

Colorado & Wyoming



Tony Leukering
Lawrence S. Semo
Bill Schmoker

The Region experienced a warm spring. Compared to 112 years of climate records, the statewide temperature average in Wyoming ranked above normal (the twelfth warmest) and in Colorado, much above normal (the seventh warmest). As corollary, both states' precipitation levels for the period were much below normal. Wyoming saw its eleventh driest spring, while Colorado recorded its sixth driest (both out of 112 years). Still banking on exceptional snowfall from the winter, Colorado's Eastern Plains remained free of drought classification, but southwestern Wyoming graded into extreme drought.

A pleasant variety of particularly notable birds were spread throughout the checklist and throughout the Region this season. Four potential first state records punctuated the spring months. While three were single-observer reports, Colorado's first Lawrence's Goldfinch remained faithful to a feeder through the end of the period and most of the summer, providing looks and photographs to scores of observers. The hybrid assortment included goose, ibis, plover, and phoebe combinations. While northern gulls generally make it into the spring report as holdovers from winter, some persisted well into spring this year, including two pale-winged species lingering through April in northern Colorado. Other first-rate wanderers included King Rail and Painted Redstart in Colorado and Western Bluebird in Wyoming.

Abbreviations: Blue Mesa (Blue Mesa Res., Gunnison); Chico (Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo/El Paso); Crow Valley (Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grasslands, Weld); L.C.C. (Lamar Community College,

Prowers); Lower Latham (Lower Latham Res., Weld); Pastorius (Pastorius Res., La Plata); Tamarack (Tamarack Ranch S.W.A., Logan). "West Slope" denotes locations w. 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. Because most rarities are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are noted.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck was reported from Teton, WY 21 May (†D. Brown; p.a.); there is only one previous Regional record. The most interesting of three May sightings of Ross's Goose was the individual at Sullenburger Res., Archuleta 2 May (P. Derven) in sw. Colorado, where the species is not regular. A Greater White-fronted Goose × Canada Goose hybrid was spotted in Jefferson 25 Mar (B. Shade). Four reports each were received of the two native swan species, joining three of Mute Swan. That last species is not accepted as occurring "naturally" in Colorado, but is it possible that some recent reports pertain to individuals displaced from sources of naturalized occurrence? Male Eurasian Wigeons were reported thrice, oddly enough all from

Colorado, Scaled Quail are only rarely reported from there, so the 2 near Cortez, Montezuma 11 May (CD et al.) are of interest. Red-throated Loons were present in higher-than-normal numbers, with 2 at Pueblo Res., Pueblo: a basic-plumaged bird 10 Apr–8 May (RMi) and an alternate-plumaged bird 17 Apr–7 May (BKP). A transitional-plumaged Red-throated Loon visited Marston Res., Denver 19 Apr (TJ), and what may have been the same basic-plumaged individual was found (or refound) at Pueblo Res. 23 May (BKP). Wyoming also got into the Red-throated Loon act, with a basic-plumaged bird at Wheatland Res., Platte 23 Apr (ph. LS) accounting for the state's 5th record (3rd in spring). Loon reports are rounded out by two of Pacific and 13 of Common, with both of the former being found at interesting locations: at Yant's Puddle, Natrona, WY (BR) and a basic-plumaged bird at DeWeese Res., Custer 16 May (BKP, MP). An alternate-plumaged Red-necked Grebe was a nice find at Pueblo Res. 25–28 Apr (BKP).

An American Bittern was apparently early 23 Mar at the Las Animas Hatchery, Bent (CW, NE, IS); individuals at Lower Latham 27 Apr (R. Trinkner, R. Bolton) and Ft. Lyon, Bent 28 Apr (MP, BKP) were found on what is thought to be more typical arrival dates. A Least Bittern called 21 May at Ft. Lyon (DN), a location at



Two Iceland Gulls created quite a stir in Colorado when they were first found on 1 (here 16) April 2007 and lingered for most of the month. While usually seen singly after their discovery, these photographs from the Larimer County landfill near Fort Collins offer a good comparison of the duo. Photographs by Cole Wild.

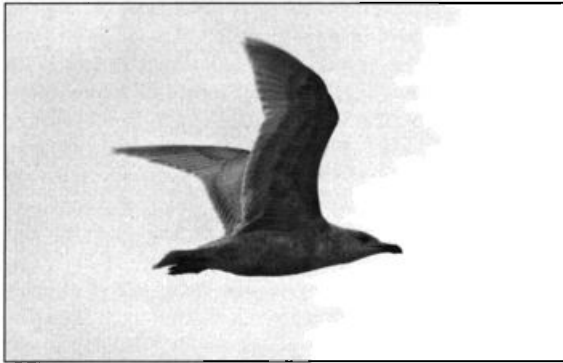
locations on the West Slope. The first report came from Pastorius 6–27 Apr (RMo et al.) and the next from Blue Mesa 30 Apr (TH). The 3rd report was from Zink's Pond 20 May (J. & J. Rees), which is only a few km from Pastorius and, presumably, was of the same individual. The only spring "sea ducks" reported were in Larimer: a single Surf Scoter 1–9 Apr at N. Poudre Res. #3 (RH) and a spanking alternate-plumaged male Long-tailed Duck at Fossil Creek Res. 28 Apr (LS, RH). Rare at their respective locales, an ad. male Barrow's Goldeneye graced Pastorius 1 Apr (JBy), and an imm. male Red-breasted Merganser was at Craig, Moffat 23 Apr (FL).

Though presumably resident in sw. Col-

which the species has been suspected of breeding. All of the 15 reports of Green Heron originated from or near typical locations, with all but two reports being of single birds. The most interesting of the lot was of 3 at Thurston Res., Prowers 19 May (SM). We received "only" eight reports of Glossy Ibis this spring, all from typical e. Colorado locations. Two Glossy Ibis × White-faced Ibis hybrids were found near Stearn's L., Boulder 25–26 Apr (L. Kilpatrick, TL, ph. T. Heinrich), continuing a run of at least four consecutive springs in which this hybrid combination has been found in Colorado.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Single Mississippi Kites were a shade early 22



One of two Iceland Gulls found in the spring season in Colorado, this bird was found 1 April 2007 (here) in Weld County; and at least one bird lingered through 29 April in adjacent Larimer County. Photograph by Larry Semo.

Apr at Lamar and Granada, both *Prowers* (JK) and one at Gillette, *Campbell* 23 May (T. Jensen) was in Wyoming, where quite rare. Bald Eagle nesting distribution in Colorado continues to expand, with two "new" nests being found this spring, both in the se., in *Fremont* and *Crowley* (SM), firsts for both counties. Two Northern Goshawks (both sub-ads.) were on the plains, where decidedly uncommon, one at Chico, *Pueblo* 19 Apr (BM), the other at Lamar 27 Apr (M. Ackley). A Common Black-Hawk ghosted around Grand Junction, *Mesa* 2-25 May with, oddly, only those with the initials of 'RL' being able to find it (R. Lambeth, R. Levad, R. Linfield). The number of Broad-winged Hawks reported this spring was much lower than usual due to the Dinosaur Ridge hawkwatch not being operated, but the 13 reports did include 2 dark morphs, a reported "imm." at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe* 22 Apr (quite early for non-ads.), and a nicely photographed ad. at Fort Lupton, *Weld* 28 Apr (TL). Many historic Swainson's Hawk territories in ne. Colorado

SA A bird first reported as an American Golden-Plover was found near Lower Latham 6 May (L. Griffin) and stayed through 8 May. Over the course of the next two days, the identification was changed to that of, possibly, Pacific Golden-Plover, which, of course, caused a bit of a twitch. Though many features of the bird appeared like that of Pacific, some features seemed more like that of American, and some observers were perplexed. A call for help in identifying the bird from pictures obtained resulted in worldwide experts disagreeing on the identification. Fortunately, a feather the bird removed during preening was obtained, and mitochondrial DNA analysis showed the maternal parent to be an American Golden-Plover. We await samples of Pacific Golden-Plover with which to compare the nuclear DNA and final details, when they are known, will appear elsewhere. For now, many are considering the bird to be of hybrid derivation.

were filled two to three weeks later than usual this spring (TL), despite typical arrival dates in at least a few places (e.g., Brush, *Morgan* 29 Mar [NE]). Single Rough-legged Hawks were quite late 19 Apr at Anton, *Washington* (D. Ely) and s. of Lamar (DAL).

