

the Warbler



FIELD TRIPS, TRAVEL & PROGRAMS

Front Range Birding

Saturday, March 2, 8am –12pm

Saturday, April 6, 8am –12pm

Meet for coffee and continental breakfast at the feeder patio of Front Range Birding Company's new location. After watching for area birds, the group will carpool to bird nearby front range hot spots, with guidance from Audubon Master Birders Tom Bush, Chuck Aid, and Megan Miller. No fee.

Meeting Place: Front Range Birding Company, 10146 West San Juan Way, suite 110, Littleton, CO 80127, NW corner of Kipling and C-470 near the Texas Roadhouse.

Registration required: 303-979-2473, The Front Range Birding Company.



Red-Tailed Hawk courtesy Wikipedia

Walk the Wetlands

Sunday, March 3, 9am

Sunday, April 7, 8am (Notice the time change to the summer schedule)

Walk about 3 miles along the South Platte River exploring pond, riparian, and grassland habitats for spring residents. Trails are moderately easy, but do contain rocks, tree roots and poison ivy. Dress for the weather. Bring a scope if you have one; some loaner equipment may be available.

Activity Level: Some of the trails are narrow and moderately steep for a few feet. Elevation 5430 ft.

Leaders: Audubon Master Birders

Meeting Place: Audubon Center at Chatfield

Registration not required: Donations to ASGD appreciated



Male Mallards by Rex Nelson

Field Trips & Programs

Audubon Oil Painting Workshop

Mondays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1

6:00-8:30pm

Always wanted to try your hand at Oil painting? Or are you already painting but want to expand your skill set? Join artist Raz Seri as he teaches an introductory oil painting workshop that focuses on painting from life. Weekly classes will be held at the Audubon office at Chatfield State Park where students will learn the basics of oil painting, everything from composition to color mixing to the finishing touches. Raz' passion for painting and energetic teaching style will inspire you as you tap into your creative side and learn a new way of looking at the world.

Raz Seri, born in Israel, moved to Italy to study classical painting styles. After graduating from his 3 year drawing and painting program at Florence Academy of Art he moved to Denver with his wife. Raz is passionate about his art and he is currently focusing on portrait and landscape work. To see Raz' work visit www.razseri.wordpress.com

Summary of classes:

Week One: Introduction, prepare canvas, start drawings. Week Two: Transfer drawings, color mixing basics, composition basics.

Week Three: Values and tones, lecture "What you see" vs. "What you think you see."

Week Four: Intermediate color mixing, building up composition, shapes vs. lines.

Week Five: Creating a focal point and finishing painting.

Students are required to supply their own materials. This includes easels, paints, brushes and oils. A full list of materials is available online on the ASGD website.

Click here <http://www.denveraudubon.org/programs/adult-classes/> for more information.

Meeting Place: Please call for nighttime directions to the ASGD office.

303-973-9530. Directions will also be given upon registration.

Registration required: \$150/person



American Goldfinch courtesy Wikipedia

Guided Bird Walk in Ponderosa Preserve

In Partnership with Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space

Saturday, March 9, 8:30-10:30am

Enjoy montane ecosystem birding in a prairie setting. We will look for pygmy nuthatches, American and lesser goldfinches, lark sparrows, raptors and more on this Aurora ponderosa pine savannah open space property. BBFGWS. *No fee. Registration required: For registration, directions and additional information, please call 303-739-2428 or email nature@auroragov.org.*

Wildlife and Wine

Saturday, March 9, 7-9:30pm

Saturday, April 13, 7-9:30pm

Tap into your creativity while savoring a glass of wine. Join local artist Raz Seri for an evening of painting and wine. Raz will provide step by step instruction to teach us how to express the colors and textures of the natural world on canvas! No experience required! Materials included. We will be painting a scrub jay in March and a butterfly in April.

*Meeting Place: Audubon Office at Chatfield
(9308 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Littleton CO 80128).*

Please call for nighttime directions to the ASGD office 303-973-9530; directions will also be given upon registration.

Registration required: (Limited to 15 people) \$25 ASGD members; \$30 non-members (21 yrs. and older only) Classes may be cancelled if there is not enough interest.

