



## TARGET BIRDS:

White-tailed  
Ptarmigan

Western Grebe

Northern Goshawk

Swainson's Hawk

Ferruginous Hawk

Golden Eagle

Flammulated Owl

Northern Pygmy-Owl

Black Swift

White-throated Swift

Broad-tailed  
Hummingbird

Lewis' Woodpecker

Williamson's  
Sapsucker

Red-naped Sapsucker

American Three-toed  
Woodpecker

Dusky Flycatcher

Cordilleran Flycatcher

Say's Phoebe

Gray Jay

Steller's Jay

## Colorado, Peaks to Prairies June 11-18 2017

"Best of them all", "My favorite trip, ever", "Everything was just spectacular"... just a few of the previous participant responses to this magnificent experience. And for good reason. Colorado is a diverse place, with a diverse landscape and a diverse bird list. It is a mixing zone of north and south, east and west, and of high elevation and low(er) elevation. It's got something for everyone.

This experience will begin in the outskirts of Denver, where we will visit some local parks while en route to Greeley, our home base for Pawnee National Grasslands.



Although the Pawnee National Grassland has had to endure the near constant barrage of settlement and agricultural development, it has persisted and is an internationally known birding location. It is a bit more fragmented than it once was, but its expanse of prairie grasses and wildflowers hosts a wide variety of birds like **Lark Bunting** which seem to grace every other fence post, and **McCown's Longspur**, a local breeding species that we will have to look a little harder for. The more sparsely vegetated portions of the grasslands support populations of everyone's favorite raptor, **Burrowing Owl**, as well as localized groups of **Mountain Plover**. The prairie is also a natural place to find Prairie Dogs, 13-lined Ground-squirrels and Kit Foxes.



Clark's Nutcracker

Black-billed Magpie

Violet-Green Swallow

Mountain Chickadee

Pygmy Nuthatch

Rock Wren

Canyon Wren

American Dipper

Mountain Bluebird

Swainson's Thrush

Virginia's Warbler

MacGillivray's Wabler

Green-tailed Towhee

Cassin's Sparrow

Lark Sparrow

Lark Bunting

McCown's Longspur

Chestnut-collared  
Longspur

Western Tanager

Brown-capped Rosy-  
Finch

Pine Grosbeak

Cassin's Finch

Red Crossbill

We will spend a couple of days in the Pawnee area, and may make special trips for anything being reported in the Weld County area. 3 nights in Greeley.

From Pawnee, we will make our way west, over the foothills and into the Rocky Mountains. From our home base in Estes Park, we will thoroughly explore Rocky Mountain National Park. At over 400 square miles, the park spans the continental divide, its mountains rise from aspen-laden valleys to treeless alpine tundra. The area in between are the magnificent conifer forests where the scent of cedar and fir fills the air, and snow melt fueled rivers and streams roar by.

The park is about as diverse as any landscape you can imagine. In the wide, deep valleys, we will look for **Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Three-toed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Dusky Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird, Green-tailed**



**Towhee**, and will undoubtedly find some coyotes. As we gain a bit of elevation, the tress will clearly change from Ponderosa Pine and Aspen, to Lodgepole Pine and Firs. It is here that we will look for some of the iconic mountain species, like **Dusky Grouse, American Dipper, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Gray Jay**, singing **Swainson's Thrush, Red Crossbill** and **Pine Grosbeak**.

Trail Ridge Road leads from the entrance of Rocky Mountain National Park, across the Continental Divide and continues west to the west side of the park. Along the way, elevation climbs. Krumholz, bonsai-looking trees that are deformed and weathered from near constant wind, appear just before tree line. Just beyond treeline lies the Alpine Tundra, home to some very interesting characters. First, along the edges of snowpack, we will look for **Brown-capped Rosy-Finches** and **American Pipits**. Then, along a trail at nearly 12,000 in elevation, we will scan the tundra for **White-tailed Ptarmigan**. In the rocks, we will also likely find Pika, a small guinea-pig-looking mammal that is constantly on the lookout for **Golden Eagle**.

## **Trip Expectations**

Colorado contains some very diverse landscapes – we will experience everything from rolling prairies to treacherous mountains and everything in between. To fully appreciate the area and its birds, participants should expect travel times of two hours or more when moving from one area to another. Some early morning departures may be planned.

Daily hikes of approximately 1-2 miles may be planned in areas involving uneven terrain, rocky trails and mountain ascents. Individuals with a walking impairment should make note of this expectation.

