

ID, stayed the winter (JG). Pocatello hosted a pair of Great-tailed Grackles Jan. 18 (MCR) and three Com. Grackles Dec. 28 (JC), both seasonal firsts for Latilong 27.

Rosy-finches were absent from some traditional wintering areas, so a mixed flock of up to 1000 Blacks and Gray-crowns near Challis Feb. 22 was significant (DF, EF). A Regionally rare Purple Finch was in Somers, MT, Jan. 4 (DC). Reports indicated a significant, though sporadic, invasion of Red and White-winged crossbills across the Region (EC, SG, CS).

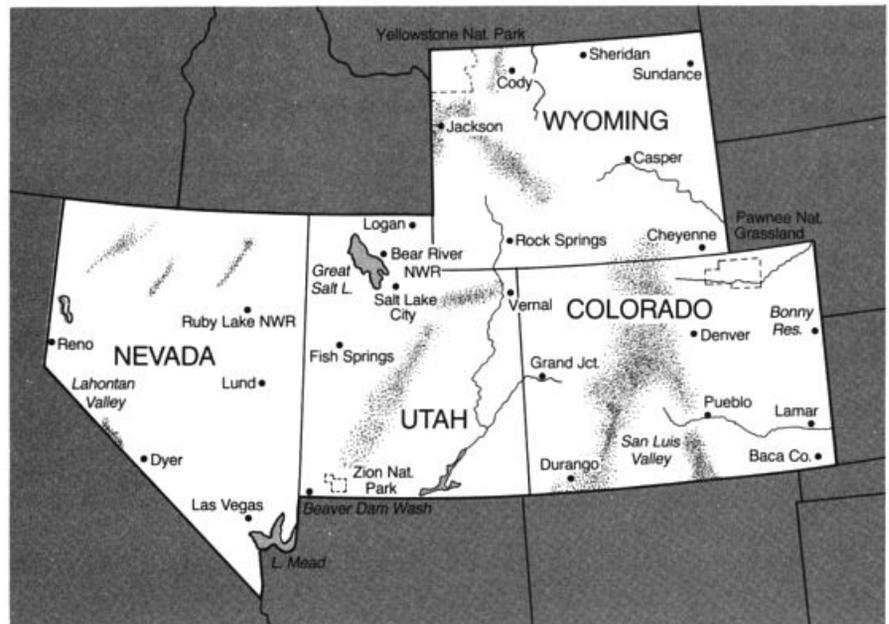
A major invasion of Com. Redpolls occurred in n. mountain valleys, with the largest numbers found in Glacier N.P., Kalispell, and Sandpoint areas (DC, EC, SG). A **Lesser Goldfinch** spotted near Mayfield, Ada, Dec. 20 & 25 represented the first seasonal sighting ever in Idaho (DT).

Observers cited (subregional editors in boldface): IDAHO: Laurie Barrera, Corinne Cameron, Earl Chapin, James Cleaver (JC), Marty Collar (MCR), Mark Collie (MC), Gordon and Pam Comrie, Mike Dewell, John Doremus, **Kas Dumroese**, Ron Elam, Dave Faike, Elise Faike, John Gatchet, Ririe Godfrey, Dave Hazelton (DHa), Toni Holthuijzen, Florence Knoll, **Merlene Koliner**, Cindy Langlitz, Dave Lawrence, Russ Manwaring, Cindy McCormick, Matt McCoy (MMc), Don Morgan, Susan Patla, **Hadley Roberts**, R.L. Rowland (RLR), **Shirley Sturts**, Colleen Sweeney (CSy), Charles Swift (CS), Dave Trochlell, Chuck Trost, Carole Vande Vorde, Jeff Wisman, C. Fred Zeilemaker, Melly Zeilemaker. MONTANA: Eric Atkinson, Katie Atkinson, Melonie Atkinson, Dwight Bergeron, John Carlson (JCa), **Dan Casey**, Ferne Cohen, Steve Eshbaugh, Steve Gniadek, Denver Holt (DH), Cedron Jones, Brian Joyce, Leo Libby, **Jeff Marks**, Poody McLaughlin, Mike Myers (MM), Chad Olson, John Ormiston, **John Parker**, **Don Skaar**, Kalmar Stevenson, Wayne Tree.

