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Colorado & Wyoming



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While the weather for the period was unremarkably mild, birders in the Region had a remarkable fall season. Two arduous hiking trips located Ruffed Grouse, a breeding bird not recorded in Colorado for 14 years, and hopefully a good prelude to the upcoming Breeding Bird Atlas work in the state. Juxtaposed against the two essentially Mexican vagrants from the summer season (White-eared Hummingbird and Tropical Parula) was the Region's second Arctic Loon, a photographed bird in alternate plumage. Charadriiform news included a second state record Curlew Sandpiper, unprecedented numbers of Red Phalaropes, all three jaeger species, an invasion of Laughing Gulls, and a grounded Ancient Murrelet. As with many other bird groups, warblers ran hot and cold, with relatively low numbers and diversity. However, an outrageous 11 Pine Warblers and the first Painted Redstart in nearly 20 years made up for some of the deficiencies.

Abbreviations: Barr (Barr L., Adams); Bonny (Bonny Res., Yuma); Chatfield (Chatfield S.P., Jefferson/Douglas); Cherry Creek (Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe); Chico (Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo/El Paso); Crow Valley (Crow

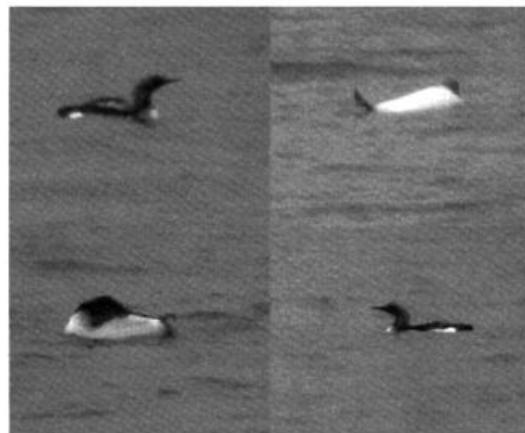
Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grasslands, Weld); E.K.W. (Edness Kimball Wilkins S.P., Natrona, WY); Fossil Creek (Fossil Creek Res., Larimer); Goldeneye (Goldeneye Res., Natrona, WY); Hereford Ranch (Wyoming Hereford Ranch, Laramie, WY); John Martin (John Martin Res., Bent); Jumbo (Jumbo Res., Logan/Sedgwick); Neenoshe (Neenoshe Res., Kiowa); Prewitt (Prewitt Res., Washington). "West Slope" denotes locations west of the Rockies. Due to reporting biases, all locations can be assumed to be in Colorado except that each Wyoming location is noted as such the first time it appears in the text. Generally, only the observers initially finding and identifying each bird are noted.

WATERFOWL

The highlight of the goose migration was a juv. **Atlantic Brant** at Fossil Creek 20 Nov (ph. CW, NK). As there are fewer than five previous Colorado records of this taxon, it was unfortunate that the bird was a one-day wonder. A Black Brant visited College L. in Ft. Collins, Larimer 16 Nov (†NK, †AS et al.) along with 2 Trumpeter Swans and 3 Tundra Swans (†AS). In Wyoming, 2 Nov seemed to be a big swan migration day, with at least 142 Tundras found at two sites in Fremont (T. Axtelhelm). In Colorado, where both swans are much rarer, both were recorded in higher-than-usual numbers. Some imm. swans are understandably causing confusion for the Region's birders; the identity of an imm. with the apparently returning group of Trumpeters in the Loveland area, Larimer after 14 Nov (CW, m.ob.) is still not agreed upon, despite a number of reasonable photographs (ph. NK). One imm. Tundra was consorting with 2 ad. and one imm. Trumpeters at L. Hasty, Bent 30 Nov–25 Jan (DN, m.ob.).