Note: Please bring your own smock!

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Field Trips & Programs (cont.)

Cherry Creek Wetlands Loop

Sunday, March 10, 8am (Daylight Savings Time begins)

Sunday, April 14, 8am

Here is your opportunity to participate in a new field trip at Cherry Creek State Park, on the second Sunday of every month. This half-day walk begins at the Prairie Loop and passes through

most of the important habitats found in the park. The distance is about 3 miles and trails could be muddy and slippery during inclement weather.

Dress accordingly and in layers. Carry water and snacks. Lunch is optional. Binoculars are recommended.

Beginning birders are welcome. Trip leaders will compile a monthly bird list of total species and individuals seen.



Mallard by Dick Vogel

Leaders: Karen von Saltza (cell 303-941-4881) and other Audubon Master Birders

Meeting Place: Cherry Creek State Park-Prairie Loop (From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to Prairie Loop located at the South rim of the reservoir)

Registration not required; State park pass is required.

Little Fledglings Preschool Nature Hour

For Children ages 3-6 (and parent/guardians, too!)

Explore a theme each week with stories, songs, crafts, and activities exploring wildlife and the natural world. This program introduces science skills and encourages active outdoor play.

Wednesdays, March 6 & 20, 10-11am

Busy Beavers 1: Why do Beavers Chew Wood? – Come be a nature detective and learn why beavers chew wood. What do beavers eat? Where do they live? Come discover the secret lives of beavers!

Busy Beavers 2: Who Builds Dams? – Why are there so many dams in the South Platte river? Who builds them? Why are they important? Learn about

beavers and what keeps them so busy!

Wednesdays, April 3 & 17, 10-11am

Animal X-Ray's: Who has a backbone?– Come discover the many different creatures that live among us! Some have backbones and others don't! Learn why having a backbone is important!

Creepy Crawly Critters! – Ewww, Bugs! Come catch bugs and learn what they are called. Some bugs are big, some are tiny, and others are smelly! Discover more about insects and learn how important they are!

Meeting Place: Audubon Center at Chatfield.

*Registration Required: Friends Members: \$5 per child and their adult; \$2 each additional child
Non-members: \$8 per child and their adult; \$4 each additional child*

****Become a member of ASGD and you are eligible for a reduced rate Little Fledglings punch-card! Get 6 classes for only \$4 per class! Punch-card rates: \$24 for 1 child, \$36 for 2 children, or \$48 for 3 children. Your membership with ASGD also gives you and your family reduced rates for all ASGD events such as our Nocturnal Wildlife Hikes, Hummingbird Hustle, & HOOTenanny!**

Nocturnal Wildlife Hike

Friday, March 15, 7pm–9pm

Friday, April 19, 7pm-9pm

Join us at the Audubon Nature Center to discover who is out and about at night and what activities these creatures are up to! Discover the wonders of the night sky, not only who flies through it, but also the stars and constellations that shine bright! Please wear shoes to hike in, weather appropriate clothing, and bring a flashlight if you'd like.

**If the weather is inclement, this outing may be cancelled. Please call our office (303-973-9530) before 4pm the day of the hike to see if it has been canceled.*

Meeting Place: Audubon Center at Chatfield

Registration required: \$5 ASGD members; \$8 non-members; \$12 per member family; \$20 per non-member family. (Family = 3 or more people)

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Field Trips & Programs (cont.)

Bear Creek Park

In Partnership with Denver Parks and Recreation

Saturday, March 16, 9am-11am

We will walk along Bear Creek in this 80 acre natural area to see what birds are around and what the local beavers have been up to. The walk should be along the creek on easy metro area paths. Please dress for the weather. BBFGSW.

Meeting Place: Bear Creek Park near Hwy 285 and Sheridan Blvd. Go east on Dartmouth from Sheridan Blvd, south on S. Raleigh under 285 to the far west parking lot by the creek.

Leader: Karen Bickett, Audubon Master Birder

Registration required. No fee. Donations to ASGD are appreciated.

Welcome Bluebirds!