Dave Trochlell, 1931 Tallwood Lane, Boise, ID 83706, and **Dan Svingen**, P.O. Box 271, Springfield, CO 81073

Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *Field Notes* are keyed on page 160.

mountain west region



VAN A. TRUAN and BRANDON K. PERCIVAL

El Niño was not a terror, as predicted, in most of the Region. As a whole, winter temperatures were fairly mild. Many lakes didn't freeze this winter and a number of species wintered north of their normal ranges. The Las Vegas area had the wettest February on record, but Wyoming and most of Colorado were below normal in moisture. Colorado's snow pack was below average, and the Nevada Sierras were well above. The mild winter allowed fall migrants to stay well into the winter, and there were some early spring migrants.

Reports received from throughout the Region reported low to non-existent wintering finches. This could have been due to warm weather, lack of snow, or the wet summer and fall of 1997, which may have provided plenty of natural food for them.

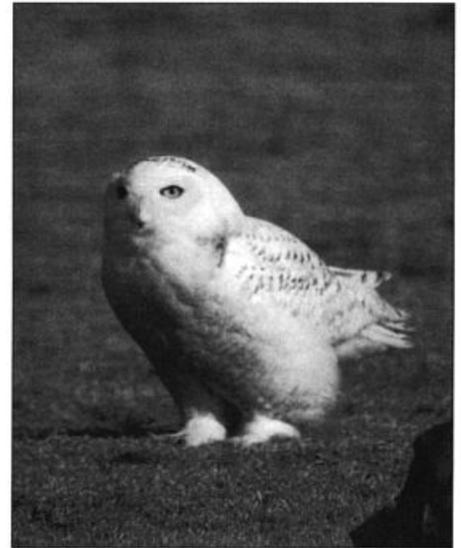
Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (*Colorado Bird Records Committee*); D.M.N.H. (*Denver Museum of Natural History*); G.S.L. (*Great Salt Lake, UT*); S.W.A. (*State Wildlife Area*).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Up to two Pacific Loons were reported from Chatfield Res., *Jefferson*, CO, Dec. 1–20 (JK, BB, m.ob.); one–three were at Quail Creek Res., *Washington*, UT, Dec. 1–Feb. 15 (MS, DW, SDS, PRS); an adult was at L. Powell, UT, Dec. 29 (JSp); and up to two were at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, CO, Jan. 11–19 (BKP, TL, JK, CLW). An imm. Yellow-billed Loon stayed to Dec. 22 at Chatfield Res., CO (v.o.). Reports of wintering Horned Grebes were higher than usual from the Sierras e. into the Great Basin. There were up to six at L. Powell, UT, Dec. 2–29 (JSp); one at Reno, NV, Dec. 9–20 (MM); two at Sandberg Pond/Quail Creek Res., UT, Jan. 2 (SDS, JKr); one at Quail Creek Res., UT, Jan. 24 (SDS, PRS, JKr); a high count of 23 at L. Powell, UT, Jan. 28–30 (JSp); and five at Pyramid L., *Washoe*, NV, Feb. 20 (MM). A first-year Red-necked Grebe was at Green R., *Sweetwater*, WY, Dec. 20 (RSt). A high count of 3000+ Western/Clark's Grebes came from L. Mead, *Clark*, NV, Jan. 10 (JCr, MC). Reports of wintering Clark's appeared higher than average. In Colorado, there was one at Pueblo Res. Dec. 1–Feb. 8 (BKP, m.ob.); three at Chatfield Res. Dec. 3 (TL); one at L. Cheraw, *Otero*, Dec. 17–22 (VAT,



Rare so far south was this immature gray-morph Gyrfalcon at Hamilton Reservoir, Colorado, on January 19, 1998. Photograph/Bill Lisowsky



Snowy Owl north of Lamar, Colorado, on February 26, 1998. Photograph/Janeal W. Thompson

appeared to be in courtship behavior at L. Powell, UT, Feb. 27 (JSp). Always rare in the Region, two gray-morph **Gyrfalcons** were reported from Colorado. A juvenile was hit by a car near Center, *Saguache*, Dec. 13 for the first San Luis Valley record (this bird was taken care of for over a month and eventually died; JJR). Another juvenile was at Hamilton Res., *Larimer*, Jan. 18–Feb. 10 (RAR, ph. DAL, ph. WPL, m.ob.); this bird was observed killing and eating healthy Canada Geese.

