

Mountain West

ed Grosbeak in Boise, ID 10-15 Jan (LG). A surprising variety and number of seasonally rare sparrows were found in both states. These included a Green-tailed Towhee that wintered below A.F.R. dam (DB), several Spotted Towhees in w. Montana, 4 Savannah Sparrows in Canyon, ID, 14 Jan (HK), a Chipping Sparrow in Pocatello, ID 11-30 Dec (MCR), several Fox Sparrows in both states, and 6 Lincoln's Sparrows in Idaho. The only Swamp Sparrow of the period visited Pocatello, ID 16-28 Dec (CT). Reports of rare *Zonotrichia* sparrows were up from last year, with a total of 6 White-throated, one Golden-crowned, and 26 Harris's Sparrows.

Snow Buntings made a spectacular invasion, with 225 in Lake, MT 17 Dec (m.ob.), 240 in Bonneville, ID 1 Jan (DCI), 400+ in Idaho Falls, ID 4 Feb (GR), and 400+ in Sanders, MT 10 Feb (JM, CO). Rusty Blackbirds also had an unusually good showing, with 3 in Idaho and at least 11 in Montana. Idaho's Great-tailed Grackle news featured 22+ that persisted in Owyhee (JG), 5 that wintered in Mimidoka (JC, ES), and one that strayed to Meridian 17 Dec (RE). Three Common Grackles were reported in Montana, about average for the season. Two Purple Finches were in Libby, MT 16 Dec (AB); they are rare but increasingly reported in nw. Montana. Especially rare in a poor season for redpolls were 2 Hoary Redpolls near Bigfork, MT 16 Dec (DC). Lesser Goldfinches successfully wintered in Idaho again, with one below A.F.R. (DB) and up to 4 near Boise (DT).

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The Region experienced cold weather early, and most areas remained cold. Lakes became frozen early but appeared to open earlier than normal. The fall mountain species' invasion onto the plains continued through the season. All locations in this report are from Colorado unless otherwise noted.

Abbreviations: Barr (Barr Lake State Park, Adams); Chatfield (Chatfield Reservoir, Jefferson/Douglas); C.B.R. (Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso/Pueblo); C.C.R. (Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe); C.V.C.G. (Crow Valley Campground, Weld); F.C.R.P. (Fountain Creek Regional Park, El Paso); G.V. (Greenhorn Valley, near Colorado City and Rye, Pueblo); J.M.R. (John Martin Reservoir, Bent); S.L.V. (San Luis Valley, in south-central Colorado); W.R.G. (Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, Jefferson).

Loons Through Raptors

Most of the Region's loons were at Pueblo Res. Pueblo had a Red-throated 13-16 Dec (†BKP, MJ), one to 2 Pacifics stayed to 13 Jan (BKP), and one to 5 Commons all season. Trinidad L, Las Animas had a Pacific and a Common 13 Dec (VAT). Single Red-necked Grebes were in Boulder 4 Dec (LS) and Pueblo 16 Dec (†DSi). Late American White Pelicans included 2 at J.M.R. 3 Dec (BKP, MJ, DN) & one there 15 Jan (DAL) and early spring migrants were in Otero & Crowley on 25 Feb. A **Great Egret** at Totten Res. 6 Dec (SA, DF) provided one of the few winter records for the state. In w. Colorado, 7 Ross's Geese were in Mesa 17 Jan (TL, RLv) and 3 in Delta 3 Feb (LS). A **Black Brant** was at Greeley 15-21 Jan (DB, †PG). Three Trumpeter Swans were seen at Ft. Collins 30 Dec (RKL). Two ad. Tundra Swans were in Otero & Crowley 19-25 Feb (MJ, BKP, SO). In Greeley, observers noted a Gadwall x Mallard hybrid 18-21 Jan (DAL, PG) and a probable American Black Duck x Mallard 18-30 Jan (DAL, LS). Three Greater Scaup were at McPhee Res. in sw Colorado 6 Dec (DF). An unexpected female **Harlequin Duck** was in Durango, La Plata along the Animas R. 12 Jan-28 Feb+ (M&DH, †m.ob.). A female White-winged Scoter was in



A Black Brant, quite rare in Colorado, spent mid-January at Greeley. Photograph by Steve Messick.



