



CFO Annual Convention
Loveland, Colorado
May 28-31, 2025

Registration Information Packet

Schedule

The schedule is subject to change. Check the schedule on the website or the convention app for any changes prior to the convention. All activities are at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Loveland Conference Center except as noted.

Thursday May 28, 2026

7:00 am - 4:00 pm Arrival field trips
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm Welcome picnic w/ packet pick up Centennial Park, Loveland
Catering starts at 6 pm

Friday May 29, 2026

4:30 am - 9:00 am Breakfast Buffet* Cafe
5:00 am - 7:00 am Lunch pick up Lake Loveland
5:00 am - 6:50 am Info Table w/ packet pick up High Meadows
5:15 am - 4:00 pm Field trips (full & half day trips) High Meadows
2:00 pm - 7:30 pm Exhibit Hall open Snowberry/Goldenglow
4:30 pm - 8:00 pm Info Table w/ packet pick up High Meadows
4:30 pm - 8:00 pm Silent Auction Snowberry/Goldenglow
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Social High Meadows

Saturday May 30, 2026

4:30 am - 10:30 am Breakfast Buffet* Cafe
5:00 am - 7:00 am Lunch pick up Lake Loveland
5:00 am - 6:50 am Info Table w/ packet pick up High Meadows
5:15 am - 4:00 pm Field trips (full & half day trips) High Meadows
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Exhibits/Vendors open Snowberry/Goldenglow
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Silent Auction (last chance!) Snowberry/Goldenglow
12:30 pm - 4:30 pm Info Table High Meadows
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm Science Session Riverbirch
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm Banquet & CFO Annual Meeting Riverbirch
8:00 pm - 8:30 pm Silent Auction Payment/Pickup Snowberry/Goldenglow

Sunday May 31, 2026

4:30 am - 10:30 am Breakfast Buffet* Cafe
5:00 am - 7:00 am Lunch pick up Lake Loveland
5:00 am - 6:50 am Info Table w/ packet pick up High Meadows
5:00 am - 6:15 am Silent Auction Payment/Pickup Snowberry/Goldenglow
5:15 am - 4:00 pm Field trips (full & half day trips) High Meadows

Monday June 1, 2026

10:00 am - 4:00 pm State Forest/Arapaho NWR Trip Walden, CO

* Breakfast buffet & morning coffee/tea are only available to those who are guests at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Loveland or who have purchased the buffet for \$21/meal.

Keynote Speaker

Be sure to register for the CFO Banquet to be able to hear from our 2026 CFO Convention Keynote Speaker.

Muses in the Night: The Charm and Mystery of Owls and Their Power to Move Us to Action

Marion Clément, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

From ethereal silhouettes to unforgettable encounters, owls have a way of capturing our imaginations—and sometimes, changing the course of our lives. In her talk, avian ecologist Marion Clément shares how a fascination with owls first took hold and ultimately shaped her career in conservation science.

Marion explores the remarkable adaptations that make owls both captivating and challenging to study, before introducing three research efforts at Bird Conservancy of the Rockies that span species and scales: long-term monitoring of Mexican Spotted Owls and what it reveals about forest management, a volunteer-driven banding collaboration uncovering new insights into Northern Saw-whet Owls across North America, and a community-powered project focused on urban screech owls along Colorado's Front Range. Woven throughout are stories of curiosity, collaboration, and connection: revealing how people inspired by owls have become essential partners in advancing research and conservation. This talk is both a celebration of owls and a testament to the power of wonder to spark meaningful action.

Marion Clément is an avian ecologist specializing in raptor conservation and owl research. She has worked with owls since 2015, where an early American Barn Owl monitoring project sparked her passion for wildlife research. Marion spent five years as a wildlife biologist in Maryland before steering the launch of the Maryland Bird Conservancy Partnership, a nonprofit collaborative of conservation partners. She earned her M.S. from Clemson University, where she studied habitat selection of Barred Owls along an urban gradient. She moved to Colorado in 2020 to work on Threatened and Endangered Species with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and later joined Bird Conservancy of the Rockies in 2022 to lead their Mexican Spotted Owl monitoring. She also coordinates a migratory owl banding station and a community supported urban screech owl project. Outside of work, Marion enjoys biking, rafting, salsa dancing, and painting.

Convention Artwork

The art featured for our 2026 convention shirts was created by Moira Wisteria, a student at MSU Denver. The art pictures a male Chestnut-collared Longspur in its display flight with a Prairie Falcon soaring overhead. Moira has been an illustrator for over 10 years, and their passion for conservation and biodiversity has influenced their artistic style ever since they could first hold a pencil. An art major turned biology major, they blend their love of the arts and animals into each piece they create. You can find them on Instagram @moirastrapia.777

Convention Shirts & Hats

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

The 2026 convention art featured on the shirts is the work of Moira Wisteria connecting the mountains to the plains. The art portrays a male Chestnut-collared Longspur in its display flight with a Prairie Falcon flying in the background.

The unisex shirts are from Comfort Colors and are 100% cotton. These are the same shirts that were so popular at the 2025 Grand Junction convention. Expect some shrinkage and washing in cold water is recommended.

The women's cut shirt is from District and is a 50% polyester, 25% cotton, 25% rayon blend. These shirts are very soft but we are assured they are more solidly constructed than the brand of shirt we use for the Pueblo and Lamar conventions.

The **last day** to order any of these items with your registration is May 7, 2026. Shirts cannot be purchased with Late Registration.

