

**Birding Trip Report: Western Colorado
Phasianidae, Rocky Mountains & Valleys
4-Apr to 8-Apr 2021 – By Pritam Baruah**



Dusky Grouse, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

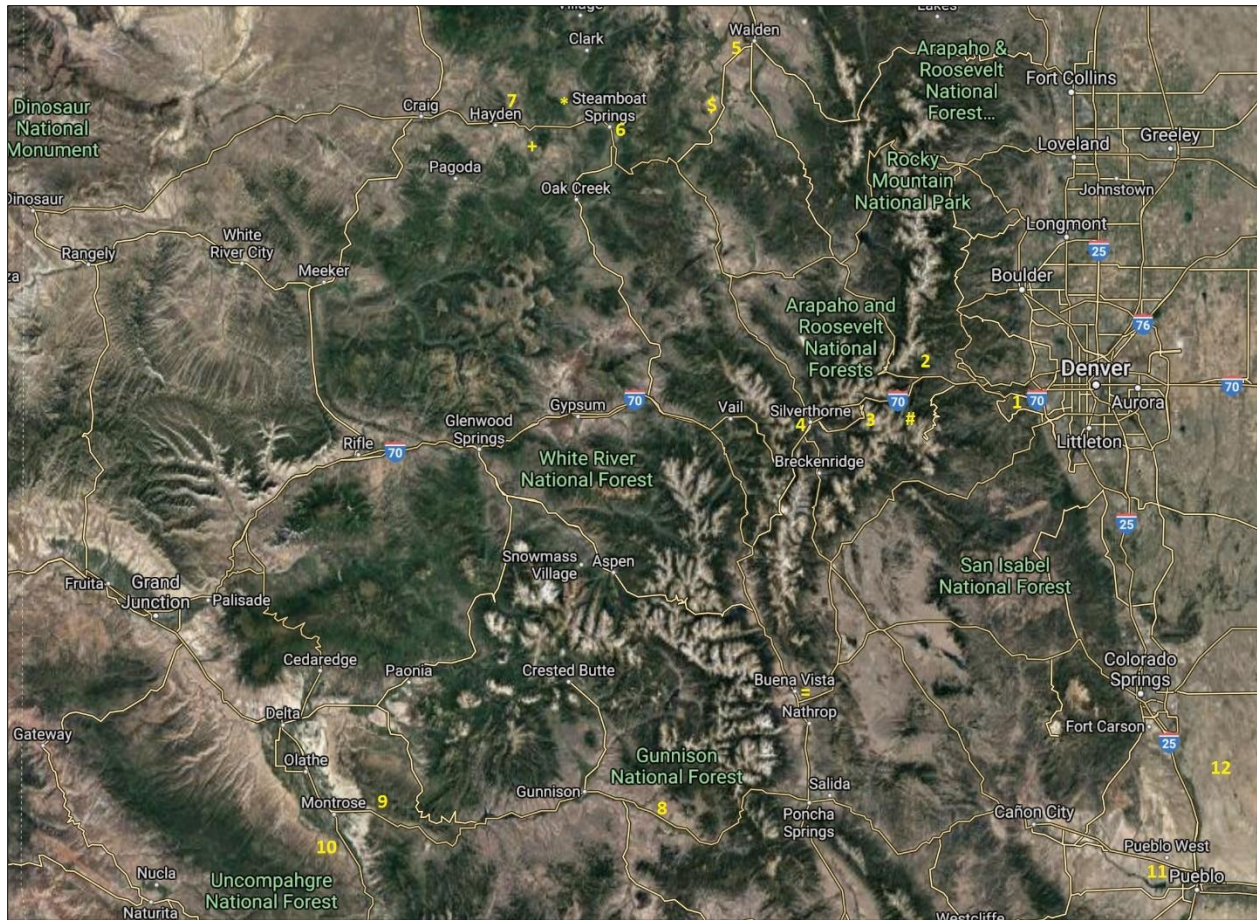
The beautiful state of Colorado is famous for its chickens. Seven highly sought-after species (White-tailed Ptarmigan, Dusky Grouse, Greater Sage-Grouse, Gunnison Sage-Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Great Prairie Chicken) can be seen within a short duration of 11 days. The last 6 in the list above can usually be seen doing their extraordinary courtship rituals. And with the possibility of many more specialties, birding in Colorado has become a pilgrimage of sorts for birders around the world.

I did not have 11 days though, so I looked for ways to break up the chickens into two trips. On detailed research I realized that 5 chickens, the first 5 in the list above, are possible in western Colorado (west of Denver) and if planned properly, can be done in only 5 days. This leaves the two prairie chickens and those can be seen in a long weekend on a different trip. Birders who want to spend more time looking for every species possible in the places I visited may opt for a slower, less hardcore trip. However, I found that I got good visuals of most species even though I had optimized for 5 chickens and only 8 others. The Dusky Grouse and White-tailed Ptarmigan are tricky to find so I planned to visit two different places each for both.