Overall, duck migration through e. Colorado seemed quite sparse, perhaps due to the mild fall. In fact, Blue-winged Teal lingered longer than usual, with a few low double-dig-

it counts on the e. plains in mid-Oct (TL) Scoter reports from atypical sites included first county records of Surf near Buena Vista, Chaffee 12–21 Oct (ph. R. Hancock) and at DeWeese Res., Custer 24 Oct (RM); a single Surf at Vallecito Res., La Plata 15 Nov (P. Der-ven, S. Allerton); 2 White-wingeds at L. Avery, Rio Blanco 19 Nov (D. Hilkey, FL); and one



Arriving in Colorado in handsome alternate plumage, the state's second Arctic Loon loitered for a few hours at Chatfield Reservoir, Douglas and Jefferson Counties, on 28 September 2005. Photographs by Glenn Walbek

Black on a pond well nw. of Craig, Moffat 14 Nov (ph. DD). Oddly, one of the miserable fall total of 3 Long-tailed Ducks visited Jerry Creek Res., Mesa 21–25 Nov (LA, R. Levad) on the West Slope, where fairly rare.

LOONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The three reports of Red-throated Loon (single juvs. from Pueblo, Larimer, and Las Animas [the latter a first for that county]) were greatly overshadowed by an ad. loon appearing to be an alternate-plumaged Arctic Loon. The bird was found at Chatfield early in the morning of 28 Sep (AS) and stayed long enough for a few other lucky souls to get there (ph. GW). By late morning, the bird could not be found. Though some with experience with the species question the identification, the bird's habit of holding its head above the horizontal, the nape being concolorous with the crown, the distinct white flank

SA In a spectacular fall season in Colorado, **Ruffed Grouse** nearly stole the show. Spencer carefully researched landowners on, and the best ways to access, Hoy Mt., Moffat on the Utah border, the site of the only previous occurrence of the species in the state. Two expeditions there, one each in late Sep and late Oct, were successful at seeing (and hearing) Ruffed Grouse, with at least 3 birds detected (AS, m.ob.).

patch, and the lack of a vent strap—all features shown well by the distant photographs—seem to prove the case. Pending acceptance, the occurrence would provide the 2nd Colorado and 3rd interior North American records. Pacific Loons discovered at atypical sites included singles at Trinidad Res. 3



John Martin Reservoir in Bent County holds a monopoly on Colorado's Black Vultures: all three of the state's sightings are from the area (here 22 August 2005). Photograph by Jeff Yost.

Nov (T. Crisler) and North L. 19 Nov (AS), both *Las Animas*, and first county records at Navajo Res., *Archuleta* 10 Nov (one bird; JBy) and Miramonte Res., *San Miguel* 11–15 Nov (2; G. Steele et al.). A juv. Yellow-billed Loon played will-o'-the-wisp at Standley L., *Jefferson* 4–6 Nov (ph. LS) and Chatfield 6–20 Nov (A. Burns, m.ob.).

An ad. **Neotropic Cormorant** at John Martin 30 Oct–1 Nov (†AS, †GW et al.) was a surprise, as fall records in the Region are few. A Green Heron w. of Paomia, *Delta* 28 Sep (JBn) was not only out of place but also fairly late for the West Slope. Single juv. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons visited Cañon City, *Fremont* 17–18 Aug (SM) and Carp L., *El Paso* 24–27 Aug (J. Jones). Though a juv. Northern Goshawk 16 Oct at Jumbo (AS) presaged a large winter showing on the e. plains, the raptor highlight of the fall was an ad. Red-shouldered Hawk at Bonny on the unseasonable date of 4 Sep (†LS). Ten reports of 13 Broad-winged Hawks, a bit better than usual, included a nicely photographed ad. dark morph at Sugar City, *Crowley* 23 Sep (VT).