Because of the changes in elevation, average temperatures can be from 40 to 80 degrees.

High elevations and changes in elevations effect people differently. It is important to fully understand these effects if you have not experiecned them before. We will take appropriate precautions as a group, but individual participants are expected to understand the risks before registering for this experieince.

## **Trip Details**

This trip is designed for a maximum of twelve (12) participants and two leaders. Because of the limited space and popularity of these experiences, immediate registration is highly recommended to secure a spot on this trip.

The all-inclusive\* trip begins at Pittsburgh International Airport and includes roundtrip airfare, 7 days of excursions, 7-night accommodations, ground transportation, meals, entrance fees, and leader-guide fees.

\*Please note that meals during air travel, luggage fees and alcoholic beverages are not included in the cost of this experience and are the responsibility of individual participants.

Meals will be provided by local restaurants daily. Breakfasts will be continental-style; some may be “on-the-go” to better accommodate early departures. Boxed lunches may be planned to increase time afield. Dinners will be spent at area establishments where participants can enjoy local cuisine.

To greatly lessen ground travel, accommodations have been planned in convenient locations. This trip will make use of accommodations in Greeley and Estes Park.

## **Trip Registration**

To register for the Colorado trip, please complete the attached Registration and Indemnification forms and return them with your 50% non-refundable deposit to:

ASWP, Attn: Brian Shema, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 -or- [bshema@aswp.org](mailto:bshema@aswp.org)

## **Participant Rates**

Double Occupancy Rate:                   \$2995.00       (Equal payments of \$1,497.50)

Single Occupancy Rate:                   \$3549.00       (Equal payments of \$1,774.50)

Airfare Excluded:                           Deduct \$450.00 from Occupancy Rate

**Registration is taken on a first-come, first served basis and is complete upon receipt of your deposit, registration and indemnification forms.**

**ASWP does not provide travel insurance, but encourages participants to explore this option.**

**Final payment is due on or before May 15, 2017.**



**COLORADO BIRDING TRIP**

**JUNE 11-18, 2017**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
  *LAST*  *FIRST*  *MIDDLE*

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

I wish to room with (name) \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT**

My 50% non-refundable deposit payable to "ASWP" is enclosed (X) \_\_\_\_\_

Visa, MasterCard or Discover number and expiration \_\_\_\_\_  
(if using card, you may call ASWP if you prefer not to write card number)

**TERMS**

*To secure my spot for this experience, I understand that my registration is not complete until my deposit is made, and that participants are registered on a first-come, first-served basis. ASWP cannot guarantee my registration until all registration materials are received.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE



## COLORADO BIRDING TRIP

JUNE 11-18, 2017

### INDEMNIFICATION, WAIVER AND RELEASE

In consideration for my participation in the above titled experience, I agree to the following waiver and release:

I \_\_\_\_\_ understand that any travel experience, including this one, involves inherent dangers, hazards and risks that cannot be eliminated in any environment or setting, regardless of my actions, or the actions of my leader(s).

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania Inc. (hereby Audubon), its officers, trustees and/or employees act only as an agent for the participant and thus accepts no responsibility, in whole or in part, for any delays, delayed transit or missed transit connections; loss, damage, injury, or death, to persons or property, or mechanical defects or failures of any manner, however caused; or for the substitution of vendors, with or without notice or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby.

The liability of the arranged carriers for luggage or for other property accompanying passengers is limited to their liability as common carriers; this liability is independent of Audubon.

No revisions of the final itinerary are expected, however, Audubon reserves the right to make changes necessary to the common good of the group with the mutual understanding that any added expense may be required by the individual participants. Audubon does not provide insurance of any kind or part to participants.

I, for myself, my heirs, and their successors, executors and subrogates, hereby knowingly and intentionally waive and release, indemnify and hold harmless the officers, trustees, employees, volunteers and/or agents of Audubon from and against any and all claims, actions, causes of action, liability, suits, and/or expenses which arise out of, or are in any way connected to my participation in this experience, regardless of location, setting and/or environment, and including, but not limited to, negligence of any kind or nature, whether foreseen or unforeseen, arising directly or indirectly out of any damage, loss, injury of any kind, or death to me as a result of my participation and actions.

I HAVE READ AND CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE, AND BY SIGNING BELOW, I CERTIFY THAT I AM OF CLEAR MIND, AND HEREBY VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO THE WAIVER AND RELEASE.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE