

Itinerary

BFCO Extension Trip 2019
Southern Alberta Prairie Potholes and Foothills – June 18-21, 2019

Day 0: June 17, 2019 18:30 – Meet your leader and co-participants at Avenue 16 Kitchen and Bar for dinner and socializing: <https://goo.gl/maps/3DP4ZBP9KU82>
Accommodation: *Four Points Sheraton, Calgary West*

Day 1: June 18, 2019

Morning - Depart Hotel at 4:15 AM for early morning birding for Yellow Rail, Sedge Wren, LeConte's and Nelson's Sparrow. Birding north towards Winchell Lake, Water Valley and area for eastern boreal specialties like Sandhill Crane, Great Gray Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Winter Wren, Evening Grosbeak, Bobolink, Baltimore Oriole, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Tennessee Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, and many others. Bird NW of Cochrane until lunch time.

Lunch at Water Valley Saloon. Opportunities for coffee/snack/restroom stop in Water Valley early in the day.

Afternoon – Depart Water Valley and head due east towards Hanna. Birding various prairie potholes, wetlands, and roadsides. Target species include Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Piping Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Black Tern, American White Pelican, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk.
Accommodation: *Canalta Hanna*

Day 2: June 19, 2019

Morning – Depart Hotel at 5:30 for birding along the highway south towards Dinosaur Provincial Park. Bird Dinosaur Provincial Park in the morning. Target species for the early morning birding in the area include Upland Sandpiper, Ferruginous Hawk, White-faced Ibis, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Least Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Rock Wren, Veery, Lark Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Lunch options at either Patricia Hotel or visitor's center in Dinosaur Provincial Park.

Afternoon – Depart Dinosaur Provincial Park and bird the prairies between the park and Brooks. Prairie target species include Sharp-tailed Grouse, Common Nighthawk, Upland Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope, Burrowing Owl, Sprague's Pipit, Chestnut-collared Longspur, McCown's Longspur, Grasshopper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Baird's Sparrow, and Yellow-breasted Chat.
Accommodation: *Days Inn, Brooks*

Day 3: June 20, 2019

Morning – Depart Hotel at 5:30 for birding at near Brooks. Specific location dependent on prairie species that we've missed so far, but likely include habitat for Grasshopper Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, McCown's Longspur, Burrowing Owl, Long-billed Curlew, Upland Sandpiper, and Sprague's Pipit.

Lunch – Lots of options in the town of Brooks, Vulcan, or High River, dependent on amount of ground covered. Afternoon – Birding prairie potholes en route back to Calgary. Target species

include White-faced Ibis, Ferruginous Hawk, Upland Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Purple Martin, Baird's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, longspur sp., Burrowing Owl, and Sprague's Pipit.

Accommodation: *Wingate by Wyndham South*

Day 4: June 21, 2019

Morning – Depart hotel at 5:30 for birding southwest of Calgary. Target species include Spruce Grouse, Dusky Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Yellow Rail, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, Ovenbird, Tennessee Warbler, and Northern Waterthrush, along with any other species we missed on our first day of birding. Starting along Sheep River valley, then working our way north and west towards Kananaskis Country.

Trip should wrap up around 1 pm at the Four Points Sheraton West (where we stayed the first night) with plenty of lunch locations around.

Driving time between west Calgary and Golden for registration for AGM Conference is approximately 3 hours.

Transportation (included in price)

Three SUV's are being rented for the trip, and will be boarded in Calgary. Five persons, including a driver, will occupy each of the three vehicles. A number of the locations to be visited on this tour will require 4x4 capability. No private vehicles will be used.

Cost \$350.00 per person.

Additional Costs

You can expect an additional approximately \$50.00 per person to cover fuel costs. This amount will be collected at the end of the tour and will comprise the actual fuel expenditures for the tour. Actual distances travelled, off-road conditions, and fuel prices are unfortunately not precisely known in advance.

Accommodation Group rates, listed below, have been arranged for this BCFO tour.

Day 0	Four Points by Sheraton, Calgary West \$139
Day 1	Canalta, Hanna \$144
Day 2	Days Inn, Brooks \$119
Day 3	Wingate, Calgary South \$189

All above include breakfast.

Private Charter Transport from Calgary to Golden

(If needed by participants not driving to Calgary for the start of the tour)

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