

Mountain West



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The drought continued throughout the season in Colorado and the southern half of Wyoming. In Colorado, spring run-off was completed on most rivers by late April, almost a month and a half early.

Abbreviations: B.S.R. (Bump Sullivan Res., WY), C.B.R. (Chico Basin Ranch, CO), C.V.C.G. (Crow Valley Campground, Weld, CO), E.K.W. (Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park, Natrona, WY), G.R.R. (Gray Reef Res., Natrona, WY), H.P.R.S. (High Plains Research Station, e. of Cheyenne, Laramie, WY), H.S.R. (Hawk Springs Res., Goshen, WY), L.P. (Lion's Park in Cheyenne, Laramie, WY), T.M.W.A., (Table Mountain Wildlife Area, Goshen, WY), W.H.R. (Wyoming Hereford Ranch, e. of Cheyenne, Laramie, WY). All locations mentioned below are in Colorado unless otherwise indicated.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

A Red-throated Loon, a rare transient, was in *El Paso* 13 Apr (LE). Likewise rare, a Red-necked Grebe in alternate plumage was at Glendo Res., Platte, WY 18 May (SJD); in Colorado, one was in *Adams* 21 Mar (CLW) and another in *Pueblo*

2-13 May (DS). A subad. **Brown Pelican** was at Pueblo Res. 4-14 May (LA)—there are xx previous records for this species in the state.

An American Bittern, not often observed during migration, was seen at T.M.W.A. 18 May (SJD, JBF). Southern herons were noted on several occasions. An ad. Little Blue Heron was in *Gunnison* 20 Apr (KZ, BZ) and a Tricolored in *Bent* 25 May (DN). Very rare in nw. Wyoming, a Great Egret was at Yellowstone N.P. 21 May (R&RW). In sw. Wyoming, 3 Cattle Egrets were at Bridger Ponds, *Sweetwater* 10 May (DF). A rare Green Heron was at L.P. 27 May (JBF). In Wyoming, reports of the very rare **Glossy Ibis** included one near Cheyenne 5 May (DF, JBF, ET) and 2 there 18 May (SJD, JBF, CM, GL, JL). A healthy 10 were reported in Colorado. A Trumpeter Swan was at G.R.R. 10 Mar (JBF, DF) and an imm. in *Baca*, 22 Mar (DAL). Two ad. Tundra Swans were in *Huerfano* 9-12 Mar (DJ, DS). A male Eurasian Wigeon was in *Prowers* 21 (JT) & 26 Mar (DAL). Greater Scaup in Wyoming included 2 at G.R.R. 10 Mar (JBF, DF) and 2 at W.H.R. 21 Apr (DF, JBF). A female Surf Scoter was in *Pueblo* 5-13 May (RMi), and an ad. male White-winged Scoter was at Chatfield Res. 13 Apr (JBH)

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

A juv. Red-shouldered Hawk was in *Larimer* 25-26 May (DAL, RH, JBF). Five migrant Broad-winged Hawks were reported in the Cheyenne area, WY 21 Apr—24 May (v. o.). Colorado's 2nd **Zone-tailed Hawk** flew over Pueblo City Park and then was followed to w. to Valco Ponds 27

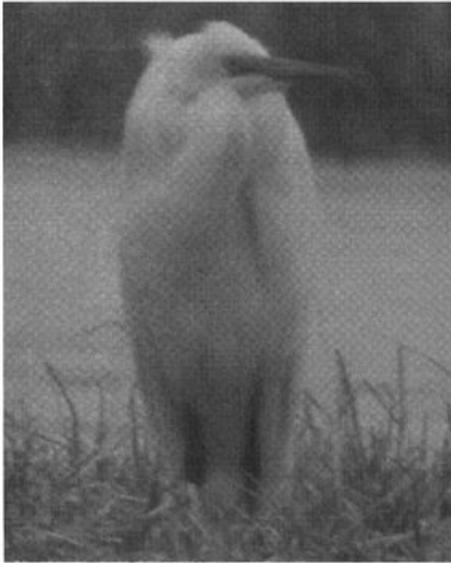
Apr (DAL, DCE, JMa). The white-morph **Gyr Falcon** at E.K.W. stayed until 6 Apr (CM). A **Common Moorhen** was at Barbour Ponds, *Weld* 4 May (CO, RMz).

