

# 42nd Annual Conference of Western Field Ornithologists

*Pueblo, CO • August 16—20, 2017*

## Conference Schedule

*Pueblo Convention Center*

### Wednesday, August 16

3:00—6:00 PM Early registration is open at the **Bernstein Brothers Room**

### Thursday, August 17

5:00—7:00 AM Registration is open at the **Bernstein Brothers Room**

5:00—7:00 AM Breakfast Grab & Go bag (**PRE-ORDERED**) available in the **Bernstein Brothers Room**

5:00—7:00 AM Box lunches (**PRE-ORDERED**) available in the **Bernstein Brothers Room**

### FIELD TRIPS: ALL TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOLING

5:30 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure

- 1TH: Custer County including De Weese Reservoir
- 2TH Holbrook Reservoir
- 3TH Phantom Canyon

5:45 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure

- 4TH: Lakes Meredith and Henry
- 5TH Huerfano County: Walsenburg and Lathrop State Park
- 6TH Cañon City

6:00 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure

- 7TH Chico Basin 1
- 8TH Pueblo Mountain Park
- 9TH Rye and Colorado City

6:15 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure

- 10TH Fountain Creek
- 11TH Chico Basin 2
- 12TH Brush Hollow and Florence

6:30 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure

- 13TH Lake Pueblo State Park, aka Pueblo Res
- 14TH Valco Ponds and Rock Creek

11 AM—4:00 PM WFO Board Meeting in the **Marriott Board Room**.

4:30—5:30 PM Registration is open at the **Bernstein Brothers Room**

### Friday, August 18

5:00—7:00 AM Registration is open at the **Bernstein Brothers Room**

5:00—7:00 AM Breakfast Grab & Go bag (**PRE-ORDERED**) available in the **Bernstein Brothers Room**

**FIELD TRIPS: ALL TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOLING; (All Field Trips return by 11 AM)**

- 5:30 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure
- 2FR Holbrook Reservoir
  - 4FR Lakes Meredith and Henry
  - 5FR Huerfano County: Walsenburg and Lathrop State Park
- 5:45 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure
- 6FR Cañon City
  - 7FR Chico Basin-Pueblo
  - 8FR Pueblo Mountain Park
- 6:00 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure
- 9FR Rye and Colorado City
  - 10FR Fountain Creek
  - 11FR Chico Basin El Paso
- 6:15 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure
- 12FR Brush Hollow and Florence
  - 13FR Lake Pueblo State Park-South Side
  - 14FR Valco Ponds and Rock Creek
- 6:30 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure
- 15FR Lake Pueblo State Park-North Side
  - 16FR Pueblo Zoo, Nature Center and other city spots
- 8:00—11:00 AM FR-ws1 Workshop: *“Birds from the Inside Out”*—Lauryn Benedict in **Meeting Room #3**
- 8:00—11:00 AM FR-ws2 Workshop: *“How to Make, Analyze, Edit, Share & Publish Recordings of Bird Vocalizations”*—Ted Floyd in **Meeting Room #1**
- 8:00—11:00 AM FR-ws3 Workshop: *“What do Birds Eat?”*—David Leatherman in **Meeting Room #2**
- 11:00 AM—12 PM Lunch break.
- 11:00 AM—12 PM Registration is open at the **Bernstein Brothers Room**
- 12:15—3:45 PM **Plenary & Science Sessions** in the **Fortino Grand Hall**
- 4:00—5:30 PM **Bird Sound Identification: Team Challenge**—Nathan Pieplow in the **Fortino Grand Hall**
- 5:30—6:30 PM Registration is open at the **Bernstein Brothers Room**
- 6:30—9:00 PM **WFO Reception**, Reception & Cash Bar in the **Fortino Grand Hall**. This reception is open to all conference registrants.
- Sponsored by **Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures**.

**Saturday, August 19**

- 5:00—7:00 AM Registration is open at the **Bernstein Brothers Room**
- 5:00—7:00 AM Breakfast Grab & Go bag (**PRE-ORDERED**) available in the **Bernstein Brothers Room**

**FIELD TRIPS: ALL TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOLING; (All SAT Field Trips return by 11 AM)**

5:30 AM	Assemble in the <b>Pueblo Convention Center</b> at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2SA Holbrook Reservoir</li><li>• 4SA Lakes Meredith and Henry</li><li>• 5SA Huerfano County: Walsenburg and Lathrop State Park</li></ul>
5:45 AM	Assemble in the <b>Pueblo Convention Center</b> at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6SA Cañon City</li><li>• 7SA Chico Basin-Pueblo</li><li>• 8SA Pueblo Mountain Park</li></ul>
6:00 AM	Assemble in the <b>Pueblo Convention Center</b> at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9SA Rye and Colorado City</li><li>• 10SA Fountain Creek</li><li>• 11SA Chico Basin El Paso</li></ul>
6:15 AM	Assemble in the <b>Pueblo Convention Center</b> at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12SA Brush Hollow and Florence</li><li>• 13SA Lake Pueblo State Park-South Side</li><li>• 14SA Valco Ponds and Rock Creek</li></ul>
6:30 AM	Assemble in the <b>Pueblo Convention Center</b> at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15SA Lake Pueblo State Park-North Side</li><li>• 16SA Pueblo Zoo, Nature Center and other city spots</li></ul>
8:00—11:00 AM	SA-ws1 Workshop: <i>“Identifying Birds by Their Sounds”</i> —Nathan Pieplow in <b>Meeting Room #1</b>
8:00—11:00 AM	SA-ws2 Workshop: <i>“The Ins and Outs of eBird: the basics to advanced use and application of eBird”</i> —Scott Somershoe in <b>Meeting Room #2</b>
8:00—11:00 AM	SA-ws3 Workshop: <i>“Identification of Shorebirds”</i> —Jon Dunn in <b>Meeting Room #3</b>
11:00 AM—12 PM	Lunch break.
11:00 AM—12 PM	Registration is open at the <b>Bernstein Brothers Room</b>
12:15—3:45 PM	<b>Plenary &amp; Science Sessions</b> in the <b>Fortino Grand Hall</b>
4:00—5:30 PM	<b>Bird Photo ID Panel</b> with Ed Harper in the <b>Fortino Grand Hall</b>
5:30—6:30 PM	Registration is open in the <b>Bernstein Brothers Room</b>
6:30—9:30 PM	Annual Meeting and Election; Banquet and Silent Auction in the <b>Fortino Grand Hall</b> <i>“He sings, she sings: Female songbirds in your backyard”</i> with Lauryn Benedict
<b>Sunday, August 20</b>	
5:00—7:00 AM	Registration is open at the <b>Bernstein Brothers Room</b>
5:00—7:00 AM	Breakfast Grab & Go bag ( <b>PRE-ORDERED</b> ) available in the <b>Bernstein Brothers Room</b>
5:00—7:00 AM	Box lunches ( <b>PRE-ORDERED</b> ) available in the <b>Bernstein Brothers Room</b>