Short-sleeved Unisex Shirt (S-4XL) - \$22 - In a beautiful blue color representing the clear Colorado skies.

Short-sleeved Women's V neck Shirt (XS-4XL) - \$22 - In a beautiful blue color representing the clear Colorado skies.

Long-sleeved Unisex Shirt - \$32 - In a rich green, this shirt hints at the grasslands and forest that we'll be visiting during the conference.

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



Manufacturer's Sizing Information

Unisex shirts

	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL
Chest	37-45 1/2	41-47 1/2	45-50 1/2	49-53	53-56	56-59	60-63

Women's Cut shirts

	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	3XL	4XL
Size	2	4/6	8/10	12/14	16/18	20/22	24/26	28/30
Bust	32-34	35-36	37-38	39-41	42-44	45-47	48-51	52-55

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 – some have costs on top of the conference registration cost. If you have a special dietary concern, please note it in the Dietary Restriction textbox of the registration form and we will pass the information to the caterers.

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.

The Welcome Picnic is catered by Fresh Plate Catering and will feature a delicious farm fresh dinner.

Breakfasts

For guests staying at the convention hotel, Embassy Suites Hilton, the hotel's breakfast buffet will be open daily from 4:30am - 9/10:30am (weekdays/weekends respectively). Plates will be allowed to be taken into the High Meadows where the field trips will be meeting and there will be a station to drop off the plates there.

Convention Participants Not Staying at Embassy Suites Hilton

Convention participants **not** staying at the Embassy Suites Hilton can purchase the Breakfast Buffet for \$21 each day.

Convention participants who do not stay at the Hilton and do not purchase the buffet will need to provide their **own breakfast and morning coffee** as these will not be available to them. There are no To Go breakfasts.

Lunches

Participants on all-day field trips need to bring lunches.

Participants on a half day trip may choose the convenience of purchasing a lunch. With your registration, you may purchase a pre-packed lunch that will be available to pick up each morning from 5:00-7:00am in the High Meadows. *All lunches must be ordered when you register.*

Gluten-Free Options: 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 textbox.

Pre-packed lunch Details - To Be Added

Banquet & Keynote Address

Enjoy a delicious meal in the company of your fellow CFO members before learning about the 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 - \$60 Chicken/Beef Entree / \$55 Veggie Entree

Garden Salad with Artisan Lettuce, English Cucumber, Heirloom Carrots, Grape Tomatoes, and Shaved Radish, and choice of Dressing

Choice of:

- Lemon Harissa Chicken: Harissa- spiced Airline Chicken Breast, Herb Jus, Lemon Orzo, and Seasonal Vegetable
- Stout-Braised Beef Short Rib: Slow-Cooked Short Rib with Braising Jus and Chef's Choice of Vegetable and Starch
- Roasted Vegetable Polenta Cake: Sautéed Vegetable Ratatouille served atop a Polenta Cake with Roasted Red Pepper Sauce and Chef's Choice of Seasonal Vegetable

Chef's Choice Dessert

Venue Locations

Convention Hotel

Embassy Suites by Hilton Loveland Conference Center -
4705 Clydesdale Parkway, Loveland, CO

You can find a link to book a room at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Loveland on the [convention webpage under Logistics](#), then Housing to get a reduced CFO block rate. The CFO room block is set for check in Thursday May 28, 2026 and check out Sunday May 31, 2026. If you want to stay outside of these dates (e.g. you want to stay for the Monday trip), make sure to manually change the dates by clicking on Edit Stay near the top of the page when making your reservation.

If you do not use the website link to make your reservation, you will not be eligible for the CFO room block discount. Reservations must be made **by April 28, 2026** to get the discount.

Rooms & Rates - all rooms are non-smoking and have a sleeper sofa in the seating area.

2 Room Suite - 1 King Bed - Sleeps 4 - \$156.00

2 Room Suite - 1 King Bed Mountain View - Sleeps 4 - \$156.00

2 Room Suite - 2 Queen Beds with Mountain View - Sleeps 6 - \$156.00

Last updated March 1, 2026

Amenities

Rooms in the CFO block come with complimentary parking, complimentary wifi, and breakfast buffet (there may be fees associated for these if you don't book with the CFO room block). The hotel has EV Charging stations. All rooms have a microwave and mini-fridge.

Check-in is 4:00 pm and Check-out is 12:00 pm.

Welcome Picnic

Centennial Park - 977 W. First Street, Loveland, CO

The park is located at the corner of First Street & Taft Avenue. The Big Thompson River runs along the north side of the park and the park is across from Jayhawker Ponds so bring your binoculars! The Welcome Picnic will be held at the only shelter in the park, near the baseball fields.

Field Trip Descriptions

General Information

All field trips will meet in the High Meadows area of the **Embassy Suites by Hilton - Loveland** unless otherwise noted. Please arrive to meet your group **15 minutes prior to your trip departure time**.

NEW THIS YEAR: Guests staying at the conference hotel have a breakfast buffet included (open 4:30am - 9/10:30am (weekdays/weekends respectively)). Guests should get their plate of food **before** meeting their group. Plates of food can be brought from the breakfast room to the High Meadows area and there will be a dish station there to drop off plates. Non-hotel guests can purchase the breakfast buffet during registration.

Anyone who ordered a To-Go lunch, should pick this up in the High Meadows area before meeting their group.

Two weeks prior to the convention, the primary trip leader 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.**

Field trips are limited to 16 people (including field trip leaders) unless otherwise noted.