Saturday, March 30, 9am-12pm

Join us as we celebrate the return of the bluebirds. Learn how to build a bluebird box and monitor it. Tour the bluebird boxes on site and see if you can spot some of the returning bluebirds. Join Kevin Corwin for a presentation on the Bluebird Project: A Helping Hand. Make a bluebird craft and learn what to feed bluebirds to attract them to your own backyard.

Meeting Place: Audubon Center at Chatfield

Registration NOT required:

Donations to ASGD are appreciated.

Bluebird boxes \$25.



Mountain Bluebird by Dick Vogel

Nesting Raptors of the Front Range

Saturday, March 30, 9am-3pm

Saturday, April 6, 9am-3pm

Back by popular demand. What's in that nest? Follow Audubon Master Birders Kris Koff and Tom Bush on a car caravan to view bald eagles, great-horned owls, and red-tailed hawks tending their nests. This is a car trip with stops along public roads with very little walking. Stops are brief and not suitable for extended photo studies. Bring your lunch or buy at the Safeway deli where we will eat lunch and discuss trip highlights. BBFGWS.

Pick one day. Limit 12 participants each day.

Meeting Place: I-25 to Exit #225 at 136th Ave. Meet at Walmart parking lot on west side of I-25.

Leaders: Kris Koff and Tom Bush

Registration required: \$10 Friends member, \$12 Non-member

Explore Chatfield State Park

Saturday, March 30, 8am-12pm

Saturday, April 27, 7am-11am

Join volunteer naturalist & bird expert Joey Kellner in exploring various habitats inside Chatfield State Park in search of feathered treasure. All ability levels are welcome. Please bring sturdy shoes for hiking (1-3 miles) and dress for the weather on this 4 hour bird walk. No pets. Sunscreen and insect repellent as needed. BBFGWS.

Meeting Place: Platte River parking lot within Chatfield State Park, past the Kingfisher Bridge over the Platte, right turn.

Leader: Joey Kellner

Registration NOT required: No Fee

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To register: 303-973-9530 or www.denveraudubon.org

Bring binoculars, field guides, water and a snack.

Field Trips & Programs (cont.)

Manitou Lake and Trout Creek Saturday, April 6, 8am – 2pm

Manitou Lake and the adjacent Trout Creek area comprise a fine birding spot for an hour and one-half of driving. This is a great place to find breeding red-naped sapsuckers and red crossbills, and many species of warbler and other landbirds that migrate through in spring and fall. It is possible to see deer, elk and beaver in the area.

Habitat: Lake, Mid-elevation Riparian, Streamside Willow, Ponderosa Forest
Meeting place: Castle Rock King Soopers at 6:30 am ---Founders Parkway (exit 184) cross over US 25 (heading east) and turn right (south) into King Soopers parking lot---we can carpool from here.

Directions: Take US 25 south to 24 and then take US 24 to Woodland Park. Turn right on CO 67 and head north 7.3 miles to the Manitou Lake entrance on the right. Note that there is a \$6 entry fee at Manitou Lake. Please bring a lunch. There are picnic tables available.

Leaders: Cheryl Chessick & Sharon Pfeifer

Registration is required. \$10 members, \$12 nonmembers.

Beginning Bird Watching Class Thursday, April 11, 7-9 pm – classroom session at the Audubon Center at Chatfield

Saturdays, Apr. 13, 20, 27, May 4, 25, and June 1. 8am-2pm

– Field Trips to bird-watching sites around Denver including Chatfield, Barr Lake, and Castlewood Canyon State Parks, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, and Genesee Mountain Park.

Date TBA: Zoology Dept., Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Are you new to birding in Colorado? Wondering where to begin? Join Colorado's foremost –and most entertaining – couple as they introduce the art and science of birdwatching as no one else can. Be forewarned: this class has hooked hundreds on the lifelong adventure of birdwatching! Learn bird identification, choosing and using binoculars and field guides, develop a practiced eye and ear, and so much more. Instruction takes place on field trips

to the best birding spots in the Denver metro area! Meet new friends and change the way you spend time outdoors. Make up any field trips that you miss during future class sessions.