## FIELD TRIPS: ALL TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOLING

- 5:30 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure
- 1SU Custer County including De Weese Reservoir
  - 2SU Identification of Shorebirds Field Trip to Holbrook Reservoir with Jon Dunn
  - 3SU Phantom Canyon
- 5:45 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure
- 4SU Lakes Meredith and Henry
  - 5SU Huerfano County: Walsenburg and Lathrop State Park
  - 6SU Cañon City
- 6:00 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure
- 7SU Chico Basin 1
  - 8SU Pueblo Mountain Park
  - 9SU Rye and Colorado City
- 6:15 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure
- 10SU Fountain Creek
  - 11SU Chico Basin 2
  - 12SU Brush Hollow and Florence
- 6:30 AM Assemble in the **Pueblo Convention Center** at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure
- 13SU Lake Pueblo State Park, aka Pueblo Res
  - 14SU Valco Ponds and Rock Creek

## WFO Field Trips and Workshops

**NOTE: All trips are by Carpool and will leave from the Conference Center Entrance.**

### Difficulty levels:

- Easy—flat ground some walking.
- Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.
- Difficult—fair amount of walking with elevation changes.

## FIELD TRIPS

### Thursday, August 17

**1TH Custer County including De Weese Reservoir** Leader: *Lisa Edwards*

De Weese, the largest reservoir in Custer County, is often quite productive, and is an essential stop for any Custer County lister. The lake itself often holds large rafts of ducks, and when low can have good mudflats that have attracted many shorebirds. Gulls and terns can sometimes be seen in small numbers. The grassy bluffs around the lake can often produce good-sized flocks of sparrows. Keep an eye out for hummingbird feeders on the small cabins on the way to the lake, and for sparrows and hawks on the road between De Weese and Westcliffe. The best scanning points for the lake are from the bluff on the SE side, from a similar bluff on the NE side, and from the boat ramps on the north side.

Departure Time: 5:30 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 58 miles

Time (one way): ~ 64 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **2TH Holbrook Reservoir**

Leader: *John Vanderpoel*

Rarely is such a good lake so routinely underestimated – the number of rarities that have shown up at this location given its coverage is staggering. The lake, depending on water level, can be awesome for shorebirds, terns, or waterbirds, and the grove is a first rate migrant trap. The lake can be scanned from the south side via the large parking lot, or along the west side via the rough dirt road. Look in the trees along the south side for migrants, and the southern shore for Black-necked Stilt and other shorebirds. **Note** that the trees to the south of CR FF are on private property and must be birded from the road.

Departure time: 5:30 AM

Return time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 60 mi

Time driving (one way): ~ 66 minutes

Restroom facilities: Unknown

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

### **3TH Phantom Canyon**

Leader: *Chip Clouse*

This trip follows a narrow and winding mountain road through an amazingly scenic red-rock canyon. The canyon traverses a number of habitats, starting out in cholla grassland adjacent to US-50, and quickly transitioning into pinyon-juniper woodland. Once the road joins Eightmile Creek there are some excellent patches of lowland riparian. At this point the road also enters a deep, steep sided red-rock canyon. Canyon and Rock Wrens, White-throated Swift and American Dipper are all possible from here north to the county line. As the road nears Teller County the PJ transitions into mixed coniferous forest, and the bird species mix changes accordingly, with Steller's Jays, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Cassin's Finches, and others.

Departure time: 5:30 AM

Return time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 35 mi

Time driving (one way): ~ 40minutes

Restroom facilities: Unknown

Difficulty level: Difficult—fair amount of walking with elevation changes.

### **4TH Lakes Meredith and Henry**

Leader: *Ron Martin*

This gargantuan lake just south of Lake Henry is rarely visited, which is unfortunate, since it is probably just about the best shorebird lake in the state. When water levels are appropriate, thousands of shorebirds can be seen, of practically any species. Colorado's second Ruff showed up here. The nearby Lake Meredith Feedlot Ponds can also be good for shorebirds, large numbers of gulls, and ducks. Lake Henry itself is also a rarity magnet, especially when water levels are low enough to attract shorebirds. Most of the lake can be scanned well from the road along the southern and eastern side.

Departure time: 5:45 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~55 miles

Time (one way): ~57 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

**5TH Huerfano County: Walsenburg and Lathrop State Park** Leader: *Joel Such*

The diverse habitat of this park makes it the best place in Huerfano County to find the widest variety of birds. Martin and Horseshoe Lakes are good-sized bodies of water. Riparian habitat abounds for good passerines. There are two good hikes. A fairly long one (up to 1.5 miles) begins at North Martin Inlet parking area on the north side of this lake. A shorter walk (about 1/2 mile) starts at the south end of Horseshoe Lake. On the north side, scan the hogback ridge for Greater Roadrunners & Pinyon Jays. There is a parking area and trail to the ridge on the north side of the park. On the south side of the lakes, there are good stands of yucca where Ladder-backed Woodpeckers can sometimes be found. **Note:** There is a Daily Fee of \$7/car.

Departure time: 5:45 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~54 miles

Time (one way): ~50 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

**6TH Cañon City** Leader: *Nathan Pieplow*

The Cañon City Riverwalk extends 3 miles, much of it adjacent to the Arkansas River right through the middle of Cañon City. Plumbeous Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Yellow-breasted Chat, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler and Bullock's Oriole regularly breed in many sections of the Riverwalk. Black and Eastern phoebes, Gray Catbird and Cooper's Hawk have also bred here. The Riverwalk has been quite reliable for Green Herons from May to Sept with breeding probable. Other spots on this tour include Temple Canyon Park and Tunnel Drive.

Departure Time: 5:45 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): 39 miles

Time (one way): ~ 48 Minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

**7TH Chico Basin 1** Leaders: *Don Marsh*

This is a private ranch on the plains straddling the El Paso/Pueblo County line. The bulk of the ranch is in Pueblo County but there is an excellent migrant trap on the El Paso side. There are also 5 warm water, spring-fed lakes, which can provide some interesting waterbirds on occasion. Apart from the riparian area, there is good semi-desert shrubland that supports Scaled Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Greater Roadrunner, Curve-billed Thrasher, Cassin's Sparrow, and Brewer's Sparrow. **Note:** There is a \$10 cost/person for groups over 6. Liability waivers and a registration form to be filled out prior to entrance.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 48 Minutes

Restrooms: Unknown

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

**8TH Pueblo Mountain Park** Leader: *Christian Nunes*

Pueblo Mountain Park, owned by the city of Pueblo, contains the Mountain Park Environmental Center, with well-stocked feeders worth checking anytime. The park is most enjoyable in summer and hosts large populations of Western Tanager, Pygmy Nuthatch and other mountain birds including one of Colorado's two reliable spots for

Acorn Woodpecker and the eastern most spot for Grace's Warbler. A stream runs through the park and is good for American Dipper. Habitats include spruce/fir, ponderosa pine savannah, and scrub oak/mountain mahogany.