Additional Passes/Fees

National Park Pass—The trips scheduled into the Rocky Mountain National Park will be done in conjunction with parks personnel and will incur a slight additional cost—please see the trip description. **No other trips will enter the park.**

State Parks Pass – Field trips that include a State Park visit, will require **each driver** to have a State Parks Pass. Colorado drivers may have purchased this pass as part of car registration. If not, these can be obtained at most entrance stations or <https://cpw.state.co.us/buyapply/Pages/AnnualPassInfo.aspx>

State Wildlife Area – Field trips that include a State Wildlife Area visit, **require everyone 16 years or older** to have a valid hunting or fishing license or a SWA pass. Passes can be purchased at <https://www.cpwshop.com/poshome.page>

Field Trip Codes

The following abbreviations are used in the trip descriptions:

- Th – Thursday trips
- Fr – Friday trips
- Sa – Saturday trips
- Su – Sunday trips
- Mo – Monday extension trip

Th1, Sa5 – All trips have an alpha-number code in their description. **Please reference this code if you are asking a question about a trip.**

Field Trip Length

- Full Day– full day trip ending at 4:00 PM
- Half Day – half day trip ending at 12:00 PM

Field Trip Difficulty Rating

- 1 – **easy**, mostly flat on solid surfaces, less than one mile walking
- 2 – **medium**, walking could include some moderate elevational changes at slower speeds, trails may be uneven, walking less than 2 miles
- 3 – **difficult**, 1000-foot elevational walking at slow speeds, uneven trails, could walk as much as three miles.
- 4- **strenuous** –extremely variable terrain; may include trekking through a river

Thursday Trips

Pre-Convention Arrival Trips

TH1 Arrival Trip from the Southern Front Range with Bird Banding Observation at Chatfield – Easy – Full Day

7:00 am - 4:00 pm
Leaders: Diana Beatty

This caravan trip will begin in the Colorado Springs area. The primary stop before the convention hotel will be to observe bird banding at Chatfield State Park. Another likely stop is to

the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Additional stops may be scheduled before the banding on the way to the convention area.

TH2 Self-Guided Arrival Trip from the Western Slope

All participants who sign up for this trip will be emailed a list of recommended birding stops between Grand Junction and Loveland. Bird at your own pace on your drive to Loveland (or on the way back if you prefer).

There are multiple travel paths to bird your way from the western part of the state to the Loveland convention. This guide provides birding locations along 4 routes. They begin in the central west region of the state, but can be picked up anywhere along the route. If you are coming from further afield and want additional stop suggestions, contact us, and we will help you.

Some stops may include state parks or other fee/pass areas and routes may include toll roads – please observe all restrictions and fees. For any route over 6 hours drive time, we suggest the full route may be better covered over two days instead of one.

Please customize your stop choices to suit your individual preferences and needs. We recommend you use eBird, paper maps, and other similar resources to research each proposed stop to guide your final choices as well as local driving/parking conditions and directions. Remember that cell service may be unreliable in some locations.

No maximum participant size for this trip.

Friday Trips

FR1a, b, c Rocky Mountain National Park – Difficult – Full Day

Note: There will be 3 versions of this trip to sign up for each day, with different leaders and start times. Please read the full description for more details.

FR1a: 6:00 am - 4:00 pm; Travis Walker

FR1b: 6:15 am - 4:00 pm; John Haycraft

FR1c: 6:15 am - 4:00 pm; TBD. This trip will be in the least accessible vehicle (*read below for details*)

\$35 Trip Fee added to Registration

Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) is a gem of the U.S. National Park System. It spans elevations from approximately 7,900' to 14,260' and contains montane, subalpine, and alpine ecosystems. Our morning will start with the drive up the canyon to Estes Park where we'll make several stops near town to look for waterfowl and warblers at Lake Estes and/or the Matthews-Reeser Bird Sanctuary. Then the group will meet up with our partners from Rocky Mountain Conservancy, board the Conservancy shuttle, and continue into the national park. The shuttle will return to the carpool vehicles at the end of the day.

Within RMNP, this trip will stop at a variety of trailheads and overlooks to look for birds in each ecosystem. Stops will depend on weather, snowpack and trail conditions, and leader preference, and vehicle (Ford Transit van, Trip C, can access non-paved roads and therefore more trailheads). There may be **up to 3 miles** of relatively flat hiking over uneven terrain, but given the elevation this could be more challenging than a similar hike at lower elevations. If

weather/roads allow, trips may go up to an **elevation of 12,000 feet** to look for White-tailed Ptarmigan. Other target species for the day include: geese and ducks; osprey, eagles, and other raptors; Red-naped Sapsucker and other woodpeckers; Clark's Nutcracker; Canada Jay; Hermit Thrush; Brewer's Blackbird; pipit; American Dipper; Brown-capped Rosy Finches; Black-headed and Pine Grosbeaks; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet; and a variety of sparrows, finches, hummingbirds, tanagers, and warblers.

Participants should dress in layers and be prepared for a range of conditions including cold, windy conditions at higher elevations. Bathrooms (vault toilets) will be available at trailheads throughout the day. Participants should bring sunscreen, sunglasses, clothing layers, food and water, and anything else necessary for a comfortable day and should be prepared to switch from carpool vehicles into shuttles and back again.

These trips are conducted with the assistance of Rocky Mountain Conservancy who will provide shuttle transportation from Estes Park to all points within the national park. The Conservancy handles all park entry fees and permits for CFO.

There is an additional per-participant cost of \$35 required for this trip to pay for the shuttle, driver, and entrance/permits. A national parks pass is not necessary for each person, nor can this additional cost be waived for people who already have a parks pass. Participants are expected to contribute to the carpool drivers driving up and back from Loveland.

Accessibility note: For Trip C, the Conservancy vehicle is a large Ford Transit van which requires a step up into the back. There is a step stool for assistance but participants should keep this in mind when registering.

Roundtrip mileage is 75 miles for the carpools between Loveland and Estes Park. Additional driving in the Conservancy shuttle can be up to 60 miles depending on stops.

This trip is also offered on Saturday and Sunday.

FR2 A Day on the Pawnee – Medium – Full Day

5:30 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Kathy Kay & Jed Smith

Explore Pawnee National Grasslands and prairie wetlands. Crow Valley Campground is a migration oasis on the western edge of the Central Flyway. It boasts 35 species of warbler on its checklist. If the weather is right, this stop can be loaded with migrants. After exploring the riparian area in the campground, we'll continue to the prairie looking for water. Where we find water, we find lots of birds. Our targets include Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Burrowing Owl, Chestnut-collared and Thick-billed Longspurs. The sparrow variety is outstanding with possible Grasshopper, Brewer's, Chipping, Lark, Vesper, Savannah, and maybe even Cassin's. Horned Larks and Lark Buntings should be common. If you like raptors, this is your trip. Just about every buteo, eagle, and falcon found in Colorado are possible.

Bring plenty to eat and drink. There will be limited restrooms available on this trip as we will be on the prairie. It will be tons of fun!

About 100 miles round trip.

This trip is also offered on Saturday and Sunday.

FR3 Wyoming Hereford Ranch – Easy – Full Day

5:30 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: David Wade & Debbie Tubridy

The Wyoming Hereford Ranch is a haven for birdlife, serving as a home for many species throughout all or part of the year. With several miles of Crow Creek winding through the property, along with numerous 100-year-old cottonwood trees, willows, spruce, and pine, the ranch offers exceptional and diverse habitat. Birders can expect to see 60–80 species regularly, representing riparian, field, and forest communities. Established in 1883, this historic working ranch blends rich heritage with outstanding natural beauty. Located about an hour from the convention, the Hereford Ranch is a stunning destination for anyone interested in experiencing birding in Wyoming.

Roundtrip mileage is 100 miles.

This trip is also offered on Saturday.

FR4 Gilpin County Busting – Medium – Full Day

5:45 am - 3:30pm

Leaders: Helen Butts & Ryan Corda

Looking to increase your Gilpin County species list? This birding trip offers an excellent opportunity to add a wide variety of mountain and foothills birds. From classic mountain species like Red-naped Sapsuckers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Mountain Bluebirds, and Fox Sparrows to the classic Pygmy Nuthatch and Mountain Chickadees, the objective of this field trip is to find as many species as possible, starting at Tolland Road where the diversity is impressive. Heading down closer to Black Hawk, we may also encounter Green-tailed Towhees, Virginia's Warblers, most—if not all—of the local swallow species, White-crowned and Lincoln's Sparrows and who knows what other delights as we make our way through this under-birded county. Exploring habitats throughout Gilpin County, this outing is ideal for building out your county list while enjoying some delightful birding terrain.

175 miles round trip.

This trip is also offered on Saturday and Sunday.

FR5 Round Mountain Hike – Strenuous – Full Day

6:00 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Irene Fortune

Maximum: 6 participants

On this trip, we will hike the Round Mountain Trail to see birds that also live in Rocky Mountain National Park, but are here at a lower elevation. Clark's Nutcracker, Dusky Grouse, Brown Creeper, Plumbeous Vireo, MacGillivray's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Saw-whet and Pygmy Owls and American Three-toed Woodpecker have been seen or heard along the trail. This trail climbs from 5,800 to 8,450 feet in 4.5 miles - it is quite steep in both directions and the footing is rocky.

Roundtrip mileage is 40 miles.

FR6 Boulder Foothills Hotspots – Medium – Full Day

5:15 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Sue Riffe & Pam Lauman

Enjoy some amazing foothill birds on this loop around Lyons and the St Vrain River corridor. Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Bunting, Rock Wren, Violet-green Swallows, Woodhouse's Scrub Jay, Green-tailed Towhee, flycatchers, woodpeckers, hummingbirds and American Dipper are some of the targets on this delightful trip. We could also get some late migrants moving through. About two miles of walking is needed on flat pavement and by slowly going uphill on dirt trails. Full day locations include Old St. Vrain Road, Deadman Gulch, Hall Ranch, feeders, Rabbit Mountain Open Space and the St. Vrain River.

Roundtrip mileage is 83 miles.

This trip is also offered as a half-day trip on Saturday.

FR7 Young Gulch (Poudre Canyon) – Difficult – Full Day

5:45 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Nathan Pieplow & Sondra Bland

Young Gulch offers a beautiful hike along a stream, with varied terrain and vegetation. Lewis's Woodpecker and Red-headed Woodpeckers breed along this trail and are probably easier to find here than anywhere else in Larimer County. Northern Pygmy-Owls are often heard and occasionally seen. It is also a hotspot for a wide variety of more common birds that breed in the lower elevation mountains, such as Plumbeous Vireo, Western Tanager, Virginia's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Western Flycatcher.