Among five or more reports of American Golden-Plover, a single bird at a playa about 14 km. n. of Flagler Res. 12 Oct (TL) provided a first *Kit Carson* record. Pale plovers found at

odd sites included a juv. Snowy Plover, rare in ne. Colorado, at Bonny 6 Aug (CC, TL, LS), one ad. and 2 juv. Piping Plovers at Goldeneye 5–12 Aug (CM), and, most interesting, a color-banded Piping Plover at Prewitt 17 Sep (J. Roller). The 8 American Avocets at John Martin 12 Nov (DN) were quite late, as were a Willet at the same location 29 Oct–1 Nov (DN) and a Wilson's Phalarope at Neenoshe 30 Oct (BKP, MP). Very rare in the Region in fall, Whimbrels were located twice this season, with a single bird at Goldeneye 12 Aug and up to 2 at Prewitt 3–7 Sep (ph. BS, ph. TL). A Long-billed Curlew at Franktown, *Douglas* 2 Nov (HK) was the later of 2 late birds. A Ruddy Turnstone (age unreported) at Cheney Res., *Mesa* 13–21 Aug (LA, m.ob.) provided the 8th West Slope Colorado record and the most interesting of five fall reports.

Three single Red Knots in Colorado occurred in the tight window of 17–25 Sep. Thanks to work being done on the dam at Elkhead Res., Luke experienced a relative bonanza of shorebirds on the mudflats created by lowered water levels: A Sanderling 10–11 Sep and up to 3 Semipalmated Sandpipers 5–23 Aug provided rare records for both *Moffat* and *Routt*. Also in *Moffat*, 5 Pectoral Sandpipers at Craig 9–20 Oct (DD) created some nw. Colorado excitement. A juv. Curlew Sandpiper, well photographed at Prewitt 18–22 Sep (ph. JK, m.ob.), provided the shorebird highlight of the fall and only the 2nd Colorado record (the first in this plumage, which is generally rare in North



Record-setting both for its early date and its persistence, this juvenile Pomarine Jaeger and another that later joined it were the bane of gulls at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County, Colorado 14 (here 28) September through 19 November 2005. Photograph by Tony Leukering.

America). Tying the high count for Colorado's West Slope, 6 Stilt Sandpipers graced Craig 25 Aug (FL). A single Buff-breasted Sandpiper visited the BP Pond, *Natrona*, WY 27 Aug (CM), another single was at L. Meredith, *Crowley* 31 Aug (B. Righter), and up to 6 juvs. were counted at Prewitt 3–15 Sep (JK, ph. TL, ph. BS). We received an incredible 10 reports of Red Phalarope from Colorado, an unprecedented number for a year, much less a single season. The first was a basic-plumaged ad. at Barr 27 Aug (TL), the highest was a molting juv. just below L. Estes, *Larimer* 9 Sep (J. Wright, K. Zipster), and single birds were at Elkhead Res. 9–10 Sep (FL) and Fruitgrowers Res., *Delta* 14 Oct (N. Pieplow, AS, AB), pro-



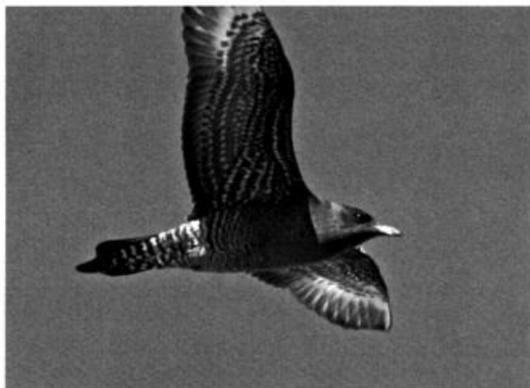
The culmination of a great fall season at Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County, was this juvenile Curlew Sandpiper, Colorado's second. Photograph by Joey Kellner.

viding only the 4th and 5th West Slope Colorado records (all p.a.).

JAEGERS THROUGH CUCKOOS

Atypically, all three jaegers were found in Colorado this fall. The first, not surprisingly, was a Long-tailed, a dark juv. photographed well at Prewitt, *Washington* and *Logan* 5–21 Sep (JR, m.ob.). This bird was apparently joined by another undocumented juv. Long-tailed (a lighter bird) 19–21 Sep (MP, m.ob.). A 3rd Long-tailed Jaeger was recorded at L. Beckwith, *Pueblo* 13 Sep (†DS). A dark juv. jaeger found at Cherry Creek 14 Sep turned out to be a record-early Pomarine Jaeger (ph. GW, ph. TL, m.ob.) and was joined by another, slightly paler, juv. Pomarine on the likewise-early date of 25 Sep (GW, m.ob.). At least one stayed through 19 Nov, becoming the longest-staying jaeger in Colorado ever. To round out the jaeger show, an ad. **Parasitic Jaeger** bullied gulls at Prewitt 24 Sep (BS), as did a subad. jaeger of undetermined identity 2 Oct (CW).

An unprecedented seven Laughing Gull reports were received from Colorado this fall, all, as expected, on the e. plains: first-cycle birds at Fossil Creek 21 Aug (†CW, S. Miller), Chatfield 9 Oct (JK, ph. GW), Bonny 15 Oct



Colorado birders enjoyed this juvenile dark-morph Long-tailed Jaeger at Prewitt Reservoir, Washington and Logan Counties 5-21 (here 17) September 2005. Photograph by Bill Schmoker.

(ph. TL), and Jumbo 29 Oct (AB, CW); and second-cycle birds at L. Meredith 13-14 Aug (LS, TL), Prewitt 5-9 Sep (TL, ph. LS), and Jumbo 7 Oct (S. Larson). Perhaps there is some duplication involved in these reports, but the back-and-forth nature of the first-cycle birds suggest that there were at least 2 of those; the C.B.R.C. will have to sort the records out, assuming that all occurrences are documented. Single first-cycle Little Gulls were found at Pueblo Res. 13 Sep (†BKP) and Standley L. 4 Oct (†LS). Of six Mew Gull reports, the most interesting was of a second-cycle bird at Brush Hollow Res. 16 Nov (SM) that would provide for a first *Fremont* record (p.a.). Several Herring Gulls at Jackson Res., *Morgan* 21 Aug (JK) were over a month early. A Thayer's Gull (age unreported) was n. of Casper, *Natrona* 13 Nov (CM); Wyoming still has very few good reports of the species. Though lackluster in number of reports (only 15 of 17 individuals), the Lesser Black-backed Gull season started early with a third-cycle individual at Prewitt 3 Sep-19 Oct (NK, CW). Of the 30 reports of 54 Sabine's Gulls this fall (a few more than the recent average), an above-average four reports were from Wyoming: a juv. at E.K.W. 13 Sep (BR, m.ob.), 2 (ages unreported) at Goldeneye 13-25 Sep (BR, CM), and up to 2 (ages unreported) at Evansville 25-26 Sep (G&JL), all in *Natrona*, and a juv. at the renowned Hereford Ranch 8 Oct (DF). Other Sabine's Gulls of note were in the mts., where rare: 2 juvs. at DeWeese Res., *Custer* 22 Sep (RM), a juv. at Elevenmile Res., *Park* 20-29 Oct (AS, ph. TL), the latest of the season, and a juv. at Great Western Res. 16 Sep (LS), a first for *Broomfield*.

Odd reports of Caspian Tern included 3 from the West Slope (9 Aug-3 Sep) and a *Fremont* first at Brush Hollow Res. 22 Sep (MP). An Ancient Murrelet picked up alive on a street in Ft. Collins 13 Nov (S. Silva) but later dying in rehabilitation (ph. NK) would pro-

vide the 6th for Colorado. Outside of typical locations, single Inca Doves were found near Flagler Res. 6 Sep (MP, LE), Ft. Collins 7-9 Oct (ph. T. France, †NK), and on the Stulp farm in *Prowers* 14 Oct (JS).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS

An Eastern Screech-Owl at Neenoshe 24 Sep (BKP, LE, CW) provided a first record for *Kiowa* and helped to further delineate the species' poorly known range in se. Colorado. After the banner summer on the plains, Long-eared Owls seemed to disappear, with typical late-fall sites holding few birds. A bit

early for a migrant, a Northern Saw-whet Owl was on the plains at Crow Valley 16 Sep (ph. K. Keirn). A Common Poorwill e. of Sugar City 30 Oct (MP, BKP) was quite late. An amazing 400 Black Swifts were at Confluence Park, *Delta* 9 Oct (A. Robinsong). These were, almost certainly, migrants from farther n. and w., as most Colorado breeders have departed by Oct, and the number would account for >75% of the Colorado population. Single Ruby-throated Hummingbirds visited Colorado Springs 2 Aug (MP) and the Stulp farm 3-10 Oct (ph. JS). As more birders become acquainted with the characters separating this species from Black-chinned Hummingbird, this formerly casual hummer has been found to be of nearly annual occurrence in Colorado. If correctly identified, a well-described imm. male Black-chinned Hummingbird near Sundance, *Crook*, WY 11 Sep (J&JA) 24 km from the South Dakota border would provide a first



