



**Spectacular numbers of Blue Jays invaded Idaho during late fall 1994. This one appeared at the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Photograph/Mark R. Collie.**

Hummingbird Oct. 14–15 (DB). An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at D.F.R., Oct. 8 (†JG, EH), for the state's 2nd record since the sapsuckers were split.

### Flycatchers to Finches

Say's Phoebe, once common by Salmon, are now very rare, making the one seen Aug. 13 (HR) of interest. Tardy Cliff Swallows fledged young Sept. 20 in Helena (MV).

The n.w. expansion of Blue Jays got a boost this season. The average number seen in Idaho during recent falls has been three scattered birds. This year, no less than 61 were reported! Idaho sightings included  $\leq 12$  in Moscow and surrounding countryside Sept. 25+ (m.ob.), and one–four in 25 other localities October+ (m.ob.). As might be expected, the species expansion into W. Montana is more advanced. For example, in Helena, Blue Jays were first noted in 1969 and seen sporadically until 1986, when they became annual (GH). The species is now so numerous and regular there and elsewhere in W. Montana that many observers no longer report it (PW).

A Winter Wren Sept. 25 by Lima, MT provided a latilong 2nd (LM). One–two N. Mockingbirds were in Idaho Falls Oct. 12+ (ADe, BH, CT). A Sprague's Pipit Sept. 12 by Gardiner, MT established a latilong first (TM).

Solitary Vireo subspecies distribution is still unclear, so the migrating *plumbeous* near

Helena Sept. 3 (GH) was interesting. Idaho's 6th Chestnut-sided Warbler migrated by Aberdeen Sept. 18 (†DB). Western Montana's 2nd Black-throated Blue Warbler patronized a Missoula feeder Nov. 4–12 (PH, m.ob.). A rare Ovenbird briefly used a Pocatello, ID birdbath, Oct. 12 (CT). A Connecticut Warbler was banded Sept. 30 near Hamilton, MT (CB); there are less than 10 state records.

The Brewer's Sparrow near Bonners Ferry, ID Oct 12 provided a latilong first (WH, MS). The Regional status of Swamp Sparrows is becoming clearer. Before 1990, it was considered casual in Idaho and Montana. Since then, eight Idaho and nine Montana Swamp Sparrows have been reported. Sightings this fall included one seen and taped at Thompson L., Nov. 5–12 (†DNS, m.ob.) and two in Heyburn State Park, *Benewab*, ID Nov. 11+ (†KD, DNS), where one wintered in 1992. It is probable that the species is actually a rare, irregular fall migrant and winterer throughout the Region. Single White-throated Sparrows, rare and irregular throughout Idaho, were in 5 scattered locations Oct. 8–14 (m.ob.). One near Challis, ID Nov. 13 established a latilong 2nd (AD).

At least 10 Great-tailed Grackles were still in Burley, ID during the period, where they were suspected of nesting last summer (JL). A White-winged Crossbill visited a Missoula, M, feeder Nov. 22–23 (SSt), where very unusual.

**Observers cited (Subregional editors in boldface):** IDAHO: Jim Acton, Laurie Barrera, Brad Blackweller, Deb Buetler (DBe), Dave Burrup (DB), Mark Collie, Art Dahl (AD), Annie Dewell (ADE), John Doremus, Kas Dumroese, John Gatchet, Evelyn Hailey, Brad Hammond, Hank Hepburn, Winnie Hepburn, John Hirth (JH), Marty Hirth, David Hollick (DHk), James Holloway (JHo), **Dean Jones**, Greg Kattenacker, **Merlene Koliner**, Florence Knoll, Wendy La Voie, Dave Lawrence, Jason Lynch, Cindy McCormack, Terry McEaney, Dale Miller (DM), Don Morgan (DMo), Northwest Nazarene College (N.N.C.), Debra Patla, Susan Parla, Jimmie Reynolds (JRe), Amy and John Roberson (A&JR), **Hadley Roberts**, Dan Simpkins (DS), Marilyn Smith, Kit Struthers, Shirley Sturts (SS), Dan Svingen (DNS), Dave Trochlell (DTr), **Charles Trost**. MONTANA: Clif Barry, Paul Hendrick, Denver Holt (DH), George Holton, Cedron Jones, Lawrence McEvoy, Jim Reichel (JR), Susan Stickney (SSt), Mike Vashro, Philip Wright.