Expect steady but gentle uphill climb for 2+ miles, depending on when the group chooses to turn around; the return trip is on the same trail. The trail is unpaved, rocky in places, and there are numerous stream crossings, some on single plank "bridges" no wider than a person's foot.

Roundtrip mileage is 80 miles.

FR8 Wyoming: Curt Gowdy State Park and Medicine Bow National Forest – Medium – Full Day

5:30 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Lara Cueni & Isaac Boardman

Portion of entrance fee to be paid during trip

Want to get some Wyoming state birds? This is a trip for you! We'll travel up to Wyoming where we'll bird in both Albany and Laramie counties, visiting Curt Gowdy State Park as well as a couple of spots in the Medicine Bow National Forest. Habitats visited will include montane woodland at a variety of elevations, riparian, and reservoirs, giving us a good variety of birds for the day. Expected species include Prairie Falcon, Bald Eagles, White-throated Swifts, several species of swallows, several species of flycatchers, Red-naped Sapsuckers, Black-headed Grosbeak, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, Brewer's Blackbirds, and much more!

Bring warm layers since we're going uphill, sunblock, lunch, snacks, water, and binoculars. Scopes are helpful! Expect to walk a couple of miles throughout the day over several stops.

Expect to share entrance fees of \$22 per car (if 4 persons in the car, that's ~\$5 per person).

Last updated March 1, 2026

Roundtrip mileage is 200 miles.

This trip is also offered on Sunday.

FR9 Estes Park Loop – Medium – Full Day

6:00 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Don Marsh & Isabelle Busch

On this trip, we'll travel up to Estes Park and back! Stops will likely include Devil's Backbone and/or Morey Wildlife Area at the base of Hwy 34 in Loveland, Mathews-Reeser Bird Sanctuary in Estes Park, the town Allenspark, and Old St. Vrain Road in Lyons. Expect windy mountain roads, a decent amount of walking, and a solid variety of birds. Expected species include Lazuli Bunting, migrating warblers, mountain species such as Steller's Jay and Clark's Nutcrackers; Wild Turkeys, White-throated Swifts, Canyon Wrens, and American Dippers. Note: this trip does NOT go into Rocky Mountain National Park.

Roundtrip mileage is 88 miles.

FR10 Larimer County Busting – Medium – Full Day

5:15 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Nick Komar & Zak Hepler

This itinerary starts at high elevation in Estes Park for mountain species (White-tailed Ptarmigan, Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, Northern Pygmy-owl, Pine Grosbeak). We could get Williamson's Sapsucker, Red-napped Sapsucker, Dusky or Hammond's Flycatchers or more if we're lucky. Depending on our choices, we'll go to Lake Estes for migrants, Pygmy Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, Bald Eagle, and Osprey. Big Thompson Canyon for American Dipper, Lazuli Bunting, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Oxbow Natural Area for Eastern Phoebe, Western Warbling Vireo. The cattail pond area for White-faced Ibis, Bobolink, White-winged Dove. Dixon Reservoir for Rock Wren, Canyon Wren, Lark Sparrow. Prospect Ponds Natural Area for passerine migrants. County Road 5 grasslands for Lark Bunting, Grasshopper sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Thick-billed Longspur. Expect a long day with a trip duration 10+ hrs, roughly 150 miles, elevation range 5000 ft to 12,000 ft.

Roundtrip mileage is ~150 miles. *This trip is also offered on Sunday.*

FR11 Longmont Hotspots – Medium – Full Day

6:15 am – 4:00 pm

Leaders: Peter Burke & Jenyva Fox

The St. Vrain River runs through Longmont and has created lots of wonderful birding areas. We will visit the river, muddy edged pond, fields, a lake, a sandstone cliff, and lots of riparian habitat. With this much varied habitat, a large bird list should be guaranteed. Expect about 2-3 total miles of easy flat walking. Targets include breeding and migrant waterbirds, shorebirds, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, sparrows and warblers. Specific targets are Cinnamon Teal, Virginia Rail, Franklin's Gull, Clark's Grebe, Great Horned Owl, Rock Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bullock's Oriole, Lark Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Common Yellowthroat to name just a few. Locations include Golden Ponds Nature Area, Lagerman Reservoir, Jim Hamm Nature Area, Union Reservoir, Sandstone Ranch and St. Vrain State Park (state parks pass required).

Roundtrip mileage is 75 miles.

This trip is also offered on Sunday.

FR12 High-Elevation Birding at Guanella Pass – Difficult – Full Day

5:45 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Ryan Dibala & Diana Beatty

Join us for a full-day journey into Colorado's breathtaking alpine tundra in search of two of the state's most iconic high-elevation birds: the White-tailed Ptarmigan and Brown-capped Rosy-Finch. We'll explore the sweeping ridgelines around Loveland Pass and, weather permitting, venture to Guanella Pass, taking in panoramic views of the Continental Divide while learning about the remarkable life history, ecology, and conservation challenges that shape these elusive species.

Along the way, we'll keep an eye out for other charismatic mountain birds such as Common Raven, Red-tailed Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Horned Lark, Mountain Bluebird, Clark's Nutcracker, Pine Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, and White-crowned Sparrow. Whether you're building your alpine species list or simply eager for a memorable day in the high country, this field trip promises incredible scenery, unique wildlife encounters, and expert naturalist insight.

Be prepared for true alpine conditions. Snow will likely still be present in the high country, adding its own challenges. Microspikes or yak trax are highly recommended. Expect to cover some ground at high elevation, including some areas that are steep and likely still with snow cover.

