Colorado Birding Resources

Where to Go

1. The Colorado Birding Trail (219 accessible sites throughout the state)

   Eastern Plains ~ Shortgrass Prairie (%shttp://www.coloradobirdingtrail.com/trails/eastern-plains.php%).

   Rocky Mountain ~ High Altitude Habitats (%shttp://www.coloradobirdingtrail.com/trails/rocky-mountains.php%).

   Western Colorado ~ Red Rock Country (%shttp://www.coloradobirdingtrail.com/trails/western-colorado.php%)

2. Audubon’s Important Bird Areas in Colorado

   53 Colorado sites that provide essential habitat for one or more species of bird, including sites for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds.

3. Birding Sites in Colorado by County

   Colorado Field Ornithologists %shttp://www.coloradocountybirding.com/ - Provides site descriptions and county checklists for all Colorado counties, plus information on habitats, hazards, access to sites and specialty species

   Colorado Birding Society %shttp://home.att.net/~birdertoo/countymap.htm - Birding Spots by county with driving directions and county checklist

4. Birding Drives & Trails

   Colorado Bird Watching sites %shttp://www.birding.com/wheretobird/colorado.asp

   ABA Birding Trails Directory %shttp://americanbirding.org/resources/birdingtrails.html

   Top 50 Sites in North America %shttp://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/wildbird/index.htm

   Nature Conservancy Bird Hot Spots %shttp://my.nature.org/birds/engage/spots/
5. Birding Festivals & Events

High Plains Snow Goose Festival, Lamar (February); 719-336-4379
Eagle Day, Pueblo (February); 719-561-5300
Monte Vista Crane Festival, Monte Vista (March); 719-852-3552
Eckert Crane Days, Eckert (March); 970-874-9532
Greater Prairie Chicken Tours, Wray (March/April); 970-332-3484
Karval Mountain Plover Festival, Karval (April); 719-446-5354
Ute Mountain Mesa Verde Birding Festival, Cortez (May); 970-565-1151
Front Range Birding Festival, Littleton (May); 888-979-9260
Hummingbird Festival, Colorado Springs (May); 719-385-6086
Colorado Birding Events Calendar - [http://coloradobirdingsociety.net16.net/calendar.htm](http://coloradobirdingsociety.net16.net/calendar.htm)
Wildbird on the Fly Map of Festivals - [http://wildbirdonthefly.blogspot.com/search/label/festivals](http://wildbirdonthefly.blogspot.com/search/label/festivals)
International Migratory Bird Day - [http://www.birdday.org/birdday](http://www.birdday.org/birdday)
World Series of Birding - [http://www.birdcapemay.org/wsob.shtml](http://www.birdcapemay.org/wsob.shtml)
Great Texas Birding Classic - [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/qtbc](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/qtbc)
Birding Festival Directory - [http://www.aba.org/festivals/](http://www.aba.org/festivals/)
How to Organize a Birding Festival - [http://www.aba.org/festivals/manual.html](http://www.aba.org/festivals/manual.html)

6. Colorado State Parks

Colorado has 42 state parks. Locate them at: [http://parks.state.co.us/ParksQuickfind/](http://parks.state.co.us/ParksQuickfind/). To locate trails within the Colorado State Parks system, go to [http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/TrailMapLinks/](http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/TrailMapLinks/)

7. Colorado Nature Centers

Audubon Center at Chatfield State Park (Littleton)
Barr Lake Nature Center (Brighton)
Bear Creek Nature Center (Colorado Springs)
Bluff Lake Nature Center (Denver)
Evergreen Nature Center (Evergreen)
Flagstaff Nature Center (Boulder)
Fountain Creek Nature Center (Colorado Springs)
Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center (Colorado Springs)
Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo (Pueblo)
Indigo Mountain Nature Center (Lake George)
Lookout Mountain Nature Center (Golden)
Majestic View Nature Center and Community Park (Arvada)
Star K Ranch - Morrison Nature Center (Aurora)
Plains Conservation Center (Aurora)
South Platte Park, Carson Nature Center (Littleton)
Vail Nature Center (Vail)
Wild Bear Center for Nature Discovery (Nederland)

8. National Wildlife Refuges in Colorado

- Baca National Wildlife Refuge [http://www.fws.gov/alamosa/bacaNWR.html](http://www.fws.gov/alamosa/bacaNWR.html) (Baca County: currently closed to the public)
- Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge [http://www.fws.gov/alamosa/Monte%20Vista.html](http://www.fws.gov/alamosa/Monte%20Vista.html) (San Luis Valley)

9. Wildlife Research Centers


10. National Parks

- National Park Service - [http://www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)
- Bird Watching in the National Parks - [http://www.nps.gov/oia/NPSBirds.html](http://www.nps.gov/oia/NPSBirds.html)
- National Park Service Migratory Bird Program – [http://www.nature.nps.gov/biology/migratoryspecies/](http://www.nature.nps.gov/biology/migratoryspecies/)

~ Colorado Birding Resources page 3 ~
National Parks Colorado Index - http://www.nps.gov/state/co/ Each page has a sidebar with a listing of bird species in the area (as well as other wildlife), and directions, operating hours, fees, reservation information, special events, climate and more for the site.

