



**OUR SIDE
OF THE
DIVIDE**

DELTA COUNTY ~ COLORADO

Cedaredge
Crawford
Delta
Eckert
Hotchkiss
Orchard City
Paonia

Feathers & Fur

—A Wildlife Itinerary on Our Side of the Divide—

3 days/ 2 nights Double occupancy 2 to 10 people

Day 1

- 12 noon Arrive Rivendell Retreat for lodging check-in.
Enjoy views while savoring a box lunch by Hardins; GF & other options available.
- 1:00 pm Hike Rivendell trails for an orientation to various habitats, guided by Joe Colwell.
Rivendell Retreat's 40 acres have four miles of trails winding through diverse ecological niches. Bring your sturdy walking shoes, a walking stick and hat. Joe is a certified environmental education specialist, retired from a nearly three decade career in resource management.
- 2:30 pm High Wire Bison & Elk Ranch—Redlands Mesa.
Sue and Dave Whittlesey share their expertise and passion for bison and elk ranching as you tour and view bison and elk at their ranch.
- 4:00 pm Travel to upper Leroux Creek to view birds and other wildlife in aspen and spruce habitats, and wonderful scenery, too. *You may drive yourself with directions and maps we provide, or Joe can guide you to favorite spots and provide commentary.*
- 6:30 pm Dinner at Rivendell Retreat catered by chef Eleni Stelter.
Mouth-watering dishes, with local ingredients whenever possible.
- 8:00 pm Campfire circle and wildlife storytelling.
Rivendell's large campfire circle of local stone is perfect for a relaxing evening.

Day 2

- 7:00 am Continental breakfast at Rivendell Retreat.
- 7:30 am Travel to Confluence Park—Delta. *Walk trails to view birds and other wildlife. This conjunction of the Gunnison & Uncompahgre Rivers is a Delta City Park, a year-round favorite for great-tailed grackle, geese, ducks & other water birds, plus migrating passerines.*
- 9:30 am Travel to Escalante Canyon to view birds and scenery. (Road conditions permitting)
The canyon competes in beauty with Utah slick rock country. A variety of habitats provides opportunities to view seasonal and year-round birds, such as chukar, canyon wren, black phoebe, pinyon jay, western bluebird, bushtit.
- 12 noon Catered box lunch.
- 1:00 pm Travel to Eckert. *You will take the back road through the Mancos Shale Badlands ("dobies") to Surface Creek Valley, an agricultural oasis with a diversity of wildlife, south of Grand Mesa.*
- 2:00 pm Jim Durr at Surface Creek Winery and Gallery—Eckert.
Orientation on birding at Fruitgrowers Reservoir. Jim sponsors the annual Crane Days in March and is one of the local experts on cranes and other birdlife of the area. His gallery features the work of wildlife and landscape artists.
- 3:30 pm Return to Rivendell Retreat via Fruitgrowers Reservoir and Redlands Mesa.
Fruitgrowers Reservoir is a prime stop for migrating shorebirds in spring and fall, including large flocks of Sandhill Cranes in spring, and home to many nesting and summer residents.
- 6:30 pm Catered Dinner at Rivendell.

Day 3

- 6:30 am Sunrise hike on Rivendell trails to view birds, other wildlife and scenery.
Early morning is the best time for wildlife viewing. Learn to identify bird songs.
- 7:30 am Continental breakfast at Rivendell.
- 8:30 am Travel to Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery and North Rim of Black Canyon of Gunnison National Park for bird watching. *The Hatchery, along the North Fork of the Gunnison River, is part of the federal hatchery system & has an informative visitor center. The north rim of Black Canyon National Park is high elevation pinyon juniper & browse habitats. Watch for falcon and other birds while enjoying the dizzying views of one of the wonders of American geology.*
- 12 noon Lunch at Zack's Bar-B-Q—Hotchkiss.
Zack's mouth-watering barbeque is a long-time favorite with locals and visitors.
- Head for home.



Rivendell Retreat
merging awareness, creativity, & nature

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