*\$150/members, \$175/non-members (includes Individual ASGD Friends membership)
Graduates of the class may drop in at \$20 a field trip.*

Leaders: Urling & Hugh Kingery

Registration required. Call 303-973-9530 or e-mail info@denveraudubon.org

B.I.G. Day Saturday, April 20, 8:30am-12pm

Make a difference in your community! Join us for the “B.I.G.” (“Be involved, Give”) Day created by the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce. BIG Day Projects include: Removing invasive weeds, building maintenance, Center storage organization, trail maintenance, garden maintenance, and prep work for Bird Banding Station.

Meeting Place: Audubon Center at Chatfield.

Registration required to volunteer for The B.I.G. Day: No Fee

Donations to ASGD appreciated

Westerly Creek Natural Area In Partnership with Denver Parks and Recreation Saturday, April 27, 9am-11am

We will explore this riparian area in the Stapleton development near where Sand Creek meets Westerly Creek. This site provides great opportunities to view wetlands and ponds along Westerly Creek where we should see wading birds and ducks and we should see hawk nests along Sand Creek. Be prepared for some possible off-trail hiking. BBFGSW.

Meeting Place: Parking lot off Martin Luther King Blvd and Beeler St. (east end of Central Park, west of recreation center).

Leaders: Audubon Master Birders

Registration required. No fee. Donations to ASGD appreciated.

**To register: 303-973-9530 or www.denveraudubon.org
Bring binoculars, field guides, water and a snack**

The Sanctuary Wilderness Area (Wild Turkey Count) Highlands Ranch Backcountry Wilderness Area Saturday, April 27, 8am – 12pm

The Sanctuary Wilderness Area is closed to the public with vast acreage providing a sanctuary for wildlife. It adjoins Daniels Park, a Denver Mountain Park, and the Cherokee Ranch Conservation area. There are no trails in the Sanctuary. We will tour the area by hay wagon, stopping at various locations to view birds and other wildlife that flourish in this wilderness area including eagles, hawks, elk and deer herds. Our primary task includes counting wild turkey.

BBFGWS

Activity Level: Elevation is 6300 ft.
Meeting Place: We will meet at the Law Enforcement Training Center off of Santa Fe. From Highlands Ranch Parkway and Santa Fe, go south on Santa Fe 3.5 miles to Ron King Trail (Black Top Road). Turn left on Ron King about 1.5 miles to the parking area.

Leaders: Cynthia Madsen and Dave Hill, Audubon Master Birders.

Registration Required: Cost is \$8 for Highlands Ranch Residents and ASGD Members; \$9 for the public. You must sign up with the Highlands Ranch Community Center at 303-791-2500; trip limited to 25 participants. For additional information contact Hope Marasco, Highlands Ranch Wilderness Area Coordinator 303-471-8876 or Cindy Valentine, Audubon Coordinator 303-790-2805.



Black Crowned Night Heron by Dick Vogel

Water Bird Courting & Nesting Behavior Saturday, April 27, 1pm - Dusk

View water birds, herons and raptors at Jim Baker Reservoir. Species sighted in previous years: Clark's and western grebes, red-breasted merganser, American white pelican, black-crowned night heron, nesting great blue heron, Franklin's gull, double-crested cormorant, osprey & bald eagle. We observed the grebe courting ritual here in April 2009, 2010 and 2011 after noon and in the hours just before sunset. We hope to repeat the experience this year! The grebe and heron viewing location is an easy 3/4 mile walk from the parking lot. BBFGWS.

Call Marilyn Rhodes, 303-674-9895, with questions. Leaders can be reached before and during the field trip on their cell phones: Bob, 720-641-3899; Marilyn, 720-333-2551.

Meeting Place: Access Jim Baker Reservoir on the east side of Tennyson and 60th. Parking is limited at Jim Baker, so we've made arrangements with Mark VII Equipment to park in their empty lot. Their address is 5981 Tennyson, Arvada 80003 (just west of the Jim Baker lot).