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# Mountain West Region

## HUGH E. KINGERY

Mild weather shifted the migration pattern: higher numbers of waterfowl, kinglets, and hummingbirds; the usual coastal species like loons, oldsquaws, scoters, sandpipers, phalaropes, and gulls (but fewer of them); and fewer common migrants like Yellow-rumped and Wilson's warblers.

Observers also reported high numbers of documented rare birds (and an unfortunate collection of undocumented ones). They included four so far out of range that I lumped them at the end of this column; state records committees must evaluate them.

Denver Field Ornithologists' fall trips recorded 182 species. There have been 266 observed over 11 years of tabulations, 110 seen all 11 years (PH). Their fall count Sept. 10–13 recorded 13,186 individuals of 151 species—20% fewer individuals and 4 fewer species than 1992.

The Indian Peaks fall count found an above-average 90 species but an average 25 birds per hour; most numerous were 494 Mountain Chickadees, 403 Dark-eyed Juncos, 339 Chipping Sparrows, 334 American Robins, and 243 Pine Siskins. At Yellowstone Lake, colonial nesting water birds had mixed success; the nesting census at Molly Island appears in Table 1.

At Yellowstone Lake, National Park biologists discovered a population of lake trout, introduced at an unknown time by unknown people. Lake trout voraciously devour native fish, so voraciously that they may threaten populations of fish-eating birds—Ospreys, Bald Eagles, pelicans, cormorants, and terns by devastating the food chain.

Western ranchers often receive criticism for their treatment of land and wildlife; this fall Regional observers reported four instances of

**Table 1 Nesting census on Molly Island Yellowstone Lake**

Species	Nest Attempts of Fledglings	Number
Am. White Pelican	839	210
Double-crested		
Cormorant	125	270
California Gull	151	240
Caspian Tern	15	22

ranchers' concern for wildlife. A Common Loon, trapped on a mostly ice-covered pond at Sheridan, Wyoming, November 17 kept a small section open by swimming and diving. With warm weather predicted, Game and Fish Department biologists opted to let the loon free itself after the ice melted. (Safety considerations about thin ice buttressed this decision.) Independently, a posse of local ranchers rescued the bird and released it on a large reservoir with plenty of open water. The biologists avoided asking how the ranchers captured the loon, according to Downing.

At Stillwater Refuge, Nevada, 50 adult Clark's Grebes still had 18 broods of 25% grown chicks August 31. Although the local irrigation district had planned to drain the reservoir in mid-September, its officials worked with refuge biologists to leave water in the reservoir until the young grebes could fledge. Most fledged by Nov. 10. This latest nesting phenology seems localized, but may have a link to the forage fish population cycles tied to the project's regulating reservoirs, reported Neel.

In southwest Wyoming the Sage Grouse population dropped, with good numbers only near permanent water. Around Farson farmers reported 500 compared with 2000 some years; they asked hunters to reduce their bag limits voluntarily, said Steenberg. Also see the essay on Mountain Plovers.

Abbreviations: D.F.O. (*Denver Field Ornithologists field trips, compiled by Phil Hayes*); G.S.L. (*Great Salt Lake*); L.L.B.L. (*Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, CO, using Foothills Audubon Club records*); R.E. (*Regional Editor*); 1st Lat (*first latilong record [a latilong is outlined by one degree each of latitude and longitude, and measures about*

*50 by 70 mi]*); ‡ (*written description on file with, and subject to approval of, state records committee*); # (*no written description submitted or photograph not seen by R.E.*).

