



BIRDING MAN

A D V E N T U R E S

GREAT PLAINS LEK TREK

April 27th – 30th 2025

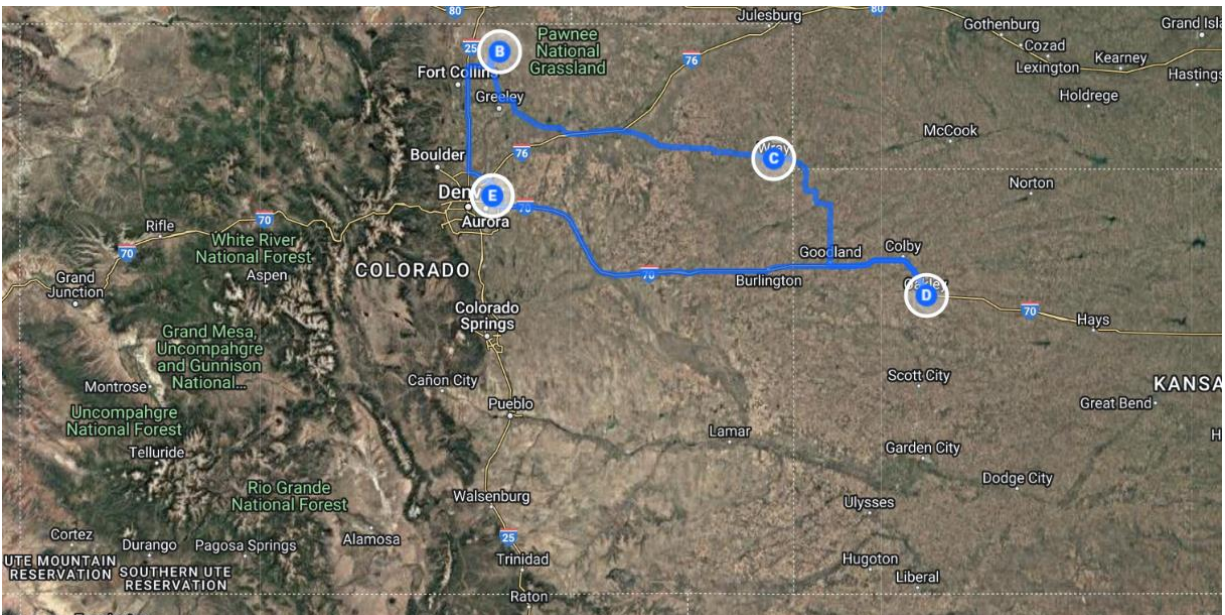


Watch the magnificent booming displays of Greater and Lesser Prairie Chickens in wide open expanses of short grass prairie, one of the most endangered ecosystems in the United States

Itinerary in Brief

Bold font indicates mornings we will rise before dawn to observe birds on mating leks

Day	Activities	Food	Lodging
1	Morning departure Pawnee National Grasslands Meet with Bob Bledsoe, owner of Bledsoe Cattle Company	BLD	Wray, CO
2	Greater Prairie Chicken Lek Prairie birding Transfer to Oakley, KS	BLD	Oakley, KS
3	Lesser Prairie Chicken Lek Prairie birding Transfer to Denver, CO	BLD	Denver, CO
4	Breakfast at hotel Transfer to airport/departure	B	



Map of Itinerary (E is starting and ending location)



Your guide, Ryan Dibala, will greet you at the airport or pick you up at your hotel in Denver, Colorado

Itinerary

Day 1: Denver, CO | Pawnee National Grasslands, CO | Wray, CO

- Morning pickup at hotel or airport
- Transfer to Pawnee National Grasslands (1 hour, 33 minutes; 99.2 miles)

Target Species

- Thick-billed Longspur
 - Chestnut-collared Longspur
 - Mountain Plover
 - Brewer's Sparrow
 - Lark Bunting
 - Burrowing Owl
 - Loggerhead Shrike
- Lunch
 - Transfer to Wray, CO (2 hours, 58 minutes; 174 miles)
 - Greater Prairie Chicken Presentation from Bob Bledsoe, owner of Bledsoe Cattle Company
 - Group Dinner