Departure time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 31 miles

Time (one way): ~ 37 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Difficult—fair amount of walking with elevation changes.

### **9TH Rye and Colorado City**

Leader: *Marcel Such*

Stops might include Lake Beckwith Recreation Area, Greenhorn Meadows Park, Rye Mountain Park and Greenhorn Mountain on longer trips.

Lake Beckwith Recreation Area is good for waterfowl in migration. Below the dam is some of the best passerine habitat in the Greenhorn Valley. Greenhorn Meadows Park is bisected by Greenhorn Creek. It provides excellent riparian habitat which is good for passerines any time of year but especially in migration. Rye Mountain Park at the west end of town consists mainly of Ponderosa Pine and Scrub Oak habitats. The Park is an easy place to find Dusky and Cordilleran flycatchers. The willow riparian area along Greenhorn Creek near the Pavilion has nesting MacGillivray's Warblers.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 32 miles

Time (one way): ~ 32 minutes

Restrooms: Yes.

Difficulty level: Difficult—fair amount of walking with elevation changes.

### **10TH Fountain Creek**

Leader: *Sue Riffe*

This is a very popular location to look for riparian migrants in El Paso County. There are many different areas at the park and each seems to have something a little different. Most of Colorado's recorded warbler species have been seen here along with many other migrants.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~30 miles

Time (one way): ~ 29 minutes

Restrooms: Yes.

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **11TH Chico Basin 2**

Leader: *Chris Conard*

This is a private ranch on the plains straddling the El Paso/Pueblo County line. The bulk of the ranch is in Pueblo County but there is an excellent migrant trap on the El Paso side. There are also 5 warm water, spring-fed lakes, which can provide some interesting waterbirds on occasion. Apart from the riparian area, there is good semi-desert shrubland that supports Scaled Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Greater Roadrunner, Curve-billed Thrasher, Cassin's Sparrow, and Brewer's Sparrow. **Note:** There is a \$10 cost/person for groups over 6. Liability waivers and a registration form to be filled out prior to entrance.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 40 miles  
Time (one way): ~ 48 Minutes  
Restrooms: Yes  
Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

**12TH Brush Hollow and Florence**

Leader: *Forrest Rowland*

Florence River Park, located east of town, is good for migrant warblers, egrets, rails, as well as Yellow-billed Cuckoos in the late summer. Brush Hollow SWA is located a few miles north of Penrose. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Townsend's Solitaire and Juniper Titmouse can be seen in the pinyon-juniper areas on the west shore. Bushtits are seen fairly often; Ladder-backed Woodpeckers are sometimes found around the dam area; Hundreds of Mountain and Western Bluebirds frequent the fields here. Driving around the town of Penrose itself can often be a rewarding experience, with Black-chinned Hummingbirds breeding, and a good chance of running into the local Pinyon Jay flock.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 32 miles

Time (one way): ~ 37 minutes

Restrooms: Yes.

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

**13TH Lake Pueblo State Park, aka Pueblo Res**

Leader: *Jay Withgott*

Within easy reach of downtown Pueblo, Lake Pueblo State Park combines opportunities for dry scrubland birds like Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Scaled Quail, Rock and Canyon wren and Say's Phoebe with water birds including large numbers of grebes, Black Terns, shorebirds and raptors. **Note:** There is a Daily Fee of \$7/car.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): 8 miles

Time (one way): 15 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

**14TH Valco Ponds and Rock Creek**

Leader: *Doug Faulkner*

These spots are only a few minutes from the Convention Center and will be good for early migrants and residents like kingbirds (including Cassin's), phoebes and wrens. Water birds will be found in the marshes and riparian habitats will have migrants. Mississippi Kites will top the raptor target list.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): 6 miles

Time (one way): 12 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

## FIELD TRIPS

### Friday, August 18

#### **2FR Holbrook Reservoir**

Leaders: *Forrest Rowland*

Rarely is such a good lake so routinely underestimated—the number of rarities that have shown up at this location given its coverage is staggering. The lake, depending on water level, can be awesome for shorebirds, terns, or waterbirds, and the grove is a first rate migrant trap. The lake can be scanned from the south side via the large parking lot, or along the west side via the rough dirt road. Look in the trees along the south side for migrants, and the southern shore for Black-necked Stilt and other shorebirds. Note that the trees to the south of CR FF are on private property and must be birded from the road.

Departure time: 5:30 AM

Return time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 60 mi

Time driving (one way): ~ 66 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

#### **4FR Lakes Meredith and Henry**

Leaders: *Doug Faulkner*

This gargantuan lake just south of Lake Henry is rarely visited, which is unfortunate, since it is probably just about the best shorebird lake in the state. When water levels are appropriate, thousands of shorebirds can be seen, of practically any species. Colorado's second Ruff showed up here. The nearby Lake Meredith Feedlot Ponds can also be good for shorebirds, large numbers of gulls, and ducks. Lake Henry itself is also a rarity magnet, especially when water levels are low enough to attract shorebirds. Most of the lake can be scanned well from the road along the southern and eastern side.

Departure time: 5:30 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~55 miles

Time (one way): ~57 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

#### **5FR Huerfano County: Walsenburg and Lathrop State Park**

Leader: *Jay Withgott*

The diverse habitat of this park makes it the best place in Huerfano County to find the widest variety of birds. Martin and Horseshoe Lakes are good-sized bodies of water. Riparian habitat abounds for good passerines. There are two good hikes. A fairly long one (up to 1.5 miles) begins at North Martin Inlet parking area on the north side of this lake. A shorter walk (about 1/2 mile) starts at the south end of Horseshoe Lake. On the north side, scan the hogback ridge for Greater Roadrunners & Pinyon Jays. There is a parking area and trail to the ridge on the north side of the park. On the south side of the lakes, there are good stands of yucca where Ladder-backed Woodpeckers can sometimes be found. **Note:** There is a Daily Fee of \$7/car.

Departure time: 5:30 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 54 miles

Time (one way): ~50 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **6FR Cañon City**

Leader: *Christian Nunes*

The Cañon City Riverwalk extends 3 miles, much of it adjacent to the Arkansas River right through the middle of Cañon City. Plumbeous Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Yellow-breasted Chat, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler and Bullock's Oriole regularly breed in many sections of the Riverwalk. Black and Eastern phoebes, Gray Catbird and Cooper's Hawk have also bred here. The Riverwalk has been quite reliable for Green Herons from May to Sept with breeding probable. Other spots on this tour include Temple Canyon Park and Tunnel Drive.