Dress in warm layers, bring sunscreen and sunglasses, and pack food and water for the day. Restrooms are available in Georgetown and there are vault toilets at the top of Guanella Pass.

Come ready for adventure — and for a chance to witness some of Colorado's most extraordinary birds in one of its most spectacular landscapes.

Round trip mileage is 200 miles.

FR13 Estes Park - Bird Banding at the YMCA – Easy – Half Day

5:15 am - 11:00 am

Leaders: Scott Rashid & Audrey Hicks

Enjoy a morning of bird banding at the YMCA of the Rockies banding station with Scott Rashid, founder of the Colorado Avian Research and Rehabilitation Institute. During this hands-on learning experience, you will learn about the history of bird banding, tools and instruments used, safe capture techniques, bird handling skills, molt and feather condition, and species identification. Potential birds you might see and capture include Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-breasted, Red-breasted, and Pygmy Nuthatches, Cassin's Finch, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and other migratory songbirds moving through the area. The area regularly gets visits from Band-tailed Pigeons and sometimes an American Goshawk is seen.

Please bring layered clothing, hat, sunscreen, snacks, and water. Bathrooms are located on the YMCA campus not far from the banding station. There are chairs and benches near the station where you can sit, relax and watch the birdfeeders.

Roundtrip mileage is 60 miles.

FR14 Lory State Park – Medium – Half Day

6:45am - 12:00pm

Leader: Carly Crow & Andrew McFadden

Lory SP has a variety of habitats: coniferous forests, shrub/grassland, and riparian. Trails range from easy to difficult and are not paved/accessibility friendly. Potential target species include American Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-eyed Vireo, and Swainson's Thrush, nesting Peregrines. Vault facilities are located at the majority of the trailheads and the park has a visitor center which is typically open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. (dependent upon staff availability). Please bring plenty of water and snacks. Insect repellent and sun protection are also recommended. State park pass required for each vehicle.

Roundtrip mileage is about 60 miles.

This trip is also offered on Saturday and Sunday.

FR15 Fort Collins West – Medium – Half Day

7:00 am - 12:00 pm

Leaders: Sheila Webber & John Higgins

This trip will have a very short list of desired "target" species but should produce a decent species list, as we will visit some of the birdiest spots tucked between urban Fort Collins and the foothills to the west. Itinerary will be adjusted based on recent sightings. Probable stops include Coyote Ridge and Reservoir Ridge Natural Areas for grassland birds and birds of prey, and Dixon Reservoir and Grandview Cemetery for warblers, orioles, and other colorful passerines. Other possible stops include Cathy Fromme Prairie, Red Fox Meadows Natural Area, and Bingham Hill Cemetery. Target species may include Golden Eagle, *Empidonax* flycatchers, Grasshopper Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, warblers, Bobolink, and Dickcissel. Expect some walking (less than 2 miles total) on mostly flat but mostly unpaved surfaces.

Round trip mileage is about 50 miles.

This trip is also offered on Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday Trips

SA1a, b, c Rocky Mountain National Park – Difficult – Full Day

Note: There will be 3 versions of this trip to sign up for each day, with different leaders and start times. Please read the full description for more details.

SA1a: 6:00 am - 4:00 pm; Ryan Dibala

SA1b: 6:15 am - 4:00 pm; Jed Smith

SA1c: 6:15 am - 4:00 pm; Isaac Boardman. This trip will be in the least accessible vehicle (see *full description for details*)

See description for FR1. Also offered on Friday and Sunday.

SA2 A Day on the Pawnee – Medium – Full Day

5:30 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Linda Lee & Natalie VandeVuss

See description for FR2. Also offered on Friday and Sunday.

SA3 Wyoming Hereford Ranch – Easy – Full Day

5:30 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Nathan Pieplow & Helen Butts

See description for FR3.

SA4 Gilpin County Busting – Medium – Full Day

5:45 am - 4:00pm

Leaders: Lara Cueni & Audrey Hicks

See description for FR4. Also offered on Friday and Sunday.

SA5 Butterflies with Christian Nunes – Difficult – Full Day

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Christian Nunes & Diana Beatty

Join former CFO VP Christian Nunes on a fun, slow paced outing to study and enjoy butterflies on National Forest lands near Pinewood Springs. We will explore roadside riparian areas, a small hilltop and a leisurely hike along the Coulson Gulch Trail. Come with cameras in hand as we seek out areas with abundant flowers and wet mud where butterflies congregate. We will discuss butterfly identification, host plant associations, and behavior. We expect to hike the Coulson Gulch Trail ([Coulson Gulch Trail, Colorado - 1,035 Reviews, Map | AllTrails](#)) and explore areas along Larimer CR 47 and Johnny Park OHV Trail. Coulson Gulch Trail is a moderately steep trail that is all downhill one way, then all uphill to get back to the trailhead. There won't be any restroom facilities anywhere, only the great outdoors.

Round trip mileage is 90 miles.

SA6 Boulder Foothills Hotspots – Medium – Half Day

5:15 am – 12:00 pm

Leaders: Sue Riffe & Isabelle Busch

See description for FR1. With this being a half day trip, overall drive time will be less. Hotspots will likely include Old St Vrain Rd, Deadman Gulch, feeders, and McCall Lake.