➤ **Logistics**

This trip was mainly on high elevation mountain roads, so I rented an AWD SUV (Kia Sportage) at the Denver airport. It was expensive. Good hotels, restaurants (including veg options), grocery stores, pharmacy and so on are available at all mountain stops. This was a hardcore trip, so I tried to eat breakfast and lunch while driving whenever possible, for which sandwiches and pizza were suitable. Roads are excellent throughout and the extensive road network enables flexibility in your itinerary (check itinerary & diary). A spotting scope is essential.

➤ Map & Places



Map 1: Western Colorado map. Annotations: ©Pritam Baruah. Check places & distances section for details. Map Data: ©Google.

The table below has a brief description of the main birding sites and the main birds that were recorded there. The full list of birds can be found in the ‘Trip List’ section. Read diary for more details.

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Genesee Mountain Park | Ponderosa pine habitat at 2430 masl in the ‘Front Range’, outskirts of Denver. Williamson’s Sapsucker is the main target here but there are other good birds. Birding the main road should get all the species. Recorded: Williamson’s Sapsucker |
| 2 | Alice St Mary’s | There is a well-known feeder at Alice called “The Goshawk” on Texas Dr (3100 masl). Feeder can be scoped from the road above. The house appears to be for sale so not sure how long the feeder will be maintained. Recorded: Brown-capped & Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Black-capped & Mountain Chickadee, all 3 nuthatches, Pine Siskin, Canada Jay |
| 3 | Loveland Pass | High pass above the tree line at 3650 masl. Perfect habitat for White-tailed Ptarmigan on both sides of the road, on both sides of the pass. Recorded: White-tailed Ptarmigan. |
| 4 | Silverthorne | Only visited the Wilderrest community (2900 masl) at the western outskirts of town, where there are some known feeders in the north west corner (Spring Beauty Dr, Elk Thistle Dr). Please do not step on private property, including private driveways. Park vehicles with caution. Recorded: Black, Brown-capped & Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Hairy Woodpecker, nuthatches. |

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 5 | Walden | Stayed overnight to access the Greater Sage-Grouse CR 26B lek (\$) (40.546522, -106.440017), 20 mins away, near Coalmont. 2400 masl. |
| | | Recorded: Greater Sage-Grouse |
| 6 | Steamboat Springs | Famous ski town (2050 masl) with good facilities. Several veg friendly restaurants. Birded Angler's Drive. Also, CR 46/46B (*) is close by, which has Sharp-tailed Grouse lekking 40.556385, -107.000864. |
| | | Recorded: Evening Grosbeak, Sharp-tailed Grouse |
| 7 | Hayden | Town (2000 masl) to access the CR 27 '20-mile road' lek (+) for STGR. However, this site is not regularly active anymore. But I was still able to find displaying individuals (40.401760, -107.145240). North of town is CR 80, where Dusky Grouse (in oak brush), STGR, GRSG are possible. |
| | | Recorded: Sharp-tailed Grouse |
| 8 | Gunnison: Waunita Hot Springs Lek | Inevitably the only place (2350 masl) to see Gunnison Sage-Grouse. This is a managed viewing. https://siskadee.org has all the information. Arrive 1 hour before sunrise. On-site supervisor will tell you where they might display. Your car *has* to be parked at the designated viewing station (38.463828, -106.611810). An easily obtainable permit would be needed from now on. |
| | | Recorded: Gunnison Sage-Grouse |
| 9 | Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park | Small national park that protects the stunning dark canyon carved by the Gunnison River. Birding is on the south rim (2500 masl) which has oak thicket along the main road – ideal for DUGR (found at 38.547017, -107.690277). Has pinyon-juniper habitat – ideal for the tricky Pinyon Jay. |
| | | Recorded: Dusky Grouse, Spotted Towhee, Pinyon Jay |
| 10 | Montrose | Town (1820 masl) in the western Gunnison Valley. On researching using ebird I realized that most of the Grand Junction specialties are possible here too. I birded the Dave Wood Road and managed to find my targets at around 38.375427, -107.947809. Also birded around town. |
| | | Recorded: Sagebrush Sparrow, Juniper Titmouse, Pinyon Jay, Canyon Wren, Gambel's Quail, Vesper Sparrow. |
| 11 | Pueblo West / Swallows Road | Major town (1500 masl) in the vast prairies just west of the Rockies. This area is at the northern extremity of the ranges of several species. The first 3 targets noted below were at 38.336404, -104.839191. This is a residential area so please be respectful of privacy and do not step on private property. Road ends at Pueblo Reservoir Wildlife Area, where there is usually waterfowl and gulls on the Arkansas River. |
| | | Recorded: Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Scaled Quail |
| 12 | Chico Basin Ranch / Hanover Rd | Working ranch (1500 masl) (38.508556, -104.439237) with great birding, where the above 3 targets are possible, along with many more like Sage Thrasher (I dipped on all above) & Ladder-backed Woodpecker. Sometimes has the unpredictable Mountain Plover (especially prairie along Hanover Rd). Small lakes are excellent for waterfowl. |
| | | Recorded: Waterfowl, Burrowing Owl |

