

COLORADO
Grouse and Finches
06 UNTIL 19-04-2017



McCown's Longspur Pawnee Grasslands on the last day.



The grand finale of the tour, Greater- Sage Grouse near Walden by Cory Gregory

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Legenda:

***AAAA** = New (Holarctic) Species **(11)**

AAAAA = Good species for the trip or for me (because not often seen)

The list order is conform the AOU checklist with the recent changes on the splitting and lumping issue mainly based on publications in the "important magazines". Subspecies is only mentioned when thought to be important and really visible in the field. The totals of birds per species are just a total of the birds I saw to give an idea how many of a species you encounter during a trip. Only species seen are mentioned, and heard when no lifer.

On this trip the weather was good with almost no rain, mostly sunny with (dry) temperatures above the 20 C but often wind, which gave a bit of a problem with finding passerines but for the rest very good birding



Cory, on the right...:-)

Itinerary

06-04 Flew from Curacao via Miami to Denver to arrive late in the evening..

07-04 Drove from Denver (Aurora) in the early morning to the Great Sand Dunes N.P. and birded there most of the day, drove back (on the western route) in the late afternoon.

08-04 Drove from Denver to Genesee Park and later on to Silverthorne and spent the night there,

09-04 Birded in the early morning on the higher parts of Silverthorne (with snow) and later on drove back to Denver to meet up with the Fieldguides group in the afternoon. Later on drove to Pueblo with birding stops (Squirrel Creek Road).

10-04 Birded along the Y.L. Road, Lake Henry, Lake Meredith, Holbrook Reservoir, Sharon Lake and Verhoff Reservoir.

11-04 Visited Buckner Creek Lek in the very early morning and had breakfast at Dodge City, later on drove with birding stops north (202 Road, Woodlot) to the Bledsoe Ranch where we did some late afternoon birding.

12-04 Birded in the early morning at the Bledsoe Ranch, later on drove with birding stops at Hopper ponds, Arriba and to Denver.

13-04 Birded early morning at Genesee Park than drove to Loveland Pass and after this back to Silverthorne, Buena Vista, Monarch Pass to Gunnison were we spent the night.

14-04 Birded in the early morning at the Wuanita Hott Spring lek, after that moved to some birding places near Gunnison, Crested Butte (Silverthorne) and the Blue Masson Reservoir. We spent the night again in Gunnison.

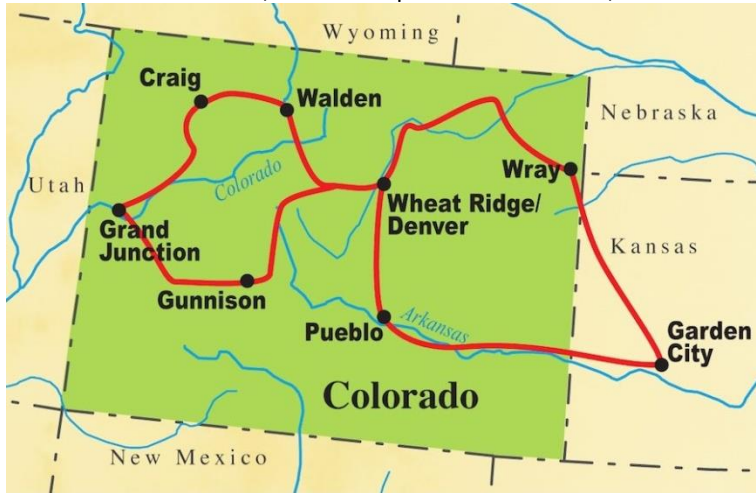
15-04 Drove with birding stops from Gunnison to Black Canyon, then headed south to Montrose along the 1.8 road, visited Utah and ended the day at Fruita were we spent the night.

16-04 Birded in the early morning along the National Monument N.P. than drove to Meeker, Grand Spring Creek Lake and finished the day at the Craig power plant.

17-04 Birded near Craig and visited the Jiant lek, then drove to Steamboat Springs, Rabbit Ears Pass and later with birding stops to the Coalmont lek area near Walden.