SA7 Bird Banding at Pine Ridge Natural Area – Easy – Half-Day

6:00 am - 12:00pm

Leaders: Edward Landi & Stephanie Wheeler

The Pineridge Banding station, started in 2023 by Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, sits along the shores of Dixon Reservoir inside Pineridge Natural Area. This site is an excellent migrant stopover due to the high-quality riparian habitat that lines the shore of Dixon Reservoir. Participants will join Bird Conservancy of the Rockies ecologists and educators to see the banding operations up close, like the extraction of birds from mist nets, processing, and even a chance to release birds if enough are caught.

The group will spend ample time in between banding operations inside the groves of cottonwoods and willows, looking for migrating songbirds. Target species will be Northern Yellow Warbler, Western Warbling Vireo, Northern House Wren, Bullock's Oriole, Least Flycatcher, and any other rare migrants including eastern warblers.

Participants should be prepared to walk 2 miles of unpaved, gently sloped trails around Dixon reservoir, along with a visit to the adjacent Maxwell Natural Area if time permits.

Roundtrip mileage is about 40 miles.

SA8 Timnath Reservoir – Easy – Half Day

6:45 am - 12:00 pm

Leaders: Kathy Kay & Don Marsh

This trip will visit a large reservoir that is one of the top hotspots in northern Colorado in terms of species diversity. The reservoir can be accessed via a town park on one side, a multi-use trail along part (not all) of the shoreline, and at a few publicly accessible viewing spots within a developed neighborhood. Waterfowl, wading birds, gulls and terns, and late-migrating shorebirds can be abundant in late May. A wide variety of resident and migrating passerines make use of the trees and shrubs along the multi-use trail and in the park.

Expect some walking on flat surfaces that are mostly but not entirely paved. We plan to walk less than 2 miles total.

Roundtrip distance is about 30 miles.

This trip is also offered on Sunday.

SA9 Bobcat Ridge Natural Area – Difficult – Half Day

5:45 am - 12:00 pm

Leaders: Denise Bretting & Ryan Corda

Nestled in stunning red rock cliffs, Bobcat Ridge Natural Area is an excellent example of a foothills area hit hard by wildfire and how it is changing, both vegetation and bird-wise. On this trip, we'll hike one of the trails taking us through varied habitats. Species of birds we may see include Wild Turkey, scrub-jay, Canyon Wren, Spotted Towhee and more!

Roundtrip mileage is 38 miles.

This trip is also offered on Sunday.

SA10 Fort Collins West – Medium – Half Day

6:15 am - 12:00 pm

Leaders: John Haycraft & Debbie Turbidy

See trip description for FR15. Also offered on Friday and Sunday.

SA11 Loveland Birding by Bicycle – Medium – Half-Day

6:00 am - 12:00 pm

Leader: Nick Komar

Biking is an excellent way to reduce our carbon footprint while enjoying our favorite pastime. The city of Loveland hosts an excellent bicycle trail system, with mainly paved trails. For this trip, we will assemble at the Centerra Park and Ride, just a few minutes by bicycle from the Embassy Suites Hilton hotel. Please bring a hybrid or mountain bike for this trip as there are some gravel spots –although there are no significant hills on this ride. Type I and II e-bikes are also allowed. An on-call follow car with a bike rack is available to support you! Along the trails we expect to encounter a wide variety of resident and migrating birds, including land birds and waterfowl. This half day trip will loop east on the Big Thompson River Trail through Old Saint Louis and Willow Bend Natural Areas.

Expect to bike up to 15 miles.

SA12 Big Thompson & Loveland Sculpture Park – Easy – Half Day

7:00 am – 12:00 pm

Leader: Irene Fortune

Easy! birding along the Big Thompson River and Loveland Sculpture Park. Loveland offers several miles of gravel and concrete paths along the Big Thompson and irrigation ditches that are almost completely level, and offer the possibility of seeing various warblers, ducks and sparrows, perhaps Osprey, Bald Eagle and other raptors. With some timing luck, we'll see the resident Cedar Waxwing flock come for water at the Sculpture Park while enjoying the sculpture display.

Roundtrip mileage is about 30 miles.

SA13 Boulder County Reservoirs – Medium – Half Day

6:00 am - 12:00 pm

Leaders: David Wade

Twin Lakes, Walden/Sawhill Ponds and Lagerman Reservoir are fantastic hotspots in Boulder County with large bird lists. If time allows, we may add a spot or two from these other wonderful locations depending on recent bird reports: Waneka Lake, Teller Lakes #5, Baseline Reservoir, Boulder Reservoir, and Panama Reservoir #1.

Walking 2-3 miles on flat trails is required for this birdy trip. With plenty of water, lush riparian edges, and open fields, this route is sure to fill fast and be tons of fun!

Roundtrip mileage is 75-100 miles.

SA14 Lory State Park – Medium – Half Day

6:30 am - 12:00pm

Leaders: Robert Hill & John Higgins

See trip description for FR14. Also offered on Friday and Sunday.

SA15 Loveland Reservoir Gems

6:30 am - 12:00 pm

Leaders: Sheila Webber & Travis Walker

You don't need to travel far from the hotel to see some great birds! This half-day trip will explore three of Loveland's great reservoirs: Lon Hagler SWA, Ryan's Gulch Reservoir, and Bud Mielke Reservoir. We can expect to see water-loving birds including Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, pelicans, Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper, and more. Other species we will look for include Bobolinks, Western and Eastern Kingbirds, 5 species of swallows, Grey Catbirds, Yellow-breasted Chats, and so much more.

Roundtrip mileage is about 30 miles.

This trip is also offered on Sunday.