Very rare in Colorado away from the small breeding population in the southeastern part of the state, this Inca Dove visited a Fort Collins, Larimer County residence 7-9 (here 8) October 2005. Photograph by Tom France.

county record and suggests that birders in South Dakota (which has no record of the species) should keep a sharp eye out. A female or imm. male Calliope Hummingbird at Holyoke, *Phillips* 6 Aug (TL, CC, LS) added to the small number of records of the species in far ne. Colorado, whereas a female Broad-tailed Hummingbird was far to the se. at the Stulp farm 27 Jul-2 Aug (ph. JS).

A report of an Eastern Wood-Pewee seen and heard singing at Barr 2-4 Sep (RS, ph. †GW) would provide an *Adams* first and only the 2nd in the state in the current century (p.a.). An unidentified *Empidonax* flycatcher was incredibly late 26 Nov at Boulder (S. Severs). Two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers provided some of the passerine highlights of the fall in Colorado and only the 2nd and 3rd state records (p.a.). The first was an ad. found amongst a large fallout of *Empidonax* at Box Springs Pond, *Crowley* 13 Aug (TL, ph. LS),



This Ancient Murrelet landed on a Fort Collins, Larimer County, Colorado road on 13 November 2005. Although found alive, it died in rehabilitation. Photograph by Nick Komar.

which also included an Alder Flycatcher (LS, TL). Leukering captured the 2nd, another ad 12 Sep at Barr while running the fall banding station there. An unprecedented 6 Gray Flycatchers in ne. Colorado included singles on three dates between 24 Aug and 28 Sep, inclusive, at Crow Valley (all DAL, one ph.), one in *Broomfield* 3 Sep (D. Ely, E. Zorawowicz), one banded at Barr 6 Sep (SN), and one in Ft. Collins 30 Sep (DAL).

The most interesting of the many Eastern Phoebe reports were of single birds at E.K.W. 11 Sep (SP) and at Crow Valley 13 Sep (ph. DAL), both farther w. than expected. Vermilion Flycatchers raised heartbeat rates at Cherry Creek 16 Sep (ad. female; MP) and at Cañon City 6-7 Oct (imm. male; RM). A Great Crested Flycatcher well w. of typical range obliged Percival by showing up in his yard in Pueblo West, *Pueblo* 7 Sep. The 2+ Western Kingbirds at Jackson, *Teton*, WY 4 Aug (B. Raynes) were locally rare, and the 2 at Lamar 8 Oct (BKP) were quite late. The East-



A species rarely reported from Wyoming, this immature Northern Parula put in an appearance at a Cheyenne, Laramie County residence 18 October 2005. Photograph by Raymond Silvey.

ern Kingbird s. of Leadville, *Lake* 3 Sep (RL) was at 2850 m, an elevation at which even Western Kingbirds are rare.

Clear Springs Ranch S.W.A., *El Paso* hosted the only White-eyed Vireo of the fall, a late bird on 22 Oct (DE), and the only out-of-range Bell's Vireo 27 Aug (b., KL et al., ph. D. Barnes), the latter report being one of very few in the state from fall away from far e. Colorado. As usual, Cassin's Vireo greatly outnumbered Plumbeous Vireo on Colorado's e. plains this fall, by 15:6. Quite oddly, Blue-headed Vireo almost did, too, with 4 in Colorado: 2 in *Pueblo* (12 Sep, BKP; 5 Oct, DS), one in *Douglas* (24 Sep, ph. GW), and one in *Logan* (16 Oct, H. Armknecht). A report of a Blue-headed from E.K.W. 25 Aug was very early; we are hopeful that a bright Cassin's Vireo was ruled out. Three single Philadelphia Vireos graced e. Colorado, with birds at Big Johnson 3 Sep (MP), Bonny 4 Sep (†LS), and Lakewood, *Jefferson* 6 Oct (P. Plage). A Blue Jay in *Craig*, *Moffat* 20 Oct (DD) was well w. of normal. A yellow-billed Black-billed Magpie was found at L. Catamount, *Routt* 15 Oct (DF et al.); no doubt, it caused some heart palpitations! Fairly late were 200+ Bank Swallows at *Prewitt* 4 Sep (TL); usually the large flocks have departed by early Aug.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH FINCHES