GROUSE THROUGH GULLS

Five Blue Grouse were reported with Sage Grouse in *Rio Blanco*, CO, Jan. 15 (KPo). Sage Grouse counts in *Rio Blanco* and *Garfield*, CO, netted 64 individuals (KPo). A high count of 15 Gambel's Quail were at New Harmony, *Washington*, UT, Feb. 1 (SDS, PRS). Rare anywhere in Colorado in winter, a Sora was on the Grand Junction CBC Dec. 21 (KPo). In *Montrose*, CO, 33 Sandhill Cranes were observed Jan. 22–Feb. 7 (JL, m.ob.). An ad. Whooping Crane from the Idaho introduced flock was reported from *Montrose*, CO, Dec. 19–Jan. 5 (JL, m.ob.). In Colorado, a Greater Yellowlegs lingered to Dec. 20 in *Pueblo* (PSS), and two were in *Mesa* Dec. 21 (CD). Single Spotted Sandpipers were at Grand Junction Dec. 21 (CD) and along the Arkansas R., in *Pueblo*, Feb. 1–8 (MY, m.ob.). This species is very rare in Colorado in winter.

Other shorebirds in the Region, all in Nevada, included four Least Sandpipers at Indian Lakes, Stillwater W.M.A., Jan. 9 (RF), two Dunlins at Henderson Decem-

ber–February (v.o.), and four Long-billed Dowitchers at Stillwater N.W.R. Jan. 1 (RF). Observed in good habitat, an **American Woodcock** was flushed w. of *Pueblo*, CO, Dec. 15 (BKP).

In Colorado, up to 36 Bonaparte's Gulls stayed to Dec. 23 at *Pueblo Res.* (BKP, m.ob.), four Dec. 4 at *Nee Grande Res.*, *Kiowa* (DAL), and one Jan. 24 w. of *Pueblo* (BM). An ad. Mew Gull was at *Big Johnson Res.*, CO, Feb. 14 (RB), and a first-winter Herring Gull was at *Quail Creek Res.*, UT, Jan. 24 onward (SDS, PRS, JKr). Unusually large numbers of Thayer's Gulls were present in n. Utah throughout the period, mostly first- and 2nd-winter birds (*vide* MS). In Colorado, 25 were reported from 8 e. counties. Colorado had three Lesser Black-backed Gulls: a first-winter bird at *Jumbo Res.*, *Sedgwick*, Dec. 18 (CLW); an adult at *Valmont Res.*, *Boulder*, Dec. 20 (PG); and a winter adult w. of *Pueblo* Jan. 17–25 (VAT, MJ, BKP, m.ob.). If accepted, Utah had its first **Western Gull** at W. Bountiful Landfill, *Davis*, Jan. 10 (MS, m.ob.). This bird was in 3rd- or 4th-winter plumage. Three Western × Glaucous-winged Gull hybrids were at *Pyramid L.*, *Washoe*, NV, Feb. 20 (MM). An ad. **Yellow-footed Gull** was at L. Mead, NV, Jan. 3–10 (JCr, MC, m.ob.); in 1991, the first state record was this adult, missing the left foot, and it was observed again in 1992 and 1993. A first-winter **Glaucous-winged Gull** was reported at *Valco Ponds*, *Pueblo*, CO, Jan. 24 (JR) and three first-winter birds were at W. Bountiful Landfill, UT, Jan. 10 (MS, m.ob.). Also at the W. Bountiful Landfill, a first-