➤ Itinerary

My original plan was to drive from Hayden (CO 27) to Gunnison via Grand Junction on day 3 (6-Apr). But on 2nd evening, I realized that the CO 27 lek is no longer reliable, so I changed my itinerary to visit a different area with recent sightings (on ebird) – the CO 46B area. Since this would take me further east, I also decided to skip Grand Junction and backtrack to Loveland Pass to try for White-tailed Ptarmigan and rosy finches again. This was okay as I did not have many targets in Grand

Junction, and it had been included mainly for its natural beauty. I also knew that some of its specialties were possible in the Montrose area (although that is not well known) and it was still possible for me to visit Montrose on day 4. Combining eastern Colorado (or far west Kansas, or far south-west Nebraska) to get the two prairie chickens and a visit to the Pawnee National Grassland for longspurs, Mountain Plover and so on, will take an additional 3 days.

| Day | Date | Summary | Night |
|-----|-------|--|--------------------------|
| 1 | 4-Apr | San Francisco to Denver, arrive 4:15 am. Genesee Mountain Park, Alice / St Mary's feeders, Guanella Pass, Loveland Pass, Silverthorne, drive to Walden, arrive 6:30 pm. | Antlers Inn, Walden |
| 2 | 5-Apr | 6:00 am drive to Coalmont / CO 26B lek. 8:00 am drive to Steamboat Springs. Angler's Dr, then to Hayden / CO 80 area. Night in Craig. | Best Western Plus, Craig |
| 3 | 6-Apr | 5:30 am drive to CO 27 STGR lek. 7:15 drive to CO 46B area. Drive to Silverthorne. Then nearby Loveland Pass. Drive to Gunnison via Buena Vista (Hwy 91, 24). | Alpine Inn, Gunnison |
| 4 | 7-Apr | 5 am drive to Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP. 8 am drive to Dave Wood road south of Montrose. Montrose area. Back to Gunnison for an early end to the day. | Alpine Inn, Gunnison |
| 5 | 8-Apr | 5:20 am drive to Waunita Hot Springs lek. 8:30 start driving to Pueblo West. Swallows Rd area. Drive to Chico Basin Ranch. Drive to Denver airport. 10:00 pm fly to SFO. | |

➤ Distances

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|
| Denver airport | Loveland Pass | 1:20 |
| Denver airport | Genesee Mountain Park | 0:45 |
| Genesee Mountain Park | Alice & St Mary's | 0:45 |
| Alice & St Mary's | Guanella Pass | 1:00 |
| Guanella Pass (#) | Loveland Pass | 0:45 |
| Loveland Pass | Silverthorne (Wilderness community) | 0:25 |
| Silverthorne | Walden | 1:45 |
| Walden | Coalmont | 0:20 |
| Coalmont (\$) | Steamboat Springs | 0:50 |
| Steamboat Spring | Hayden | 0:30 |
| Hayden | Craig | 0:20 |
| Craig | CR 27 | 0:30 |
| CR 27 (+) | CR 46B | 0:30 |
| CR 46B (*) | Steamboat Springs | 0:25 |
| Steamboat Springs | Silverthorne | 1:40 |
| Silverthorne | Buena Vista | 1:15 |
| Buena Vista (=) | Gunnison | 1:30 |
| Gunnison | Black Canyon NP | 1:10 |
| Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP | Montrose (Dave Wood Rd) | 0:30 |
| Montrose | Gunnison | 1:15 |
| Gunnison | Waunita lek | 0:20 |
| Waunita lek | Pueblo West (Swallows Rd) | 2:30 |
| Pueblo West | Hanover Rd / Chico Basin Ranch | 0:50 |
| Chico Basin Ranch | Denver airport | 2:00 |

➤ Readings

- Trip report: USA – Colorado - California, April 2015, Raphael Lebrun.
- Trip report: Colorado, April 2019, Craig Robson, Birdquest.
- Trip report: USA - Colorado, April 2019, Stephan Lorenz, Rockjumper.