A White-breasted Nuthatch of the nominate subspecies was well w. at *Prewitt* 3 Sep (NK, CW, N. A. Komar), and a Rock Wren in e. *Crook*, WY 29 Nov (J&JA) was quite late. Six reports of 9 Carolina Wrens and eight reports of 10 Winter Wrens were well more than typical, with the highlights being a Carolina in

Lakewood 16 Aug (N. Lewis) and a Winter at E.K.W. 13 Oct (A. Hines). A Sedge Wren did not skulk enough at *Ramah Res.*, *El Paso* 8 Oct; it was caught by a Sharp-shinned Hawk (p.a., B. Maynard, KL); another was found at *Kinney L.*, *Lincoln* 16 Oct (p.a., MP). Eastern Bluebirds have recently become much more common on the foothill edge in e. Colorado, and the trend continued in fall 2005, with reports from four foothill-edge counties. A Swainson's Thrush was late at *Flagler Res.* 16 Oct (MP). *Hereford Ranch* sported a **Wood Thrush** 6–8 Oct (MP), and another was spotted at *Fountain Creek Regional Park*, *El Paso* 22 Oct (TF). Three of the fall's 4 Varied Thrushes were typical one-day wonders, and a different set of 3 were in residential yards: *Cheyenne*, *Laramie*, WY 23 Oct (ph. C. Seniawski), *Big Thompson Canyon*, *Larimer* 6 Nov (ph. L. Larson), and *Lafayette*, *Boulder* 6–18 Nov (J. Timchak); the other was at *Lamar* 27 Oct (†D. Russell). A few observers made efforts to look for *Sprague's* Pipits this fall; fewer were rewarded. Single birds were flushed near *Bonny* 2 Oct (GW et al.) and 16 Oct (MP, TL) and in e. *Sedgwick* and w. *Sedgwick*, both 8 Oct (SL). Hopefully, all will be duly documented.

A female Golden-winged Warbler was banded at *Barr* 14–17 Oct (SN, ph. G. Brown). The most interesting of only three Northern Parula reports was of a very late bird at *Paonia* 26 Nov (G. Hanscom) that would provide a first *Delta* record (p.a.). An ad. Cape May Warbler at *Pueblo Res.* 16 Sep (BKP) was quite a nice find. Four Blackburnian Warblers (in four e. Colorado counties) spanned the narrow window of 3–20 Sep.

Highlights among the 11 Pine Warblers were a bird still halfway in juv. plumage at *Bonny* 6 Aug (ph. †TL, LS, CC), one at E.K.W. 21 Aug (CM), a singing (!) ad. male at *Hereford Ranch* 4–5 Sep (TF), 2 together near *Flagler Res.* 6 Sep (MP), and the male returning to last year's wintering site in *Lakewood* after 25 Nov (M. Chavez, D. O'Brien). The only *Prairie Warbler* was very late at *Ft. Lyon*, *Bent* 29 Nov (DN). A *Palm Warbler* at *DeWeese Res.* 15 Oct (BKP, VT) accounted for the only interesting report of that species, and the only *Bay-breasted Warbler* was at *Valco Ponds S.W.A.* 7 Oct (BKP). Oddly, two of the three *Prothonotary Warbler* reports hailed from sites w. of the plains, 11 Oct near *El Jebel*, *Eagle* (p.a., J. Biebl) and 15 Oct from *Florence*, *Fremont* (BKP, VT). The warbler of the fall was, without question, the *Painted Redstart* that visited the *Fisher* yard near *New Castle*, *Garfield* 16–18 Nov (†F. Fisher, ph. GW), providing only the 5th Colorado record, the first since 1987.