### Loons to Stork

A well-described imm. Red-throated Loon appeared at L. Henry, Ordway, CO Oct. 30 (1st Lat, †MJ, BP); another stopped at Ash Meadows N.W.R., NV Nov. 28 (#GR). The Fall's 10 Pacific Loons, the lowest count since 1986, included 3 Nevada, one Wyoming, and 6 Colorado records. Common Loons made 11 nest attempts in Yellowstone N.P., and produced 11 young, slightly more than average (TM). The annual count at Walker L., NV Oct. 17 found 722 loons; counts have varied from 656 and 668 in 1988 and 1990 to 1090 and 1152 in 1989 and 1993

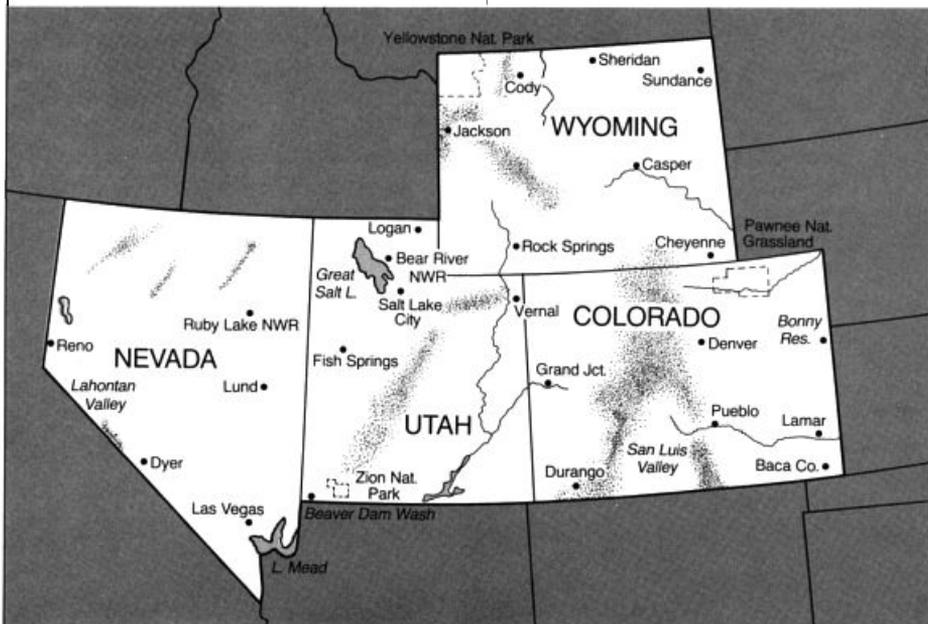


**Pacific Loon at Little Soda Lake, Fallon, Nevada, Nov. 6, 1994. Photograph/ Jane Thompson.**

(LN). Other big counts of loons: 19 at Casper Oct. 24–Nov. 6 and 12–20 at Rifle, CO Nov. 6+. The 223 Horned Grebes at Longmont, CO Nov. 2 was high, as was 25 at Cheyenne, WY Nov. 15. A flotilla of 550 W. Grebes gathered at the n. end of L. Powell, UT Oct. 25; Union Res. near Longmont had a peak of 520 Oct. 12. In Denver, D.F.O. counted a paltry 82, down from the 11-year range of 108–340. Clark's Grebes still had many undersized juveniles on L. Henry, Ordway, as late as Oct. 8 (MJ). High counts of Am. White Pelicans were 1000 at Rocky Ford Oct. 11 and 1400 at Ordway Oct. 30 (MJ). Colorado's 9th **Brown Pelican** spent only a day at Ordway, but allowed excellent observation (†MJ, BP). Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 57 at Devils Tower, WY Sept. 29, 400 at Casper and Rocky Ford Aug. 5 and Oct. 11, and 500 at Longmont Oct. 6. Colorado reported *two Neotropic Cormorants*, the 9th and 10th records. The first, a post-breeding adult, stayed at Ordway Sept. 11–22 (†MJ); the other remained only 3 days at Denver Oct. 30–Nov. 1 (†JBH). A migrant Least Bittern seen June 2 w. of Cortez, CO flushed from a small desert stream edge (1st Lat, KS). Union Res. near Longmont attracted more Great Egrets (20 at the peak) than Snowy Egrets (17; F.A.C.) in September, reversing the usual ratio. One–two Little Blue Herons stopped at Walsh, CO Sept. 10–Oct. 22 (†JnT). Colorado's 4th **Reddish Egret**, a dark-phase immature, fed in typical canopy-feeding style and stayed at Ordway Sept. 1–25 (†MJ, m.ob.). At L. Mead, NV, 83 Cattle Egrets assembled Oct. 14, a high number (MC). Other Cattle Egrets included: Cedar City, UT, where one walked out from behind a dumpster (SS); two at Springdale, UT Nov. 11, the first since 1986 (JDe); and a sluggish one at Jackson, WY Oct. 30 (H&CL). A **Wood Stork**—unmistakeable in its photograph—appeared Sept. 18 at a Cody, WY, ranch and stayed for 5 days (SA). Now the Wyoming committee will have to decide not its identity, but its origin—and whether to register the state's 2nd record.