18-04 Birded in the early morning at the Colemont lek and after that drove to the Pawnee Grasslands with birding stops (in Wyoming) where we ended the tour. Drove later on to Denver.

19-04 Flew from Denver, via Minneapolis to Amsterdam, to arrive in the early morning of 20-04.



Map of the route we roughly took



Some scenery shots along the way, left below Great Sand Dunes N.P.

THE BIRD SPECIES

01. **Canada Goose – *Branta canadensis* ssp: *moffitti* or *and parvipes*?**

Common throughout the trip with many paired birds starting to breed. Some size difference between them so maybe also some late parvipes involved??

02. **Gadwall – *Anas strepera***

One of the commonest ducks encountered on the trip and seen daily.

03. **American Wigeon – *Anas americana***

Quite common on some of the visited prairie lakes (mostly on the 10th and 18th) in loose flocks.

04. **Mallard – *Anas platyrhynchos***

Common throughout on the prairie lakes

05. **Blue-winged Teal – *Anas discors***

A total of 23 seen spread over the trip, outnumbered by Cinnamon by far.

06. **Cinnamon Teal – *Anas cyanoptera***

Common, in small flocks on the prairie lakes, often in courtship (many males with less females). Great to see them in these numbers.



07. **Northern Shoveler – *Anas clypeata***

Low numbers seen on most of the prairie lakes visited.

08. **Northern Pintail – *Anas acuta***

11-04

2 ex. on a prairie lake visited along the way.

17-04

2 ex. on a prairie lake visited along the way.

09. **Green-winged Teal – *Anas carolinensis***

Low numbers seen on most of the prairie lakes visited.

10. **Canvasback – *Aythya valisineria***

10-04

2 ex. lake Meredith.

17-04

25 ex. on Walden Reservoir.

18-04

1 ex. on a prairie lake along the way near Laramie.

Great to see them after many years. Their profile is so unique; you can pick them out from far away.



11. **Redhead – Aythya americana**

10-04

10 ex. lake Meredith.

17-04

2 ex. on Walden Reservoir.

18-04

30 ex. on a prairie lake along the way near Laramie.

Also along time ago I saw this species. Checking them on the latest id features was nice.



12. **Ring-necked Duck – Aythya collaris**

Low numbers seen on the prairie lakes visited with the most on 18-04.

13. **Lesser Scaup – Aythya affinis**

Low numbers scattered over the visited prairie ponds, often in pairs.

14. **Common Goldeneye – Bucephala clangula**

A total of 33 seen spread over the trip but the most on 14-04 at Blue Mesa Reservoir.

15. **Barrow's Goldeneye – Bucephala islandica**

14-04

3 female type birds mixed in with the Common Goldeneyes. Smaller, smaller all dark (mostly) bills and the typical headshape. With practice not very hard to pick out.

16. **Common Merganser – Mergus merganser**

A total of 20 seen scattered over the trip in the prairie lakes.

17. **Ruddy Duck – Oxyura jamaicensis**

Seen on three days with the most (about 100 ex.) at Lake Meredith on 10-04.

18. **Scaled Quail – Callipepla squamata**

09+10-04
views.

A total of 24 seen along the route we took, great

19. **Gambel's Quail – Callipepla gambelii**

16-04
Monument.

10 ex. seen well near the Colorado National

20. **Northern Bobwhite – Colinus virginianus**

11-04
Company.

2 ex. seen well going out of the Bledsoe Cattle



Often seen but not often so well

-- **Ring-necked Pheasant – Phasianus colchicus**

Common throughout the eastern part of the trip

21. ***GREATER SAGE GROUSE – Centrocercus urophasianus**

18-04

42 ex. seen at very close range and the grand finale
of our trip. Also heard very well (bubbling sound). An experience not to forget.





Speechless after this spectacle.....

22. ***GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE – *Centrocercus minimus***

14-06

9 ex at the Wuanita Hot Spring lek near Gunnison.