➤ Diary

In general, only the first occurrence of a species is noted in this diary – note that this usually coincides with the locality where it is considered a specialty. Species names are noted in **bold** only once. However, some species are in bold more than once only for special context. Some widespread and common species are not noted in this diary. Most species are encountered in multiple locations and the totality is covered in the trip list section.

• 4-Apr [Fly San Francisco to Denver, birding along highway 70, to Walden]

I took a 1 am non-stop flight from SFO to DEN and reached at 4:15 am. The time difference is 1 hour. My plan was to reach Genesee at twilight and check what owls might be around. It was not to be because Enterprise-rent-a-car were awfully slow in getting me the car – there was nobody at the counter for a good 30 mins. But at least they had an SUV which was also an AWD, that I really needed for the road conditions expected. Note that the booking systems do not allow customer to specify AWD/4X4. What you get is what is there in the lot when you are at the counter. Luckily, I was the first pickup of the day.



Williamson's Sapsucker

I stopped at a 7-11 close to the airport and bought supplies for the road and picked up some donuts at Dunkin' Donuts for the hectic day ahead of me. Reached Genesee Mountain Park at 6:40 am and it was quiet – which was not surprising in Ponderosa Pine habitat. The road to the summit was closed just before the 2nd parking lot. So, I spent most of my time on the main road. My main target here was the **Williamson's Sapsucker** and I found a single after quite a bit of back and forth on that small section of road. **Mountain Chickadees** wasted a lot of my time. Bison were missing in the 'Bison meadow' but I saw them on a small meadow north of Hwy 70 after I drove out.

Next stop was at Alice St Mary's, where I had imagined I would see large flocks of rosy finches at a house which was mysteriously named '*The Goshawk*' on ebird, and for which I found no additional information on the internet. I slowly drove about the community with my windows open, but it was incredibly quiet and incredibly cold. Finally, I found a house with a feeder on Texas Dr and convinced myself that it must be 'The Goshawk'. But as often is the case in birding, your expectations can be rather different from reality – there were no flocks. I did get a few **Gray-crowned & Brown-capped Rosy Finches** that randomly showed up at the feeder after much waiting. They were not in their best plumage. Other good birds were **Pine Siskin, Cassin's Finch, Clark's Nutcracker, Canada Jay** and all 3 nuthatches.



Pine Siskin & Cassin's Finch

Next stop was at Guanella Pass where someone told me he saw 20+ White-tailed Ptarmigan close to the pass in one visit. The road to the pass is usually closed in the winter but Google Maps assured that I could get quite close to the pass on car before the road closes. The road was quite scenic, but it turned out that scenery would be the only excitement of this detour; The road was closed several miles before the pass and well below tree line. That meant no ptarmigan. And it was getting late in the morning. So, I sped towards Loveland Pass.

Loveland Pass area was covered with snow, skiers and snow boarders, so I began suspecting that the bird would be tough to find. I saw two birders right on the continental divide, who informed me that they have been searching for hours with no luck. I spent the next 2:30 hours scanning everywhere for all-white oval shapes that moved a bit. But I failed. Perhaps a little before the onset of snow blindness, I gave up and went to Silverthorne to find rosy finches. But the Wilderwest community was depressingly quiet. I did not see a single rosy finch. I picked up a pizza for a (very) late lunch and ate it on my drive to Walden. Faithful to the day's luck, the lake near Walden was frozen and there were no waterfowl. This ended a somewhat disappointing day.

- **5-Apr [Coalmont Lek, Steamboat Springs, Hayden CR 80, to Craig]**

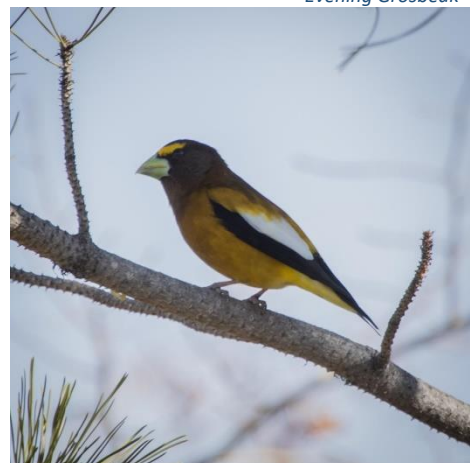
Greater Sage-Grouse



Today held my most wanted experience of the trip – seeing large numbers of **Greater Sage-Grouse** displaying at a lek. The lek near Coalmont delivered what I wanted – saw over 60 Sage-Grouse including 25+ males doing their bizarre dance at close range. I found nothing else of note in the sagebrush. **Horned Lark** and **Western Meadowlark** became quite common from here on in open spaces. On my way out to Hwy 14, I saw an impressive herd of over 150 Elk run across the road (CR26) in front of my car.