### Waterfowl

Northern Pintails peaked at 5016 at Fish Springs N.W.R., UT Sept. 8, and Am. Coots topped off at 18,214 Oct. 11. In e. Colorado, both D.F.O. and F.A.C. reported higher-than-average duck counts: 2941 Mallards at Denver (2086 the highest in the past 11 years) and 4805 at L.L.B.L. (3656 last year). Generally the Region had high counts of puddle ducks but not diving ducks; Com. Merganser counts dropped noticeably (52 on D.F.O. trips; one year had 3543) and 213 at L.L.B.L. (408 last year). Perhaps the mild fall affected these counts.



↙ The Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Las Vegas have increased one per season since spring; the 3rd arrived Aug. 22 and stayed through the period (MC). Tundra Swans peaked Nov. 18–19, with 16,500 at Bear River M.B.R., UT, and 800 at Stillwater W.M.A., NV. Trumpeter Swans continued an alarmingly low production of young at Yellowstone; of 9 nest attempts, only one pair fledged young (5 of 6 which hatched). Predation affects them; coyotes took three adults and a Golden Eagle killed a cygnet in November (TE). Observers found Greater White-fronted Geese in Nevada (14 at 4 locations) and Colorado (63 at 10 locations), including 16 at Prewitt Res. near Sterling Nov. 26. All 4 states reported Ross' Geese, including 6–12 at Julesburg, CO Nov. 26–30 (MJ, KS). An American Black Duck, well-described from Minersville Res., will, if approved, add a species to the Utah list (‡MW, ‡RSe, ‡JHG). Fort Collins, CO reported a Eur. Wigeon Nov. 24+ (DL). Twelve Oldsquaws, relatively few, stopped at 7 sites in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado in November.

➤ At Fish Springs three Black Scoters stopped Oct. 24 (‡MD); one at Delta, CO Oct. 22 cried like a "bleating goat" (‡RL). The Region reported one Surf Scoter in Nevada, 12 in Wyoming—including one at Yellowstone Nov. 22 (‡TE), and five in Colorado. Twelve White-winged Scoters included two at Stillwater Ref., Oct. 30, five at Buffalo and Casper, W, and five at Colorado Springs, Longmont, and Rawhide Res., CO.

### Raptors

In Yellowstone, nesting Osprey numbers have skyrocketed since the 1988 fires, when there were 66 nesting pairs. There were 100 in 1994. Nesting depends on standing dead snags, but production depends on weather; the number of small fish has remained stable from year to year. Fledging has varied from 61–104; this year 101 fledglings benefited from the mild weather (TM). The n. edge of the nesting range of Mississippi Kites runs along the Arkansas Valley from Lamar to Pueblo. We've learned that one pair has nested in n.e. Colorado for 3 years, in Holyoke—175 mi north of Lamar (‡JW ph.). One of the Lamar pairs still had young in the nest Aug. 27 (DB). Yellowstone's Bald Eagles, helped by mild weather, fledged 13 eaglets from 18 nesting territories (TM). The Com. Black-Hawk returned to Nevada: one observed Nov. 27 at Pahranaagat N.W.R. (‡J&MC).

### Rails to Shorebirds

In Mt. View, W, a juv. Virginia Rail Aug. 20 provided a 1st Lat breeding record (RS). In Cedar City, UT, a Sora flushed out of a raspberry patch and struck a window; it recovered, flew over a house and yard with chil-

dren playing, and was last seen flying S over a neighbor's house (SH). Juvenile Com. Moorhens were seen in Lahontan Valley, NV, Aug. 30 and Sept. 7 (BH), and Bear River M.B.R. had one Aug. 18 (CK).