winter Glaucous Gull was found Jan. 10 (MS, m.ob.). Colorado had only three Glaucous Gulls this winter. For the 6th winter, an ad. Great Black-backed Gull stayed from Dec. 1–Feb. 8 at *Pueblo Res.* (v.o.); on Feb. 15 an adult was at *Big Johnson Res.*, *El Paso*, CO, probably the same bird (JD). A first-winter bird was at *Arvada Res.*, *Jefferson*, CO, Jan. 4–5 (TL, NK, m.ob.), and possibly the same bird was at *Pueblo Res.* Jan. 7–18 (BKP, m.ob.). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was at L. Mead, NV, Dec. 4 (JCr, MC).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Up to eight Eur. Collared-Doves continue to thrive at *Rocky Ford*, *Otero*, CO (BKP, MJ, m.ob.); the C.B.R.C. has added this species to the Colorado state list. Rarely reported in winter from Colorado, a Barn Owl was at *Grand Junction* Dec. 7 (TL, RL), one was n. of *Lamar*, *Prowers*, Jan. 25 (BW), and one was found dead in *Lamar* Feb. 26 (DAL). An E. Screech-Owl was heard at *Rocky Ford S.W.A.*, *Otero*, CO, Dec. 22 (RB, BKP, CLW). Owling for W. Screech-Owls produced four on the *Pueblo Res.* CBC Dec. 20 (VAT); three at *Florence*, *Fremont*, CO, Dec. 21 (MPe); one in *Canon City*, *Fremont*, CO, Jan. 1 (MJ, BKP, CLW, JK); and two on the L. Isabel CBC, *Pueblo*, CO, Jan. 3 (VAT, BKP). Colorado had three **Snowy Owls**: one in *Boulder* Dec. 26 (GE), an ad. male n. of *Lamar* Feb. 14–28 (DR, KG, DAL, ph. JT), and an imm. female found dead at *Gilcrest*, *Weld*, in late February (*vide* JcG, * to D.M.N.H.). Wyoming had one Snowy, n. of *Cheyenne* Feb. 13–14 (JLD). Northern Pygmy-Owls were reported from



Fox Sparrows are rare in winter in Colorado. This bird, of one of the more reddish eastern or northern races, was at Red Rocks Park west of Denver on January 2, 1998. Photograph/Bill Lisowsky

SA The higher temperatures this season allowed water in lakes and streams to remain elevated longer, thus yielding more days of emergent chironomids (midges) and other aquatic insects. Along the Arkansas R. below Pueblo Res., up to 50 warblers fed on midges daily until several days of cold, "cloudy" weather appeared. The cloudy days seem to eliminate or reduced the emergents and may have forced the warblers to move to other areas, or may have caused weak birds to perish. On sunny days, these midge "hatches" can and do occur, even where temperatures are well below freezing. The Pine Warbler at Valco Ponds was observed feeding on both larval and adult midges. It probed in muddy areas and flycatched in willows and Russian olive trees adjacent to the river. With the onset of "cloudy" weather, the warbler disappeared, along with most of the Yellow-rumped and the Palms. Luckily for s. Colorado, we have numerous sunny days, and "hatches" of midges occur almost daily in winter since water from Pueblo Res. comes from sub-surface lake discharges.

winter, two Chipping Sparrow were reported on the Denver CBC Dec. 20 (NE, DSc) and one was in *Boulder* Dec. 26 (MPI). Another was in Reno Dec. 22 (GC, MM). An "eastern" Fox Sparrow returned to Red Rocks Park, *Jefferson*, CO, Dec. 20–Feb. 28 (LBr, BB, ph. CLW, ph. WPL) and one "race unknown" was at Jackson Hole, WY, Feb. 4 (SCo, *fide* BR).

Swamp and White-throated sparrow wintering numbers appeared lower than normal in the e. portion of the Region. A White-throated Sparrow was at Pleasant Grove, UT, Jan. 29–Feb. 7 (DSh, m.ob.), and two were at Ogden Jan. 6–Feb. 8 (B&KE). Utah had three Golden-crowned Sparrows and one Harris's. A Harris's Sparrow wintered at Jackson Hole, WY (JLu, *fide* BR). Winter reports of McCown's Longspurs came from 4 Colorado counties. More than 200 Chestnut-collared Longspurs wintered in *Baca*, CO (DSv). Snow Buntings were reported from near La Salle, *Weld*, CO, Dec. 26 (TK) and two were at Big Johnson Res., CO, Feb. 22 (JD).

Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in Adams, CO, Dec. 27–Jan. 1 (TL, RB, SY), and others arrived earlier than usual in e. Colorado; with one Jan 22 in *Larimer*. Rusty Blackbirds appeared in usual numbers, with 20+ from 3 Colorado counties. Great-tailed Grackles continue their expansion northward. There were 100+ at Washington City, UT, Jan. 2 (SDS, JKr); 33 at Carson L., *Churchill*, NV, Jan. 6 (WH); and one at Cedar City, UT, Dec. 19 (SDS, PRS). A Com. Grackle was recorded on the Cedar City CBC, UT, Dec. 19 (SDS, PRS). A "female-plumaged" Purple Finch was at Fountain, *El Paso*, CO, Dec. 6–7 (KP, m.ob.), and a imm. male was at Red Rocks Park, *Jefferson*, CO, Dec. 25–Jan. 17 (TL, m.ob.). One White-winged Crossbill was n. of Silverthorne, *Summit*, CO, Dec. 14 (TL). Common Redpolls wintered s. into *El Paso* and *Teller*, CO. Up to six Lesser Goldfinches were at Ogden, UT, Dec. 29–Feb. 28 (JRe, B&KE), one was on the Grand Junction CBC (*fide* RLe), three visited in Colorado Springs Feb. 7 (GB), and one was in *Boulder* Feb. 11 (CB).