Departure Time: 5:45 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): 39 miles

Time (one way): ~ 48 Minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **7FR Chico Basin—Pueblo**

Leader: *Homer Hansen*

This is a private ranch on the plains straddling the El Paso/Pueblo County line. There are 5 warm water, spring-fed lakes, which can provide interesting waterbirds on occasion. Apart from the riparian area, there is good semi-desert shrubland that supports such species as Scaled Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Greater Roadrunner, Curve-billed Thrasher, Cassin's and Brewer's Sparrows. **Note:** There is a \$10 cost/person for groups over 6. Liability waivers and a registration form to be filled out prior to entrance.

Departure Time: 5:45 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 48 Minutes

Restrooms: Unknown

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

### **8FR Pueblo Mountain Park**

Leader: *Nathan Pieplow*

Pueblo Mountain Park, owned by the city of Pueblo, contains the Mountain Park Environmental Center, with well-stocked feeders worth checking anytime. The park is most enjoyable in summer and hosts large populations of Western Tanager, Pygmy Nuthatch and other mountain birds including one of Colorado's two reliable spots for Acorn Woodpecker and the eastern most spot for Grace's Warbler. A stream runs through the park and is good for American Dipper. Habitats include spruce/fir, ponderosa pine savannah, and scrub oak/mountain mahogany.

Departure time: 5:45 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 31 miles

Time (one way): ~ 35 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Difficult—fair amount of walking with elevation changes.

### **9FR Rye and Colorado City**

Leader: *Joel Such*

Stops might include Lake Beckwith Recreation Area, Greenhorn Meadows Park, and Rye Mountain Park.

Lake Beckwith Recreation Area is good for waterfowl in migration. Below the dam is some of the best passerine habitat in the Greenhorn Valley. Greenhorn Meadows Park is bisected by Greenhorn Creek. It provides excellent riparian habitat which is good for passerines any time of year but especially in migration. Rye Mountain Park at the west end of town consists mainly of Ponderosa Pine and Scrub Oak habitats. The Park is an easy place to find

Dusky and Cordilleran flycatchers. The willow riparian area along Greenhorn Creek near the Pavilion has nesting MacGillivray's Warblers.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 32 miles

Time (one way): ~ 27 minutes

Restrooms: Yes.

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **10FR Fountain Creek**

Leader: *Nick Komar*

This is a very popular location to look for riparian migrants in El Paso County. There are many different areas at the park and each seems to have something a little different. Most of Colorado's recorded warbler species have been seen here along with many other migrants.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~30 miles

Time (one way): ~ 29 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **11FR Chico Basin—El Paso**

Leader: *Ron Martin*

This is a private ranch on the plains straddling the El Paso/Pueblo County line. There is a huge grove of Russian Olives, plus Peachleaf Willows and large Plains Cottonwoods. The banding station area (in migration) is probably the most birded spot, as most of the warbler species that have occurred in Colorado have been recorded here. Good semi-desert shrubland supports such species as Scaled Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Greater Roadrunner, Curve-billed Thrasher, Cassin's and Brewer's Sparrows. **Note:** There is a \$10 cost/person for groups over 6. Liability waivers and a registration form to be filled out prior to entrance.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 48 Minutes

Restrooms: Unknown

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

### **12FR Brush Hollow and Florence**

Leader: *Chip Clouse*

Florence River Park, located east of town, is good for migrant warblers, egrets, rails, as well as Yellow-billed Cuckoos in the late summer. Brush Hollow SWA is located a few miles north of Penrose. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Townsend's Solitaire and Juniper Titmouse can be seen in the pinyon-juniper areas on the west shore. Bushtits are seen fairly often; Ladder-backed Woodpeckers are sometimes found around the dam area; Hundreds of Mountain and Western bluebirds frequent the fields here. Driving around the town of Penrose itself can often be a rewarding experience, with Black-chinned Hummingbirds breeding, and a good chance of running into the local Pinyon Jay flock.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 32 miles

Time (one way): ~ 37 minutes

Restrooms: Yes.

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

**13FR Lake Pueblo State Park—South Side**

Leader: *Marcel Such*

Within easy reach of downtown Pueblo, Lake Pueblo State Park combines opportunities for dry scrubland birds like Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Scaled Quail, Rock and Canyon wren and Say's Phoebe with water birds including large numbers of grebes, Black Terns, shorebirds and raptors. **Note:** There is a Daily Fee of \$7/car.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): 8 miles

Time (one way): 15 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

**14FR Valco Ponds and Rock Creek**

Leader: *Don Marsh*

These spots are only a few minutes from the Convention Center and will be good for early migrants and residents like kingbirds (including Cassin's), phoebes and wrens. Water birds will be found in the marshes and riparian habitats will have migrants. Mississippi Kites will top the raptor target list.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): 6 miles

Time (one way): 12 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

**15FR Lake Pueblo State Park—North Side**

Leader: *Peter Gent*

Within easy reach of downtown Pueblo, Lake Pueblo State Park combines opportunities for dry scrubland birds like Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Scaled Quail, Rock and Canyon wren and Say's Phoebe with water birds including large numbers of grebes, Black Terns, shorebirds and raptors. **Note:** There is a Daily Fee of \$7/car.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): 15 miles

Time (one way): 15 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

**16FR Pueblo Zoo, Nature Center and other city spots**

Leader: *Kimball Garrett*

This trip will sample a variety of Pueblo's close in spots including the Zoo, Nature Center and others such as Lake Minnequa, Runyon Lake, Roselawn Cemetery and Mineral Palace Park. Expect migrants and Pueblo area residents, but frankly these spots are not well birded in late August so who knows what will turn up.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): 5 miles

Time (one way): 8 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking

## WORKSHOPS

**Friday, August 18**

**FR-ws1: Birds from the Inside Out**

**Workshop Leader: Lauryn Benedict:**

**Time:** 8:00–11:00 AM

**Location:** Meeting Room #3

**Cost:** \$20

**Spaces available:** 24

**Workshop description:** Why does it appear that birds' knees bend backwards? What percentage of a bird's weight comes from its skeleton? How about from its feathers? What distinguishes primaries from secondaries? Why do so many birds have wing bars in the same location? This workshop will explore these questions and other topics related to bird form. We will use museum study skins and skeletons to detect how avian anatomy produces the many characteristics that birders rely on when identifying species. The workshop will include a presentation and overview of the topic of bird internal and external traits followed by several hands-on activities that will allow for close examination of bird bones, feathers, and general appearance. We will assemble the skeletons of raptors, songbirds and more, and we will get up close and personal with a range of plumage traits on the study skins of diverse species.