↙ The Lahontan Valley, N, shorebird count tallied 26,090 birds Aug. 14–18: 18,077 Long-billed Dowitchers, 2821 Am. Avocets, 2029 Black-necked Stilts, and 1730 Least and Western sandpipers (LN). That doubled the counts of 1992 and 1993, but came nowhere near the 1990 total of 72,491 (LN). Regional observers found 16 Am. Golden-Plovers: Two searching for brine flies at Bear R., Oct. 4 (CK), three at Casper Sept. 20 and Oct. 30, one–five at Rocky Ford Oct. 8–Nov. 5, and one–three at 3 other e. Colorado sites.

**SA** Breeding and winter studies show a decline of Mt. Plovers; they may gain designation as *Threatened* under the Endangered Species Act. Colorado Mt. Plovers—at least those from the Pawnee Grassland—winter in California's San Joaquin Valley. Near the Pawnee, at Jackson Res., Ft. Morgan, CO, 200 assembled Oct. 23 (DL). However, in s.e. Colorado Janeal Thompson initiated a survey of Mt. Plovers by *Baca* farmers; 6 reported 314 in their fields from Aug. 6–Sept. 20, with a high count of 100 Aug. 6. Perhaps the *Baca* birds represent s. Colorado breeders, headed for Texas or Mexico rather than California.

Low water levels favored sandpipers: 250 Lesser Yellowlegs on the D.E.O. fall count Sept. 10–13 and 200 at Mt. View, WY Aug. 20; 429 Baird's Sandpipers at L.L.B.L. (85 last year) and 200 Stilt Sandpipers at Prewitt Res. near Sterling Sept. 9. Spotted Sandpipers stopped at Longmont Nov. 6 and Rifle, CO Nov. 20. Fall Whimbrels were at Casper Aug. 5 and Carson L., NV Aug. 15. A whistle of 83 Long-billed Curlews assembled at Lamar, CO Sept. 7 (JKe, SSt, WH). Several White-rumped Sandpipers, normally spring migrants, appeared: one at Casper Aug. 1 (‡J&VH) and one at Jackson Res., CO Sept. 5 (‡TL); three peeps with white rumps at Sheridan, WY may have been White-rumpeds (HD). Excellent details described a juv. Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Rocky Ford Aug. 28 (‡MJ *et al.*). Observers also reported three from Jackson and Prewitt Res. Red Phalaropes have typically appeared in Wyoming later in the fall, after the Red-necked and Wilson's have gone; this fall the state's 7th visited Casper Oct. 30–Nov. 7 (‡J&VH). Utah hosted two Red Phalaropes Nov. 19 at the Antelope I. Causeway—its 8th record (‡TS, ‡VAS ph.).



Red Phalarope at the Antelope Island Causeway, Utah, Nov. 19, 1994. One of two present for an 8th state record. Photograph/V. Arnold Smith.

### Jaegers to Murrelets

A Pomarine Jaeger harried gulls at L. Henry Nov. 5 (‡MJ). A Little Gull stayed at Union Res., Longmont, Nov. 2–7 (‡BPr, MN, DL, WPL). A Heerman's Gull with California Gulls at Ogden Oct. 27 will add another species to the Utah list if the Committee accepts this well-written, single-observer report (‡CK). A Mew Gull, Colorado's 10th, visited Pueblo Nov. 19–26 (‡MJ, DL *et al.*). Observers reported three Glaucous-winged Gulls: L. Mead Nov. 11–15 (‡J&MC), Reno Nov. 19 (‡LN), and Antelope I., Great Salt Lake, Oct. 22 (Utah's 4th report; ‡TS, CK). At Pueblo a "gigantic," 3rd-year Great Black-backed Gull was seen Nov. 19, probably the same bird seen March–April 1993 and December 1993–January 1994, Colorado's 10th (or 8th) record (‡MJ). Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported from Julesburg and Denver Nov. 26 and 29 (‡MJ, ‡KS), but only three Sabine's Gulls were found in e. Colorado, and three in Lahontan Val., NV Aug. 13–16 (‡LN, JT ph). Nevada recorded 22 Com. Terns, including 15 Sept. 10 at L. Mead; Coloradans identified 23 Aug. 10–Oct. 1. The Region's 2nd murrelet for the year, an Ancient Murrelet found alive on a road near Denver Nov. 13, died in a rehabilitation center (BS, \* to D.M.N.H.).