Leaders: Audubon Master Birders Marilyn Rhodes & Bob Santangelo

Registration required: \$10 ASGD Friends and/or Evergreen Audubon member, \$12 nonmember

Bird Banding Station Open April 27-June 2 (station closed May 10-11) 8am-12pm

Visitors watch research in action and see warblers, sparrows, woodpeckers, thrushes, and other songbirds up close at Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's bird banding research station. The Audubon Center is open Saturdays & Sundays, 8am-12pm on the above dates to greet you and guide you to the station. Easy to moderate walking required on flat trails.

Meeting Place: Audubon Center at Chatfield

Registration NOT required. However, if the station is busy, there may be timed sessions.

Summer Camp Opportunities at Audubon Center at Chatfield!

Session dates to choose from: (Each has different theme)

July 22-26, 9am-3:30pm, July 15-19, 9am-3:30pm or July

29-August 2, 9am-3:30pm. Fee: \$355 for each session

Wade in ponds and rivers! Collect insects! Track wildlife! There is so much to experience outdoors at the Audubon Nature Center. Choose from 3 exciting week-long outdoor nature camps offered through Colorado Academy Summer Programs. Visit our website at:

<http://www.denveraudubon.org/programs/summer-camps/> for more info.



Lois Webster Fund's 2012 Research Project Results Program

Project Presentation Wed, April 3rd, 6:30 pm.

Breckenridge Colorado Craft (Brewery), 2220 Blake St.

Springtime will soon be upon us and that means on Wednesday, April 3rd, so will the Lois Webster Fund's (LWF) annual project presentations event. Each year, we are fortunate to be able to have the prior year's research projects' managers' present their results. This program is our way of especially thanking LWF donors and to provide them an opportunity to see the results of their generosity. Certainly, others are most welcome.

This a wonderfully informative evening and a way for folks to closely engage with those out in-the-field doing the work and giving us all a better understanding of the way things are. This year we are pleased to feature:

Bedrock Bioblitz - A multi-disciplined documentation of the composition of a riparian habitat before and after a restoration project on the Dolores River, Colorado. Project manager Martin Moses of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory will present.

Life Stage Male Bias Arising in Mountain Plover - Determining whether a male-biased sex ratio arises at the egg or chick stage of development in Mountain Plover. Maggie Riordan, University of Montana, will present.

Mammalian Habitat Use Along a Development Gradient in Northern Colorado - Examines how exurban development density influences mammalian species' habitat use and documents the threshold density at which mammals reduce their use of the habitat. Erica H. Goad, Colorado State University, will present.

This year's event will be held in a reserved room at Breckenridge Colorado Craft (Brewery). There is off street, metered parking as well as parking lots, the closest being at 2340 Blake St. or the NW corner of 22nd & Welton St. It's also several blocks away from the RTD Light Rail's Union Station. Light appetizers will be available compliments of the LWF. There is a cash bar and regular meal service in case you are in the mood for either of these while enjoying the presentations. Please come and we expect you'll leave much better informed about Colorado non-game wildlife! For questions, car pool or other information, please call John Wright, 303-744-2153.

Special Events

OWLING EXPEDITION FORMING

ASGD will be hosting a series of evening field trips this year searching for owls. Four to six evening outings will be scheduled in March and April depending on interest and weather. The first outings, March 5 and 7th, will attempt to locate two species: Short-eared and Eastern Screech owls. Participation in these outings will be strictly limited. Safety of the participants on roadside stops and minimizing disturbance of the birds, are paramount concerns.



Western Screech Owl Courtesy Wikipedia

Trips will leave Denver about 5pm and return by 9pm. We will carpool from the CDOW HQ or a central Park-n-Ride. We will provide transportation. Parties larger than six cannot be accommodated.

Participants need only bring a light (headlamps are recommended) and WARM clothes, water, and a snack or sandwich. Trips are highly weather dependent and will only leave if calm conditions are predicted. Individuals interested in participating should email the ASGD office with their contact information.

