads/trails.

Approximately 84 miles roundtrip.

## FULL – FR12 Rabbit Valley & North Utah – Moderate – Full Day

5:15 am - 4:00 pm

Edward Landi & Mary Geder

Right on the Utah border, this remote ridge of Sagebrush and pinyon juniper forest is among the best desert birding spots in the state of Colorado. Join us for a memorable birding trip through western Colorado and across the Utah border, where the rugged desert landscapes offer a wealth of birdlife. Our journey will take us to Rabbit Valley, nestled along the Colorado River, with its pinyon-juniper forests, rimrock outcrops, and unique sandstone formations—an ideal backdrop for birdwatching.

Along the way, this is the best spot for some of our most intriguing western species, including Scott's Oriole and the elusive Gray Vireo. We will try for both Sagebrush and Black-throated Sparrows in the shrubs and Juniper Titmouse calling from the trees. We'll also make a stop at a nearby location where Burrowing Owls are known to nest.

Approximately 80 miles roundtrip

## FR13 Rifle Gap SP & Garfield County – Moderate – Full Day

5:45 am - 4:00 pm

Diana Beatty & Gary Witt

This trip to the Rifle area in Garfield County will explore both state and local parks. The highlight of this trip will be a visit to Rifle Falls, where we'll view the amazing waterfall where we could catch a glimpse of a Black Swift! Other destinations may include the Rifle Fish Hatchery, Harvey Gap SP, Rifle Mountain Park, and several local parks and ponds. Expect a wide variety of

species including White-throated Swift, American Dipper, Wild Turkey, Black-headed Grosbeak, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird, and Black-throated Grey warbler.

Bring plenty of water, lunch and snacks, appropriate clothing for HOT weather and sunblock. Binoculars definitely, scopes will be useful for scanning reservoirs for ducks. Drivers will need a state parks pass. Plan for 2-3 miles of walking, mostly on accessible paths, but a chance for some dirt trails with steeper inclines.

Approximately 160 miles.

## FR14 Rio Blanco Busting – Moderate – Full Day

4:30 am - 4:00 pm

Sue Riffe & Angela Trnka

If you want to add as many species as possible in Rio Blanco County, this is the trip for you! Different habitats are the key to success. Here is a list of locations; Rio Blanco SWA for ducks, grebes, shorebirds, and swallows; dry scrubby areas up to Calamity Pass for all the yummy Pinyon Juniper species; several wetlands near river corridors for warblers and flycatchers; and Philadelphia Road for higher elevation species. Scopes will be handy on this trip. Let's see how many species we can find!

Minimal walking near the vehicles and short jaunts down flat trails should be expected. Bring plenty of food and water. A State Wildlife Area Pass is required for this trip.

*This trip leaves before To Go Breakfasts & Lunches can be picked up. Do not order breakfast or lunch on the day of this trip as you won't be able to pick it up.*

Approximately 300 miles

## FR15 Uncompahgre Plateau: Pinyon-Juniper, Sage, Montane Shrub, and Ponderosa – Moderate – Full Day

5:30 - 4:00 pm

Don Marsh & Helen Butts

The journey begins at the top of a steep hill climbing out of Unawep Canyon, where the road starts to wind through a variety of landscapes. The Uncompahgre Plateau is home to some of the best ponderosa pine forests in the state, as well as mixed coniferous forests, aspen woodlands, montane shrublands, and mountain meadows, making it an ideal place for birdwatching. Starting in the pinyon-juniper woodlands, we will look for Juniper Titmouse, Virginia's and Black-throated Gray Warblers, Pinyon Jay, and other species. As we climb higher, the landscape changes into ponderosa pine forests, where you might hear the drumming of a Williamson's Sapsucker or spot a Grace's Warbler in the trees. Green-tailed Towhees call from the underbrush, and Pygmy Nuthatches can be seen moving through the branches.