A remarkable record was of these three adult-plumaged Sabine's Gulls at Big Soda Lake, Fallon, Nevada, Aug. 16, 1994. The vast majority of fall records inland in the west involve juveniles, and most are of solitary birds. Photograph/Jane Thompson.

### Doves to Woodpeckers

At Two Buttes Res., CO 4 observers closely watched Colorado's 4th reported **Inca Dove** at 20 ft for 45 minutes Nov. 6 (†MJ, BP, JRo). Yellowstone observers reported 25 sightings of Great Gray Owls. The Region reported nine Short-eared Owls. A late Com. Poorwill passed through Ft. Morgan Oct. 13 (JCR). Black Swifts still had young in nests at Ouray, CO Sept. 11 (KP), and the last Chimney Swift left Walsh, CO Oct. 1. Twelve White-throated Swifts zoomed around Pikes Peak at 13,000 ft Sept. 4, providing only the 2nd Colorado observation above timberline (AV).

Several Anna's Hummingbirds went through Las Vegas in October, and by Nov. 30 several had returned to Davis Dam, NV for the 4th year—one even to the same tree (MC). The pile of Calliope Hummingbirds continued in Colorado, from Loveland s. to Walsenburg and w. to Mesa Verde N.P. There were 177 Broad-taileds and 36 Rufous (*cf.* 46 and 4 last year) at L.L.B.L., but D.F.O. counted only 59 Broad-taileds (*cf.* 14–68 the last 11 years).

The family of **Acorn Woodpeckers** (Colorado's first) continued to roam L. Dorothy S.W.A. throughout the season. Then a group of three arrived at a Durango, CO feeder Sept. 4, providing the state's 2nd record; they remained all fall (†RS). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen at Ft. Lyon, CO Oct. 11 and Ft. Collins Nov. 30. Red-naped Sapsuckers remained at Rifle through Nov. 24 (KP) and a late female lingered in Lamar, CO Oct. 11 (MJ).

### Flycatchers to Gnatcatchers

Banders netted a Gray Flycatcher at Barr L. near Denver Sept. 4; based on measurements and a black-tipped lower mandible they eliminated all other Empidonacés (1st Lat, †TL). At Hasty, CO, last spring's unsuccessful nest site attracted a ♂ Vermillion Flycatcher Sept. 22 (J&NK). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher stopped at Wellington, CO Aug. 28 (TCA). Las Vegas had two Purple Martins Sept. 14 (ph. MC). Blue Jays continued their spread: in n.w. Wyoming 20 observers reported them from Yellowstone, Cody, Jackson, Star Valley, and Dubois, and two visited Morgan, UT in late November. The D.F.O. magpie count weighed in at the low end with 343 (*cf.* 316–709 over the last 11 years); the fall count, however, produced an additional 311 Sept. 10–13. The Indian Peaks fall count Sept. 17 tallied 494 Mt. Chickadees, more than any other species, plus 109 Red-breasted and 141 Pygmy nuthatches. The Carolina Wren at Beulah sang all fall; he has remained for over a year with no mate (PF).

Ash Meadows N.W.R., NV recorded its first Golden-crowned Kinglet Oct. 20 (B&DS); the Indian Peaks fall count recorded 45 Sept. 17. Ruby-crowned Kinglets thronged the Region during migration: 60 at L.L.B.L. (*cf.* 11 last year), 36 Oct. 5 at Chatfield near Denver, 78 on the Indian Peaks fall count, 5–25 at Fish Springs Sept. 21–Oct. 24, and November records in 3 states. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continued to increase, with record counts at Denver (10 on D.F.O. trips and 12 on the fall count) and L.L.B.L. (28 *cf.* 14 last year).