A bit far but good views in the scope. See also: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfnYPEoAdig>



Distant but good scopeviews, the ponytails is visible.

23. **White-tailed Ptarmigan – *Lagopus leucura***

13-04

1 ex. seen well through the scope at quite a distance.

The white tail was seen well in the scope.



Luckily I saw this species at foot range long ago.

24. ***Dusky Grouse – Dendragapus obscures**

16-04

3 ex. seen extremely well at close range, two males

and a female, at Black Canyon. No display was seen but one time it raised its neck feathers showing its naked skin.



A nice pair and a solitaire male, stole the show...

25. **Sharp-tailed Grouse – Tympanuchus phasianellus**

17-04

9 ex. seen well on a lek where the birds were quite

spread out. Great scope views of displaying males in there typical “toybird like” way.



Not a lifer but never seen in display.

26. **Greater Prairie-Chicken – Tympanuchus cupido**

11+12-04

24 ex, all males except one seen at very close range

at the Bledsoe Cattle ranch near Wray. Amazing views and also heard well. The “witch laugh” is one I will always remember.

27. **Lesser Prairie-Chicken – Tympanuchus pallidicinctus**

11-04

5 ex. seen well but from a distance, at the Buckner

Creek lek near Dodge City. Great to see them again (after 1993). Sad to hear it is in deep trouble. See also:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kUHfYtuYnE>



Both no lifers but good to see again, Greater left, Lesser right.

- 28. **Wild Turkey – *Meleagris gallopavo***
 10-04 7 ex. in a flock along the way.
 11-04 5 ex. in a family flock along the way.
- 29. **Pied-billed Grebe – *Podilymbus podiceps***
 10-04 10-04 1 ex. on a pond passing along the way.
- 30. **Horned Grebe – *Podiceps auritus***
 10-04 10 ex in summer plumage on Lake Meredith,
 unexpected.
- 31. **Eared Grebe – *Podiceps nigricollis***
 10-04 7 ex. in pairs at Lake Cheraw.
- 32. **Western Grebe – *Aechmophorus occidentalis***
 10-04 Common on Lake Henry
 17-04 1 ex. on one of the lakes passed along the way.
- 33. **Clark’s Grebe – *Aechmophorus clarkii***
 10-04 20 ex. nice to see in comparison with Westerns.
 Quite easy to do when you know the “drill”.
- 34. **Double-crested Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax auritus***
 Seen in low numbers on the prairie lakes.
- 35. **American White Pelican – *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos***
 A total of 126 ex. seen spread over the trips on the visited lakes, with one breeding colony at Walden Reservoir. Nice to see there “horn” on their bill.
- 36. **Great Blue Heron – *Ardea Herodias***
 A total of 8 seen spread over the trip.
- 37. **White-faced Ibis – *Plegadis chihi***
 15-04 2 ex. in flight along the way.
 18-04 2 ex. at Walden Reservoir.
- 38. **Turkey Vulture – *Cathartes aura***
 Common throughout the trip and seen every day.
- 39. **Osprey – *Pandion haliaetus***
 10-04 1 ex. flying over Lake Meredith.

40. **Golden Eagle – Aquila chrysaetos**

A total of 11 seen spread over the trip, giving great views.

41. **Northern Harrier – Circus cyaneus**

A total 18 seen spread over the trip, great to see some of these adult males with the latest knowledge.

42. **Sharp-shinned Hawk – Accipiter striatus**

14-04

2 ex. in flight, with one near Crested Butte with a Cooper's.

43. **Cooper's Hawk – Accipiter cooperii**

A total of 3 birds seen with one together with a Sharp-shinned at Crested Butte which gave a nice comparison.

44. **Bald Eagle – Haliaeetus leucocephalus**

A total of 4 seen, some near big nests.

45. **Swainson's Hawk – Buteo swainsoni**

A total of 32 seen, all incoming migrants.



Swainson's left and Ferruginous right, both great to see them after many years.

46. **Red-tailed Hawk – Buteo jamaicensis**

Common and seen every day.