Fall Wildlife Expedition in Yellowstone National Park (September 13-17, 2013)



At Yellowstone National Park in fall, elk bugling is at its peak, a cacophony of noise that's music to the ears of elk cows. Bears are preparing for winter by stocking up on food. Wolves are hunting in Lamar and Hayden Valleys due to large concentrations of elk. Herds of bison, the largest land mammal in North America, roam Yellowstone's grasslands. Add resident birds and fall migration to the mix and you have the makings of a wildlife wonderland.

Join Reef to Rockies and Audubon Society of Greater Denver for an unforgettable fall wildlife expedition to Yellowstone National Park.



Greater Sage Grouse on the Lek, Walden, CO

Friday evening 7pm and Saturday, April 5 – 6, 2013 (Trip#1)

Saturday evening, 7pm and Sunday, April 6 - 7, 2013 (Trip #2)

Witness the Greater Sage Grouse, the largest grouse in North America, on their lek (traditional display grounds). To be quietly in position before the grouse begin, we must rise early – 3:30 am. – to drive to the lek in the dark.

Before first light we will begin to first hear and then see groups of males do their courtship display together, puffing out air sacs in their chest and spreading their tails. We may see females approach the lek before the dancing is through after sunrise. After breakfast back in Walden, we'll bird throughout the day at area lakes such as Lake Walden (Bald Eagles' nest), Arapahoe National Wildlife Refuge, and Lake John. Trip #1 will be dismissed around 2:00 pm Saturday. Trip #2 will be dismissed around 2:00 Sunday. Participants provide their own transportation to and around Walden, a scenic 3-4 hour drive north from Denver. Leader will meet the participants at the North Park Inn at 7pm in his suite to announce the plan for predawn departure. Come prepared for waiting quietly in cold weather with warm clothing and snacks. Bring binoculars, field guides, cameras, and 2-way radios if you have them.

Leader: Audubon Master Birder, Dick Anderson

Option 1. Trip #1 or Trip #2. \$165 Friends member, double occupancy; \$180 Friends member, single. Non-members add \$40. Includes one night's lodging at North Park Inn, breakfast the next morning, guide services and a tax-deductible donation to ASGD.

Option 2. Trip #1 and Trip #2, combined. \$255 Friends member, double occupancy; \$270 Friend member, single. Non-members add \$40. Includes two night's lodging at North Park Inn, 2 breakfasts, guide services and a tax-deductible donation to ASGD. Prepare to purchase lunches, dinner. Register by phone 303-973-9530 or Register online by March 20, 2013.



Greater Sage Grouse Courtesy Wikipedia

Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Great Bend, KS Friday, April 19 – Sunday, April 21, 2013

Join the ASGD car caravan to Great Bend, Kansas to bird the Nature

Conservancy Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge where we plan to watch migrating shorebird and passerine species as well as locals such as greater prairie chicken on the lek, golden and bald eagles, northern cardinals, and eastern meadowlark. Because of fears of drought conditions, the 2013 Wings N' Wetlands Festival will not be held in its usual form. Instead organizers plan a single day of informed tours with a possible speaker presentation at a banquet opportunity. ASGD plans to take advantage of the reduced crowds and feels there will be sufficient water to attract the migration.

Friday, April 19, 2013 we will caravan from Denver through Kiowa to I-70 400 miles (approximately 7 hours), with open air stops for hot brunch and picnic lunch, to Great Bend, Kansas arriving in time for afternoon birding.

Saturday, April 20, participants may visit a greater prairie chicken lek at dawn. After breakfast, begin a day of guided birding, driving on the dikes through the 60,000 combined acres that form the largest salt wetland in the interior west to see migrating sandpipers, plovers, wading birds, and waterfowl at close range. We'll enjoy lunch in the field courtesy of Kate Frost, the culinary genius behind all the traveling meals, and we will visit the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms and the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center. Sunday morning, April 21, we'll bird anything we missed and head back to Denver by 11am. The wide-spread drought in the area poses planning challenges. If sufficient moisture does not arrive to replenish the wetlands – the trip may be cancelled. You may check current conditions at <http://wetlandscenter.fhsu.edu>.

Cheyenne Bottoms CONT. NEXT PAGE ~ leader information, etc.

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Cheyenne Bottoms (cont.)