Lodging: [Doc's Bed and Breakfast](#)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



The Chestnut-collared Longspur is an iconic species of mixed-grass prairie and is one of the fastest declining birds in North America. We will look for them, along with Thick-billed Longspur, at strategic stops across the prairie



Trip leader Ryan Dibala and wife Angie meeting with ranch owner Bob Bledsoe in Wray, CO. Enjoy educational content, including information about existing conservation programs working to safeguard remaining Prairie Chicken habitat



Photographing Greater Prairie Chickens (left). A male Greater Prairie Chicken raises his philoplumes in preparation for a dispute with a nearby male (right). Indigenous Plains tribes like the Shoshone and Pawnee were said to have modeled their dances after the mating display of the Prairie Chickens

Day 2: Wray, CO | Oakley, KS

- 5 am wake up: **Greater Prairie Chicken** lek (20 minutes; 12 miles)
- Return to Doc's for breakfast
- Birding the eastern prairies

Target Species

- Bobwhite Quail
- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Cackling Goose
- Wood Duck
- Chihuahuan Raven
- Lunch
- Transfer to Oakley, Kansas (2 hours, 9 minutes; 136 miles)
- Dinner

Lodging: [Kansas Country Inn](#)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Enjoy a stay and a homemade breakfast at the hospitable Kansas Country Inn in Oakley, Kansas



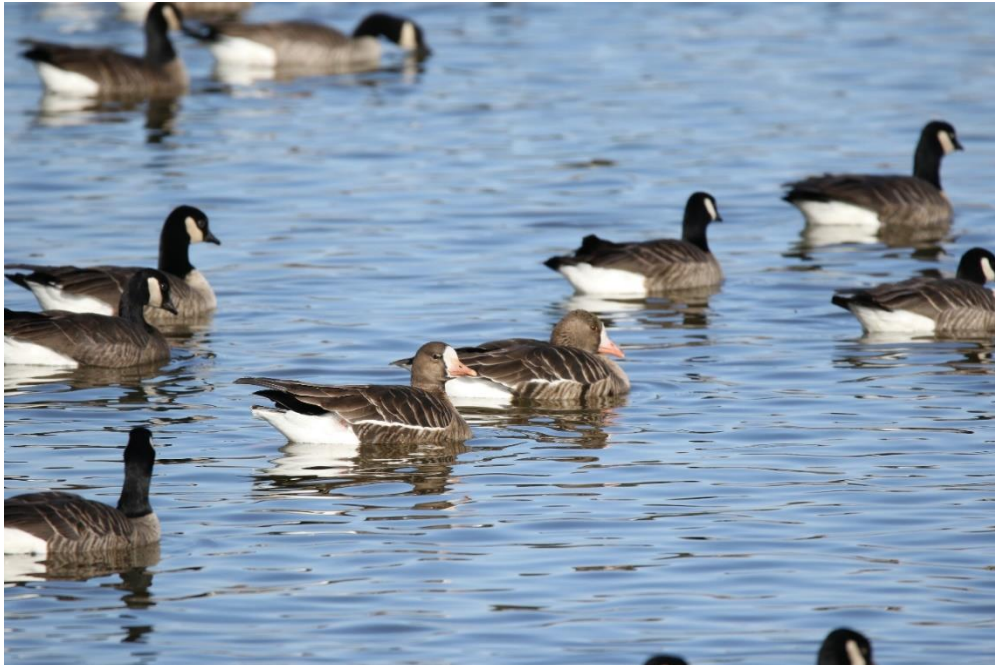
Lesser Prairie Chickens are listed as “Threatened” in Colorado and the viewing of leks is now prohibited in the state. Therefore, we will travel to Oakley, Kansas, where populations – although still designated as threatened - are more stable and controlled lek viewing is still permitted