Three Summer Tanagers and 2 Scarlet Tanagers visited e. Colorado, with the latter birds at *Cañon City* 7 Sep (RM) and at *Chico*, *Pueblo* 17 Sep (MP). An imm. male Western Tanager was very late near *New Castle* 19 Nov (G. Rutherford et al.). A *Field Sparrow* apparently of e. origin 13 Nov was one of many oddities gracing the *Thompson* yard in *Lamar* (ph. DAL) this fall. The species breeds in e. Colorado, but those birds are referable to the grayer western-type birds, sometimes recognized as subspecies *arenacea*; it seems that late-fall and winter records of the species in Colorado have been primarily of e. birds, sometimes designated a nominate subspecies. A *Sage Sparrow* in the *Boulder* foothills 6 Oct (M. Boswell, A. Bell) was quite odd, as the vast majority of e. Colorado records represent spring sightings. *Lark Buntings* found sw. of *Gunnison* in *Saguache* 15 Aug (C.L. Wood, BS) and at *Craig* 8 Sep (FL) provided very rare fall records for the respective w. Colorado counties.

As usual, almost no *Slate-colored Fox Sparrows* (the breeding type in the Region) were found as migrants; only 2 were reported away from breeding localities, as is typical: they seem to simply vanish in fall. However, the bird at *No Name*, *Garfield* returned for its 3rd winter 5 Nov (T. McConnell). Additionally, 2 *Red Fox Sparrows* were found, one at *Neenoshé* 30 Oct (MP, BKP), the other being banded at *Barr* 27 Oct (SN, ph. A. Morrison). Though *Red Fox Sparrow* is a Colorado review subspecies and *Slate-colored Fox Sparrows* breed within 80 km of the location, this individual is the 3rd banded there in the 20 autumns of banding at the site—with *Slate-*

colored having never even been seen at Barr in the fall. The number of Swamp Sparrows was well down after the past several years of high numbers. Individual *Zonotrichia* sparrows out of place were a White-throated at Navajo Res. 9–10 Nov (AS), a Harris's at Paonia 7 Nov (JBn), and Golden-crowneds at Fruitgrowers Res. arriving 2 Oct for the 3rd winter (D. Galinat), 8 Oct in Sedgwick (SL), and 7 Nov near Guernsey, Platte, WY (K. Kranik). Smith's Longspurs were reported twice this fall, though we have seen no details of the 2nd bird: one among other longspurs near Torrington, Goshen, WY 7 Oct (DF) and one in Sedgwick 8 Oct (SL). The species is very rare as far w. as our Region (with only one accepted for Wyoming and none, yet, for Colorado; two reports are circulating), and details should be submitted to the respective records committees.

Two Northern Cardinals were located away from their usual haunts near the Kansas and Nebraska borders, a male at Louviers, Douglas 21 Jul–2 Aug (the Halverstadts) and a female at Rockvale, Fremont 7–9 Aug (fide R. Watts). Bobolinks are another species not often found in fall in the Region, so single birds at Wetmore, Custer 27 Aug (RM) and at Barr 4 Sep

(GW, ph. TL) were of interest. A male Baltimore Oriole was nw. of Windsor, Weld 18 Aug (M. Maeda), well w. of typical range in e. Colorado. Two different Purple Finches graced the Thompson yard in Lamar (the Purple Finch capital of Colorado) 5–7 Nov and 11–13 Nov (J. Thompson, ph. DAL); another was reported from a Franktown yard 27–28 Nov (H&UK). As in recent years, we received exceedingly few reports of Evening Grosbeak, a species that seems to be becoming quite scarce. One was barely on the plains at Ft. Collins 3 Oct, and a flock of 25 was in Estes Park 26 Nov (both DAL).