Rare in Wyoming, a Snowy Plover was at Goldeneye Res., *Natrona* 27-28 May (DF, CM), and a pair was at Old Eden Res., *Sweetwater* 30 May (DF). A Black-necked Stilt was at T.M.W.A. 21 Apr (JBF, DF). Whimbrel sightings from Wyoming included one at T.M.W.A., 28 Apr (JBn, JBF) & 12 there on 16 May (JBF, SJD), and one at W.H.R. 18 May (JBF, SJD). A Hudsonian Godwit was in *Otero* 28 May (SO). A **Red Knot** was at Soda L. in Casper, WY 10 May (JG), and an early one was in *Bent* 24 Mar (DN). Forty-five Sanderlings were at B.S.R. 16 May (SJD, JBF). Five White-rumped Sandpipers were in *Goshen*, WY 16 May (SJD, JBF). A Dunlin was at B.S.R. 26 May (DF). A Short-billed Dowitcher was near Cheyenne, WY 4 May (JBF, DF). High totals for Wyoming were 400 Red-necked Phalaropes at T.M.W.A. 16 May (SJD, JBF) and 307 at B.S.R. 16 May (SJD, JBF).

Single Laughing Gulls were in *Larimer* 23 Apr (RH) and in *Weld* 8-17 May (SR). Ten Bonaparte's Gulls were near Cheyenne 4 May (JBF). Single Mew Gulls were in *Pueblo* 11 Mar (BKP), *Boulder* 23 Mar (CLW, BPG, SLH), and *Broomfield* 4 Apr (CLW). Wyoming's first **Glaucous-winged Gull** was at Soda L. 5 May (CM). A first-basic Glaucous-winged Gull stayed in *Arapahoe* 5 Mar—22 Apr (BB). A late Glaucous Gull was at L. Beckwith, Colorado City 9 May (DS) and another at Pueblo Res. 13 May (DS). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull was in *Kiowa* 19 May (DN). An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake was in *Kiowa* 8-9 Mar (ASp, GW, DN). An ad. Common Tern was in *Goshen*, WY 16 May (SJD, JBF), and a Least Tern was in *Alamosa* 15 May (LR), for a rare San Luis Valley record.

DOVES THROUGH THRASHERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to appear in Wyoming. A pair was in Rock Springs through the period (RS), up to 4 w. of Torrington 21 Apr—19 May (JBF, DF, SJD), up to 3 at Pine Bluffs 28 Apr—17 May (JBn, JBF, ALC, HH, SJD), and 3 at Ft. Laramie 17 May (CM). The 3rd **White-winged Dove** for Wyoming was near Casper 20 May (GL, CM). White-winged Doves in Colorado included 13 birds. One to 2 Inca Doves returned to *Otero* 11 Mar—12 Apr (SO). Black-billed Cuckoos were in *Pueblo* 12-13 May (DJ, MY) and in *Prowers* 27 May (BPG). A Snowy Owl was in *Otero* 3-17 Mar (SO), and 3 were in *Bent/Kiowa* 9 Mar—22 Apr (DN, m. ob). A Short-eared Owl was in *Goshen*, WY 21 Apr (JBF). A Black Swift was at *Alamosa* 24 May (SO, LS, CLW, BKP), providing a rare San Luis Valley record. On 24 May, single Chimney Swifts were



An unusual sight in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 21 May 2002 was this Great Egret. Photograph by Robin Wolcott.

in *Montrose* (RL, CD, BS) and in *Archuleta* (SO). A female **Magnificent Hummingbird** was banded at C.B.R., *El Paso* 18 May (TL, ph. LS). In Wyoming, Red-headed Woodpeckers were found: one to 2 were at W.H.R. 20-27 May (JBF), and 2 were at Rawhide W.M.A., *Goshen* 16 May (SJD, JBF).

A singing Eastern Wood-Pewee was in *Baca* 10 May (JK). An Alder Flycatcher was banded at C.B.R. 18 May (NG, TL, ph. LS). Gray Flycatchers in Wyoming included one at H.P.R.S. 1 May (CLW, JBn) and one at W.H.R. 1 May (CLW, JBn). Black Phoebe in Colorado were reported from



A rare vagrant so far north, this female Magnificent Hummingbird graced the Chico Basin Ranch in El Paso County, Colorado 18 May 2002, where it was banded. Photograph by Larry Semo.

nine counties, mostly from w. and sw. Colorado, the San Luis Valley; and in *Pueblo* and *Fremont*. An Eastern Phoebe was at H.S.R. 9 May (DF). A male Vermilion Flycatcher returned to Higbee, *Otero* 9-12 Apr (ASp), and other single males were in *Prowers* 30 Apr (BPG) and at C.B.R., *Pueblo* 11-18 May (RL). An Ash-throated Flycatcher wandered e. to W.H.R. 28 Apr (JBF, JBn). A Cassin's Kingbird was at W.H.R. 1 May (CLW, JBn). A pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were s. of Lamar, *Prowers* 5-13 May (RO, JK), and one was in w. Colorado at Dotsero, *Eagle* 17 May (JMe).