We will travel through aspen groves, where Purple Martins fly overhead and Red-naped Sapsuckers drum on the trunks. Higher still, the road reaches mixed conifer forests and meadows. Here, you might see a Mountain Bluebird perched on a fencepost or a Vesper

Sparrow calling from the grass. Ruby-crowned Kinglets dart around in the trees. Along the way, you may also spot a Dusky Grouse or see an Olive-sided Flycatcher perched, scanning the area for insects.

Approximately 100 miles round trip

## FR16 Uncompahgre Plateau 2: Aspen, Willows, and Riparian – Moderate – Full Day

5:15 - 4:00 pm

Scott Schaum & Kathleen McGinley

This trip takes us through diverse habitats, from lush spruce-fir forests to aspen groves and expansive meadows. We'll search for species like Canada Jay, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and American Three-toed Woodpecker in the higher elevations, and keep an eye out for the striking Purple Martin in the aspen and meadow areas. As you descend, the landscape transitions to mixed conifer forests and ponderosa woodlands, where we might spot Grace's Warbler and Williamson's Sapsucker. In the pinyon-juniper zone, we will look for Juniper Titmouse, Pinyon Jay, and Gray Flycatcher. Moderate trip with driving interspersed with short walking trips on dirt roads/trails.

Approximately 100 miles round trip

## FR17 Utah Bonderman Field Station - Easy - Full Day

5:30 am - 3:00 pm

Megan Miller & Carly Crow

Join us on a birding excursion to the Bonderman Field Station at Rio Mesa, a stunning location that offers both exceptional birdwatching opportunities and a rich environmental setting across the border in Utah. Situated on the Colorado Plateau, this 400-acre property, owned by the University of Utah, is an outdoor laboratory where the natural world intersects with research on ecology, environmental studies, and human-environment interactions.

During this trip, you'll have the chance to observe a range of fascinating species, including Lucy's Warbler, Black-Throated Sparrow, Sagebrush Sparrow, White-throated Swift, Golden Eagle, Canyon Wren, etc. More uncommon species in the area include Scott's Oriole, Gray Vireo, and Juniper Titmouse. The station's diverse habitats—from desert scrublands to riparian zones—provide ideal conditions for spotting these desert and riparian birds.

A highlight of this excursion will be the opportunity to observe some of these birds up close through bird banding activities. This hands-on experience offers a unique chance to learn about bird migration, ecology, and conservation efforts, all while contributing to ongoing scientific research. Whether you're an experienced birder or just beginning, this trip promises a memorable adventure in a beautiful and ecologically rich area of the Colorado Plateau.

Approximately 185 miles. Drivers: The last 8 miles of the road can have lots of big ruts, rocks, big cobblestones, washes, soft sand, mud, and steep drops. 4WD or AWD with clearance is needed.

## FR18 Vega State Park - Moderate - Full Day

6:15 am - 4:00 pm

Laura Steadman & Debbie Tubridy

Vega Reservoir is a large mountain reservoir at approximately 8000+ feet. In addition to the lake, shoreline, and marshy areas, there are a variety of habitats surrounding the lake which include mountain shrubland (Gambel's Oak), large aspen woodlands, stream side riparian areas with extensive willows, plus hummingbird feeders at the lodge. The trip will drive around the reservoir stopping to bird in various habitats. Birds seen around the reservoir itself will include nesting Bald Eagle, Osprey, Sandhill Cranes, and Spotted Sandpipers. Some specialties will include Willow Flycatchers, Lewis's Woodpeckers, Gray Catbird, and Fox Sparrows. Overall, there will be a large number of birds seen on this trip because of the variety of habitats. The list will include a good number of woodpeckers, plus a good variety of warblers and sparrows.

Approximately 120 miles roundtrip

## Saturday

### SA1 Avant Vineyard Trip – Easy – Half Day

7:00 am - 12:00 am

Nic Korte & Mary Geder

See description for FR1.

### SA2 Black Canyon of the Gunnison – Moderate – Full Day

5:45 am - 4:00 pm

Don Marsh & Jeremy Stringfied

See description for FR2.

