

Ranch, Larimer 24 May (CW). A wintering Bullock's Oriole × Baltimore Oriole hybrid was in Lamar until 28 Mar (DR), and a Purple Finch wintering at Rocky Ford S.W.A. from 4 Nov was last seen 26 Mar (SO). Lesser Goldfinches reported from unusual locales include 2 at the Stulp residence, *Prowers* (singles on 9 & 30 May; JS) and a black-backed male from Chico, *Pueblo* 20 May (BG); both locations are on the plains, where the species is a fairly rare migrant.

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## Idaho & Western Montana



David Trochlell

Spring 2006 temperatures varied widely across the Region, but most locations experienced record-high temperatures in May and above-average precipitation for the season. Bird migration was generally considered mostly uneventful but did include some notable early and late arrivals.

**Abbreviations:** Camas (Camas N.W.R., Jefferson, ID); L.M. (Lee Metcalf N.W.R., near Stevensville, MT); latilong (area encompassed by one degree latitude and one degree longitude used in mapping bird distribution in both Idaho and Montana).

### GEESE THROUGH GULLS

Greater White-fronted Geese were noted in locations where they are considered extralimital: 2 were in *Flathead*, MT 13 Mar (BR), and a single was in *Kootenai*, ID 29 Mar

(SS). A total of 9 Cackling Geese (mostly *minima*) stopped in n. Idaho 9-11 Mar (TG, CS), but even better finds were single *taverneri* and *hutchinsii* near Somers, MT 19 Mar (DC). Eurasian Wigeons were scarce, with only 3 noted in Idaho and one in w. Montana. Although Long-tailed Ducks are not annual in spring, a commendable season total of 6 came from n. Idaho, and 2 were recorded in w. Montana. Pacific Loons are very rare in spring, so one at Sandpoint, ID 4 Mar (MH) and a late one in *Elmore*, ID 23 May (MC, RLR) were especially noteworthy. Apparently Great Egrets are increasing in Montana, as evidenced by one in *Powell* 1 May (JB) and 2 at L.M. 24 May (WT). If accepted, a Little Blue Heron discovered in *Madison* 22 Apr (ph., †D&MW) will represent w. Montana's 3rd record. Following hard on the heels of last summer's first Idaho report at Camas was the discovery of up to 3 Glossy Ibis in *Jefferson*, ID 28 Apr–27 May (DCI; ph., †CW). Also present there were several possible Glossy Ibis × White-faced Ibis hybrids (ph., †CW). Bringing in a 2nd record for Idaho's Latilong 2 was a White-faced Ibis near Cataldo 23 May (SS).

Broad-winged Hawks, rare in spring, were seen near Missoula, MT 22 Apr (one; NK) and n. of Howe, ID 7 May (2; †J&CO). Quite impressive was the concentration of 100 Rough-legged Hawks in *Beaverhead*, MT 18-20 Apr (DC). The only Gyrfalcons reported were a few winter holdovers in *Lake*, MT in Mar (JB, DH). Two unusually early American Golden-Plovers near Lennup, MT 12 Apr (MD) represented a 2nd local spring record. Especially rare in spring were 2 Whimbrels at

Camas 5 May (†BD), a Stilt Sandpiper at Camas 13-18 May (JC), a Short-billed Dowitcher at L.M. 3 May (WT), and 6 Short-billeds in *Fremont*, ID 11 May (†CW). Interesting rare larids included a Mew Gull in *Kootenai*, ID 9-22 Mar (LH), a Thayer's Gull in *Flathead*, MT 18 Mar (DC), a Glaucous-winged Gull in *Owyhee*, ID 12 Apr (RLR), and single Glaucous Gulls in *Gooding*, ID 11 Mar (LB) and *Owyhee*, ID 12 Apr (RLR).

### DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Eurasian Collared-Doves made an unprecedented range extension, with at least a total of 12 reported from seven new s. Idaho locations and a pair discovered in Deerlodge, MT. Barn Owls are rare and local in Montana, but at least 10 were reported in the Mission Valley in mid-Apr (DH), and several pairs reportedly nested and fledged young. Montana Snowy Owls were unusually late: singles were near Red Lodge 2 Apr (BJ), Bozeman 12-14 Apr (PW), and in the Mission Valley 13 Apr (DH). Barred Owls continued to wander out of range in Idaho, with 2 in *Blaine* in early Mar (PWP) and one in *Gem* 24-25 Mar (MW). Two Black Swifts at Camas 27 May (JC) provided a local first. Two Black-chinned Hummingbirds in *Eagle*, ID 17 Mar (GW) were record early. Earliest local record by three weeks was a Red-naped Sapsucker near Bozeman, MT 13-14 May (AK). If accepted, an Alder Flycatcher in *Jefferson* 28 May (†CW) would be a first for Idaho. Single Eastern Phoebes, not annual in Idaho, turned up in *Jefferson* 14-15 Apr (ph., †MH) and in *Bonner* 28-31 May+ (†BB). An unprecedented gathering of kingbirds was observed near Gardiner,

MT 28 May (MD): 31 Western and 137 Eastern Kingbirds were counted. The same area hosted a mind-boggling fallout of an estimated 7500 Mountain Bluebirds 7 Apr (MD). A total of four Idaho Blue Jay reports was about average for the season.