47. **Rough-legged Hawk – Buteo lagopus**

A total of 5 seen spread over the trip, great to see these late wintering birds on the prairie.

48. **Ferruginous Hawk – Buteo regalis**

18-04

1 ex. seen well on a nest at the Pawnee Grasslands

also seen in flight.

49. **American Coot – Fulica americana**

Quite common on the visited lakes, the most on Lake Meredith.

50. **Sandhill Crane – Grus canadensis**

A total of 13 seen, of which a flock of 10 over the car on 07-04 and a pair in a field.

51. **Black-necked Stilt – Himantopus mexicanus**

10-04

2 ex. at Lake Cheraw.

52. **American Avocet – Recurvirostra americana**

09-04

1 ex. along Squirrel Creek Road.

10-04

2 ex. at Lake Cheraw.

53. **Snowy Plover – Charadrius nivosus**

10-04

1 ex. motionless on a dried out lake along the way.

54. **Killdeer – Charadrius vociferous**

Common and seen and heard, every day.

55. **Mountain Plover – Charadrius montanus**

18-04

4 ex. , two pairs seen well at the Pawnee Grasslands,

nice to see them in summer plumage with the black forehead band. The males appeared more rich brown colored on the mantle and fore neck.



Great to see them on the breeding grounds after winter birds in '93

56. **Greater Yellowlegs – Tringa melanoleuca**

10-04

1 ex. in the visited ponds along the way.

12-04

1 ex. Hopper Ponds.

57. **Lesser Yellowlegs – Tringa flavipes**

12-04

2 ex. at Hopper Ponds.

58. **Long-billed Curlew – Numenius americanus**

18-04

5 ex. near Walden on an unfreezed pond.



Long (not seen)-billed Curlew and Baird's Sandpiper where wader highlights on this trip.

59. **Marbled Godwit – Limosa fedoa**

17-04

2 ex. on Walden Reservoir, were early migrants.

60. **Baird's Sandpiper – Calidris bairdii**

11-04

1 ex. on almost complete winter plumage at a pond

in Kansas along the way.

61. **Wilson's Snipe – Gallinago delicata**

A total of 4 seen at visited ponds.

62. **Wilson's Phalarope – Phalaropus tricolor**

17-04

2 ex. on Walden Reservoir, a pair gave nice views.



Phonscoop.



Franklin's Gulls in full "dress".



California Gull collecting nesting material.

63. **Bonaparte's Gull – *Chroicocephalus philadelphia***

10-04

4 ex. at Lake Meredith.

16-04

2 ex. at a reservoir near Graig. Almost all immature birds.

64. **Franklin's Gull – *Leucophaeus pipixcan***

About 90 birds seen on three big water reservoirs. Great to see their pinkish bluish on their underparts.

65. **Ring-billed Gull – *Larus delawarensis***

10-04

25 seen in one flock at Lake Meredith.

66. **California Gull – *Larus californicus***

17+18-04

120 seen near a colony at Walden Reservoir.

67. **Eurasian Collared Dove – *Streptopelia decaocto***

(To) common throughout the trip. Seen every day.

68. **Mourning Dove – *Zenaida macroura***

Quite common and seen almost daily.

69. **White-winger Dove – *Zenaida asiatica***

10-04

1 ex. at a parking lot in Garden City, Kansas.

70. **Great-Horned Owl – *Bubo virginianus***

A total of 6 seen spread over the trip, just by coincident. This must be GHOWl's stronghold in de US.

71. **Northern Pygmy-owl – *Glaucidium gnoma* ssp: *pinicola***

16-04

1 was in view calling behind the visitor's centre of

Black Canyon of the Gunnison N.P. Not very different from the Arizona birds.



Small (Northern Pygmy) and Big (Great Horned) Owl.

72. **Burrowing Owl – *Athene cunicularia***

A total of 34 seen in several colonies.

73. **Long-eared (Wilson's) Owl – Asio otus ssp: tufsi**

18-04

1 ex. seen well near a nest (we think) near the

Pawnee National Grasslands. Great to see this taxon (again)



A great addition to the list, by Corey Greogory.