Day 3: Oakley, KS | Denver, CO

- 5 am wake up: **Lesser Prairie Chicken** lek (20 minutes; 12 miles)
- Return to Kansas Country Inn for breakfast
- Birding the eastern prairies (1 hour, 30 minutes; 123 miles)
 - Target Species
 - Prairie Falcon
 - Ferruginous Hawk
 - Yellow-headed Blackbird
 - Long-billed Curlew
 - Chihuahuan Raven
- Lunch
- Transfer to Denver, CO with birding stops along the way (2 hours, 9 minutes; 136 miles)
- Final Dinner

Lodging: [La Quinta Inn and Suites by Wyndham Denver International Airport](#)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Greater White-fronted Geese mixed with a flock of Cackling Geese

Day 4: Denver, CO | Home

- Breakfast at hotel
- Transfer to airport
- Departure

Lodging: None

Meals included: Breakfast



The shortgrass prairie of Pawnee National Grasslands in late April can be filled with great treasures



Trip Cost

Price per person: **\$1,200**

Single supplement: \$200

Includes:

- ✓ Driver and guide throughout the tour
- ✓ Ground transportation
- ✓ All hotels
- ✓ Meals listed on itinerary
- ✓ All fees and permits
- ✓ Water and snacks throughout the trip
- ✓ General Liability insurance and auto insurance
- ✓ 24-hour assistance in case of emergency

Does not include:

- × Flight
- × Medical insurance
- × Travel insurance
- × Evacuation costs
- × Alcoholic beverages
- × Personal expenses
- × Activities and food not included on the itinerary
- × Optional tips
- × Laundry and other items of personal nature

Please note that this itinerary cannot be 100% guaranteed, as it is only a rough guide and can be changed due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors.



What You Need to Know

Tour Pace:

This tour is designed for intermediate birders and photographers. We consider the difficulty level to be moderate, with most of the birding being close to roadsides and trails with slight uphill and downhill. Expect early morning starts and long drives, but we will make sure the trip is broken up with plenty of out-of-vehicle time.

Transportation:

You will be traveling in a 12- or 14- passenger van with windows. The maximum group size will be 8 people, including the guide. There will be sufficient room for personal baggage.

Lodging:

You will be staying at a combination of 2- and 3-star hotels and lodges throughout the tour. Each accommodation has been diligently vetted for quality and assurance. Please see websites at hyperlinks above.

Altitude:

Denver is located at 5,280 ft above sea level. Highest elevations will be reached at Loveland Pass (11,991 ft above sea level) on Day 2. Please consult with your doctor if you have medical conditions that may be exacerbated at high elevations. You may experience some minor irritations such as a slight headache and mild dizziness, but symptoms should disappear as we descend to lower elevations. The entirety of this tour will be at 5,280 feet and below.

Laundry:

Laundry services are available at all hotels on this trip, however, please note that laundry fees are not included in the tour pricing.



Travel Insurance:

We do not provide travel (or medical) insurance. We strongly advise that you purchase a travel insurance package. Please read our **cancellation policy** below and on our [Terms and Conditions Page](#).

READY TO BOOK THIS TOUR?

Registration and Payment Information:

Registration and all payments, including initial deposit, should be made through our trip portal on [We Travel](#). We do accept credit cards for an additional 2.9% fee, but you may also pay by bank transfer or check. We request a \$1,000 initial deposit upon registration.

CANCELLATIONS: If we cancel a tour due to low attendance, severe weather, COVID-19, or other unforeseen event, participants may either move their payments to another trip of their choice or receive a full refund. If you cancel your spot on a tour more than 90 days from departure, you will be eligible for a full refund. If cancelled within 90 days of departure, no refund will be given UNLESS we are able to fill your spot(s) with another participant(s). In that situation, \$250 will be withheld for administrative purposes, but the remainder of your payment will be refunded. We highly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or a family member prior to or during a trip.