If accepted, A Bewick's Wren in Ravalli 6 Mar (WT) will provide Montana's 5th record. Single Northern Mockingbirds made an appearance near Oakley, ID 28 Apr (LR), Camas 22 May (JC), and Red Lodge, MT 28 May (BJ). Rare warblers of the season included a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Camas 30 May (DCl, CW), a Blackpoll Warbler near Helena, MT 13 May (CC), single Black-and-white Warblers in Jefferson, ID 12 (RM) & 18 May (JC), and a total of 3 Ovenbirds at Camas 19-

24 May (JC, DCl). A Summer Tanager at Camas 10 May (†JC) was the Gem State's 8th. Rare anywhere in the Region, an Indigo Bunting at Red Lodge, MT 27 May (BJ) provided a local first. The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak was near Hailey, ID 30-31 May (JS), where many precedents have occurred. A Baltimore Oriole discovered in Valley 18 May (†LB) will be Idaho's 5th, if accepted. A male Brambling that graced Bellevue, ID 8-16 Apr (ph., †KC) is expected to provide Idaho's 3rd record. Also noteworthy in Bellevue was a wandering Lesser Goldfinch 24 Apr (KC) that represented a local first.

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## Great Basin



### Rick Fridell

Several observers commented on a fairly slow spring migration in the Great Basin. Mojave Desert area species, typically found only in the southern portion of Nevada and southwestern Utah, were observed outside of their expected ranges, including Common Moorhen, White-winged Dove, Anna's Hummingbirds, Costa' Hummingbird, Lucy's Warbler, and Hooded Orioles. In addition, Utah's first confirmed nests of both Anna's Hummingbird and Painted Redstart were located in Washington County. Even in a slow spring, the Great Basin Region had its fair share of rare and vagrant sightings, highlighted by Yellow-billed Loon and Broad-billed Hummingbird in Nevada and Red-throated Loon and Heermann's Gull in Utah.

Abbreviations: Antelope I. (Antelope Island S.P. and Causeway, Davis, UT); Bear R. (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); L. Mead (Lake Mead N.R.A., Clark, NV); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, Washington, UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, Esmeralda, NV); Ouray (Ouray N.W.R., Uintah, UT); Pyramid L. (Washoe, NV); Red Hills (Red Hills G.C., St. George, Washington, UT); Zion (Zion N.P., Washington, UT).

### WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

Large concentrations of waterfowl capitalized on the unusually wet conditions at Quichapa L., with up to 21 species observed, including Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, and others rarely found in arid Iron, UT (SH). Several drake Eurasian Wigeons were observed this spring: at Bear R. 26 Mar (BO), Farmington Bay W.M.A., Davis, UT 2 Apr (J&KB), and Stillwater N.W.R., Churchill, NV 2 Apr (BHe). An exceptionally high concentration of over 50 Blue-winged Teal was at Bear R. 8 May (SC). Rarely observed in the Region in the spring, a Surf Scoter was photographed 25 Apr at Spring Mt. Ranch S.P., Clark, NV (KeC, *fide* CTi). Equally surprising was a female Long-tailed Duck 13 Apr at Chicken Creek Res., Juab, UT (MWe). A late male Barrow's Goldeneye lingered in Lemmon Valley, Washoe, NV until at least 28 May (J&GA). A Red-throated Loon was a major surprise 17 May at Willard Bay

S.P., Box Elder, UT (ph., †KE et al.). A Yellow-billed Loon observed 3 Mar at Pyramid L. (p.a., JT, MMA et al.) was unfortunately not relocated. A Red-necked Grebe also made a very rare spring appearance 20-23 May at Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT (BHu, †KP, ph. BC et al.). An American Bittern was found at Corn Cr. 22-26 May (J&MC, GS).

### HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

Surprisingly, 2 White-tailed Kites were reported from Nevada this spring: one observed briefly, flying over Mesquite, Clark, NV 19 Mar (DA), while the other lingered at Corn Cr. 15-19 Apr (ph. RSa, ph. BG, CTi, JBr). A Common Black-Hawk was photographed 3 Apr at the unusual location of Searchlight,



Of the two White-tailed Kites reported in Nevada in spring 2006, this one lingered 15-19 (here 19) April 2006 at Corn Creek, Desert National Wildlife Refuge, Clark County. Photograph by Bob Gotschall.