Corrigenda: The site of the Cassin's Sparrow e. of Torrington, WY 22 May 2005 is in *Goshen*, not *Platte*. Raynes' rosy-finches in Jackson, WY occurred on 24 Mar 2005, not in May.

Addendum: The Varied Thrush found in Lyons, Boulder in early Dec 2004 was found dead there on 25 Dec (M. Griest; *Denver Museum of Nature and Science).

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Jean & Jennifer Adams, Larry Arnold, Jason Beason (JBn), Jim Beatty (JBy; sw. Col-

orado), Andy Boyce, Cameron Cox, Coen Dexter (w.-cen. Colorado), Dean DiTomasso, Lisa Edwards, David Elwonger, Doug Faulkner (Wyoming), Ted Floyd, Joey Kellner, Hugh & Urling Kingery, Nick Komar, Steve Larson, Gloria & Jim Lawrence (statewide RBA, Wyoming), David A. Leatherman, Tony Leukering, Kara Lewantowicz, Forrest Luke (nw. Colorado), Terry McEneaney (Yellowstone), Chris Michelson (Casper, WY), Rich Miller, SeEtta Moss, Duane Nelson, Starr Nicely, Susan Patla (Jackson, WY), Brandon K. Percival (se. Colorado), Mark Peterson (cen. Colorado), Bert Raynes (Jackson, WY), Betty Rickman, Bill Schmoker, Larry Semo (ne Colorado), Randy Siebert, David Silverman Andrew Spencer, Jane Stulp, Van Truan Glenn Walbek (n.-cen. Colorado), Cole Wild We also greatly appreciate reports from many other individuals who could not be acknowledged here. 🐦

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Great Basin



Rick Fridell

The Great Basin experienced dry conditions and above-normal temperatures throughout most of the fall season. Summer-like temperatures lingered into early fall, and conditions stayed unseasonably warm through November. Several contributors reported an extended migration of western species, likely a direct consequence of these warm temperatures. It was an exceptional season for vagrant shorebirds in the

Great Basin. Five Mountain Plovers were photographed in western Nevada, and several rare shorebirds were observed along the Antelope Island State Park Causeway, including well-documented Wandering Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, and Red Phalarope. Another fall migration highlight was Utah's first documented Ruby-throated Hummingbird, visiting a feeder in southwestern Utah.

Abbreviations: Antelope Island (Antelope Island S.P. and Causeway, Davis, UT); Bear River (Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder, UT); Corn Cr. (Corn Creek Unit, Desert N.W.R., Clark, NV); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark, NV); Lake Mead (Lake Mead N.R.A., Clark, NV); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, Washington, UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, Esmeralda, NV); Pahrana-gat (Pahrana-gat N.W.R., Lincoln, NV); Red Hills (Red Hills G.C., St. George, Washington, UT); Zion (Zion N.P., Washington, UT).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CONDOR

Significant waterfowl sightings were in short

supply this season in the Great Basin. Typically there is a fair passage of scoters through the Region; however, no White-winged Scoters were reported, and Surf Scoters were reported from only three locations. The first was an early male photographed at the H.B.V.P. 28-29 Sep (JHe). Female Surf Scoters were reported from two Utah locations, Hyrum S.P., Cache (30-31 Oct; KA, JBn) and Antelope Island (2-4 Nov; MMu, BH). Three well-documented female Black Scoters lingered at Antelope Island 11-22 Nov (ph. JBn, ph. TA). Pacific Loons were observed 16 Oct at East Canyon S.P., Morgan, UT (AaS, ArS, CS) and 31 Oct at Hyrum S.P., Cache, UT (BH).

One of the highlights of the fall was the documentation of successful nesting by Least Bitterns in Clark, NV. A pair of Least Bitterns and up to 3 offspring were enjoyed throughout the reporting period by a steady stream of observers at the H.B.V.P. (JBr, JHe et al.). Another pair of Least Bitterns successfully fledged at least one young at the Clark County Wetlands Park, Las Vegas (24 Aug; LC, JBr). A very late Turkey Vulture was a surprise on 27 Nov at Carson City, Carson City, NV