



Eagle Watches 2015–2016 Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area

Volunteer Duties:

This is a fun outing for usually large (20-50) mixed-age groups of very interested people. Bald eagles spend the winter in Fort Collins and have established roosts (places where eagles perch, rest, and sleep) and hunting areas at Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area. The viewing pier is open all year; the viewing blind from Cattail Flats Trail (east) is closed when the eagles begin roosting in the nearby trees at night.

A pair of bald eagles successfully nested in the summer of 2014 and 2015. They were not in the main roost trees but across the reservoir. They were best seen from the outdoor classroom area. We are hopeful that they will return in 2016.

Master Naturalists set up at the viewing pier (the trail to the east is closed to protect the roost trees and the eagles from disturbance) and greet people as they arrive, give a brief overview of the Natural Areas Department, and deliver the program. Most of the time you are at the pier and people drop in and leave continuously. Because it's a drop-in program there may be quite a bit of repetition of information delivered as new people arrive.

Master Naturalist Assistants help with greeting people, handing out and collecting the binoculars (an important job as people come and go during the two-hour period), hand out maps (if appropriate), offer sign-ups for *Natural Areas News* (the Natural Areas Department monthly e-newsletter) and generally assist as the naturalist needs you. Don't forget to count the participants!

Equipment and Background Information

Binoculars and scopes are available at FCR or at Nix. We have a notebook of background information and a sample program that is also housed at Nix and can be checked out prior to your program. The equipment at FCR does not need to be checked out.

Directions to Access Optics at Fossil Creek Reservoir:

There are two scopes and several binoculars in the garage. Enter the building, cross the lobby area, and exit the door that says "Maintenance." Or walk around the outside of the building. Look on the ground for an artificial rock about the size of an egg located next to the air conditioner unit. This is right next to the small garage door (not the large bay doors). This fake rock slides open to reveal a garage key. Open the garage door and look to the left of the door or perhaps on the side wall for a bin that contains the optics. Take what you need and replace the key. At the end of the talk replace the equipment, lock up, and return the rock and key to its place.

To get the key out of the garage door: turn it all the way counterclockwise, thus locking the door before pulling the key out. Then it comes out easily.

2015–2016

Late December sunset = 4:39

Early January sunset = 4:43

Mid January sunset = 4:56
Late January sunset = 5:13
Early February sunset = 5:21
Mid February sunset = 5:30

Dates and Times:

Saturday, December 26, 3:00-4:30
Sunday, December 27, 3:00-4:30
Friday, January 1, 3:30-5:00
Saturday, January 2, 3:30-5:00
Friday, January 8, 3:30-5:00
Saturday, January 9, 3:30-5:00
Friday, January 15, 3:30-5:00
Saturday, January 16, 3:30-5:00
Saturday, January 23, 3:30-5:00
Friday, January 29, 3:30-5:00
Saturday, January 30, 3:30-5:00
Friday, February 5, 4:00-5:30
Saturday, February 6, 4:00-5:30
Friday, February 12, 4:00-5:30
Saturday, February 13, 4:00-5:30