Leaders: Audubon Master Birders, Harriet Stratton and Kate Frost. \$295/Friends member, \$335/nonmembers. Includes lodging for two nights at the Best Western Angus Inn, open air hot brunch Friday, field lunches Friday and Saturday, tax- deductible donations to ASGD, Nature Conservancy, and Wetlands Education Center. Be prepared to buy dinner Friday, breakfast and dinner Saturday and breakfast and lunch Sunday. Register interest at 303-973-9530 or online <http://www.denveraudubon.org>. Hold entire payment until March 18 at such time we will know if moisture conditions will allow the trip to go. Participants will provide their own transportation to Kansas. At 7am, Friday, April 19, meet at the Starbucks on the northeast quadrant of Arapahoe Rd. and Parker Road (Hwy 83). Audubon can assist with carpool arrangements if needed. Bring walkie talkies if you have them.



Mountain Plover courtesy of Wikipedia

The Mountain Plover Festival – Karval, Colorado

Friday, April 26 thru Sunday, 28 2013

On the eastern plains of Colorado, south of Limon, east of Colorado Springs, there is a small dot on the map. Blink and you will miss it if you drive through and do not plan to stop. But, if you stop, especially on the weekend of the Karval Mountain Plover Festival, April 26-28 2013, you will meet with traditional adversaries—ranchers, academics, government officials and environmentalists—who have learned to cooperate and support one another to create a positive way forward for both wildlife and land stewardship.

While experiencing the prairie you will explore private ranches. You will see large expanses of unplowed short grass prairie. On school buses recruited for the weekend transportation, you will hear first hand from involved individuals the story of the Mountain Plover and of the partnership forged to preserve both the

bird and the short grass prairie which is its natural breeding ground. This is a story of great hope and a shining example of what is possible when people learn to listen to one another and cooperate for mutual benefit.

We will drive from Denver on Friday, April 26, 170 miles southeast of Denver, about a 3 hour drive. While visiting Karval we will stay in private homes or local, small inns. All meals are provided by the community. Friday night is an ice cream social. Saturday night is a barbeque with local band and dancing. Breakfasts and lunches are prepared by different community groups. We join locals at the community center for all meals and lively conversation. School buses and wagons will be provided for tours guided by bird experts. See

Karval Community Alliance website: www.karval.org for more information.

Leader: Audubon Master Birder, Karen von Saltza

\$290/person, \$580/couple. Single supplement available upon request.

Register at 303-973-9530. Participants will provide their own transportation to Karval. Trip meeting details will be provided after registration.

Join us in Karval April 26-28 and submerge yourself in a true prairie experience.

**Birding and Natural History in Southeast Arizona
Wednesday, May 8 - Tuesday, May 14 2013**

Southeast Arizona is one of the most biologically diverse areas in the United States. Habitats include the Sonoran Desert with its dramatic columnar cacti, the Chihuahuan desert with its grasslands and desert scrub, and the dramatic “Sky Islands” where species from the Rocky Mountains and Mexico’s Sierra Madre come together. During our journey, we’ll explore most of these habitats, encounter a tremendous diversity of plants and animals, and enjoy fine weather at one of the richest times of year. We’ll visit many of the birding and wildlife hotspots - Madera Canyon, the Patagonia area, Ramsey and Garden Canyons in the Huachuca Mountains, and the San Pedro River. Species we’re likely to see include elegant trogon, vermilion flycatcher, painted redstart, Grace’s, Lucy’s, red-faced and other warblers, three species of flycatchers (ash-throated, brown-crested, and dusky-capped), thick-billed kingbird, up to ten species of hummingbirds, and many others.



Lucy's Warbler courtesy of Wikipedia

We’ll also spend time learning about the general ecology of the area and explore the fascinating relationships among southeast Arizona’s birds, plants, mammals, reptiles, insects, geology, and regional climate. Ann Bonnell is the trip host. Our guide will be Mark Pretti who was formerly the naturalist at Ramsey Canyon. Mark is knowledgeable about all aspects of this area’s natural history as well as expert in finding the regional bird specialties. See his website at www.markprettinaturetours.com.

