



“Birding by Ear”
Guided Birding Hikes
@ Venetucci Farm



Orchard Oriole
singing @ Coyote
Willows Photo:
Diane French

**JOIN US FOR THE GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION OF THE
VENETUCCI FARM BIRDING TRAIL!
FREE OPEN HOUSE TO EXPLORE OUR FARM’S BIRDING TRAIL ON
SELF-GUIDED OUTINGS
Saturday June 10th, 6:30am-10:00am**

Highlights:

- Free access to the farm’s birding trail for self-guided hiking (typically we ask \$5/person)
- Complimentary refreshments and Venetucci Farm t-shirts and other items available. Donations accepted for these items.
- Trail Brochures and Birds of Venetucci Farm lists will be available
- On the hour, short guided excursions focusing on birding by ear, led by staff and volunteers

A healthy farm ecosystem includes habitat for wildlife. At Venetucci Farm we are careful to farm in a way that preserves and encourages such habitat. In fact, Western Meadowlarks, Northern Mockingbirds and Vesper Sparrows are examples of common birds heard singing and nesting this time of year at the farm. A host of other rare birds have been seen in a wild little corner of the farm we call Coyote Willows. Indigo & Lazuli Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, Gray Catbirds, Orchard Orioles, Yellow-breasted Chats and Brown Thrashers have all been heard singing and sightings have been made of Dickcissels and even Bobolinks!

Please join us for an opportunity to learn more about the birds singing at Venetucci Farm as we hike our new **Venetucci Farm Birding Trail**. In addition to focusing in on bird song, we will also look for nesting behavior. Highlights will include tips on identifying different species and learning about behavior and habitat needs.

Pre-registration is required for all events (except June 10th) as group size will be limited.

When: Saturdays:

- June 3rd 6:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Birding by Ear @ Venetucci Farm
- June 10th 6:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Grand Opening of our Venetucci Farm Birding Trail for self-guided outings! FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
- June 24th 6:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Birding by Ear @ Venetucci Farm

Where: Venetucci Farm, 5210 South Highway 85, Colorado Springs, CO 80911 (directions below*) **THESE HIKES MEET AT VENETUCCI FARM!**

Cost: \$12/adult, \$10/ college student, \$7/children: (children 5 and under are free)

To Register: Please email David Rudin, drudin@ppcf.org, and tell us how many people, names of participants and dates

Please note the hike will go rain or shine and thus no refunds will be given.

For Questions: Email: David Rudin, drudin@ppcf.org or call 719-648-9324

Special Notes: These hikes can be somewhat physically demanding as we sometimes hike up to 2.25 miles. On longer outings, there is a shortcut back to the parking area at about the half way point. Also, wearing long-sleeves and using bug spray is strongly recommended to keep mosquitoes at bay in warmer weather!

Please bring binoculars and bird identification books (Some accommodations are possible with advance notice). The walking will be moderate but please plan on trail hiking.

***Directions:** From I-25 going south, take the South Academy Blvd Exit 135. Go east for .5 miles and take the exit for Highway 85 toward Fountain. Turn right on Highway 85 and go .9 miles. Look for the farm on your right. **Drive past the farm and take a right into St. Dominick's Church, drive 50 feet and make a right on the dirt farm road; the green water tower will be on your right. Go through the gate and park near the big red barn, where we will meet.**