At what has been thought to be an early date, 20 Black Rails were heard in the extensive Ft. Lyon marshes 27-28 Apr (MP et al.); obviously, some re-thinking may be in order on this subject. At least 2 Black Rails responding to playback at Chico 15-27 May

(BKP, BM) accounted for the first local and 2nd *Pueblo* records; the 3rd such was provided 20 May by a singing bird at Nepesta (the location of the first; AS). A calling King Rail 28 Apr at Ft. Lyon (MP et al.; p.a.) superseded even the aforementioned Black Rails as the night's highlight. Rare in spring and extremely rare in sw. Colorado, an American Golden-Plover (in basic plumage) was a superb find at Pastorius 21-25 Apr (RMO, JBr); another graced John Martin Res., *Bent* 29 Apr (DN).

Single Snowy Plovers were well out of range s. of L. John, *Jackson* 15 Apr (NK, S. Riffe), at Blue Mesa 30 Apr (TH), and at Goldeneye Res., *Natrona*, WY 12 May (BR). An Upland Sandpiper was well w. of normal, particularly for spring, at Chico, *Pueblo* 6 May (MP). The 16 reports of Whimbrel (slightly more than usual; 13 Apr-17 May) included that of 2 at Yant's Puddle 2 May (CM). Ruddy Turnstones made news in early May, with 3-4 at Big Johnson Res., *El Paso* 7-8 May (JD); 2 at Lake Henry, *Crowley* 12-13 May (T. Esteban, A. Burns); and a single at Lake Cheraw, *Otero* 13 May (MP et al.). A fallout of a whopping 9 basic-plumaged Red Knots at Blue Mesa Res. 29-30 Apr (TH) was nearly unprecedented, particularly for the West Slope. The only Dunlins reported were a single at L. Cheraw 22 Apr (CW, JK) and an outstanding 5 alternate-plumaged birds at San Luis Lakes, *Alamosa* 25 Apr (JBy). Of the seven reports of Short-billed Dowitcher 14 Apr-12 May, a single bird called at Pastorius (on the West Slope, where very rare) 5 May (JBy). The 175

Red-necked Phalaropes at Jumbo Res., *Logan/Sedgwick* 15 May (H. Armknecht) was a nice, but not at all unprecedented, count.

GULLS THROUGH VIREOS

A Mew Gull was reported from Black Hollow Res., *Weld* 22 Mar (CW), but was trumped by not one, but 2, Iceland Gulls there on 1 Apr. The first of the 2 was found at the nearby Ault landfill (P. Lehman, ph. TL, ph. LS) and watched leaving the landfill heading in the direction of the res. Upon the masses (gulls and birders) arriving at the res., a 2nd individual (JM) was noted among the throng of other gulls, with the 2 birds being readily separable on plumage details and in view at the same time. Neither was found in that area again, but the first individual relocated to the Loveland/Ft. Collins area, *Larimer*, being seen at two sites there 8-29 Apr (NK), where a first-cycle Glaucous Gull was fairly late 15-29 Apr (JM, NK). Nearly as rare as Iceland Gull, at least in spring, was a Black-legged Kittiwake (first-cycle) at Pueblo Res. 3-8 May (ph. BKP)



Illustrating one hazard for southern birds expanding their ranges northward, this White-winged Dove appears to have lost some toe tips to frostbite but otherwise appeared no worse for wear on 3 May 2007 in Fort Collins, Larimer County, Colorado. Photograph by Rachel Hopper.