A female Harlequin Duck spent the latter part of the winter in Durango along the Animas River, Colorado. It was photographed there 14 February 2001. Photograph by Joey Kellner.

Boulder 4 Dec (LS). Rarely reported from w Colorado, a Long-tailed Duck was at Totten Res 6 Dec (DF) and one s. of normal at Trinidad L 13 Dec (VAT). Single female Barrow's Goldeneyes were in *La Plata & Montezuma* 5-6 Dec (DF), and the farthest se. was a male in *Otero* 12 Dec (VAT). High counts of Hooded Mergansers from sw. Colorado were 32 in *Archuleta* 5 Dec (DF) and 24 in *Montezuma* 6 Dec (DF). Hoodeds appeared in quite high numbers this season in e. Colorado also.

High counts of Bald Eagles were 61 at J.M.R. 15 Jan (DAL) and 17 in *Moffat* 4 Feb (LS). An ad. Northern Goshawk was at J.M.R. 21 Feb (VAT). A juv. Red-shouldered Hawk was in *Otero* 3 Dec (MJ, BKP). Fourteen Golden Eagles in *Moffat* 4 Feb (LS) made an impressive count.

Coots Through Gulls

Truly amazing, a **Common Moorhen x American Coot** hybrid was at J.M.R. 4 Feb (MJ, BKP). Three Greater Yellowlegs were seen in *Adams* 30 Dec (†BK) and one in *El Paso* 22 Dec–17 Feb (†AV, KP). An **American Woodcock** was heard calling at L. Henry, *Crowley* 19 Feb (MJ, †BKP).

A late Franklin's Gull was in *Otero* 15 Dec (CLW). A first-basic Mew Gull was at Pueblo Res. 2 Dec (BKP), and an ad. was in Littleton Historic Park 17 Dec (AS). Thayer's Gull numbers were considerably reduced this year. Single ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Standley L., *Jefferson* 12 & 23 Dec (LS) and Pueblo Res 31 Jan–2 Feb (BKP). A first-basic Glaucous-winged Gull was at Pueblo Res. 25 Feb (†VAT) Five Glaucous Gulls were reported from ne Colorado 16 Dec–15 Jan. The ad. Great Black-backed Gull found during the fall at C.C.R. stayed to 7 Dec (BB) and probably the same bird appeared at Pueblo Res. (for its 8th winter), 15 Dec–26 Feb (BKP).

Doves Through Woodpeckers

Eurasian Collared-Doves reached new areas and are increasing at known sites; new areas include the S.L.V., Greeley, Sterling, and Ovid, all in ne. Colorado, as well as and Canon City Up to 5 **Inca Doves** resided in Rocky Ford, 1 Dec–1 Jan (SO), and one was in Ft. Collins, 20 Dec–11 Feb (LZ, †TL). Greater Roadrunners appeared to be in higher numbers in *Pueblo* and *Fremont*, and one provided the first S.L.V. record near Alamosa, 6 Dec–1 Jan (†BMr). A Northern Pygmy-Owl was at Bates Hole, *Natrona*, WY 1 Jan (CEM). High counts of owls in Colorado included 18 Northern Pygmy-, 47 Long-eared, and 14 Short-eared. A Boreal Owl was n. of Mancos 27 Dec (G&MS) and another near Gould 18 Feb (BS). Plains Northern Saw-

whet Owls included singles at Pueblo Res., Canon City, C.V.C.G., and Colorado Springs.

A **hummingbird** thought to be an imm. male Black-chinned was at Grand Jct. to 10 Dec (†LA). A male **Acorn Woodpecker** was found on Ft. Carson, *El Paso* 12 Jan–28 Feb+ (BMy). Rarely staying the winter in Colorado, single Williamson's Sapsuckers were reported in Pueblo 2 Dec (BKP) & 7 Jan (BKP, MJ); Colorado City 14 Dec (DSi); and Canon City, 17 Dec (CLW, BKP).