Next stop was the ski town of Steamboat Springs, where I hoped to spend the rest of the morning at leisure. I found a huge flock of the stunning **Evening Grosbeak** & **Black-capped Chickadee** at a feeder on Angler's Drive. Then I had a tasty outdoor breakfast at Freshies. I also picked up a sandwich at Yampa Sandwich Co. for lunch. A vegan juicery that I hoped to try was closed. Next stop was at CR70 & CR80 near Hayden. Saw many widespread species here including the Great Basin specialty, **Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay**. My main target here was Dusky Grouse, which is often seen in oak scrub at the first hill on CR80, but I dipped. It was 2 pm and awfully quiet, and I had to do some research for the next day, so I decided to go to the hotel in Craig and return in the evening as DUGR sometimes displays in the evening. It was even quieter when I returned. I did see **Pronghorn Antelope** and a **Golden Eagle**.

Evening Grosbeak



Back at the hotel, on doing some research I realized that the '20-mile road' Sharp-tailed Grouse lek on CR27 was no longer reliable. In fact, there had been no sightings on ebird in 2020 and 2021 yet. But fortunately, I found an area on ebird that had reports of several sightings over the past few days. Later I realized that this 'new' area, CR 46B, was not exactly new; Apparently tour companies have been visiting for the last 3 years but it was not called out in their trip reports. Anyway, by this point I knew enough to change my itinerary and skip my originally intended next hop, Grand Junction. So instead of heading west, I would backtrack east to Steamboat Springs and then south to Loveland Pass and finally go to Gunnison via Hwy 24 S. This allowed me to take in two spots for STGR and retry the rosy finches and White-tailed Ptarmigan.

➤ **6-Apr [CR 27, CR 46B, Silverthorne / Loveland Pass again, Buena Vista, to Gunnison]**

I reached CR27 lek well before dawn at 6 am, hoping to hear Sharp-tailed Grouse come in and hence get some sense of direction to narrow down my search. I did not hear anything though. I gave myself up to 7:15 to find them here, after which I would drive 30 mins to CR 46B where I expected the birds to display till 8:15 am at least. There was another birder at CR27, and he turned out to be a veteran surveyor of this lek for 20 years. He had come in today after a long time hoping to get status for friends who would be flying in from the east coast next day. The lek just west of the highway was empty but we suddenly spotted 4 **Sharp-tailed Grouse** on the next slope to the west. This was quite fortunate. They danced to glory as we watched through the scope. This species probably has the most impressive dance of all the chickens.

Sharp-tailed Grouse



As planned, I left for the CR 46B area at 7:15 am. I reached at 7:45 and almost immediately saw 6 STGR displaying on a clear field of thick snow at the junction of 46 and 46B. The sight was surreal. They displayed only till 8:05 am and flew away together. Further north where the road ends at the Elk Run Ranch, I saw two more STGR feeding among the sagebrush. I also thought I heard a DUGR once but could not confirm it as I did not hear the sound again. Saw **Sandhill Crane** here before starting the 2-hour journey back to Silverthorne. I picked up a breakfast sandwich at Steamboat Springs and had it during the drive.

Weather was quite cold, and it was snowing at Rabbit Ears Pass (2873 masl) east of Silverthorne. So, I had a hunch that this improved my chances of seeing large rosy finch flocks at Silverthorne. And I was right. I reached Wildernest at 11:40 and unlike two days ago, it was highly active today. I had large flocks of **Gray-crowned Rosy Finch** and **Brown-capped Rosy Finch** at the feeders. These flocks also held several of the much-wanted **Black Rosy Finch**. Many finches were in impeccable plumage, just as I had hoped for. Once I saw a flock of over 200 birds fly into a leafless tree and cover it like Christmas decoration. **Hairy Woodpecker**, **Pine Grosbeak** and **Red Crossbill** were other notable birds. Next stop was at nearby Loveland Pass. It was devoid of people today, possibly because it was not a weekend, and it was snowing. I was secretly hoping to find the much-wanted **White-tailed Ptarmigan** within 5 mins of getting out of the car and I found a pair within 10 mins. Not bad! I watched the pair for 30 mins, as they stayed close to rocks, nibbling on vegetation, oblivious to the inclement weather. Then it was time to head south to Gunnison, with birding stops in between. But not before picking up yet another pizza for yet another lunch while driving.



