

# mountain west region



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This season numerous migrants were reported into mid-June, with some finding suitable habitat and nesting. There were no reports of any unusual trends of nesting species, except continuation of certain species expansions, i.e. Eurasian Collared-Dove, Lesser Nighthawk, Black Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Blue Jay, and Great-tailed Grackle.

Weather appeared to be within normal ranges. In northern Utah mountains, aspen trees didn't leaf-out until the first week of July, so nesting was a bit late there.

## GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL

Rarely reported in summer, a Horned Grebe was reported at Huerfano Res., Pueblo, CO, July 8–13 (BKP, CLW, m.ob.). In Churchill, NV, July 15–30, 328 nests of Eared Grebe were located (BH) and there were 4 pair at Unaweep Canyon, Mesa, CO, June 13 (TL, SB). Fourteen Am. White Pelicans wandered into Delta, CO, July 15 (CD). A nesting colony of Double-crested Cormorants at Springer Res. e. of Torrington, WY, apparently had losses of almost all almost fledged young, probably from a large hail storm (JDo, RDo); a single was reported in Summit, CO, July 21–29 (SB). Up to three Least Bitterns were at Ouray N.W.R., Uintah, UT June 8–July 9 and may have indicated nesting of this species (CD, DW). There was an interesting report of a ground nesting colony of Great Blue Herons on an island at Twin Buttes Res., e. of Laramie, WY, which included approxi-

mately 30 large young (RDo). In Colorado, 4 reports of single Great Egrets were from Moffat, Alamosa, Mesa, and Kiowa. A high count of 80 Snowy Egrets were in Kiowa July 10–13 (CLW et al.). Six Green Herons in Mesa in June and July may indicate nesting expansion into w. Colorado (CD, RL, m.ob.), and one was in Elko, NV, June 6–14 (JT). Unexpected in summer, three ad. Glossy Ibis were e. of L. Meredith, Crowley, CO, July 9–13 (CLW, BKP,

m.ob.) and a single adult was in Kiowa, CO, July 13 (CLW et al.). The breeding colony of White-faced Ibis at Nee Noshe Res., Kiowa, had around 25 individuals June 13 (DAL), and 60 were in the area July 10–13 (CLW et al.).

A Ross's Goose was in Juab, UT, June 20–July 10 (JB). Rarely reported in summer in Colorado, seven Ring-necked Ducks were in Mesa June 13 (TL, SB). A Ring-necked Duck × scaup hybrid was at Pelican L., Uintah, UT, June 12 (PL). A male Tufted Duck was at Alton, Kane, UT, June 9–12 (MG, ph. MSt); if wild, it would provide the first Utah record. Four female Lesser Scaup were in Churchill, NV, June 17 (BH). A late Com. Goldeneye was in Rio Grande, CO, June 12 (TL, SB), and two females summered in El Paso, CO (RB). A male Red-breasted Merganser was at Union Res., Weld, CO, July 13–15 (JWe, WP).

## RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

A high count of 36 Mississippi Kites were in La Junta, Otero, CO, July 9 (CLW, BKP). The first known nesting this century in Nevada, a pair of Bald Eagles in Lyon fledged one young (LNe). An off-course Red-shouldered Hawk was at Ouray, Ouray, CO, June 1 (RD); the sub-species of this bird would provide interesting discussion.

High water elevations in s.e. Colorado reservoirs have drastically reduced preferred habitat for nesting Piping Plover. This summer only one female and ten male "Pipers" were observed. The female tried and failed 3 times to fledge young. Coyotes and gulls caused these nest losses (DN).