### Bluebirds to Vireos

Eastern Bluebirds showed up from Devils Tower s. to Two Buttes (20 Nov. 6) and w. to Casper and Evergreen, CO. More Townsend's Solitaires than usual descended from the mountains; 59 reported by D.F.O., its highest count (*cf.* 6–27), 60 at L.L.B.L., and one–three out on the plains from Pawnee Grassland east to *Sedgwick*, plus one way south in *Baca*. Over 700 Am. Robins assembled in 2 large flocks at Bonny Res., CO Sept. 15; an hour after dark, following an afternoon of strong N winds, Schreier reported: "I could hear the notes of migrating robins becoming airborne. Next morning only a few singles or pairs of robins remained." Robins left Eagle, CO in mid-October, after staying through last winter. The Region reported a surprising six Varied Thrushes: one at Desert N.W.R., NV (MC, Pfo), two at Colorado Springs (†AV, BP) and three Oct. 22 at Two Buttes (†JnlT). Gray Catbirds lingered into November at Two Buttes and Fort Collins. A Brown Thrasher camped in a yard at Green R., WY Sept. 1+ (LBr). Bohemian Waxwings began their southward flights in November with

the usual arrivals in n. Wyoming, though Yellowstone's abundant juniper berries attracted unusually big flocks of 700–1000.

~ An obliging White-eyed Vireo, Colorado's 15th, spent Sept. 10–Oct. 2 in a Pueblo backyard (BD, †MJ). Red-eyed Vireos flew into banding nets at Ogden Aug. 25 (MK) and Barr L., Oct. 24 (late; TL); an errant one was at Green R., Aug. 28 and a late one at Denver Nov. 5 (D.F.O.).

### Warblers

A ♀ Blue-winged Warbler, sighted early in the day, later obligingly fluttered into a Barr L. banding net Sept. 7 (†WS, †FL, TL). Orange-crowneds peaked at 34 in Denver Oct. 5; the Dowdy Draw station near Longmont banded a record 56 (*cf.* 21–43 the past 3 years). Five N. Parulas appeared: one adult and two immatures at Pueblo Sept. 22–24, and singles at Ft. Collins Oct. 7 and Barr L., Oct. 25–26. The D.F.O. had a high count of Yellows: 58 *cf.* 0–38 in prior years. In September Colorado had three Chestnut-sideds, including one Sept. 18 at Last Chance (1st Lat, J&NK), and four Magnolias. The Regional collection of 19 Black-throated Blues included three in Nevada and 16 in Colorado, including 2 1st Lat records: Breckenridge Aug. 30 (also 2nd W. Slope; KB) and 2 at Last Chance Sept. 18 (J&NK). Observers counted lower numbers of Yellow-rumped, with a high >200 at Hovenweep N.M. near Cortez, CO (LB). The fall brought Utah's 3rd or 4th **Palm Warbler** Oct. 12 to Millard (†TS) and Wyoming's 6th at Crowheart Nov. 7 (†TP). Cheyenne, WY had a Black-and-white Warbler Aug. 20 (JCa). Utah reported two Am. Redstarts at Minersville and Ogden, and Seedskaadee N.W.R., WY had one Oct. 1 (RS).



An in-hand comparison of immature Blackburnian Warbler (left) and Townsend's Warbler captured for banding at Barr Lake State Park, Colorado, Sept. 30, 1994. Townsend's is a regular migrant through the area, but Blackburnian is rare in Colorado, especially in fall. Photograph/Tony Leukering.

**SA** This spring, for the 3rd consecutive year, a singing ♂ Prothonotary Warbler came to the same Colorado Springs yard for 4 days; Sept. 17-18 an ad. ♂ Prothonotary came to the same yard (JR, †MJ). The Romeros' yard has recorded 10% of Colorado's Prothonotary records! All the same bird?

An Ovenbird at Canyonlands N.P., Oct. 10 provided Utah's 7th record; it could barely fly because of mud rings clumped on its legs just above the toes, possibly from bentonite soil (†AS ph). Wilson's Warblers peaked low in early September with 80 at Casper and 127 on the D.F.O. fall count. A Canada Warbler was at Bonny Res., Sept. 3-4 (†WS), about the 22nd for Colorado. A late report described Colorado's 2nd Red-faced Warbler in McElmo Canyon near Cortez June 3, feeding in greasewood along a riparian stream bottom (KS).