**Leader's bio:** Lauryn Benedict is an Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Northern Colorado. She teaches courses on ornithology and animal diversity, and curates the University's Zoology Museum. Lauryn's research program studies the vocalizations and behavior of wild birds, including songs given by both sexes as well as nesting and habitat use behavior. She has been honored with teaching and research awards, including elective membership in the American Ornithological Society (previously the AOU), and she serves as an associate editor for the journal *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*. You can often find Lauryn observing and recording Rock or Canyon Wrens on the many beautiful public lands of Northern Colorado.

**FR-ws2: How to Make, Analyze, Edit, Share, and Publish Recordings of Bird Vocalizations**

**Workshop Leader: Ted Floyd**

**Time:** 8:00–11:00 AM

**Location:** Meeting Room #1

**Cost:** \$20

**Spaces available:** 24

**Workshop description:** Not all that long ago, only a tiny handful of tech-savvy enthusiasts made recordings of bird vocalizations. Today anybody can do it! Not only that, anybody can easily analyze and edit, and even share and publish, their recordings. In this hands-on field workshop, we will learn how it is done. No experience necessary; no equipment necessary. This workshop requires a bit of "field" work, but we won't have to leave the hotel parking lot. After we record a few bird vocalizations, we will head indoors. There we will learn how to get bird vocalizations off our recording gear and onto our laptops; from there, we'll learn about awesome free technology for analyzing and editing our recordings. Then we'll upload our recordings to Xeno-Canto and the Macaulay Library of Nature Sounds. And if we're not careful, our recordings just might work their way into the scientific paper session! In other words, don't say anything incriminating while Floyd has the record button pressed to "on."

**Leader's Bio:** Ted Floyd proudly serves as editor of *Birding*, a publication of the American Birding Association. He is also the author of various recent and forthcoming bird books, and he has published several hundred articles and papers on birds and nature. Floyd has served on the boards of directors of Western Field Ornithologists and Colorado Field Ornithologists, and he is a frequent speaker at bird festivals and ornithological society meetings.

Ted is the Cal Ripken of eBird, with a consecutive-days streak approaching 4,000 straight days of submitting at least one complete eBird checklist. He will hold the record until he dies.

### **FR-ws3: *What Do Birds Eat?***

**Workshop Leader:** *David Leatherman*

**Time:** 8:00–11:00 AM

**Location:** Meeting Room #2

**Cost:** \$20

**Spaces available:** 24

**Workshop description:** Just about everything a bird does is connected to reproduction and acquisition of food (so they can live long enough to reproduce again). This workshop is devoted to bird's food issues, specifically items that anecdotally at least, seem important to birds in Colorado but also very likely universally. During the indoor session of roughly one and a half hours, we will talk about how insectivores key on non-food items, and the particulars of Loggerhead Shrike impaling on the eastern plains of Colorado. After a break, we will go outside and look at a few examples, both pre-scouted and hopefully spontaneous.

**Leader's bio:** *David Leatherman* has been interested in nature since childhood. He obtained a Master of Forestry degree from Duke University in 1974. He moved to Fort Collins, CO in 1974, where he now lives. He served as the forest entomologist for the Colorado State Forest Service from 1974 to 2005. His major responsibilities included all aspects of the mountain pine beetle issue, forest insect outreach/teaching, and surveys. An avid birder, he is active in the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) and the recipient of Colorado Field Ornithologists' "*Ronald A. Ryder Award*" for sustained educational efforts about birds. His passion is figuring out the food habits of birds. David currently writes a column called "The Hungry Bird" in the journal "Colorado Birds."

## **FIELD TRIPS**

### **Saturday, August 19**

#### **2SA Holbrook Reservoir**

Leaders: *Mark Peterson*

Rarely is such a good lake so routinely underestimated – the number of rarities that have shown up at this location given its coverage is staggering. The lake, depending on water level, can be awesome for shorebirds, terns, or waterbirds, and the grove is a first rate migrant trap. The lake can be scanned from the south side via the large parking lot, or along the west side via the rough dirt road. Look in the trees along the south side for migrants, and the southern shore for Black-necked Stilt and other shorebirds. Note that the trees to the south of CR FF are on private property and must be birded from the road.

Departure time: 5:30 AM

Return time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 60 mi

Time driving (one way): ~ 66 minutes

Restroom facilities: Unknown

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

#### **4SA Lakes Meredith and Henry:**

Leader: *Jay Withgott*

This gargantuan lake just south of Lake Henry is rarely visited, which is unfortunate, since it is probably just about the best shorebird lake in the state. When water levels are appropriate, thousands of shorebirds can be seen, of practically any species. Colorado's second Ruff showed up here. The nearby Lake Meredith Feedlot Ponds can also be good for shorebirds, large numbers of gulls, and ducks. Lake Henry itself is also a rarity magnet, especially when water levels are low enough to attract shorebirds. Most of the lake can be scanned well from the road along the southern and eastern side.

Departure time: 5:30 AM  
Return Time: 11 AM  
Cost: \$20  
Miles (one way): ~55 miles  
Time (one way): ~57 minutes  
Restroom facilities: Yes  
Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

**5SA Huerfano County: Walsenburg and Lathrop State Park**      Leader: *Marcel Such*

The diverse habitat of this park makes it the best place in Huerfano County to find the widest variety of birds. Martin and Horseshoe Lakes are good-sized bodies of water. Riparian habitat abounds for good passerines. There are two good hikes. A fairly long one (up to 1.5 miles) begins at North Martin Inlet parking area on the north side of this lake. A shorter walk (about 1/2 mile) starts at the south end of Horseshoe Lake. On the north side, scan the hogback ridge for Greater Roadrunners & Pinyon Jays. There is a parking area and trail to the ridge on the north side of the park. On the south side of the lakes, there are good stands of yucca where Ladder-backed Woodpeckers can sometimes be found. **Note:** There is a Daily Fee of \$7/car.

Departure time: 5:30 AM  
Return Time: 11 AM  
Cost: \$20  
Miles (one way): ~ 54 miles  
Time (one way): ~46 minutes  
Restroom facilities: Yes  
Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

**6SA Cañon City**      Leader: *Chip Clouse*

The Cañon City Riverwalk extends 3 miles, much of it adjacent to the Arkansas River right through the middle of Cañon City. Plumbeous Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Yellow-breasted Chat, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler and Bullock's Oriole regularly breed in many sections of the Riverwalk. Black and Eastern phoebes, Gray Catbird and Cooper's Hawk have also bred here. The Riverwalk has been quite reliable for Green Herons from May to Sept with breeding probable. Other spots on this tour include Temple Canyon Park and Tunnel Drive.

Departure Time: 5:45 AM  
Return Time: 11 AM  
Cost: \$20  
Miles (one way): 39 miles  
Time (one way): ~ 48 Minutes  
Restrooms: Yes  
Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

**7SA Chico Basin—Pueblo**      Leader: *Doug Faulkner*

This is a private ranch on the plains straddling the El Paso/Pueblo County line. There are 5 warm water, spring-fed lakes, which can provide interesting waterbirds on occasion. Apart from the riparian area, there is good semi-desert shrubland that supports such species as Scaled Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Greater Roadrunner, Curve-billed Thrasher, Cassin's and Brewer's Sparrows. **Note:** There is a \$10 cost/person for groups over 6. Liability waivers and a registration form to be filled out prior to entrance.

