

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 (lsemo@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 predominantly 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).



Among the many sensational bird captures this spring at the Camas National Wildlife Refuge bird banding station was Idaho's second Wood Thrush on 19 May 2007. During its long stay at Camas, the bird was recaptured several times and was heard and seen by many thrilled birders. Photograph by Carlos Valeris.

## GEESE THROUGH GULLS

Greater White-fronted Geese wandered widely outside of typical range, with up to 12 in *Kootenai*, ID 11-29 Mar (m.ob.), 11 in Somers, MT 4 Apr (DC), up to 6 at L. Helena, MT 8-14 Apr (BM), and one near Belgrade, MT 16 Apr (LAH). The only reported Cackling Goose was near Sandpoint, ID 9 Mar (EC). The season's Eurasian Wigeon count was unusually high, with 6 reported in Idaho and 10 in w. Montana. Pending acceptance, an American Black Duck photographed near Bozeman 11 Mar (ph., †EH, JP) will represent w. Montana's 3rd record. A Eurasian Teal was detected in *Kootenai* 21-25 Mar (†LH); two previous reports also hail from n. Idaho. Also notable was a Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrid in *Blaine*, ID 31 Mar (PWP). Early and out of habitat was a Harlequin Duck near Kalispell, MT 28 Mar (DC). Now virtually annual in Idaho, 2 Long-tailed Ducks were at Cascade 6 Apr (MC).

Sandpoint, ID hosted a Red-throated Loon 14-16 Apr, a Pacific Loon 7 Mar-15 Apr, and a Yellow-billed Loon 1 Mar-16 Apr (†EC, GSh). Great Egrets wandered to Salmon, ID 5-6 May (HR), Bozeman, MT 7 May (RI) and L.M. 20 May (ph. JH). Idaho's 2nd Little Blue Heron visited *Minidoka* 2-9 May (ph., †SB, †CW). In a continuing trend, single Glossy Ibis discovered in *Fremont* 10 May and *Jefferson* 26 May

(†CW) represented Idaho's 6th and 7th records. White-faced Ibis also wandered out of range, with about 50 at Mann L., *Nez Perce*, ID 28 Apr (KCr), and singles in Montana locations at Warm Springs 28 Apr (NK, GS), near Somers 18 May (RBH), and near Kalispell 29 May (BT). An Upland Sandpiper in *Shoshone*, ID 30 May (LH) represented a county first. The Whimbrel at Mann L. 22-23 May (ph. KCr, BJ) was about Idaho's 20th. Idaho's 9th Hudsonian Godwit stopped in *Fremont* 15 May (ph., †CW). Unexpected in spring was a Stilt Sandpiper in *Ada*, ID 27 May (HK). A Red Phalarope at Mann L. 23-25 May (ph. KCr) represented Idaho's 11th report and only the 2nd in spring. Though rare but regular in autumn, a Sabine's Gull in *Lake*, MT 10 May (BR) was a surprising spring find.

## PIGEONS THROUGH FINCHES

The only Band-tailed Pigeon report came from Garden Valley, ID 30 Apr (*vide* SF). Eurasian Collared-Doves explored new locations at Somers, MT 2 Apr (DC), Eureka, MT 5 Apr (LY), the Helena Valley, MT 2 Apr (BM), and Post Falls, ID 1 May (DW). Earliest ever in nw. Montana were 8 Black Swifts in Somers 21 May (DC). Idaho's 6th Eastern Phoebe visited *Carey* 16 Apr (PWP, JS). A total of 6 Blue Jays in Idaho was about average for the period, but a pair seen carrying nest-

ing material in Helena, MT 29 Apr (MM) was especially interesting. A Wood Thrush at Camas 19-31 May+ (†JC, ph. CV) was only Idaho's 2nd report. The Brown Thrasher near Bozeman, MT since 23 Dec stayed until early Apr (JP). At least one Brown Thrasher was at Camas 16-23 May (ph. JC), where they are rare but nearly annual. The Curve-billed Thrasher that wintered in Eureka, MT remained through 24 Apr (LY).

The rare warbler tally at Camas included 2 Northern Parulas 26-27 May, a Magnolia Warbler 18-19 May, a Black-and-white Warbler 20 May, and at least 2 Ovenbirds 12-25 May (JC, BD). Single Ovenbirds were also reported in *Ada*, ID 15 May (RM) and near Bozeman, MT 28 May (JP). If accepted, a Hooded Warbler in Bozeman 4 May (MK) will be Montana's 3rd. The Gem State's 14th Summer Tanager appeared in *Jefferson* 12 May (ph., †TM, †CW). Far n. of expected range was a Sage Sparrow in Garden Valley, ID 18 Mar (SW). The Red Fox Sparrow that wintered in *Gem*, ID remained until 3 Apr (FZ). Especially rare in spring were Golden-crowned Sparrows near Nampa, ID 8 Mar (DH) and at Camas 18 May (GSt). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visited feeders near Harrison, MT 19 May (SBe), Salmon, ID 20 May (CK), Boise 20 May (JB), and in Lincoln, MT 22 May (BO). Always rare, an Indigo Bunting was discovered in *Hailey*, ID 14-18 Mar (CC). Though nearly absent from Idaho in recent years, Great-tailed Grackles were recorded in *Twin Falls* 29 Apr (ZW) and *Jefferson* 28 Apr-26 May (CW). A Lesser Goldfinch in Blackfoot, ID 17 Mar (BC) provided a first for *Latilong* 21.

**Contributors:** (subregional editors in bold-face): IDAHO: John Battalio, Steve Bouffard, Kathleen Cameron, Jay Carlisle, Keith Carlson (KCr), Brian Carrigan, Mark Collie, Earl Chapin, Colleen Crane, Bob Davis, Sheri Foot, Lisa Hardy, Denise Hughes, Brian Jamison, Cliff Keene, Harry Krueger, Theresa Mathis, Robert Mortensen, Hadley Roberts, Jean Seymour, Gina Sheridan (GSh), Gary Stitzinger (GSt), Shirley Sturts, Chuck Trost, Carlos Valeris, Spencer Walters, Doug Ward, Zeke Watkins, Cliff Weisse, Poo Wright-Pulliam, Fred Zeillemaker. MONTANA: Stephanie Becker (SBe), Dan Casey, Ed Harp-er, Lou Ann Harris, Jim Heustess, Ron & Barbara Hurd, Radd Icenoggle, Mary Keck, Nate Kohler, Bob Martinka, Mike Merahan, Bob O'Leary, John Parker, Bob Rost, Gary Swant, Bruce Tannehill, Lewis Young. ☺

David Trochlell, 2409 East N Avenue  
La Grande, Oregon 97850, (dtrochlell@verizon.net)