Single White-eyed Vireos appeared in *Baca* 5 May (RO, JK), *Prowers* 11 May (DAL), *Lincoln* 19 May (TL, NG), and *Boulder* 26 May (JC). Five Yellow-throated Vireos were in e Colorado 4-31 May. A Philadelphia Vireo was at C.V.C.G. 19-20 May (RO, JBF, RH). A pair of Eastern Bluebirds was at H.P.R.S. 18 May (CM), and a male was at W.H.R. 24 May (JBF). A Veery was at Rawhide W.M.A., WY 16 May (SJD, JBF). Very rare in Wyoming, single **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were at Rawhide W.M.A. 16 May (JBF, SJD) and at W.H.R. 19 May (DF), 20 May (JBF), and 25 May

(DAL). Four Wood Thrushes were found in e Colorado 26 Apr—28 May. Northern Mockingbirds in Wyoming included one at E.K.W. 26 Apr (CM, AH), one w. of Casper 4 May (HS), one at H.P.R.S. 18 May (CM), one at W.H.R. 22-24 May (JBF), and one in sw Wyoming at Fontenelle Dam, *Sweetwater* 24 May (RS).

WARBLERS

This was a very good season for warblers in the Region (Table 1). Rarities in Wyoming were remarkable. Single Northern Parulas at W.H.R. 4-5 May (JBF, DF, ET) and L.P. 18 May (CM) were the only ones reported. A Chestnut-sided at Fontenelle Dam 25-27 May (RS) was rare there, while single Magnolia Warblers at L.P. 21-22 May (DF, JBF) and E.K.W. 22-23 May (CM, BR, AH) were uncommon. A female **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at E.K.W. 27 May (CM, HS, GL). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was at W.H.R. 1 May (CLW, JBn), and a male **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at L.P. 27 May (JBF). Two **Yellow Palm Warblers** were found, one at

Table 1. Warbler totals from the Mountain West Region, Spring 2002.

Species	WY	CO
Blue-winged Warbler	0	4
Golden-winged Warbler	0	11
Tennessee Warbler	15	49
Nashville Warbler	4	7
Virginia's Warbler (away from foothills)	6	More than normal
Lucy's Warbler	0	1
Northern Parula	2	22
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4	14
Magnolia Warbler	2	4
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	3
Black-throated Gray Warbler (away from breeding areas)	1	17
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	6
Townsend's Warbler	3	3
Hermit Warbler	0	1
Blackburnian Warbler	0	4
Yellow-throated Warbler	0	1
Pine Warbler	0	2
Prairie Warbler	0	2
Western Palm Warbler	0	9
Yellow Palm Warbler	2	0
Bay-breasted Warbler	0	1
Blackpoll Warbler	5	14
Black-and-white Warbler	3	22
American Redstart	4	29
Prothonotary Warbler	0	1
Worm-eating Warbler	1	11
Ovenbird	0	13
Northern Waterthrush	3	29
Kentucky Warbler	0	3
Connecticut Warbler	1	0
Mourning Warbler	0	2
Hooded Warbler	2	12



Part of a very broad invasion that brought individuals as far south as Texas, this Snowy Owl north of Lake Holbrook in Otero County, Colorado 17 March 2002 was one of at least four still in the state in the spring season 2002. Photograph by Larry Semo.

W.H.R. 1 May (CLW, JB) and the other at L.P. 18 May (SJD, JBF). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Casper 5-6 May (B&DW, JL). A male **Connecticut Warbler** was at W.H.R. 18 May (CM, JL, GL, SJD, JBF), and a male **Hooded Warbler** was at E.K.W. 30 Apr—4 May (CM) and a female there 15-19 May (CM, HS, SJD).