Departure Time: 5:45 AM  
Return Time: 11 AM  
Cost: \$20  
Miles (one way): ~ 40 miles  
Time (one way): ~ 48 Minutes  
Restrooms: Unknown

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

**8SA Pueblo Mountain Park**

Leader: *Ron Martin*

Pueblo Mountain Park, owned by the city of Pueblo, contains the Mountain Park Environmental Center, with well-stocked feeders worth checking anytime. The park is most enjoyable in summer and hosts large populations of Western Tanager, Pygmy Nuthatch and other mountain birds including one of Colorado's two reliable spots for Acorn Woodpecker and the eastern most spot for Grace's Warbler. A stream runs through the park and is good for American Dipper. Habitats include spruce/fir, ponderosa pine savannah, and scrub oak/mountain mahogany.

Departure time: 5:45 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 31 miles

Time (one way): ~ 35 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Difficult—fair amount of walking with elevation changes.

**9SA Rye and Colorado City**

Leader: *Forrest Rowland*

Stops might include Lake Beckwith Recreation Area, Greenhorn Meadows Park, and Rye Mountain Park.

Lake Beckwith Recreation Area is good for waterfowl in migration. Below the dam is some of the best passerine habitat in the Greenhorn Valley. Greenhorn Meadows Park is bisected by Greenhorn Creek. It provides excellent riparian habitat which is good for passerines any time of year but especially in migration. Rye Mountain Park at the west end of town consists mainly of Ponderosa Pine and Scrub Oak habitats. The Park is an easy place to find Dusky and Cordilleran Flycatchers. The willow riparian area along Greenhorn Creek near the Pavilion has nesting MacGillivray's Warblers.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 32 miles

Time (one way): ~ 27 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

**10SA Fountain Creek**

Leader: *Nick Komar*

This is a very popular location to look for riparian migrants in El Paso County. There are many different areas at the park and each seems to have something a little different. Most of Colorado's recorded warbler species have been seen here along with many other migrants.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~30 miles

Time (one way): ~ 29 minutes

Restrooms: Yes.

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

**11SA Chico Basin—El Paso**

Leader: *Peter Gent*

This is a private ranch on the plains straddling the El Paso/Pueblo County line. There is a huge grove of Russian Olives, plus Peachleaf Willows and large Plains Cottonwoods. The banding station area (in migration) is probably the most birded spot, as most of the warbler species that have occurred in Colorado have been recorded here. Good semi-desert shrubland supports such species as Scaled Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Greater

Roadrunner, Curve-billed Thrasher, Cassin's and Brewer's Sparrows. **Note:** There is a \$10 cost/person for groups over 6. Liability waivers and a registration form to be filled out prior to entrance.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 48 Minutes

Restrooms: Unknown

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **12SA Brush Hollow and Florence**

Leader: *Christian Nunes*

Florence River Park, located east of town, is good for migrant warblers, egrets, rails, as well as Yellow-billed Cuckoos in the late summer. Brush Hollow SWA is located a few miles north of Penrose. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Townsend's Solitaire and Juniper Titmouse can be seen in the pinyon-juniper areas on the west shore. Bushtits are seen fairly often; Ladder-backed Woodpeckers are sometimes found around the dam area; Hundreds of Mountain and Western Bluebirds frequent the fields here. Driving around the town of Penrose itself can often be a rewarding experience, with Black-chinned Hummingbirds breeding, and a good chance of running into the local Pinyon Jay flock.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): ~ 32 miles

Time (one way): ~ 37 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **13SA Lake Pueblo State Park-South Side**

Leader: *Joel Such*

Within easy reach of downtown Pueblo, Lake Pueblo State Park combines opportunities for dry scrubland birds like Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Scaled Quail, Rock and Canyon Wren and Say's Phoebe with water birds including large numbers of grebes, Black Terns, shorebirds and raptors. **Note:** There is a Daily Fee of \$7/car.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): 8 miles

Time (one way): 15 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **14SA Valco Ponds and Rock Creek**

Leader: *Kimball Garrett*

These spots are only a few minutes from the Convention Center and will be good for early migrants and residents like kingbirds (including Cassin's), phoebes and wrens. Water birds will be found in the marshes and riparian habitats will have migrants. Mississippi Kites will top the raptor target list.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): 6 miles

Time (one way): 12 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **15SA Lake Pueblo State Park—North Side**

Leader: *Sue Riffe*

Within easy reach of downtown Pueblo, Lake Pueblo State Park combines opportunities for dry scrubland birds like Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Scaled Quail, Rock and Canyon Wren and Say's Phoebe with water birds including large numbers of grebes, Black Terns, shorebirds and raptors. **Note:** There is a Daily Fee of \$7/car.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): 15 miles

Time (one way): 15 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **16SA Pueblo Zoo, Nature Center and other city spots**

Leader: *Don Marsh*

This trip will sample a variety of Pueblo's close in spots including the Zoo, Nature Center and others such as Lake Minnequa, Runyon Lake, Roselawn Cemetery and Mineral Palace Park. Expect migrants and Pueblo area residents, but frankly these spots are not well birded in late August so who knows what will turn up.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 11 AM

Cost: \$20

Miles (one way): 5 miles

Time (one way): 8 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

## **WORKSHOPS**

### **Saturday, August 19**

#### **SA-ws1: Identifying Birds by Their Sounds**

**Workshop Leader:** Nathan Pieplow

**Time:** 8:00–11:00 AM

**Where:** Meeting Room #1

**Cost:** \$20

**Spaces available:** 24

**Workshop description:** *"It is sometimes said that expert birders make 90 percent of their identifications by ear. It is also said that no aspect of birding is more frustrating for the beginner and more difficult to master than voice identification."* So says David Sibley in the introduction to the Sibley Guide to Birds, and many birders would agree. Until recently, most attempts to teach bird sound identification have relied almost entirely on memorization techniques. This workshop will take a different approach. Nathan will work on advanced listening skills, learning how to pay attention to the fine details of a sound. In the process, we will learn a common vocabulary for describing bird sounds. Just as beginning birders learn the different parts of the bird and how to distinguish colors like "buff" and "rufous", you will learn the different parts of a sound and how to distinguish tone qualities like "burry" and "polyphonic". You will also study how to visualize sounds and read spectrograms, and you will use these skills to tackle some of the more significant audio identification challenges in the western United States, from *Empidonax* flycatchers to thrashers. No matter what your level of experience, this workshop will help you listen to sounds more analytically, describe them more accurately, and use them more effectively in identifying birds.

**Leader's Bio:** Nathan Pieplow is the author of Peterson Field Guide to *Bird Sounds of Eastern North America*. He has been fascinated by birds since his childhood in South Dakota, and has intensively studied bird sounds since

2003. He is the founder of the bird sound blog *Earbirding.com*, one of the authors of the Colorado Birding Trail, and the former editor of the journal *Colorado Birds*. Nathan teaches writing at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

### **SA-ws2: The Ins and Outs of eBird: the basics to advanced use and application of eBird**

**Workshop Leader:** Scott Somershoe

**Time:** 8:00–11:00 AM

**Where:** Meeting Room #2

**Cost:** \$20

**Spaces available:** 24

**Workshop description:** eBird has become a widely popular birding and listing tool over the last decade. The program itself has grown by leaps and bounds with amazing new features and tools, even a mobile application for submitting lists in the field in real time from your smart phone! Although eBird is an incredible tool, the power, value, and quality of eBird and the data lays with you, the user. In this workshop, we'll review the basics of eBird from how to effectively submit lists to using eBird for your birding benefit. We'll create and submit lists in the field, aka the parking lot and a city park, and review "extras" such as adding photos from both your mobile device and on a desktop. I'll also cover a lot of what we reviewers and eBird users refer to as "good eBird behaviors" with respect to submitting lists and data. New tools and uses of eBird seem to be coming out almost monthly, and we'll review a lot of the "cool" stuff you can do with eBird data.

**Leader's Bio:** Scott Somershoe is the land bird coordinator for the Migratory Bird Program, Region 6, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, based in Lakewood, Colorado, and focuses on tri-national grassland bird conservation. Scott is an avid birder, eBirder, and eBird reviewer for 3 counties in Colorado and 16 counties in Tennessee.

### **SA-ws3: Identification of Shorebirds, with Jon Dunn (workshop only, no field trip)**

#### **SA-ws3 and SU-2SU: Identification of Shorebirds, with Jon Dunn (workshop and Sunday field trip)**

**Workshop includes a classroom session on Saturday and a field session on Sunday. Registrants may sign up for the classroom session only or classroom PLUS field session. NOTE: places for field session are limited so register early if you'd like to attend both.**

**Workshop Leader:** Jon Dunn

**Time:** 8:00–11:00 AM

**Where:** Meeting Room #3

**Cost:** \$20 (SA-ws3); or \$45 (SA-ws3 and 2SU)

**Spaces available:** 12 (SA-ws3); 12 (SA-ws3 and 2SU)

**Workshop description:** If you find shorebird identification difficult, this is the workshop for you. Jon will focus on the more difficult groups such as yellowlegs, small sandpipers (peeps or stints), and dowitchers, taking lots of time to view the subtle differences in plumage and shape. Jon will use digital images and when applicable listen to distinguishing vocalizations to help you with identification. He will start with a brief overview of plumages of shorebirds and seasonable timing and routes of migration.

**Field Trip:** For the shorebird field trip, Jon will lead participants to one of the wetland areas to the east in the Arkansas River Valley, likely around one of the reservoirs. Local Colorado birders will be able to provide information about which locations are best. There is a slight chance that water levels may be very high with no location affording good shorebird viewing. In that case, the field trip will go to some other location and will focus on some other group of birds. Jon is sure you will not be bored as every day in the field provides lots of opportunities to learn.

**Leader's bio:** Jon Dunn is the co-writer and host of the two-video set *Large and Small Gulls of North America* as well as co-author (with Kimball Garrett) of *Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution* and the *Peterson Field Guide to Warblers* and co-authored (with Steve Howell) *Gulls of the Americas*. Jon has a passion for teaching

about field identification, status and distribution, both in the field and the classroom. Jon Dunn is the co-author of the seventh edition of the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* which will be out in late September 2017. He was chief consultant for the first five editions and co-author with Jonathan Alderfer for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. He is a member of the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union and has served more than 27 years on the California Bird Records Committee. He has also been on the Board of Directors for Western Field Ornithologists for over ten years. In 2012, Jon was the recipient of the ABA's Roger Tory Peterson Award, given for a lifetime of achievements in promoting the cause of birding. Beyond birds, Jon has a keen interest in history, politics and the cinema.

## FIELD TRIPS

### Sunday, August 20

#### **1SU Custer County including De Weese Reservoir**

Leader: *Lisa Edwards*

De Weese, the largest reservoir in Custer County, is often quite productive, and is an essential stop for any Custer County lister. The lake itself often holds large rafts of ducks, and when low can have good mudflats that have attracted many shorebirds. Gulls and terns can sometimes be seen in small numbers. The grassy bluffs around the lake can often produce good-sized flocks of sparrows. Keep an eye out for hummingbird feeders on the small cabins on the way to the lake, and for sparrows and hawks on the road between De Weese and Westcliffe. The best scanning points for the lake are from the bluff on the SE side, from a similar bluff on the NE side, and from the boat ramps on the north side.

Departure Time: 5:30 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 58 miles

Time (one way): ~ 64 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

#### **2SU Identification of Shorebirds Field Trip to Holbrook Reservoir**

Leader: *Jon Dunn*

Rarely is such a good lake so routinely underestimated—the number of rarities that have shown up at this location given its coverage is staggering. The lake, depending on water level, can be awesome for shorebirds, terns, or waterbirds, and the grove is a first rate migrant trap. The lake can be scanned from the south side via the large parking lot, or along the west side via the rough dirt road. Look in the trees along the south side for migrants, and the southern shore for Black-necked Stilt and other shorebirds. Note that the trees to the south of CR FF are on private property and must be birded from the road.

**Note: Only open to participants signed up for his Saturday workshop.**

Departure time: 5:30 AM

Return time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 60 mi

Time driving (one way): ~ 66 minutes

Restroom facilities: Unknown

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

#### **3SU Phantom Canyon**

Leader: *Chip Clouse*

This trip follows a narrow and winding mountain road through an amazingly scenic red-rock canyon. The canyon traverses a number of habitats, starting out in cholla grassland adjacent to US-50, and quickly transitioning into pinyon-juniper woodland. Once the road joins Eightmile Creek there are some excellent patches of lowland riparian. At this point the road also enters a deep, steep sided red-rock canyon. Canyon and Rock Wrens, White-throated Swift and American Dipper are all possible from here north to the county line. As the road nears Teller

County the PJ transitions into mixed coniferous forest, and the bird species mix changes accordingly, with Steller's Jays, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Cassin's Finches, and others.

Departure time: 5:30 AM

Return time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 35 mi

Time driving (one way): ~ 40 minutes

Restroom facilities: Unknown

Difficulty level: Difficult—fair amount of walking with elevation changes.