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site - La Junta, CO
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park - Montrose, CO
Cache La Poudre River Corridor Northern, CO
California National Historic Trail - CA, CO, ID, KS, MO, NE, NV, OR, UT, WY
Colorado National Monument - Fruita, CO
Curecanti National Recreation Area - Gunnison, CO
Dinosaur National Monument - Vernal, Utah & Dinosaur, Colorado
Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument - Florissant, CO
Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve - Mosca, CO
Hovenweep National Monument - Blanding, Utah & Cortez, Colorado
Mesa Verde National Park - Cortez and Mancos, CO
Old Spanish National Historic Trail - AZ, CA, CO, NV, NM, UT
Pony Express National Historic Trail - CA, CO, KS, MO, NE, NV, UT, WY
Rocky Mountain National Park - Estes Park and Grand Lake, CO
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site - Kiowa County, CO
Santa Fe National Historic Trail - CO, KS, MO, NM, OK
Yucca House National Monument - Cortez, CO

11. Federal Land Management Agencies

US Forest Service - http://www.fs.fed.us
National Grasslands - http://www.fs.fed.us/grasslands
Who to Contact

1. Colorado Birding Clubs & Organizations

- Aiken Audubon Society: (Colorado Springs and El Paso County)
- Arkansas Valley Audubon Society (Pueblo and Southeast).
- Audubon Society of Greater Denver (Denver Metro)
- Black Canyon Audubon Society (Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, San Miguel and Ouray Counties in Western Colorado)
- Boulder Audubon Society (Boulder County)
- Colorado Birding Society (statewide)
- Colorado Field Ornithologists (statewide)
- Evergreen Audubon (Evergreen)
- Fort Collins Audubon Society (Larimer County and surrounding areas)
- Grand Valley Audubon Society (Mesa County in Western Colorado)
- Platte & Prairie Audubon Society (Johnstown, Weld County)
- Roaring Fork Audubon Society (Roaring Fork Valley)
- Weminuche Audubon Society (Pagosa Springs)

2. Organizations and Agencies

- American Bird Conservancy - www.abcbirds.org
- American Birding Association - www.americanbirdbing.org
- American Ornithologists’ Union - http://www.aou.org/
- Association of Field Ornithologists - http://www.afonet.org/index_english.html
- Audubon - www.audubon.org
- Cooper Ornithological Society - http://www.cooper.org
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology - http://www.birds.cornell.edu
- Hawk Migration Association - http://www.hmana.org
- HawkWatch International - http://www.hawkwatch.org
- Institute for Bird Populations - http://www.birdpop.org/institute.htm
- International Crane Foundation - http://www.savingcranes.org
- Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences - http://www.manomet.org
3. Rare Bird Alerts

**Colorado** - http://www.birdingonthe.net/mailinglists/CBDS.html

**States** - http://www.surfbirds.com/cgi-bin/gallery/display.cgi?gallery=gallery10


**National Rare Bird Alert** - http://listserv.arizona.edu/archives/bird_rba.html

**National Birding Hotline Cooperative** – http://listserv.arizona.edu/archives/birdchat.html

**Overview of States and World Nations Sightings** - http://www.birdingonthe.net/hotmail.html
4. Birding Listsersv and Discussion Groups

- **National Rare Bird Alert** - http://listserv.arizona.edu/archives/bird_rba.html
- **City, State, Regional, National, International** - http://www.birdingonthe.net/birdmail.html
- **BirdChat** - http://www.birdchat.net/
- **AOL Birding Community and Resources** - http://birdinglinks.110mb.com/links/hotspots.html

5. Birding Magazines

- **Audubon Magazine** http://magazine.audubon.org/index.html
- **Birder’s World** - http://www.birdersworld.com
- **BirdWatcher’s Digest** - http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com


6. Birding Newsletters

- **Bird Scope** - Cornell Lab of Ornithology – http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Publications/Birdscope/

7. Bird Book Outlets

- **Buteo Books** - http://www.buteobooks.com
- **International Bird Books and Field Guides** – http://www.library.uiuc.edu/bix/fieldguides/main.htm
- **Handbook of the Birds of the World** – Lynx Edicions - www.hbw.com/ibc
- **Birdfinding Guides** - http://www.aba.org/siteguides/index.html
8. Video & Audio Guides

Birdfilms.com - Videos (VHS or DVD) to improve identification skills.

Bird Cinema - View and post videos of wild and domestic birds. An online community of bird watching enthusiasts with a focus on filming bird behavior.

CDs of bird songs - The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Macaulay Library from around the world.

BirdJam sells bird songs of 650 species of North American birds for use with Apple iPods®.

9. Other Resources

Birders' Code of Ethics - http://www.aba.org/about/ethics.html


Colorado Bird Viewing Species Profiles - http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/Profiles/ - Lists 44 bird species with a description, range, habitat, diet and reproduction.

National Diversity Species Information - http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/wildlife.asp - Lists bird species by county, common and scientific name, in a searchable database

Avibase - http://avibase.bsc-eoc.org/avibase.jsp - World database about all birds of the world, containing over 3.5 million records about 10,000 species and 22,000 subspecies of birds, including distribution information, taxonomy, synonyms in several languages and more.

E-bird - Checklists for all states and birding observations in Colorado

The Owl Pages - http://www.owlpages.com/ - species lists, photos, calls, physiology and more


Partners in Flight Species - http://www.rmbo.org/pif/pifdb.html - Assessment species

Birds of North America Online - http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/

Birdingpals - http://www.birdingpal.org/co.htm - Colorado professional who can accompany birders on their trips

10. Ideas for Attracting Birders

10 Tips for Beginning Birding

How to be a Bird Watcher

Basic Supplies for Birders

Field Trip Equipment List

Beginners Guide to Bird Watching

Birding with Children & Tips, Projects, Ideas for Birding with Children