Two Least Terns were found at odd locations this spring, one each at Big Johnson Res 15 May (MP, CW) and Cheney Res., *Mesa* 18 May (LA). The most interesting of four Caspian Tern reports was of a single at Buena Vista 6 May (SM), providing a *Chaffee* first. The 21 reports of White-winged Dove of which we are aware spanned the period and, undoubtedly, do not represent all individuals found, as the species is becoming a bit ho-hum, at least in Colorado. As we have been reporting for some years now, Inca Doves have still not spread be-



Big white birds on the prairie turn heads, as did this adult Snowy Owl southwest of Gillette, Campbell County, Wyoming on 21 April 2007. Photograph by R. T. Cox.

yond their two isolated spots on the lower Arkansas R., nor have their numbers appreciated in any, well, appreciable way. A Snowy Owl was a one-day-wonder at Adobe Creek Res., Bent/Kiowa 7 Apr (S. Oswald), and another was nicely photographed at Gillette 21 Apr (R. T. Cox). A Northern Saw-whet Owl on the plains at Chico, El Paso 12 May (L. Johnson et al.) was inexplicable, considering that most montane breeders have large young in the nest at that date. The species is not known to breed on the plains, and it seems unlikely that the species could breed at this well-birded site without being seen (or heard) more than once during the season.

A calling *Chaetura* over Paonia, Delta 2 May (J. Beason) was identified as a Vaux's Swift. While there are no accepted Colorado records, the species is highly anticipated. Though numerous reports of *Chaetura* have come from the West Slope, all have either been definitively identified as Chimney Swifts or have been left unidentified. Though we doubt that this record will be accepted, the observer is quite experienced and capable. Like the aforementioned Inca Doves, the colony of Acorn Woodpeckers near Durango, La Plata continues without, apparently, increasing in size or spawning additional colonies. Three Eastern Wood-Pewees, all singles, were reported from Colorado, all in Lamar: L.C.C. 28 Apr (MP, L. Edwards, BSt, BKP), Fairmount Cemetery 15-16 May (ph. DAL), and L.C.C. 24 May (b., ph. MG). Nice

finds were the single Alder Flycatchers reported at Chico, Pueblo 16 May (BM) and at Crow Valley 22 May (CW). Least Flycatchers have been emigrating westward in Colorado. Pairs were present at Craig 23 May+ (Forrest Luke, m.ob.), which provided a first for Moffat, and Connected Lakes S.P., Mesa 25 May+ (m.ob.; where a nest was subsequently found).

Two Vermilion Flycatchers graced Colorado during the period, both on 28 Mar, a female at Chico, El Paso (JD) and a male s. of La Junta, Otero (B. Leininger). Far e. was the Ash-throated Flycatcher at Neenoshe Res., Kiowa 23 Apr (DAL, DN), and quite interesting was the report of a pair of "probable" Great Crested Flycatchers at Glendo Res., Platte, WY 18 May (A&W Hines); there is only one accepted record of the latter species in Wyoming. The presence of an Eastern Kingbird at Tennessee Pass, Lake 11 May was very unusual at such a high elevation (V. Truan). Three e. plains

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported in Colorado, one near Walsh, Baca 20 Apr (DAL), one s. of Lamar 29 Apr (AS, CW; a location where the species has nested for a few

Las Animas 20 May (AS) was of interest. Three Yellow-throated Vireos overshot onto the e. plains, with one at Chico, El Paso 27-28 Apr (BKP, BM et al.) providing a first record for that heavily birded ranch. Rare in spring, Cassin's Vireos were well reported this year, with no fewer than 6 being seen across e. Colorado (m.ob.). Rare for Colorado at any season, a Blue-headed Vireo was banded and photographed at Chico, El Paso 19 May (BG, LS). Two Philadelphia Vireos, a typical number for spring, were observed in e. Colorado, one at Chico, El Paso 16 May (BM), the other in Haxton, Phillips 25 May (JBy).