#### **4SU Lakes Meredith and Henry:**

Leader: *Nick Komar*

This gargantuan lake just south of Lake Henry is rarely visited, which is unfortunate, since it is probably just about the best shorebird lake in the state. When water levels are appropriate, thousands of shorebirds can be seen, of practically any species. Colorado's second Ruff showed up here. The nearby Lake Meredith Feedlot Ponds can also be good for shorebirds, large numbers of gulls, and ducks. Lake Henry itself is also a rarity magnet, especially when water levels are low enough to attract shorebirds. Most of the lake can be scanned well from the road along the southern and eastern side.

Departure time: 5:45 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~55 miles

Time (one way): ~57 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

#### **5SU Huerfano County: Walsenburg and Lathrop State Park**

Leader: *Joel Such*

The diverse habitat of this park makes it the best place in Huerfano County to find the widest variety of birds. Martin and Horseshoe Lakes are good-sized bodies of water. Riparian habitat abounds for good passerines. There are two good hikes. A fairly long one (up to 1.5 miles) begins at North Martin Inlet parking area on the north side of this lake. A shorter walk (about 1/2 mile) starts at the south end of Horseshoe Lake. On the north side, scan the hogback ridge for Greater Roadrunners & Pinyon Jays. There is a parking area and trail to the ridge on the north side of the park. On the south side of the lakes, there are good stands of yucca where Ladder-backed Woodpeckers can sometimes be found. **Note:** There is a Daily Fee of \$7/car.

Departure time: 5:45 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 54 miles

Time (one way): ~46 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

#### **6SU Cañon City**

Leader: *Marcel Such*

The Cañon City Riverwalk extends 3 miles, much of it adjacent to the Arkansas River right through the middle of Cañon City. Plumbeous Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Yellow-breasted Chat, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler and Bullock's Oriole regularly breed in many sections of the Riverwalk. Black and Eastern phoebes, Gray Catbird and Cooper's Hawk have also bred here. The Riverwalk has been quite reliable for Green Herons from May to Sept with breeding probable. Other spots on this tour include Temple Canyon Park and Tunnel Drive.

Departure Time: 5:45 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): 39 miles

Time (one way): ~ 48 Minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **7SU Chico Basin 1**

Leader: *Forrest Rowland*

This is a private ranch on the plains straddling the El Paso/Pueblo County line. The bulk of the ranch is in Pueblo County but there is an excellent migrant trap on the El Paso side. There are also 5 warm water, spring-fed lakes, which can provide some interesting waterbirds on occasion. Apart from the riparian area, there is good semi-desert shrubland that supports Scaled Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Greater Roadrunner, Curve-billed Thrasher, Cassin's Sparrow, and Brewer's Sparrow. **Note:** There is a \$10 cost/person for groups over 6. Liability waivers and a registration form to be filled out prior to entrance.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 48 Minutes

Restrooms: Unknown

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

### **8SU Pueblo Mountain Park**

Leader: *John Drummond*

Pueblo Mountain Park, owned by the city of Pueblo, contains the Mountain Park Environmental Center, with well-stocked feeders worth checking anytime. The park is most enjoyable in summer and hosts large populations of Western Tanager, Pygmy Nuthatch and other mountain birds including one of Colorado's two reliable spots for Acorn Woodpecker and the eastern most spot for Grace's Warbler. A stream runs through the park and is good for American Dipper. Habitats include spruce/fir, ponderosa pine savannah, and scrub oak/mountain mahogany.

Departure time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 31 miles

Time (one way): ~ 37 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Difficult—fair amount of walking with elevation changes.

### **9SU Rye and Colorado City**

Leader: *Mark Peterson*

Stops might include Lake Beckwith Recreation Area, Greenhorn Meadows Park, Rye Mountain Park, and Greenhorn Mountain on longer trips.

Lake Beckwith Recreation Area is good for waterfowl in migration. Below the dam is some of the best passerine habitat in the Greenhorn Valley. Greenhorn Meadows Park is bisected by Greenhorn Creek. It provides excellent riparian habitat which is good for passerines any time of year but especially in migration. Rye Mountain Park at the west end of town consists mainly of Ponderosa Pine and Scrub Oak habitats. The Park is an easy place to find Dusky and Cordilleran Flycatchers. The willow riparian area along Greenhorn Creek near the Pavilion has nesting MacGillivray's Warblers.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 32 miles

Time (one way): ~ 32 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Difficult—fair amount of walking with elevation changes.

### **10SU Fountain Creek**

Leader: *Gloria Nikolai*

This is a very popular location to look for riparian migrants in El Paso County. There are many different areas at the park and each seems to have something a little different. Most of Colorado's recorded warbler species have been seen here along with many other migrants.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~30 miles

Time (one way): ~ 29 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **11SU Chico Basin 2**

Leaders: *Aaron Shipe*

This is a private ranch on the plains straddling the El Paso/Pueblo County line. The bulk of the ranch is in Pueblo County but there is an excellent migrant trap on the El Paso side. There are also 5 warm water, spring-fed lakes, which can provide some interesting waterbirds on occasion. Apart from the riparian area, there is good semi-desert shrubland that supports Scaled Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Greater Roadrunner, Curve-billed Thrasher, Cassin's Sparrow, and Brewer's Sparrow. **Note:** There is a \$10 cost/person for groups over 6. Liability waivers and a registration form to be filled out prior to entrance.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 48 Minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy—flat ground some walking.

### **12SU Brush Hollow and Florence**

Leader: *Ron Martin*

Florence River Park, located east of town, is good for migrant warblers, egrets, rails, as well as Yellow-billed Cuckoos in the late summer. Brush Hollow SWA is located a few miles north of Penrose. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Townsend's Solitaire and Juniper Titmouse can be seen in the pinyon-juniper areas on the west shore. Bushtits are seen fairly often; Ladder-backed Woodpeckers are sometimes found around the dam area; Hundreds of Mountain and Western Bluebirds frequent the fields here. Driving around the town of Penrose itself can often be a rewarding experience, with Black-chinned Hummingbirds breeding, and a good chance of running into the local Pinyon Jay flock.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): ~ 32 miles

Time (one way): ~ 37 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

### **13SU Lake Pueblo State Park, aka Pueblo Res**

Leader: *Dale & Joel Adams*

Within easy reach of downtown Pueblo, Lake Pueblo State Park combines opportunities for dry scrubland birds like Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Scaled Quail, Rock and Canyon Wren and Say's Phoebe with water birds including large numbers of grebes, Black Terns, shorebirds and raptors. **Note:** There is a Daily Fee of \$7/car.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): 8 miles

Time (one way): 15 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

**14SU Valco Ponds and Rock Creek**

Leader *Chris Conard*

These spots are only a few minutes from the Convention Center and will be good for early migrants and residents like kingbirds (including Cassin's), phoebes and wrens. Water birds will be found in the marshes and riparian habitats will have migrants. Mississippi Kites will top the raptor target list.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Miles (one way): 6 miles

Time (one way): 12 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.