### SA3 Colorado River State Park East – Easy – Half Day

6:45 am- 12:00 pm

Peter Burke & Angela Trnka

See description for FR3.

### SA4 Colorado River State Park West & Northwest – Easy – Half Day

6:30 am - 12:00 pm

Ted Floyd & Chuck Hundertmark

See description for FR4.



## **SA5 Cameo and Coal Canyon, Mogensen Ponds, Colbran Bobolink Area – Easy – Half Day**

6:00 - 12:00 pm

Helen Butts, John Higgins, Christine Alexander

See description for FR5.

## **SA6 Colorado National Monument East – Easy – Half Day**

6:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sue Riffe & Edward Landi

See description for FR6.

## **SA7 Colorado National Monument West – Easy – Half Day**

6:30 am - 12:00 pm

Logan Wagner & Megan Jones Patterson

See description for FR7.

## **FULL – SA8 Gateway Cottonwoods & Rte 141 – Moderate – Full Day**

5:30 - 4:00 pm

Diana Beatty & John Haycraft

See description for FR8.

## **FULL – SA9 Grand Mesa - Powderhorn – Moderate – Full Day**

5:45 - 4:00 pm

Tyler Stewart, Gary Witt & Joanna Clark

The trip includes the Powderhorn, Mesa Lakes, Lake of the Woods, Skyway, and Mesa Top areas, which are rich in both mountain and lake-dwelling species. Notable birds that can be spotted here include the American Three-toed Woodpecker, Williamson's and Red-naped Sapsuckers, Red Crossbill, Brown Creeper, Evening Grosbeak, MacGillivray's and Virginia's Warblers, and Band-Tailed Pigeon. The trail along Mesa Lake's shoreline offers stunning views of its crystal-clear waters, and during the warmer months, the trail is adorned with vibrant wildflowers, creating a peaceful and scenic mountain walk.

Approximately 80 miles roundtrip

## **SA10 Grand Mesa - Land's End – Moderate – Half Day**

5:30 - 12:00 pm

Nick Komar

See description for FR10.

## SA11 Pinon Mesa – Moderate – Half Day

6:00 - 12:00 pm

Natalie Vande Vuss & Audrey Hicks

See description for FR11.

## SA12 Horsethief Canyon SWA – Moderate – Half Day

6:15 am - 12:00 pm

Kieran Schnitzspahn, Pam Lauman, and Debbie Tubridy

Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area follows the Colorado River and includes over 2000 acres of wildlife habitat surrounded by cottonwood trees, wetlands, and alfalfa fields. Likely species are Gambel's Quail, Northern Harrier, Spotted Towhee, Western Tanagers, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

The trail is mostly flat on solid surfaces. Distance traveled will probably be 2-3 miles depending on what we stop to observe. This area follows the river and its primary function is for wildlife habitat, insects can be a nuisance and repellent, hats, long-sleeves and pants are recommended.

Approximately 30 miles round trip

## FULL – SA13 The Best of Delta County – Easy – Full Day

6:15 am – 4:00 pm

Luke Pheneger & Brian Genge

This trip will be a driving tour with multiple stops. Escalante Canyon, Colorado is one of the best spots to try for Chukars and Black Phoebes with canyon walls, agricultural fields, riparian corridors, and scrubby hillsides. Fruitgrowers Reservoir has grebes, swallows, shorebirds, and lots of ducks as it provides water for the farmers in the area. If you have a scope, this is a good spot to use it.

Sweitzer Lake State Park has a good marshy area and almost always has something good around. Our lunch spot is Confluence Park which is right along the Colorado River to round out our bird list for the day. Expect short easy walks, spectacular scenery, and great birds without driving too far as we explore the best of Delta County.

Approximately 50 miles round trip

## SA14 Uncompahgre Plateau 2: Aspen, Willows, and Riparian – Moderate – Full Day

5:30 - 4:00 pm

Laura Steadman & Mike Henwood

See description for FR16.

## SA16 Vega State Park – Moderate – Full Day

5:15 - 4:00 pm

Crystal Reser & Kathleen McGinley

See description for FR18.