Cited observers: Jim Ahl, Mary Jane Black (MJB), Cliff & Bev Boevors (C&BB), Dan Bridges, Leon Bright, Alex Brown, Bob Brown, Lea Ann Brown (LBr), Cliff Bruning, Richard Bunn, Greg Butcher, Jim Chance, Sherry Chapman, Graham Chisholm, Lois Clark, Luke W. Cole, Sue Cole (SCo), Jerry Craig (JcG), Jim Cressman (JCr), Marian Cressman, Denver Field

Ornithologists' (DFO), Coen Dexter, Bob Dickson, Jordan Dimick, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ferd & Jo Dirckx (F&JD), Jane L. Dorn, Ron Edgerton, David C. Ely, Gary Emerson, Norm Erthal, Betty & Keith Evans (B&KE), Robert Flores, Peter Gent, Ken Giesen, Bob Goycoolea, Bob Gustafson (BGU), Tom Hablitzel, Pat Hammon, J.B. Hayes, William Henry, Dean & Mona Hill (D&MH), Mark Janos, Dave Johnson, Jeff Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Joe & Norma Kamby (J&NK), Joey Kellner, D.W. King (DWK), Rachel Kolokoff, Nick Komar, Tom Kozan, Josh Kreitzer (JKr), Ron Lambeth, K.G. Lane (KGL), David A. Leatherman, Tony Leukering, Rich Levad (RLe), William P. Lisowsky, Jonathan Lowsky, Joan Lucus (JLu), Forrest Luke, Joe Mammoser, Richard Maxfield, Bill Maynard, Bruce McLean (BMc), Jack Merchant (JMe), Martin Meyers, SeEtta Moss, Ric Olson, Stan Oswald, Ken Pals, Don Paul, Christian Peay, Brandon K. Percival, Mark Peterson, Kim Potter (KPo), Myron Plooster (MPI), Suzi Plooster, David Quesenberry, John J. Rawinski, Bert Raynes, Jack Reddall, Jack Rensel, (JRe), Don Reyher, Ron A. Ryder, Ron Ryel, Terry Sadler, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith (PSS), Rick Saval, Dick Schottler, Jeff Schultz, Scott Severs, Dennis Shirley (DSh), Dave Silverman (DSi), V. Arnold Smith (VAS), John Spence (JSp), Bob Spencer, Mark Stackhouse, Rick Steenberg (RSt), Priscilla R. Summers, Steve D. Summers, Dan Svingen (DSv), Janel Thompson, Van A. Truan, John Tumasonis (JTU), John Vanderpoel, Alan Versaw, Merrill Webb, Brian Wheeler, David Wheeler, Lisa Wheeler, Elizabeth Williams, Walt Wilson, Chris L. Wood, Mark Yaeger, Sherrie York.

Van A. Truan, 1901 Court Street, Pueblo, CO 81003 (colobirdvan@juno.com), and **Brandon K. Percival**, 835 Harmony Drive, Pueblo West, CO 81007 (flammowl@juno.com)



Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *Field Notes* are keyed on page 160.

City Cr. Canyon, *Salt Lake*, UT, in January and February (MS, TS), and at Heber City, *Wasatch*, UT, Feb. 7 (MS). Eight were reported from Colorado's e. mountains and foothills. From Feb. 1–24, up to 40 Long-eared Owls were at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, CO (DAL, DCE, m.ob.). Short-eared Owls included eight at Stillwater N.W.R., NV, Dec. 31 (RF); one near Holly, *Prowers*, CO, Jan. 2 (BW, LW); up to five in Wellington S.W.A., *Larimer*, CO, Jan. 12–Feb. 14 (TL, CLW, JK, m.ob.); and one found dead in Kiowa, CO, Feb. 26 (DAL).