JAYS THROUGH FINCHES

Blue Jays are rare visitants to the West Slope of Colorado, though wandering individuals tend to stay put for long periods of time; one was noted at Craig 24 Mar (MP, BSt). A Chihuahuan Raven was reported from Lower Latham 17 Apr (†CW), a site far n. of the species' normal range in Colorado. Farther e. than normal, a Violet-green Swallow whipped over L. Meredith, Crowley 17 Apr (BM). Bushtits were present along the Front Range foothills n. to Larimer (DAL); one present on the e. plains at Chico, Pueblo 15-19 Apr (BM) was more unusual and provided a 2nd Ranch record. Two singing male Carolina Wrens in Cañon City, Fremont 9 Mar+ (RMi) could oc-

SA Black Phoebes continue to push northward as breeders in Colorado (Faulkner, D., C. Dexter, R. Levad, and T. Leukering. 2005. Black Phoebe breeding range expansion into Colorado. *Western Birds* 36: 114-120). Though the recent n. limit in e. Colorado has been Pueblo, Fremont, and Chaffee, an intriguing pair of phoebes attempted to nest much farther n. at Loveland, Larimer. A phoebe singing an odd song was first found 21 Apr (E. Coley) and immediately thought to be an Eastern Phoebe x Black Phoebe hybrid (NK). A host of expert observers were able to study the bird and note many intermediate characters, and the bird's vocalizations were recorded and the resultant sonograms were compared to typical examples of the putative parental species and found to be intermediate. Later, the bird was found to be paired with an apparently pure Black Phoebe, and the birds seemed to be attending a partial nest built in an old Barn Swallow nest. Plans to capture the odd bird for feather sampling and genetic analysis were precluded by the apparent departure of the birds in early Jun (m.ob.). Further details will be published elsewhere.



years), and one in Cheyenne on 2 May (DN).

Gray Vireos are poorly known breeders of piñon-juniper woodlands in se. Colorado, so the individual reported from Bader Ranch,

casionally both be heard from the same spot, while at least one lingered at L.C.C. until 24 Apr (m.ob.). More unusual was one in the mts. at Salida, Chaffee 17 May (RMi, SY). Well



Lamar, Prowers County, Colorado seemed to be an Eastern Wood-Pewee magnet this spring, with three reports spread out in April and May. This individual, photographed 15 May, was subsequently banded at the Lamar Community College. Photograph by David Leatherman.

n. of usual, a Bewick's Wren was a one-day wonder at Belmar Park, Jefferson 2 Apr (K. Schofield, IS).

A Western Bluebird (female) in Lander, Fremont, WY 31 Mar (D. Wagner, S. Orange) would provide the first definitive modern record of the species in Wyoming, and another at Cache Creek, Teton 13 May (J. Good) would provide the 2nd (both p.a.). Easterly was the pair of Western Bluebirds on the e. plains at Chico, El Paso 18 Mar (RO). Regionally rare, 3 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were seen; including singles at Chico 27 Apr (BKP et al.; Pueblo) and 3 May (b. BG; El Paso) and at Tamarack 12 May (SL). *La Plata's* 3rd Varied Thrush remained from the winter until at least 23 Mar (m.ob.), and one at Jackson, Teton, WY 7 May (fide B. Raynes) was fairly late. West and at high elevation was the Brown Thrasher in Chaffee 25 May (SY). This species is also rare in sw. Colorado, thus the report of one near the New Mexico border in *La Plata* 28-29 May (JBr, JBy) is noteworthy. The only report of Bohemian Waxwings was of the 10 seen near Cameron Pass, Larimer 6 Mar (DAL).

Since the removal of Blue-winged Warbler from the Colorado review list (Semo, L. S., T. Leukering, and J. E. Stewart. 2002. Amendments to the state review list. *J. of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 36: 131-143), there have been few observations in the state, and only one was found in 2007, that being a male at Picture Canyon, Baca 21 Apr (P. Dunne). Six Tennessee Warblers were in Colorado, a lower number than usual. In contrast, 11 Nashville Warblers, all from the e. plains, was a good number for that species. First discovered nesting at Yellowjacket Canyon, Montezuma in 2004, at least 4 Lucy's Warblers were found there this spring, first reported 28