All 3 rosy finch species

The drive south on Hwy 24 is very scenic and runs through the former mining town turned tourist town of Leadville. It seemed worth a stop, but I had no time of course. Around the town of Buena Vista further south

there is extensive pinyon and juniper habitat. So, I stopped here hoping to find the aptly named Pinyon Jay and Juniper Titmouse. I did not find them. I did see goodies like **Barrow's Goldeneye**, **American Dipper**, **Lewis's Woodpecker**, **Townsend's Solitaire** and others at the Arkansas River. Half an hour later I finally saw a huge roadside flock of my much-wanted **Pinyon Jay** at 38.533427, -106.143614, between Poncha Springs & Monarch Pass. A quick stop at Monarch Pass (3500 masl) yielded **American Three-toed Woodpecker**. At Gunnison I was delighted to find a Nepali / Indian restaurant called Sherpa Café and I treated myself to some hot Momo & Tibetan noodles after a tiring but successful day.



Barrow's Goldeneye



Pinyon Jay

- **7-Apr [Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP, Montrose]**

Today was the 4th chicken day – Dusky Grouse. I started driving at 4:45 am from Gunnison to the Black Mountain of the Gunnison National Park, where the extensive oak thickets along the south rim is favored by DUGR. I almost crashed into a huge Elk around a bend in the road, somewhere midway during my drive. Once inside the park, I noticed there was quite a bit of snow and the East Portal Road was closed. The parking lot was also 2/3rd closed. Only the first loop was open, and I could not find DUGR there. So, I drove up and down the short main road very slowly, scanning the roadsides and scrub. As I was driving south, away from Tomichi Point I noticed some movement to my left and stopped the car. Suddenly a **Dusky Grouse** came scrambling out of the scrub and started pecking at my tire. Then it went back to the edge of the road and did some displays. I was stunned. I spent a good 30 minutes with the nonchalant bird. There was no one else in the park – it was lovely. I also saw **Spotted Towhee** and more **Pinyon Jay** within the park, before leaving for Montrose.



Vesper Sparrow



Sagebrush Sparrow



Juniper Titmouse

Based on ebird research, I headed to the Lower Spring Creek Canyon Trail on Dave Wood Road. I quickly found **Juniper Titmouse** and **Canyon Wren** there. Further down the road just west of the Tres Coyotes Trail, I found **Sagebrush Sparrow**, an early **Vesper Sparrow**, and more **Pinyon Jay**. I was done here so I decided

to find some waterbirds and others to increase my trip list. I drove around Montrose and had quick views of **Gambel's Quail** and had some waterbirds. No Yellow-headed Blackbird though. I had a late lunch at yet another Nepali-Indian restaurant – Himalayan Pun Hill Kitchen and ended the day early. Then I drove back to Gunnison to plan for the next day – which would be an exceedingly long one.

- **8-Apr [Gunnison Waunita lek, Pueblo West, Chico Basin Ranch, Denver to San Francisco]**

Woke up early to visit the “Waunita Watchable Wildlife Site” for Gunnison Sage-Grouse. It is a 20-min drive from Gunnison, and you are required to arrive one hour before sunrise. Sunrise times are posted on <https://siskadee.org>. Please follow all the rules. I arrived on time and was the last car in the lot. If another vehicle arrived after me then I do not know how they would be able to do the viewing. The supervisor had me fill up a form. You are required to be always inside the car unless supervisor asks you to come out, which is usually towards the end of the viewing, usually coinciding with the lek thinning out. Viewing angle from my passenger window was between 1 to 2 o'clock. I took me quite a while to find a single individual. It was displaying but I did not see any females. It was a sad sight. After an hour, the supervisor called me out and told me to look through his scope (his was the first car in the lot). To my utter shock, I saw well over 40 individuals through his scope, not just the single that I had found. I soon knew the culprit for that – the last parking spot is pretty low and just a small loss of vertical angle took out almost the entire lek from my view, even though I was in a relatively tall SUV. The lek got hidden behind a row of willows. Lesson is to come much earlier and get the first two spots in the lot. I came back to my car and had breakfast. He finally let us move out at 8:30 am.

I drove nonstop to Swallows Road in Pueblo West. The prairie to the west is one vast **Black-tailed Prairie Dog** town. At first, I could not find any of my targets. The residential areas also did not have much activity except for house sparrows. I followed the road down to the Arkansas River and saw lots of waterfowl, **American White Pelican, Say's Phoebe** and **Bald Eagle**. Then finally I connected with one of my targets – **Canyon Towhee**. A pair was hanging out under my parked car. Back at the community on W Woodstock Dr, the scene had changed dramatically – possibly something to do with an active feeder. Saw tons of birds including all three of my targets – **Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee** and **Scaled Quail**.