## Sunday

### SU1 Rifle Gap State Park & Garfield – Moderate – Full Day

5:45 am - 4:00 pm

Luke Phenegar & Brian Genge

See description for FR13.

### SU2 Black Canyon of the Gunnison – Moderate – Full Day

5:00 am - 4:00 pm

Tyler Stewart & Debbie Tubridy

See description for FR2.

### SU3 Colorado River State Park East – Easy – Half-Day

6:15 am - 12:00 pm

Chuck Hundertmark & John Higgins

See description for FR3.

### FULL – SU4 Colorado River State Park West & Northwest – Easy – Half Day

5:45 am - 12:00 pm

Megan Miller & Carly Crow

See description for FR4.

### FULL – SU5 Cameo and Coal Canyon, Mogensen Ponds, Colbran Bobolink Area – Easy – Half-Day

6:00 am - 12:00 pm

Logan Wagner

See description for FR5.

## **SU6 Colorado National Monument-East (GJ) – Easy – Half Day**

6:00 am - 12:00 pm

Linda Lee & Audrey Hicks

See description for FR6.

## **SU7 Colorado National Monument-West (Fruita) – Easy – Half Day**

6:15 am - 12:00 pm

Ted Floyd & Cary Atwood

See description for FR7.

## **SU8 Gateway Cottonwoods & Rte 141 – Moderate – Full Day**

5:15 - 4:00 pm

Kieran Schnitzspahn, Archer Silverman, & Megan Jones Patterson

See description for FR8.

## **SU9 Grand Mesa - Powderhorn – Moderate – Full Day**

5:30 - 4:00 pm

Jenyva Turner & Peter Gent

See description for FR11.

## **SU10 Grand Mesa–Land’s End – Moderate – Full Day**

5:30 - 4:00 pm

Laura Steadman, Mike Henwood

See description for FR10.

## **SU11 The Best of Delta County – Easy – Full Day**

6:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sue Riffe & Travis Walker

See description for SA13.

## **FULL – SU12 Rabbit Valley & Utah Valley – Moderate – Half Day**

5:45 am -1:00 pm

Peter Burke, Gary Witt & Joanna Clark

See description for FR12.

## SU13 Rio Blanco Busting – Moderate – Full Day

6:15 am - 4:00 pm

Diana Beatty & John Haycraft

See description for FR14.

## SU14 Uncompahgre Plateau: Pinyon Juniper, Sage, Montane Shrub, and Ponderosa – Moderate – Full Day

5:15 am - 4:00 pm

Angela Trnka, Christine Alexander, Janet Gallenstein

See description for FR15.

## SU15 Uncompahgre Plateau 2: Aspen, Willows, and Riparian – Moderate – Full Day

5:30 am - 4:00 pm

Don Marsh

See description for FR16.

## SU16 Vega State Park – Moderate – Full Day

5:45 am - 4:00 pm

Kathy Kay & Nic Korte

See description for FR18.

## Monday Departure Trip

### MO1 Browns Park Trail Extension – Moderate – Full Day

10:00 am - 4:00 - ish pm Starts in Maybell, CO; does not return to Grand Junction

Diana Beatty

We will meet Monday morning in Maybell at 10a.m (Maybell is about 2 hrs 30 mins north of Grand Junction). There is a Sinclair station in Maybell that we will hope is open for gas, bathrooms, and snacks. We will then spend the day exploring the [Browns Park Birding Trail](#). Our ambitious goal is to visit 1. Browns Park NWR auto loop, 2. Dinosaur National Monument Gates of Lodore and 3. Irish Canyon petroglyph area as our top three priorities. Gates of Lodore is a National Park fee area.

We will end the trip wherever we are at 4 or 5 p.m. so that participants can reach lodging in Craig, CO or wherever they choose to make arrangements. Participants are free to break off earlier or later. This is a remote area and will not be pre-scouted so participants should plan to

bring their own food, have unpredictable bathroom access, etc. Further, since this is a departure trip there will be no trip-specific carpooling.