Colorado was no less productive. A **Lucy's Warbler** at Lamar, *Prowers* 21 Apr (BPG) provided the 5th state record. A female Northern Parula was in *Alamosa* 27 May (JRa, LR), while a Chestnut-sided was there 2-4 May (LR). A female Hermit was at Barr L., *Adams* 4 May (TL). Single Blackburnian in *Bent* 7 May (DN), at Durango, *La Plata* 13 May (JBy, SA), at C.B.R., *Pueblo* 16-18 May (CLW), and in *Morgan* 18 May (JRi). A Yellow-throated at L. Beckwith in Colorado City, *Pueblo* 2 May (DS). Single Pine Warblers appeared in *Prowers* on 19 Apr (BPG, SC) and 8-10 May (BPG, ph. DAL). Two singing Prairies were in *Pueblo* 28 May (VAT). A female Bay-breasted Warbler was banded at C.B.R., *El Paso* 19 May (TL), and single male Blackpolls were seen in *La Plata* 7-8 (SA, JBy) & 20 May (JBy, SA). A female Black-and-white Warbler was in *Alamosa* 27 May (JRa, LR); a male Prothonotary was at Boulder 2-5 May (TF). A Worm-eating Warbler was in *Alamosa* 16 May (JRa), providing the 2nd San Luis Valley record. Single Kentucky Warblers were rare in *Baca* 5 May (BKP) and at Chatfield Res. 7 (GW; male) & 14 May (JBH; female). A Mourning Warbler was found in *Bent* 9-11 May (DN, SO), and another was in the same county 23 May (DN). A male Hooded Warbler was in *Montezuma* 26-31 May (D&MH), a rare find in sw. Colorado.

TANAGERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

A male Hepatic Tanager was banded at C.B.R., *El Paso* 11-12 May (RL). A Summer Tanager was at Casper, WY 9 May (CM, AH, BR). A Green-tailed x Spotted Towhee was in Casper, WY 16 May (ph. CM, HS). A male **Eastern Towhee** was at E.K.W. 11 May (CM) may be Wyoming's first confirmed record. A **Black-throated Sparrow** was at Seedskafee N.W.R., *Sweetwater* 11-12 May (DF). Easterly were a Sage Sparrow in *Bent* 14 Mar (DN) and 2 in *Jefferson* 5 Apr (RO). Single White-throated Sparrows in Wyoming were one at W.H.R. 1 May (CLW, JBn) and one at Fontenelle Dam 24 May (RS). Three Snow Buntings were in *Gunnison* 19 Mar (LS). At least 6 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in e. Wyoming 7-24 May (v. o.). A male Indigo Bunting was at W.H.R. 18-24 May (SJD, JBF, DF). A female Painted Bunting was banded in *Prowers* 22 May (BPG). One to 5 Great-tailed Grackles were at T.M.W.A. 21 Apr—8 May (JBF, SJD, DF). A first-spring male **Baltimore Oriole** was at W.H.R. 25 May (DAL). A male Scott's Oriole was in *Jefferson* 13 May (ASy). A Purple Finch was at C.B.R., *El Paso* 5 May (TL, NG). A pair of **White-winged Crossbills** visited Casper, WY 7 Apr (CM) and one was at L.P. 1 May (CLW, JBn). Eight to 10

White-winged Crossbills were at Ft. Collins 16 Mar (DAL).

Cited observers: Lyle Anise, Susan Allerton, Jason Beason (JBn), Jim Beatty (JBy), Bob Brown, Stacey Campbell, John Cobb, Alan L. Contreras, Coen Dexter, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Lisa Edwards, David C. Ely, Doug Faulkner, Ted Floyd, Joe B. Fontaine, Jim Gaither, Brian P. Gibbons, Nancy Gobris, Stephanie L. Hanson, J.B. Hayes, Hendrik Herlyn, Dean & Mona Hill (D&MH), Ann Hines, Rachel Hopper, Dave Johnson, Joey Kellner, Gloria Lawrence, Jim Lawrence, David A. Leatherman, Tony Leukering, Rich Levad, Chris Michelson, Joe Mammoser (JMa), Richard Mendez (RMz), Jack Merchant (JMe), Rich Miller (RMi), Duane Nelson, Ric Olson, Stan Oswald, Chris Owens, Brandon K. Percival, Scott Rashid, John Rawinski (JRa), Lisa Rawinski (LR), Betty Rickman, Joe Rigli (JRi), Bill Schmoker, Hustace Scott, Alice Selby (ASy), Larry Semo, David Silverman, Andrew Spencer (ASp), Rick Steenburg, Elena Thomas, Janeal Thompson, Van A. Truan, Glenn Walbek, Bruce and Donna Walgren (B&DW), Richard & Robin Wolcott (R&RW), Chris L. Wood, Mark Yaeger, Barry Zimmer, Kevin Zimmer.



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The Spring season was unusually dry, with some areas experiencing no precipitation during May. Many rivers and lakes in the southern half of the Region were at the lowest recorded levels in decades. At Corn Creek, observers thought this was one of the best spring migrations ever, with numbers of birds exceeding those of the previous five years. It may be the