My only remaining target was Sage Thrasher, but I saw on ebird that an unexpected Mountain Plover was reported from Hanover Rd / Chico Basin Ranch along with Sage Thrasher recently. So, I made that my next destination. My plan was to leave for the airport at 5:15 pm, so I would have full 3 hours to search for these two species. Easy? Well, I worked quite hard but failed to find either of them. The ponds did have a great selection of waterbirds and I also found a Ladder-backed Woodpecker. At 5:15 pm I reluctantly left for the Denver Airport. All shops were closed at the airport and the only restaurants open even as early as 8 pm were Panda Express & McDonald's – no doubt because of the pandemic. These were not suitable for vegetarians, so I ate a terrible cheese plate from a convenience store and then flew back to San Francisco.



Curve-billed Thrasher



Canyon Towhee



Scaled Quail

➤ Trip list

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Canada Goose | <i>Branta Canadensis</i> | |
| 2 | Cinnamon Teal | <i>Anas cyanoptera</i> | |
| 3 | Blue-winged Teal | <i>Anas discors</i> | |
| 4 | Northern Shoveler | <i>Anas chrypeata</i> | |
| 5 | Gadwall | <i>Anas strepera</i> | |
| 6 | American Wigeon | <i>Anas americana</i> | |
| 7 | Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | |
| 8 | Northern Pintail | <i>Anas acuta</i> | |
| 9 | Green-winged Teal | <i>Anas carolinensis</i> | |
| 10 | Canvasback | <i>Aythya valisineria</i> | |
| 11 | Redhead | <i>Aythya americana</i> | |
| 12 | Ring-necked Duck | <i>Aythya collaris</i> | |
| 13 | Lesser Scaup | <i>Aythya affinis</i> | |
| 14 | Bufflehead | <i>Bucephala albeola</i> | |
| 15 | Common Goldeneye | <i>Bucephala clangula</i> | |
| 16 | Barrow's Goldeneye | <i>Bucephala islandica</i> | Buena Vista (Arkansas River) |
| 17 | Hooded Merganser | <i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i> | |
| 18 | Common Merganser | <i>Mergus merganser</i> | |
| 19 | Red-breasted Merganser | <i>Mergus serrator</i> | |
| 20 | Ruddy Duck | <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> | |
| 21 | Scaled Quail | <i>Callipepla squamata</i> | |
| 22 | Gambel's Quail | <i>Callipepla gambelii</i> | Montrose |
| 23 | Wild Turkey | <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> | |
| 24 | Greater Sage Grouse | <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> | Coalmont lek |
| 25 | Gunnison Sage Grouse | <i>Centrocercus minimus</i> | Waunita Hot Springs lek |
| 26 | Dusky Grouse | <i>Dendragapus obscurus</i> | Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP |
| 27 | Sharp-tailed Grouse | <i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i> | Hayden CR27 & Steamboat Springs CR46B |
| 28 | White-tailed Ptarmigan | <i>Lagopus leucura</i> | Loveland Pass |
| 29 | Common Loon | <i>Gavia immer</i> | Pueblo Reservoir |
| 30 | Pied-billed Grebe | <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> | |
| 31 | Eared Grebe | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> | |
| 32 | Clark's Grebe | <i>Aechmophorus clarkia</i> | Pueblo Reservoir |
| 33 | Great Blue Heron | <i>Ardea herodias</i> | |
| 34 | American White Pelican | <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i> | Pueblo Reservoir |
| 35 | Double-crested Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i> | |
| 36 | Turkey Vulture | <i>Cathartes aura</i> | |
| 37 | Osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> | |
| 38 | Golden Eagle | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | Hayden CR 80 |
| 39 | Cooper's Hawk | <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> | |
| 40 | Northern Harrier | <i>Circus hudsonius</i> | |
| 41 | Bald Eagle | <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> | Pueblo Reservoir |
| 42 | Red-tailed Hawk | <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> | |
| 43 | American Coot | <i>Fulica americana</i> | |