Barring a low snow pack in the mountains next winter, this situation may continue another year, unless the "Pipers" move to suitable areas elsewhere. A Snowy Plover was w. of Laramie, WY, June 4 (PL) and five in Park, CO, July 26 (CLW, JK) were possibly migrants. A pair of Mt. Plovers were in Park, CO, June 26 (TL, SB) and an encouraging 140+ at Adobe Creek Res. (Blue L.), Bent, CO, July 1 (CLW, JK, KS). A high count of 59 Black-necked Stilts were in Kiowa, CO, July 10–13 (CLW et al.). Two pairs of Willets in Delta, CO, June 1–22 (GG) may indicate nesting s. of their normal Colorado range. A Whimbrel in Park, CO, June 12 (TL, SB) provided one of few inter-mountain records of this species. Approximately 120+ Long-billed Curlews were at Adobe Creek Res. (Blue L.) July 1 (CLW, JK, KS). An early and rare Ruddy Turnstone was in Davis, UT, July 31 (AP). Forty-eight Sanderlings were at Antelope I. causeway, Great Salt Lake, UT, June 3 (PL). An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper was reported from Trout Cr. Ranch, NV, July 28, the only one w. of the Rockies (MI). A very early Pectoral Sandpiper was at Huerfano Res., Pueblo, CO, July 8 (BKP, CLW). Long overdue, a fairly bright female Curlew Sandpiper at Upper Queens Res., Kiowa June 30–July 1 (DN, m.ob.) provided the first Colorado record.

Two ad. Franklin's Gulls were in Churchill, NV, June 8 (BH). Rarely seen in Colorado before August, single Bonaparte's Gulls were reported from Barr L., Adams July 11 (TD); John Martin Res., Bent July 14 (CLW, DN); Union Res., Weld July 22 (TD); and two in Park July 26 (CLW, JK). A 3rd-basic Glaucous-winged Gull or possible hybrid was at Great Salt Lake June 3 (PL). Two Caspian Terns were in Mesa, CO, July 11 (CD). Two ad. Com. Terns were at Pelican L., Uintah, UT, June 9–12 (CD, PL). Possibly due to high water in s.e. Colorado, reports of single Least Terns were reported from Grand Junction, Mesa, June 1–6 (CD, RL); Lagerman Res., Boulder, June 13 (PP); and Chatfield Res., Douglas, in July (JBH). Like the Piping Plover in s.e. Colorado, high water has provided some problems. Luckily, at John Martin Res. the high water has produced islands that were once peninsulas. According to Duane Nelson, there were a

total of 40 nests with 47 fledged in e. Colorado, a record high. This is up from less than 20 nests from 1990-1995. With some habitat management—i.e. plant removal, predator control, and island construction, etc.—these numbers may continue to increase.

#### PIGEONS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A Band-tailed Pigeon was reported at Denio, NV, June 4 (RCH). Two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were at Cheyenne, WY, all season (JDo, RDo, PL), and with two in *Washington*, CO, July 18 (CLW), the expansion continues northwesterly. Single White-winged Doves were reported from *Arapahoe*, CO, June 24 (JR) and Lakewood, *Jefferson*, CO, July 29-31 (CLW, BKP).

Rarely reported from Colorado's S.L.V., a road-kill Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in *Rio Grande* June 4 (SH). Others included one w. of Wamsutter, WY, June 6. (RCH) and two in *Mesa*, CO, July 11 onward (CD). Four young Barn Owls in *Saguache*, CO, in July were fledged at 7800 ft. (possibly the highest nesting in North America?), and two young Long-eared Owls confirmed the first nesting in the Sange de Cristo Range, CO, in June (JJR). Up to four Lesser Nighthawks were at Clifton, *Mesa*, CO, June 5-13 (CD, m.ob.) and one was at Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, CO, July 17 (JP). Utah's first breeding **Vaux's Swift** occurred at Lehi, *Utah*, UT, May 13-Aug. 11 (MSt, KSt, PL). A report of a **Green Violet-ear** in Durango, *La Plata*, CO, July 26-27 (*fide* RS) may provide the first Colorado record, if accepted. An ad. male Blue-throated Hummingbird was reported near the *Teller/El Paso* line, CO, July 6 (RB). A female **Magnificent Hummingbird** was in *Washington*, UT, July 13 (JKr). An ad. male **Anna's Hummingbird** was at Franktown, *Douglas*, CO, May 18-June 7 (K&HD, ph. HEK, UK). A male Costa's Hummingbird in Churchill, NV, June 7-14 (RF) provided the first record for the Lahontan Valley.

A Lewis's Woodpecker was reported from *Grand*, CO, July 27 (KH et al.). Up to three Acorn Woodpeckers near Durango, *La Plata*, CO, to June 12 (v.o.) may indicate nesting. A male **Pileated Woodpecker** at L. Tahoe June 20 (JE) provided the first documented Nevada record.