The Boulder **Anna's Hummingbird** was shipped to Tucson, AZ, Dec. 5 (*vide* SS). Also, one was reported in Sparks, *Washoe*, NV, Dec. 20 (MM, m.ob.), and up to three wintered at Davis Dam, *Clark*, NV, from Jan. 4 (MC). Several Costa's Hummingbirds wintered at L. Mead, NV, beginning Jan. 10 (RS).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH THRASHERS

A male Red-bellied Woodpecker spent Dec. 17–Feb. 28 at Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, CO (DAL). Colorado wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted from Pueblo Dec. 20 (MY); s. of Lyons, *Boulder*, Dec. 20–Jan. 9 (DWK); and in Pueblo City Park Jan. 10–18 (FL, m.ob.). Single Williamson's Sapsuckers in *Boulder*, CO, were a male Dec. 6 (JTU) and a female Dec. 21 (*vide* BK). A Black Phoebe was at Reno mid-December to Feb. 28 (MM), and a second was near Patrick, *Washoe*, NV, Jan. 17 (GC). Colorado had 4 reports of Say's Phoebes. A male Vermilion Flycatcher was at Utah L., near Pleasant Grove, *Utah*, UT, Feb. 10–12 (CP, DSh, MW, *vide* VAS). A late Tree Swallow was at Valco Ponds, CO, Dec. 1–5 (BKP, m.ob.) and, most unusual, was one on the Grand Junction CBC Dec. 21 (CD, m.ob.).

Western Scrub-Jays were noted on the Colorado e. plains with three on the Rocky Ford CBC Dec. 22 (JK, AV) and one in Swink, *Otero*, Feb. 20 (VAT). Also in e. Colorado, Chihuahuan Raven reports were well above normal: one n.e. of Pueblo Dec. 14 (BKP, MJ), five s. of Lamar Dec. 17 (DAL), five on the Rocky Ford CBC Dec. 22 (TL, BD), up to 41 at Chatfield Res. Jan. 13–14 (BS, JBH, m.ob.), two at Pueblo Res. Jan. 19–20 (NK, m.ob.), and two w. of Lamar Jan. 24 (TL, JS).

A Black-capped Chickadee was n. of Montello, *Elko*, NV, Jan. 8 (GC, MM). Single Carolina Wrens were reported from Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, CO, Dec. 17–18 (DAL) and w. of Pueblo Feb. 21–28 (DJ, DSi, m.ob.) Rare in winter, two House



West of its usual range was this male Northern Cardinal (sharing a meal with an American Goldfinch) at Rockvale, Colorado, in January 1998. Photograph/K. G. Lane

Wrens were noted on the Boulder CBC Dec. 21 (BK, AB) and one on the Pueblo CBC Dec. 28 (DSi). Seven Winter Wrens were reported in e. Colorado, and one was along Hunter Cr., in the Carson Range, *Washoe*, NV, Dec. 26 (MM, GC). Rarely observed on the far e. plains of Colorado, a Golden-crowned Kinglet was at Two Buttes Res. Dec. 17–18 (DAL). A female **Eastern Bluebird** was in Logan, *Cache*, UT, Dec. 20 (RR), providing Utah's 4th record. In Colorado, high counts included up to 33 near Canon City Dec. 21 (SM, MP) and up to 39 at Rocky Ford S.W.A. Dec. 22–Feb. 28 (BKP, CLW, m.ob.). A high count of three Hermit Thrushes was made on the Grand Junction CBC Dec. 21 (RL, CD). Single Varied Thrushes were reported from Ft. Collins Dec. 20–Jan. 12 (DAL, JM, m.ob.); Rock Springs, *Sweetwater*, WY, Dec. 19 (C&BB); and at Rye Patch Res., *Pershing*, NV, Jan. 9 (GC, MM). One of the few Colorado winter records of Gray Catbird was at Two Buttes Res. Dec. 17–Jan. 3 (DAL, m.ob.). Single N. Mockingbirds in Colorado were reported from Two Buttes Dec. 14 (DSv); Timpas S.W.A., *Otero*, Jan. 17 (SO); Wellington S.W.A., *Larimer*, Jan. 19–Feb. 14 (MPI, SP, F&JD, m.ob.); and a remarkable two in Vail Feb. 4–5 (EW). Single Brown Thrashers were in the Colorado mountains from *Teller* Dec. 5 (JJ, WW) and near Estes Park, *Larimer*, Jan. 3 (*vide* WPL).