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 44 | Sandhill Crane | <i>Grus canadensis</i> | Yampa River & CR 46B. |
| 45 | Black-necked Stilt | <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i> | Pueblo Reservoir |
| 46 | American Avocet | <i>Recurvirostra americana</i> | Pueblo Reservoir |
| 47 | Killdeer | <i>Charadrius vociferous</i> | |
| 48 | Greater Yellowlegs | <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i> | Pueblo Reservoir |
| 49 | Ring-billed Gull | <i>Larus delawarensis</i> | |
| 50 | California Gull | <i>Larus californicus</i> | |
| 51 | Mourning Dove | <i>Zenaida macroura</i> | |
| 52 | Burrowing Owl | <i>Athene cunicularia</i> | Chico Basin Ranch |
| 53 | Lewis's Woodpecker | <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> | Buena Vista |
| 54 | Williamson's Sapsucker | <i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i> | Genessee Mountain Park. |
| 55 | American Three-toed Woodpecker | <i>Picoides dorsalis</i> | Monarch Pass |
| 56 | Ladder-backed Woodpecker | <i>Dryobates scalaris</i> | Chico Basin Ranch |
| 57 | Hairy Woodpecker | <i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i> | Wilderness |
| 58 | Northern Flicker | <i>Colaptes auratus</i> | |
| 59 | American Kestrel | <i>Falco sparverius</i> | |
| 60 | Say's Phoebe | <i>Sayornis saya</i> | |
| 61 | Canada Jay | <i>Perisoreus canadensis</i> | Alice |
| 62 | Steller's Jay | <i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i> | |
| 63 | Woodhouse's Scrub Jay | <i>Apelocoma woodhouseii</i> | Hayden CR 80, Gunnison Valley |
| 64 | Pinyon Jay | <i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i> | See diary |
| 65 | Black-billed Magpie | <i>Pica hudsonia</i> | |
| 66 | Clark's Nutcracker | <i>Nucifraga columbiana</i> | Alice |
| 67 | American Crow | <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> | |
| 68 | Common Raven | <i>Corvus Corax</i> | |
| 69 | Juniper Titmouse | <i>Baeolophus ridgwayi</i> | Montrose |
| 70 | Black-capped Chickadee | <i>Poecile atricapillus</i> | Steamboat Springs, Wilderness |
| 71 | Mountain Chickadee | <i>Poecile gambeli</i> | |
| 72 | Horned Lark | <i>Eremophila alpestris</i> | |
| 73 | Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | |
| 74 | Canyon Wren | <i>Catherpes mexicanus</i> | Montrose |
| 75 | Bewick's Wren | <i>Thryomanes bewickii</i> | Pueblo Reservoir |
| 76 | Pygmy Nuthatch | <i>Sitta pygmaea</i> | Alice & Wilderness |
| 77 | Red-breasted Nuthatch | <i>Sitta canadensis</i> | Alice & Wilderness |
| 78 | White-breasted Nuthatch | <i>Sitta carolinensis</i> | Alice & Wilderness |
| 79 | Curve-billed Thrasher | <i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i> | Pueblo West |
| 80 | Common Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | |
| 81 | Western Bluebird | <i>Sialia mexicana</i> | |
| 82 | Mountain Bluebird | <i>Sialia currucoides</i> | |
| 83 | Townsend's Solitaire | <i>Myadestes townsendi</i> | Buena Vista |
| 84 | American Robin | <i>Turdus migratorius</i> | |
| 85 | American Dipper | <i>Cinclus mexicanus</i> | Buena Vista |
| 86 | House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | |
| 87 | Evening Grosbeak | <i>Hesperiphona vespertina</i> | Angler's Drive (Steamboat Springs) |

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| 88 | Pine Grosbeak | <i>Pinicola enucleator</i> | Wilderness |
| 89 | Grey-crowned Rosy Finch | <i>Leucosticte</i> | See diary |
| 90 | Black Rosy Finch | <i>Leucosticte atrata</i> | See diary |
| 91 | Brown-capped Rosy Finch | <i>Leucosticte australis</i> | See diary |
| 92 | Cassin's Finch | <i>Haemorhous cassinii</i> | |
| 93 | House Finch | <i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i> | |
| 94 | Red Crossbill | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> | Wilderness |
| 95 | American Goldfinch | <i>Spinus tristis</i> | |
| 96 | Pine Siskin | <i>Spinus pinus</i> | Alice |
| 97 | Song Sparrow | <i>Melospiza melodia</i> | CR 70 near Hayden |
| 98 | White-crowned Sparrow | <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> | |
| 99 | Dark-eyed Junco | <i>Junco hyemalis</i> | |
| 100 | Vesper Sparrow | <i>Poocetes gramineus</i> | Montrose |
| 101 | Sagebrush Sparrow | <i>Artemisiospiza nevadensis</i> | Montrose |
| 102 | Spotted Towhee | <i>Pipilo maculatus</i> | Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP |
| 103 | Canyon Towhee | <i>Melospiza fusca</i> | Pueblo West |
| 104 | Western Meadowlark | <i>Sturnella neglecta</i> | |
| 105 | Red-winged Blackbird | <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> | |
| 106 | Brown-headed Cowbird | <i>Molothrus ater</i> | |
| 107 | Common Grackle | <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i> | Chico Basin Ranch |
| 108 | Great-tailed Grackle | <i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i> | Chico Basin Ranch |

➤ Mammals

Desert Cottontail, Mountain Cottontail, Black-tailed Prairie Dog, Nevada Ground Squirrel, Least Chipmunk, Coyote, Elk, Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Pronghorn Antelope, Northern Raccoon

END