Apr (m.ob.). Northern Parulas put on a grand show in e. Colorado, with no fewer than 21 reported during the season 5 Apr-19 May (m.ob.), with the lion's share, 12, reported from Chico (El Paso and Pueblo). A mighty push of Chestnut-sided Warblers also occurred, with 17 reports from 10 e. Colorado counties (m.ob.). Very rare in Colorado, a mostly heard (briefly observed) Cape May Warbler was reported from Crow Valley 29 May (NE). Four Yellow-throated Warblers was about on the recent

average in Colorado, with singles at Fairmount Cemetery 3-8 May (BKP et al.) and 16-18 May (DAL), Chico, Pueblo 5 May (m.ob.), and Fort Collins, Larimer 24 May (F. Knopf). Establishing just the 5th record for Wyoming, a Yellow-throated Warbler was photographed in Casper, Natrona, where present 9-10 May (J&GL, CM). Grace's Warbler is an irregular and localized breeder in Ponderosa Pine forests in se. Colorado, so a singing male at Florence Mountain Park, Fremont 23 May is of interest (MP).

A female Bay-breasted Warbler at Wyoming's Hereford Ranch, Laramie 19 May (G. Johnson; p.a.) would provide the 5th record for that state. The only odd report of the 3 Worm-eating Warblers found came from montane L. Estes, Larimer 25-26 Apr (S. Roederer). Two each of Kentucky and Mourning Warblers were reported this season (all p.a.); singles of the former were at L.C.C. 6 May (DN) and Rocky Ford S.W.A., Otero 12 May (MP, BSt, CW, S. Runco), while singles of the latter graced a private ranch in Lincoln 4 May (CW et al.) and Last Chance, Washington 10 May (TJ, K. Koff). The highlight warbler of the season was the Painted Redstart that allowed some lucky birders ogling rights during its one-day stay at Cañon City 25 Apr (RMi); the occurrence will establish the 5th Colorado record. Greater scrutiny of mixed Ponderosa Pine and pinyon-juniper

woodland in se. Colorado is showing that Hepatic Tanagers are of regular occurrence in that portion of the state; 3 (2 males, one female) were discovered 13 May at Bader Ranch (TL). The 15 Summer Tanagers reported from e. Colorado was a bit more than normal, and a male Scarlet Tanager brightened Duck Creek S.W.A., Logan 24 May (AS).

"Pure" Eastern Towhees are very rare in Colorado, particularly outside late fall/winter, and song alone cannot preclude the possibility of a hybrid. Three Eastern Towhees were reported during the season: a female photographed at Chico, Pueblo 27 Apr (BM); a bird of unreported sex at L.C.C. 7 May (D. Russell, MG); and a female at Tamarack 12 May (SL). The tenet for the early arrival dates of Cassin's Sparrow in Colorado was always mid- to late Apr, but sporadically in recent years singing individuals have appeared in se. Colorado much earlier. The first report this past spring came 18 Mar, when 2 birds were discovered at Chico, El Paso (RO); up to 30 birds were present there by 23 Mar (BM). Interestingly, few could be found there after early May. Despite Colorado being in the presumed migration pathway of Baird's Sparrow, there are only 11 accepted records for the state, the dearth probably being due to the secretive nature of the species and the fact that few Regional birders walk grasslands in search of the species. A Baird's was reported by grassland birders 21 Apr near Campo, Baca (p.a.; CW, AS), though other observers present did not ob-



A combination of ideal habitat, excellent geographic placement, and heavy coverage by a corps of dedicated local birders produce copious enviable finds at Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo County, Colorado. Among this spring's highlights was a White-eyed Vireo 28 and 29 (here) April 2007. Photograph by Glenn Walbek.

tain good views. A Slate-colored Fox Sparrow was at Chico, El Paso 12 Apr (ph. BM) and provided one of very few good records for the plains.