Single E. Wood-Pewees were seen in *Baca*, CO, June 4-8 (DSv, m.ob.) and Sawhill Ponds, *Boulder*, CO, July 30-31 (BT, m.ob.) Twelve Least Flycatchers were reported from seven e. Colorado counties; one s.e. of Saratoga, WY (JDo, RDo); and the species continues to expand in Utah



**This is one of at least three Acorn Woodpeckers that stayed at Durango, La Plata County, Colorado, until June 12, 1998. Although breeding remains a possibility at this site, it has yet to be confirmed. The nearest nesting populations currently recognized are across the state line in New Mexico. Photograph/Chris Wood**

since first reported there 4 years ago, with sightings in *Box Elder* and *Wasatch* (*fide* MSt). Dexter floated the San Miguel R. from Naturita (5,431 ft.) to Uravan, CO, July 12 and found a surprising 28 Black Phoebes. With this high count, expansion into Colorado has succeeded. North of normal areas was a male Vermilion Flycatcher n. of Montello, NV, June 5 (RCH). An out-of-place Ash-throated Flycatcher was on Cameron Pass, *Larimer*, CO, June 19 (MS). Single E. Kingbirds were seen at Jensen, UT, June 12 (PL) and in Ouray N.W.R., *Uintah*, UT, June 12 (PL). Rarely seen in w. Colorado, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher graced DeBeque, *Mesa*, CO, June 24-30 (CD).

#### MARTIN THROUGH WARBLERS

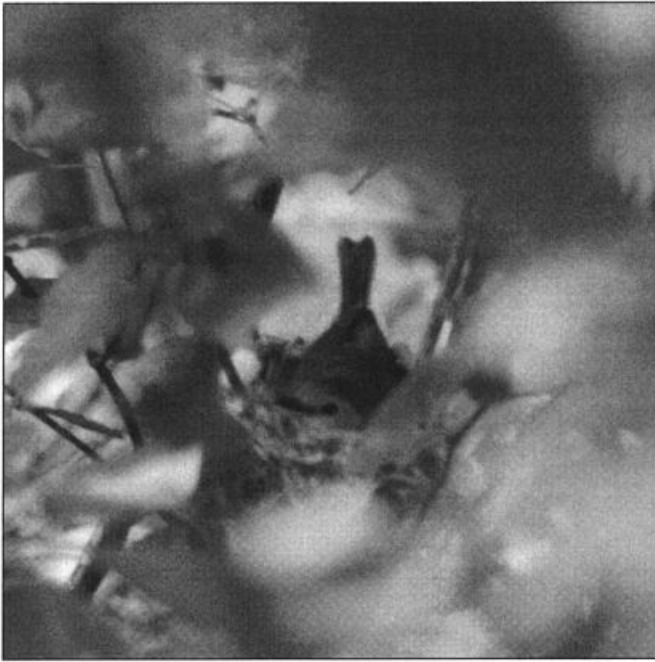
From 10-50 Purple Martins were at Colbran, *Mesa*, CO, June-July (CD), and three female/immatures were at Sterling, *Logan*, CO, July 30 (JDe). A Blue Jay in *Salt Lake*, UT, July 5 (*fide* MSt) provided the first July record for that area. **Winter Wrens** nested in *Cache*, UT, July 3-9 (JG, RR), providing the 2nd breeding record for Utah. A very late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was in Lamar, *Prowers*, CO, June 2 (VAT). Eastern Bluebirds were reported nesting in 3 e. Colorado counties. A singing Veery was at



**Phainopepla remains a scarce visitor to Colorado. This female, one of two reported there this summer, was seen on the Great Plains at Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County, for three days and was photographed on July 23, 1998. Photograph/Chris Wood**

*La Veta*, *Huerfano*, CO, June 13 (RO); one was in *Park*, CO, June 26 (TL, SB); and two sang at Michigan Cr. Campground, CO, June 30 (RL). A Gray Catbird was in Elko, NV (JT), and a Brown Thrasher in *Juab*, UT, July 10-13 (JB). Colorado had two Phainopeplas: a male in Penrose, *Fremont*, June 3-July 26 (RW, m.ob.) and a female at Prewitt Res. July 23-26 (CLW ph., m.ob.).