Flycatchers Through Waxwings

Single Say's Phoebe-s were reported from Pueblo, Rocky Ford, and Colorado City. Six Bushtits were at Coal Mt., *Natrona*, WY 16 Dec (J&GL); several were in n. Colorado. Two eastern race White-breasted Nuthatches were at Cope 7 Jan (JK, AS, TL). Up to 8 Pygmy Nuthatches wintered in Rocky Ford 18 Dec (SO, BKP, MJ). A Carolina Wren was in Colorado Springs 24 Dec (†DSm). At least 5 Eastern Bluebirds wintered in w. Colorado, near Redlands, *Mesa* (TL, RLv). Single Gray Catbirds were at Colorado City 29 Dec (DSi), Aurora 1 Jan (RLn), and Two Buttes Res. 12 Jan (DAL), and single Brown Thrashers in Pueblo 16 Dec (BKP), W.R.G. 31 Dec–4 Feb (IS, TE, KS), and Rocky Ford 15-25 Feb (SO, MJ, BKP). Bohemian Waxwings invaded n. Colorado in *Larimer*, *Boulder*, *Douglas*, and *El Paso*; also singles were s. to Colorado City 1-30 Dec (BBH) and Pueblo 16 Dec (CLW, BKP).

Warblers Through Finches

A Cape May Warbler was photographed at the Denver Zoo 25 Feb (†M&KR). Single Common Yellowthroats appeared at J.M.R. 3 Dec (BKP, MJ, DN), *Pueblo* 16 Dec (CLW), and W.R.G. 4 Feb (KS). Rare in winter, a Green-tailed Towhee was at a Boulder feeder 25 Dec–22 Jan (RB, RF). A **Savannah Sparrow** was in the J.M.R. w. wetland 15 Jan–4 Feb (DAL) along with 3 **Le Conte's Sparrows** 15 Jan (DAL). Single *schistacea* Fox Sparrows were at Colorado City 9 Dec (DSi) and Chatfield 23-29 Dec (†RKr, JK, CLW). Single Harris's Sparrows were in nw. Colorado at Craig 2 Jan (FL) and Kremmling 18 Jan (FL). Two Golden-crowned Sparrows were noted, one at C.C.R. 26 Dec–9 Jan (BB) and one at B.L. 26 Jan (DF). Four Chestnut-collared Longspurs were at C.B.R. 15 Dec (TL). A Snow Bunting was in *Moffat* 2 Dec (FL), 6 in *Garfield* 10 Dec (VZ), and 5 in *Cheyenne* 14 Dec (CLW). Three Northern Cardinals were in *Prowers* and one in *Baca* 12 Jan (DAL). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was photographed at Como, *Park* 1-7 Dec. A male **Lazuli Bunting** was at Garden of the Gods, *El Paso* 17 Jan (†DSn). A possible wintering Yellow-headed



This Cape May Warbler was at the Denver Zoo 25 February. Photograph by Mary & Ken Rush.

Blackbird was near Barr L. 30 Dec–1 Jan (TL). Rusty Blackbirds appeared in more locations this season: 4 were in Pueblo, 4 at Barr, 2 in Boulder, 2 at Chatfield, and singles were in Ft. Collins and at L. Meredith. High counts of wintering Great-tailed Grackles included 249 near Barr 30 Dec (TL) and 100+ in Ordway 25 Feb (MJ, BKP). For the 2nd winter, a male **Bullock's Oriole** was observed in Brighton 1-3 Jan (TL, DF). Rosy-Finches were in higher numbers all around Colorado. At Chapman's Rye feeders 30 Dec, 856 Gray-crowned, 48 Black, and 67 Brown-capped were counted (SC, BKP), and on 27 Feb an amazing 142 Blacks were seen (SC). A female-type Purple Finch was at Las Animas, *Bent* 30 Jan–8 Feb (DN) and another in Eagle 28 Jan. (JMe). At the same feeder in Las Animas, at least 4 Cassin's Finches were seen 21 Feb–4 Feb (DN). A

White-winged Crossbill was reported on the Cheyenne, WY C.B.C. The only Common Redpolls were 5 at Cheraw 15 Dec (CLW) and one sw. of Casper, WY 15-28 Feb (HS). A late Lesser Goldfinch was in Colorado City 9 Dec (DSi).

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