At first glance from the eastside highway, the Pueblo Mountains appear dry, barren and desolate.

However, its hidden interior stream canyons are green oases for hikers and wildlife alike.

These interior stream canyons not only have colorful, mineralized rock outcroppings...

...but the abandoned remains of the rich mining history in the Pueblos.
For great views, the West Pueblo Ridge is easily accessible by car and offers easy day hiking...

...as well as colorful, yellow-green and orange lichen-covered rocks.

For birders, many species of interest are found among the low cottonwoods of Little Cottonwood Creek...

...and along the willow and alder-lined banks of Colony Creek.