A **White-eyed Vireo** in *Juab*, UT, July 18 (AB) furnished the 3rd record for Utah, and a late migrant was at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, CO, June 9 (NE et al.). In Wyoming, a **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Cheyenne June 16 (RDo) provided one of few Wyoming records. Single Red-eyed Vireos were reported from *Mesa*, CO, June 12 (PL) and Tonopah, NV, June 19 (JE, DT). Late single Blue-winged Warblers were in Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, CO, June 4-5 (JM, PL) and in Gregory Canyon, *Boulder*, CO, June 9 (DS). A male **Golden-winged Warbler** in *White Pine* June 12 (GC) provided the 2nd Nevada record. Also, a male was in Gregory Canyon, CO, June 12 (DN). A Tennessee Warbler was at Tonopah, NV, June 19 (JE, DT). A mountain report of a female N. Parula in *Teller*, CO, June 6 (JJ) was unusual. A male Chestnut-sided Warbler was in *White Pine*, NV, June 12 (GC) and



**The usual western edge of the Hooded Warbler's breeding range barely reaches the eastern edge of the Great Plains states. This nest provided the first evidence of nesting in Colorado at Gregory Canyon, Boulder County. The female was found on the nest on July 1, and the eggs were first seen on July 4, 1998. Juveniles were found on July 31. Also present here was a Kentucky Warbler, presumably making the woods sound more like Missouri than Colorado. Photograph/Glenda Brown**

two males were on McClure Pass, *Pitkin*, CO, June 18 onward (JBH, VZ). Gregory Canyon also had a male Black-throated Blue Warbler June 9 (DS, m.ob.). A Pine Warbler was in *Baca*, CO, June 17 (DSv et al.). In Nevada, a Palm Warbler was banded at the Numana MAPS station June 12 (EA, RN), and a male **Blackpoll Warbler** was in *Clark* June 5 (RS). Also, two Black-and-white Warblers were in *Clark* June 11 (JE), and there was a rare summer record of a singing male in Cheyenne, WY, July 16 (RDo). Am. Redstarts were at Owl Spring, n. of Lucin, UT, June 5 (RCH), and in *Esmeralda*, NV, June 5 (RF). A male **Prothonotary Warbler** in *Grand*, UT, June 2 (PR) furnished the 2nd Utah record. Rare in that state, an Ovenbird was in *Washington* June 3 (SP). Rare in summer, a N. Waterthrush was in *Yuma*, CO, July 19 (CLW). A singing male Kentucky Warbler was in Gregory Canyon, CO, June 6–27 (PP, m.ob.). A pair of **Hooded Warblers** in Gregory Canyon confirmed the first state nesting record. (RSi, GB, m.ob.); two juveniles were found July 31 (BT).

#### TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Late Scarlet Tanagers were in Lamar, CO, June 3 (DAL) and Ft. Collins, July 22–23 (RK, BBH). Northern Cardinals were reported from 7 e. Colorado counties. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported w.

of normal, including one in *Salt Lake*, UT, May 31–June 20 (KJ, LL); one in *Mesa*, CO, June 14 (CD); and one in *Clark*, NV, July 24 (Rsc). A male **Painted Bunting** in *Davis*, UT, June 12 (TF ph.) appears to be the first for Utah. In Nevada, a Dickcissel showed up in Tonopah May 30 (JE et al.). Dickcissels were reported throughout e. Colorado.

A male Lark Bunting was at Nellis Air Force Base May 29 (JE). Grasshopper Sparrows were reported in high numbers in e. Colorado, including four in *Rio Grande*, CO, in July (JJR). Two ad. Lincoln's Sparrows carrying food in Elko, NV, July 30 (M&LP) provided the first know breeding in Nevada away from the Carson Range. **Great-tailed Grackles** continue to increase in numbers and locations in Colorado, and for the first time nested in Wyoming in *Goshen* (JDo et al.). A first-year male Orchard Oriole was reported in *Moffat*, CO, June 10 (PL). Eight White-winged Crossbills were in Clear Cr., CO, June 25 (TL). Three Lesser Goldfinches visited Hot Springs, WY July 8 (LNo).

**Cited Observers:** Elisabeth Ammon, Jay Banta, Sue Bonfield, Ann Brown, Glenda Brown, Richard Bunn, Graham Chisholm, Ray Davis, Coen Dexter, Jim Dennis (JDe), Jane Dorn (JDo), Robert Dorn (RDo), Todd Dilley, Howard & Kathy Dressel (H&KD), Jim Eidel, Norma Erickson, Trillis

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