WAXWINGS THROUGH GOLDFINCH

The only report of Bohemian Waxwing was of 10 Jan. 20 at Wolcott, *Eagle*, CO (PH, *vide* JMe). Unusual in n. Colorado in winter, a Loggerhead Shrike was at Tamarack Ranch S.W.A., *Logan*, Dec. 19 (DB).

In Colorado, single Orange-crowned Warblers were reported from *Jefferson* Dec. 20 (DS) and *Mesa* Dec. 21 (BMc). The first winter record of Yellow Warbler in Nevada was one at L. Mead Feb. 13 (RS). Two were at Brighton, *Adams*, CO, Dec. 27–Jan. 27 (BK, TL, m.ob.), also providing a first winter record for the state. At Valco Ponds, an imm. male Pine Warbler stayed from Dec. 5–Feb. 8 (BKP, m.ob., ph. CLW, ph. TL), and two "yellow race" Palm Warblers graced the scene from Dec. 8–Jan. 21 (BKP, BG, LB, ph. TL). A Black-and-white Warbler was at St. George, *Washington*, Dec. 27–Feb. 28 (SDS, PRS, JKr, m.ob.), for Utah's 3rd winter record. A female Com Yellowthroat was found along the Arkansas R. in Canon City, CO, Feb. 7 (BKP, DFO), and one was at Henderson, NV, Dec. 27 (RS). A male Wilson's Warbler was at Valco Ponds, CO, Dec. 8–Jan. 13 (BKP, m.ob.).

Single male N. Cardinals were in the foothills at Rockvale, *Fremont*, CO, Jan. 3–17 (ph. KGL) and at Palmer L., *El Paso*, CO, Jan. 31 (JA). A remarkable imm male Indigo Bunting was at Provo, UT, Feb. 21–24 (LC, MW, DSh), providing Utah's first winter record. Rare in Colorado in



Fox Sparrows are rare in winter in Colorado. This bird, of one of the more reddish eastern or northern races, was at Red Rocks Park west of Denver on January 2, 1998. Photograph/Bill Lisowsky

SA The higher temperatures this season allowed water in lakes and streams to remain elevated longer, thus yielding more days of emergent chironomids (midges) and other aquatic insects. Along the Arkansas R. below Pueblo Res., up to 50 warblers fed on midges daily until several days of cold, "cloudy" weather appeared. The cloudy days seem to eliminate or reduce the emergents and may have forced the warblers to move to other areas, or may have caused weak birds to perish. On sunny days, these midge "hatches" can and do occur, even where temperatures are well below freezing. The Pine Warbler at Valco Ponds was observed feeding on both larval and adult midges. It probed in muddy areas and flycatched in willows and Russian olive trees adjacent to the river. With the onset of "cloudy" weather, the warbler disappeared, along with most of the Yellow-rumped and the Palms. Luckily for s. Colorado, we have numerous sunny days, and "hatches" of midges occur almost daily in winter since water from Pueblo Res. comes from sub-surface lake discharges.

winter, two Chipping Sparrow were reported on the Denver CBC Dec. 20 (NE, DSc) and one was in Boulder Dec. 26 (MPI). Another was in Reno Dec. 22 (GC, MM). An "eastern" Fox Sparrow returned to Red Rocks Park, Jefferson, CO, Dec. 20–Feb. 28 (LBr, BB, ph. CLW, ph. WPL) and one "race unknown" was at Jackson Hole, WY, Feb. 4 (SCo, *fide* BR).

Swamp and White-throated sparrow wintering numbers appeared lower than normal in the e. portion of the Region. A White-throated Sparrow was at Pleasant Grove, UT, Jan. 29–Feb. 7 (DSh, m.ob.), and two were at Ogden Jan. 6–Feb. 8 (B&KE). Utah had three Golden-crowned Sparrows and one Harris's. A Harris's Sparrow wintered at Jackson Hole, WY (JLu, *fide* BR). Winter reports of McCown's Longspurs came from 4 Colorado counties. More than 200 Chestnut-collared Longspurs wintered in Baca, CO (DSv). Snow Buntings were reported from near La Salle, Weld, CO, Dec. 26 (TK) and two were at Big Johnson Res., CO, Feb. 22 (JD).

Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in Adams, CO, Dec. 27–Jan. 1 (TL, RB, SY), and others arrived earlier than usual in e. Colorado; with one Jan 22 in Larimer. Rusty Blackbirds appeared in usual numbers, with 20+ from 3 Colorado counties. Great-tailed Grackles continue their expansion northward. There were 100+ at Washington City, UT, Jan. 2 (SDS, JKr); 33 at Carson L., Churchill, NV, Jan. 6 (WH); and one at Cedar City, UT, Dec. 19 (SDS, PRS). A Com. Grackle was recorded on the Cedar City CBC, UT, Dec. 19 (SDS, PRS). A "female-plumaged" Purple Finch was at Fountain, El Paso, CO, Dec. 6–7 (KP, m.ob.), and a imm. male was at Red Rocks Park, Jefferson, CO, Dec. 25–Jan. 17 (TL, m.ob.). One White-winged Crossbill was n. of Silverthorne, Summit, CO, Dec. 14 (TL). Common Redpolls wintered s. into El Paso and Teller, CO. Up to six Lesser Goldfinches were at Ogden, UT, Dec. 29–Feb. 28 (JRe, B&KE), one was on the Grand Junction CBC (*fide* RLe), three visited in Colorado Springs Feb. 7 (GB), and one was in Boulder Feb. 11 (CB).

Cited observers: Jim Ahl, Mary Jane Black (MJB), Cliff & Bev Boeavors (C&BB), Dan Bridges, Leon Bright, Alex Brown, Bob Brown, Lea Ann Brown (LBr), Cliff Bruning, Richard Bunn, Greg Butcher, Jim Chance, Sherry Chapman, Graham Chisholm, Lois Clark, Luke W. Cole, Sue Cole (SCo), Jerry Craig (JcG), Jim Cressman (JCr), Marian Cressman, Denver Field

Ornithologists' (DFO), Coen Dexter, Bob Dickson, Jordan Dimick, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ferd & Jo Dirckx (F&JD), Jane I. Dorn, Ron Edgerton, David C. Ely, Gary Emerson, Norm Erthal, Betty & Keith Evans (B&KE), Robert Flores, Peter Gent, Ken Giesen, Bob Goycoolea, Bob Gustafson (BGu), Tom Hablitzel, Pat Hammon, J.B. Hayes, William Henry, Dean & Mona Hill (D&MH), Mark Janos, Dave Johnson, Jeff Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Joe & Norma Kamby (J&NK), Joey Kellner, D.W. King (DWK), Rachel Kolokoff, Nick Komar, Tom Kozan, Josh Kreitzer (JKr), Ron Lambeth, K.G. Lane (KGL), David A. Leatherman, Tony Leukering, Rich Levad (RLe), William P. Lisowsky, Jonathan Lowsky, Joan Lucus (JLu), Forrest Luke, Joe Mammoser, Richard Maxfield, Bill Maynard, Bruce McLean (BMc), Jack Merchant (JMe), Martin Meyers, SeEtta Moss, Ric Olson, Stan Oswald, Ken Pals, Don Paul, Christian Peay, Brandon K. Percival, Mark Peterson, Kim Potter (KPo), Myron Plooster (MPI), Suzi Plooster, David Quesenberry, John J. Rawinski, Bert Raynes, Jack Reddall, Jack Rensel, (JRe), Don Reyher, Ron A. Ryder, Ron Ryel, Terry Sadler, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith (PSS), Rick Saval, Dick Schottler, Jeff Schultz, Scott Severs, Dennis Shirley (DSh), Dave Silverman (DSi), V. Arnold Smith (VAS), John Spence (JSp), Bob Spencer, Mark Stackhouse, Rick Steenberg (RSt), Priscilla R. Summers, Steve D. Summers, Dan Svingen (DSv), Janel Thompson, Van A. Truan, John Tumasonis (JTU), John Vanderpoel, Alan Versaw, Merrill Webb, Brian Wheeler, David Wheeler, Lisa Wheeler, Elizabeth Williams, Walt Wilson, Chris L. Wood, Mark Yaeger, Sherrie York.

Van A. Truan, 1901 Court Street, Pueblo, CO 81003 (colobirdvan@juno.com), and **Brandon K. Percival**, 835 Harmony Drive, Pueblo West, CO 81007 (flammowl@juno.com)



Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *Field Notes* are keyed on page 160.