\$1795/ASGD members (\$1835 for non-members) per person, double occupancy. This includes meals, accommodations in attractive bed and breakfasts and hotels, van transportation during the tour, guiding, tips, admission fees. The trip begins in Tucson where Mark will meet the group at the airport. Participants are responsible for their transportation to Tucson. There is a Southwest flight from Denver Wednesday morning May 8th that makes arrival and meeting the guide convenient. Maximum group size is eight. Register with Ann Bonnell 303 979-6211. Deposit of \$500 due at registration; balance due by March 14, 2013.

**Warblers with Bonus Kirtland’s Warbler
Magee Marsh, Ohio**

Monday, May 13 – Saturday, May 18, 2013

What birder doesn’t thrill at the idea of seeing dozens of songbirds in full breeding plumage? A May walk along the boardwalk at Magee Marsh in northwestern Ohio offers such possibilities and more. Over twenty brightly colored warblers, plus vireos, gray-cheeked and other thrushes, summer tanager and Baltimore oriole. Hundreds of individual birds singing so close you don’t even need binoculars! This is the height of migration, and these birds are refueling on the southern shore of Lake Erie, preparing for the next flight north toward their breeding grounds, seemingly oblivious to the birders gawking at them. Spend 2 and a half days in Warbler heaven.

As if this spectacle is not enough, migrate north for a day in the breeding grounds of one of the most sought-after North American birds – Kirtland’s Warbler. Of course, that’s not all! There are plenty of interesting birds nesting all along the route from Ohio to Michigan. American bittern, upland sandpiper, black tern, black-billed cuckoo, Lincoln’s sparrow, yellow-headed blackbird, eight flycatcher species, five vireos, a dozen sparrows and much more. *\$1,390 and includes 5 nights lodging, breakfasts, van transportation, guide fees – David Trentley. Not included is round trip flight to Detroit, MI, lunches and dinners. See itinerary and trip details at <http://www.pibird.com/MageeMarshandMore.html>. Call Charles Thornton-Kolbe of Partnership for International Birding at 720-320-1974 or email charles@pibird.com.*

Travel (cont.)

Birding the Amazon Basin of Peru, Sacred Valley of the Incas, Machu Picchu

November 7– November 22, 2013

There are 4 spots left on this trip; sign up by April 30.

Manu Biosphere Reserve covering 6000 square miles in Peru is a naturalists dream. Excellent eco-lodges form the backbone of a birding route that slowly descends the Amazon River through ox-bow lakes, rainforest and Macaw licks. Starting in Cuzco, bird through Pillahuata to Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge (3 nights), in the Manu Cloud Forest to Amazonian Lodge (4 nights). Canoe to Manu Wildlife Centre for 5 nights hiking the bamboo trails and exploring the water around this famous eco-lodge. Visit Macaw licks leaving the Manu.

The Amazon is one of the best places in the world to see multiple macaw species, over eighty beautiful tanagers and numerous South American hummingbirds. Other key species include over twenty endemics like bearded mountaineer, cerulean-capped manakin, green and white hummingbird, Koepcke's hermit, and Cuzco brush-finch and other stunning birds like Andean cock-of-the-rock, rufous-crested coquette, and Pavonine quetzal. Past trip lists have totaled more than 500 species. Enrich the Amazon trip with two extensions - a visit to coastal marshes outside Lima for Humboldt penguin, and a birding and cultural tour to the Sacred Valley of the Incas, the Ollantaytambo valley and Machu Picchu.

There is an option for Humboldt Penguin on the coastal marsh near Lima, Peru. Starting from Cuzco, the 12 day Amazon trip is \$3,490 (with early sign up bonus). Join the 4 day Machu Picchu extension for just over \$1,200. Price includes lodging, meals, access fees, transport throughout, and the guiding services of Jose Antonio Padilla Reyes. Not included - international and internal flights.

Harriet Stratton plans to act as host. To register or and receive more information contact Charles Thornton-Kolbe at 720-320-1974, email charles@pibird.com.

See trip itinerary at <http://www.pibird.com/PeruASGD.html>.



Green-headed tanager courtesy of Wikipedia