#### Cardinals to Goldfinches

Two N. Cardinals strayed W to Fort Collins Nov. 11 (*fide* WPL). A ♂ e. race Rufous-sided Towhee was noted in Larimer Aug. 5 (†DWK). The earliest ever Am. Tree Sparrows arrived in Eagle Oct. 30; tree sparrow numbers at both L.L.B.L. (256 *cf.* 28 last year) and D.F.O. field trips (138 *cf.* 29-122) hit record highs. In August 12 Black-chinned Sparrows seemed high for s w Utah (SS). Casper reported 14 Baird's Sparrows Aug. 30 (J&VH), and Julesburg had two Oct. 9 (†BP). Antelope I. causeway attracted three Snow Buntings Nov. 19 (TS) and three Lapland Longspurs Nov. 21 (CK). In Yellowstone N.P., November flocks of 600-1500 Black and Gray-crowned rosy-finches swirled around Mammoth. Buffalo, WY, reported 250 Gray-crowneds Nov. 26. Reports of five-ten White-winged Crossbills came from Jackson, WY, Indian Peaks, Eagle, and Allenspark, CO from Aug. 5-Sept. 17. Vidal reported an "astonishing" flock of 200 Am. Goldfinches in early November.

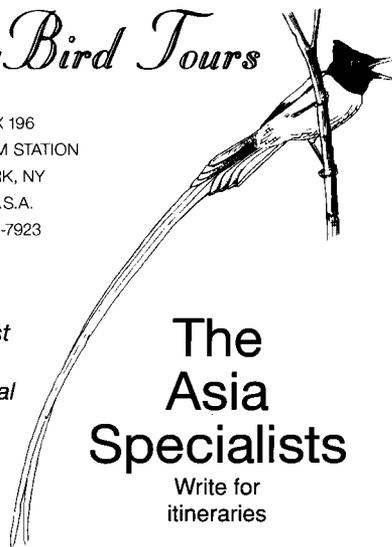
#### Far-out Records

Mountain West observers came up with several records so unusual that I report them with the caution that all need approval by the state records committees. Vivid details described a Bar-tailed Godwit, seen at Willard Bay near Ogden on Great Salt Lake Oct. 3. The detailed description contrasted the bird with the 18 Marbled Godwits also present (†CK, VR). A report received late described a Pomarine Jaeger at Farson Res., WY June 12, an extraordinary date for any jaeger anywhere in the Region (†J&PW). A British visitor, who sees them in his garden

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Komodo, Sumbawa  
13 August -1 September

### 1996 BIRDING TOURS

**THAILAND:** 6-28 January

**SOUTH INDIA:** 5-27 January  
(Including Andaman Is.)

**SRI LANKA:** 27 January-12 February

**PHILIPPINES:** 2 February-4 March

**BHUTAN:** 26 April-19 May

**S.E. SIBERIA:** 26 May-16 June

**MALAYSIA:** 29 June-21 July

**INDONESIA #1:** 5-26 July  
Sumatra Expedition

**INDONESIA #2:** 26 July-18 August  
Java, Bali, Borneo

**CHRISTMAS IS.:** 16-25 August

at home, described a Yellow Wagtail Sept. 11 at Boulder City, NV; he based his ID on plumage and jizz (†JAB). A one-observer report described 2 possible Rufous-crowned Sparrows s.w. of Rock Springs, WY Aug. 16 (†PS), a tantalizing report from an experienced birder.

#### Undocumented Rarities

Observers reported far too many rare and almost-rare species without providing even cursory documentation. This report omits, from Nevada, Zone-tailed Hawk, Allen's Hummingbird, Acadian and Least flycatchers, and Louisiana Waterthrush; from Wyoming, White-winged Dove and Wood Thrush; from Utah, Little Blue Heron; and from Colorado, Red-throated Loon, Little Blue Heron, Trumpeter Swan, Little Laughing, and Lesser Black-backed gulls, Inca Dove, and Phainopepla.

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Means (40), Jack Merchant (4), Larry Neel (8), Brandon Percival (25), Bert Raynes (20), Robert Rothe (6), Terry Sadler (7), Rick Steenberg (4). **Contributors:** Lu Bainbridge, Jay Banta, Virginia Dionigi, Helen Downing, Jewel Gifford, Joe Harrison, Mark Janos, Merlin Killpack, Linda McMenemy, Mark Nikas, Kim Potter, J. C. Rigli, David and Beth St. George, George and Melodie San Miguel, Alan Schmierer, William Schreier, V. A. Smith, Paul Springer, Steve Summers, Jane Thompson, Janeal Thompson (JnT).

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