



WORLD-CLASS BIRDING
SMALL GROUP COMFORT



Colorado 2022: Prairie Chickens, Grouse & more

April 1 - 11, 2022

Greater Sage-Grouse

Photo: Pam Hlgonbotham

Colorado is the best place in the country for finding all the species of Prairie-chicken and Grouse. Our trip will take us from the eastern prairies of Colorado into the high Rocky Mountains, covering about 1500 miles in searching for our target species. In order to see many of these species at their leks at dawn, we'll need to be up and out by 4:00 or 4:30 AM. We expect to find Greater and Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Greater and Gunnison's Sage-Grouse; Sharp-tailed and



Blue Grouse and, possibly, White-tailed Ptarmigan. Other species of interest include Mountain Plover; Three-toed Woodpecker and Williamson's Sapsucker; Rough-legged Hawk; Black, Brown-capped, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch; McCown's and Chestnut-Collared Longspur, and many others.

This is a joint tour with our partners at Rockjumper BirdTours



TOUR AT A GLANCE

(Please note that the itinerary may change depending upon lek accessibility and weather conditions. This is a sample itinerary, but all the locations will be covered)

TOUR PRICE	US \$3575. Single Supplement: US \$575. Deposit: US \$350.00.
TOUR SIZE	Limited to fourteen participants, with two High Lonesome leaders and two 15-pass vans
INCLUDES	From Denver, Colorado. Pickup and drop-off at Denver Airport, 10 nights lodging, all meals, transport, guide, taxes, & tips (guide tip optional).

SUMMARY OF ITINERARY

Apr 1	Meet at 12:00 noon at Denver International. Overnight in Pueblo
Apr 2	Overnight in Oakley, Kansas.
Apr 3	Overnight in Gunnison.
Apr 4	Overnight in Gunnison.
Apr 5	Gunnison Sage-Grouse lek. To Grand Junction and overnight.
Apr 6	Depart for Craig. Overnight.
Apr 7	Depart for Walden and overnight.
Apr 8	Depart for Wray and overnight.
Apr 9	Depart for Silverthorne and overnight.
Apr 10	Overnight outside Denver International Airport.
Apr 11	Departure flights home.

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY ONE (April 1): Arrive Denver Airport for pickup by 12:00 **Noon** in order to get some special birding in that same day. Meeting place is at the Jeppesen arrival area. Everyone emerges from the same exit for baggage. There are seats there in the concourse waiting area right outside the exit, Also, please let us know if you are going to be late! Drive to Pueblo after pickup. Dinner in Pueblo.

Overnight in Pueblo.

DAY TWO (April 2): Following breakfast, we'll head towards Lesser Prairie Chicken lek. Our location will change to Kansas this year because Arena Dust Tours is no longer offering their tours. Proceed west to Holbrooke, then on to Cheraw Lake where we'll scan for Snowy Plover and Baird's Sandpiper just arriving from their spring migration, also American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt and Wilson's Phalarope. There are often large flocks of Western Grebes at one or two locations, and we'll check for Clark's Grebe among them. Lunch in La Junta. Blue Lake (Adobe Creek SWA) is excellent for Mountain Plovers. Dinner at 7:00 PM Oakley, Kansas.

Overnight in Oakley, Kansas.

DAY THREE (April 3): We need to leave at 4:00 AM for Lesser Prairie Chicken lek. We'll be viewing from the car so as not to disturb the mating ritual of one of the rarest birds in North America. Their "dancing" and "booming" is an unforgettable sight. We'll have breakfast at our motel upon return. Check out, and head for Gunnison..

Overnight in Gunnison.

DAY Four (April 4): Depart after breakfast in Gunnison. Drive to Crested Butte to look for three species of Rosy-Finch and Evening Grosbeak, then a stop at Almont for American Dipper.

Overnight: Gunnison

DAY Five (April 5): Meet with intern about 4:15 AM for Gunnison Sage-Grouse lek. Check out of Gunnison hotel and depart for Grand Junction.

Stop at Black Canyon National Park to look for Dusky Grouse and others. Continue on to Grand Junction. Stop at Coal Creek Canyon (Cameo) for

possible Chukar. Dinner in Grand Junction.

Overnight in Grand Junction.

DAY Six (April 6): Drive to Colorado National Monument for Pinyon Jay & Juniper Titmouse. Lunch at Rifle Falls where we'll check the oak woodlands for Western Scrub-Jay, Band-tailed Pigeon and Spotted Towhee. Dinner at 7:00 at Carelli's Pizza in Craig and overnight there.

Overnight in Craig.

DAY SEVEN (APRIL 7): This day will begin with a pre-dawn outing to view Sharp-tailed Grouse & Dusky Grouse if not seen before. This can be a confused route even though it's on the GPS. If no luck here, go to location past power plant on 20 mile road. Well-marked on GPS. Lunch in Grand Junction. A stop at the rest area over Rabbit Ears Pass on the Continental Divide could produce, if the snow isn't too deep, Gray Jay, Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Three toed- Woodpecker. Dinner at 7:00 PM at River Rock Café.

Overnight in Walden.

DAY Eight (APRIL 8): We'll have another pre-dawn start to view the Greater Sage-Grouse on their lek. After breakfast we'll visit the Walden Reservoir where we hope to find California Gull, American Avocet, Cinnamon Teal and Sage Thrasher. We'll make a stop at Colorado State Park. Longspurs, also Mountain Plover.

We need to arrive at 5:00 PM, for orientation for the Greater Prairie Chicken with our rancher host. We'll go out to the lek where we should see some birds in the evening, just in case we run into weather the next morning. Dinner in Wray about 7:00 following our trip to the ranch.

Overnight in Wray.

DAY NINE (April 9): We need to leave about 4:45 AM for the lek. Our morning viewing will provide us with the chance to view more Greater

Prairie-Chickens with their elaborate display and "booming" sounds. Return to motel and breakfast. Depart for Silverthorne after breakfast. We'll stop at Pawnee Grasslands to search for McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs among other grassland birds.

Overnight in Silverthorne.

Day Ten (April 10). Drive up to Loveland Pass early for White-tailed Ptarmigan. Depart for Denver and overnight outside the airport.

Day Eleven (April 11). Shuttle to airport for flights home.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The tour per person sharing \$3575. The single supplement for this tour is \$550 and is subject to availability. Deposit is \$350.00 due within ten (10) day of registration.

Deposit can be paid securely on our web-site. Remaining balance must be paid 90 days prior to departure **by check** to High Lonesome BirdTours. Please mail to address below.

The tour price includes:

- Pickup and drop-off at Denver International Airport • 10 nights lodging
- All meals
- Ground transportation

- All reserve entrance fees
- Taxes and local tips (guide tip optional)

The tour price excludes:

- Airfares
- Drinks
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature

High Lonesome BirdTours is an equal opportunity service provider;

High Lonesome Bird Tours is an authorized permittee of the Pawnee National Grassland.

FOR MORE INFORMATION..



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