The far-west male Northern Cardinal discovered at Colorado Springs in winter remained until 17 Mar (C. Pals); other Col-

orado reports of the species came from traditional spots on the e. border. Westerly reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeak included one from Mancos, *Montezuma* 28 Apr–2 May (L. Flores) and another from Collbran, *Mesa* 30 May (LA). Three Painted Bunting reports (all p.a.) were all of singles: a male at La Veta, *Huerfano* 14–16 May (ph. P. Neidner); a female or first-spring male at Chico, *El Paso* 19 May (BKP, JD); and an ad. male at Bader Ranch 20 May (AS). Two Eastern Meadowlarks were reported from Colorado, one at Cañon City (a first for *Fremont*) 12 May (MP et al.) and another near Loveland, *Larimer* 22–27 May (CW, NK). Only one Rusty Blackbird was reported, that being a bird photographed at a private ranch in *Lincoln* 27 Apr (JK, GW, AH). Great-tailed Grackle sightings provided first county records for *Natrona*, WY (at Edness K. Wilkins SP 3 May [A. Hines]) and for *Custer* (male at L. DeWeese 16 May [MP, BKP]). Although Orchard Oriole is a common breeder across the plains of e. Colorado, the species is only rarely observed on the West Slope. An excellent find was of an imm. male at Nucla, *Montrose* 14–16 Apr (ph. B. Wright, CD). A bit w. of usual was the imm. male Baltimore Ori-

ole at Crow Valley 21 May (DAL, CW). Perhaps the easternmost Regional report ever of Scott's Oriole was provided by an ad. male at Fairmount Cemetery 17 Apr (BG). A single Common Redpoll was at Sterling, *Logan* 6 Mar (K. Kranik). Last, but certainly not least, the bird of the season in Colorado was its first *Lawrence's Goldfinch*, an ad. male, discovered at a Grand Junction, *Mesa* feeder 23 May (LA); more details will be provided in the summer report.

Addendum: An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull visited Rifle, *Garfield* 6 Sep 2006 (A. Dahl, ph. V. Zerbi) and would provide the first West Slope record (p.a.).

Undocumented reports: A Wilson's Plover was reported from Blue Mesa Res. 29 Apr (J. Berry), but no details are forthcoming; it would represent a first Regional record.

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Larry Arnold, **Jim Beatty** (sw. Colorado), **Coen Dexter** (w.-cen. Colorado), John Bregar, John Drummond, Norm Erthal, **Doug Faulkner** (Wyoming), Brian Gibbons,

Matt Gracey, Tyler Hicks, Rachel Hopper, Tina Jones, Joey Kellner, Nick Komar, Steve Larson, **Gloria** and **Jim Lawrence** (statewide RBA – Wyoming), David A. Leatherman, Tony Leukering, **Forrest Luke** (nw. Colorado), Joe Mammoser, Bill Maynard, Terry McEneaney (Yellowstone), Chris Michelson (Casper, WY), Rich Miller, Riley Morris, SeEtta Moss, Duane Nelson, Ric Olson, **Susan Patla** (Jackson, WY), **Brandon K. Percival** (se. Colorado), Mark Peterson, **Bert Raynes** (Jackson, WY), Betty Rickman, Ira Sanders, **Bill Schmoker** (Colorado Front Range), **Larry Semo** (n.e. Colorado), Andrew Spencer, Brad Steger, **Glenn Walbek** (n.-cen. Colorado), Cole Wild, Brenda Wright, Sherrie York. Many other individual observers contributed information to this report but could not be acknowledged here—they have our thanks and appreciation. ☺

Tony Leukering, P.O. Box 660, Brighton, CO 80601 (greatgrayowl@aol.com)
Lawrence S. Semo, 9054 Dover St. Westminster, CO 80021 (lsem@swca.com)
Bill Schmoker, 3381 Larkspur Dr. Longmont, CO 80503 (bill@schmoker.org)

Idaho & Western Montana



David Trochlell

It was one of the ten warmest springs in the Region's 113 years of recorded weather data. For Idaho, dry conditions held forth throughout the season, resulting in early runoff of a deficient snowpack, greatly reduced surface water supplies, and the promise of summer drought. Much of Montana received generous precipitation late in the sea-



On 11 March 2007, avid Montana birders Ed Harper and John Parker spotted an American Black Duck feeding among a large mixed species duck flock near Bozeman. It supplied western Montana's third record and the first state report in eleven years. *Photograph by Ed Harper.*

son, but even so, mountain snowpack conditions remained critically low by season's end. No unusual weather-related events were noted, but some observers reported fewer migrating birds than usual because of the predominant mild weather.

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