Sunday Trips

SU1a, b, c Rocky Mountain National Park – Difficult – Full Day

Note: There will be 3 versions of this trip to sign up for each day, with different leaders and start times. Please read the full description for more details.

SU1a: 5:45 am - 4:00 pm; Audrey Hicks

SU1b: 6:00 am - 4:00 pm; Lara Cueni

SU1c: 6:15 am - 4:00 pm; Megan Jones Patterson. This trip will be in the least accessible vehicle (*see full description for details*)

See description for FR1. Also offered on Friday and Saturday.

SU2 A Day on the Pawnee – Medium – Full Day

5:45 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Edward Landi & Jenyva Fox

See description for FR2. Also offered on Friday and Saturday.

SU3 Longmont Hotspots – Medium – Full Day

6:00 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Sue Riffe & Debbie Tubridy

See trip description for FR11.

SU4 Wyoming: Curt Gowdy State Park and Medicine Bow National Forest – Medium – Full Day

5:30 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Jed Smith & Don Marsh

See trip description for FR8.

SU5 Larimer County Busting – Medium – Full Day

6:30 am - 4:00pm

Leaders: Carly Crow & Matt Hazelgren

See trip description for FR10. Also offered on Friday.

SU6 Weld County Busting – Medium – Full Day

5:15 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: John Haycraft & Ryan Corda

Join us for a full-day of birding the agricultural fields, shortgrass prairies, riparian corridors, playas and reservoirs of Weld County. The objective of this field trip is to find as many species as possible, starting in the Pawnee National Grasslands, driving down towards Windsor Lake, Lower Latham Reservoir, and ending up at Saint Vrain State Park. This is an opportunity to see a wide variety of birds, from ducks and raptors, to shorebirds, sparrows, and migratory warblers. Some target birds include Common Nighthawk, Burrowing Owl, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, Lark Bunting, Chestnut-collared and Thick-billed Longspurs, and Mountain Plover.

This is a fast-paced "busting" trip, so expect to move fairly quickly throughout the day. Be prepared for a wide range of temperatures and potential windy conditions. Dress in layers, bring sunscreen and sunglasses, and pack food and water for the day. Restroom breaks will be made periodically throughout the day.

Expect to spend a long day in and out of the vehicles, interspersed with short, easy walks on flat terrain.

Roundtrip mileage is roughly 200 miles.

SU7 Chase Trip – Difficult – Full Day

5:30 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: Kathy Kay & Nick Komar

With so many sharp birders around Loveland for the convention, it's a given that we'll find some cool birds! 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.

Expect potentially high vehicle miles.

SU8 Gilpin County Busting – Medium – Full Day

6:30 am - 4:00 pm

Leaders: David Wade & TBD

See description for FR4. Also offered on Friday and Saturday.

SU9 Bobcat Ridge Natural Area – Difficult – Half Day

5:45 am - 12:00 pm

Leaders: Denise Bretting & Andrew McFadden

See description for SA9.

SU10 Timnath Reservoir – Easy – Half Day

6:45 am - 12:00 pm

Leaders: EJ Raynor & Pam Lauman

See description for SA8.

SU11 Fort Collins West – Medium – Half Day

6:30 am - 12:00 pm

Leaders: Johanna Beam & Jessica Miller

See description for FR15. Also offered on Saturday.

SU12 Golden Gate Canyon State Park – Medium – Half Day

6:15 am - 12:00 pm

Leaders: Isaac Boardman & Bryan Genge

This birding trip offers special access to a variety of locations within Golden Gate Park, providing a unique opportunity to explore its rich mountain habitats. With a bit of luck, we may spot a Dusky Grouse, but regardless of this elusive species, participants are sure to encounter a wide range of mountain birds, including woodpeckers, flycatchers, nuthatches, sparrows, and other forest birds. The outing will include several short hikes to reach high mountain meadows, lush streamside corridors, rocky peaks, and dense forest, making it a rewarding experience for both birding and scenery.

Roundtrip mileage is 150 miles.

SU13 Lory State Park – Medium – Half Day

7:00 am - 12:00 pm

Leaders: Sheila Webber & Zak Hepler

See description for FR14. Also offered on Friday and Saturday.

SU14 Loveland Reservoir Gems

6:45 am - 12:00 pm

Leaders: Peter Gent & John Higgins

See description for SA15.

Monday Extension Trips

MO1 State Forest/Arapaho NWR Jackson County Extension – Medium – Full Day

9:00 am - ~4:00 pm

Diana Beatty & Jenyva Fox

Starts at State Forest State Park Visitor Center and *does not return to Loveland*.

We will meet Monday morning at the State Forest State Park Moose Visitor Center at 9 a.m. This location is about two hours from the conference hotel. We will use bathrooms and bird the feeders there and then move on to the North Michigan Reservoir part of the park. Later, we may stop at Walden Reservoir and drive the Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge Auto Loop. Montane species like Western Tanager and Red Crossbill are possible at the visitor center, maybe even Cassia Crossbill. At North Michigan Reservoir we can try for Fox Sparrow, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Clark's Nutcracker. Walden Reservoir might produce some shorebirds or migrating waterfowl, and the Arapaho NWR will also host a variety of riparian species such as Sora.

Note: This is an informal exploration trip away from the convention area. Joining this trip means you may need to make additional lodging arrangements and have your own transportation since this trip does not return to the convention area. Please plan to bring water and snacks/food as convention food orders will not be available on Monday and the locations on the trip are not nearby many food options.