

## DFO Field Trips for March 2008

### **Saturday, March 1**                      **Cherry Creek State Park**

Leader: Mary Burger, 303-771-3431. Meet Leader at the Park's west gate, Union at Dayton. Plan for some walking through riparian areas and to the beaver ponds. Bring lunch, water and snacks for this 3/4 day trip; Parks pass required.

### **Sunday, March 2**                      **Westminster wanderings.**

Leader: Meredith Anderson, 303-280-8576. December's Slacker trip proved popular, so let's do it again! Meet leader at 0830 at the west end of the parking lot at Front Range Community College, 112th Avenue about 1/2 mile west of Federal Blvd. We'll look for raptors, sparrows, bluebirds, shrike and solitaire along Big Dry Creek Open space. This half-day trip will wrap up by noon.

### **Thursday, March 6**                      **Canon City and environs.**

Leader: Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 303-777-7588. Co-leader: SeEtta Moss of Canon City. Spend a weekday birding? you bet! With this dynamic duo you can't miss. Meet Chuck at 0530 at the RTD Park 'n Ride at Yale Ave. just west of I-25. This trip will surely include some nice surprises as you visit the famed River Walk, Tunnel Drive and other areas of local interest depending on what's been seen. Full day trip; bring lunch, water, snacks, sturdy footwear, a scope if you have one, and a yen for adventure!

### **Saturday, March 8**                      **Golden Gate State Park**

Leader: Mike Serruto, 303-377-9870. Meet Leader at 0830 at the Park Visitors' Center which is about 9 miles up Golden Gate Road from Hwy. 93. For Carpooling information contact Meredith Anderson at 303-280-8576. The park holds promise in late winter for crossbills, Cassin's finch, waxwings, nuthatches and more. Half-day trip. Dress for cooler foothills weather; lunch optional.

### **Sunday, March 9**

#### **Garden of the Gods, Fountain Creek and Big Johnson Reservoir.**

Leader: Mark Peterson, (719) 573-6190. [mpeterson33@yahoo.com](mailto:mpeterson33@yahoo.com). Usher in Daylight Saving Time by exploring El Paso County's varied habitats and enjoy the spectacular scenery. Meet Leader at 0800 at the Garden of the Gods' main parking lot (not the one at the Visitors' Center). Bring a lunch and water for this 3/4 day trip, and dress for changing weather conditions. A scope for the reservoir will be helpful.

### **Saturday, March 15**                      **South Platte Park**

Leader: Bill Eden, 303-692-0255. Meet Leader on the back deck of the Carson Nature Center at 0800 for an easy 3-hour walk. The Nature Center is north of Mineral Avenue and west of South Santa Fe Drive, behind Aspen Grove shopping center. there is limited parking on the north side of the Nature Center. Bring adequate footwear, snacks and water. Dress for the weather. Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, winter riparian species and more.

### **Sunday, March 16**                      **Longmont Area.**

Leader: Chris Owens, 303-772-6048. Meet Leader at 0830 Jim Hamm Nature Center - from I-25 take exit 240 (Hwy 119) and proceed west about 4 miles to County Line Road; north on County Line about 2 miles to 17th Ave. The parking lot for Jim Hamm is on the left. Bring lunch and water for this 3/4 day

trip; expect some easy walking as well as some driving between locations. Bring a scope for Jim Hamm and Union Reservoirs. Always a surprise or two on this trip!

**Friday - Sunday, March 21-23 Sandhills and Platte River, Nebraska**

Leader: Allison Hilf, 303-888-5110 or ahilf@aol.com You'll carpool from Denver on Friday morning, birding your way to the Sandhill country in Nebraska where you'll stay the night at a private ranch/outfitter before visiting a Prairie chicken lek early Saturday morning. The viewing and photography potential from the viewing blind are awesome - but dress for cold conditions, and prepare to remain in the blind until the birds disperse. The rest of Saturday will be spent birding toward Gibbon, NE arriving in time to witness the fly-in of tens of thousands of Sandhill cranes as they descend to roost on the Platte River for the evening. You will spend the night in a motel in Gibbon or Kearney and arise to watch the cranes' raucous exodus from the river as they fly off to forage in surrounding fields. You'll get to search for midwestern species and rarities such as Whooping cranes before returning later Sunday to Denver. This trip necessitates a limited number of participants; please contact Leader for lodging and carpooling options and to reserve a slot as this will fill quickly.

**Saturday, March 22 Sedalia area including Cherokee Ranch**

Leader: Lynn Willcockson, 303-757-7000. Easy walking trip of 3 to 4 miles through riparian and coniferous terrain. You must register with leader for this trip which is limited to 8 participants. Bring lunch, water, snacks for some unique front range birding.

**Saturday, March 29 Boulder lakes**

Leader: Paul Slingsby, 303-422-3728. Meet Leader at 0700 at the Ward Road Park 'n Ride off of I-70. Good Boulder County birding including some hiking at Walden Ponds. Bring lunch, water, and a scope if you have one. Please let the Leader know if you plan to attend so he can notify you in case of a cancellation due to weather. [paslingsby@comcast.net](mailto:paslingsby@comcast.net)

**Sunday, March 30 Wheatridge Green Belt**

Leader: Toni Rautus, 303-422-7322. What treasures will this gem of a location yield?! Meet Leader at 0800 at the Prospect Lake Parking Lot off of 44th Ave. just east of Robb Street. Half-day trip, lunch optional.