74. **White-throated Swift – Aeronautes saxatalis**

15+16-04

About 10 birds per day at the Colorado National

Monument.

75. **Black-chinned Hummingbird – Archilochus alexandri**

16-04

1 male in a bush at the Colorado National

Monument.

76. **Belted Kingfisher – Megaceryle alcyon**

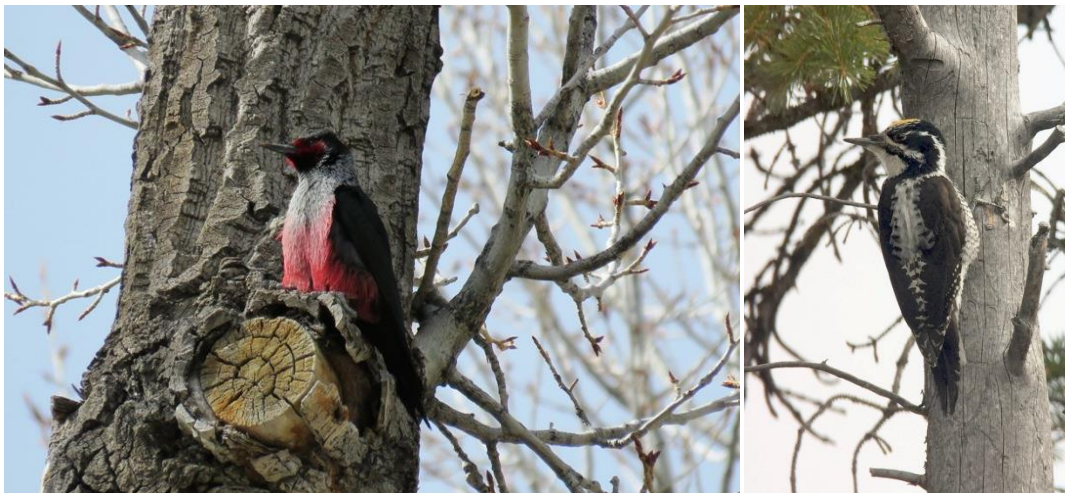
A total of 3 birds seen spread over the trip.

77. **Lewis's Woodpecker – Melanerpes lewis**

13-04

1 male seen very well in the little village of Buena

Vista. The bird behaved like a big bat, flicking its wings while calling in court play, very spectacular



A real Woodpecker trip, with Lewis's and Am. Three-toed.

78. ***WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER – Sphyrapicus thyroideus**

08+09+13-04

1 male, the same male at a nest entrance.

15-04

1 male found on call at Rabbit Ears Pass. Great views

of this most wanted and almost last Holarctic Woodpecker for me.

79. **Red-Naped Sapsucker – Sphyrapicus nuchalis**

15-04
Walden.

1 male giving super views at an aspen grove, near



Williamson's and Red-Naped Sapsuckers.

80. **Downy Woodpecker – Picoides pubescens ssp: *pubescens + leucurus***

11-04

1 ex. near Dodge City, ssp: *pubescens*

15-04

1 ex. seen along the way ssp: *leucurus*

81. **Hairy Woodpecker – Picoides villosus ssp: *villosus + monticola***

A total of 8 seen, one *villosus* (11-04 near Dodge city), the rest *monticola*, on the trip.

82. **American Three-toed Woodpecker – Picoides dorsalis**

13-04

2 e. a pair showed really well at Monarch Pass.

83. **Northern Flicker (Yellow and Red-shafted) - Colaptes auratus ssp: *auratus + cafer***

The subspecies *auratus* seen in Kansas (12-04 at least 1 ex.) and the subspecies *cafer* seen at the rest of the trip (12 ex.).

84. **American Kestrel – Falco sparverius**

Commonly seen on the trip, on every day.

85. **Peregrine – Falco peregrines**

16-04

2 ex at Colorado National Monument.

86. **Prairie Falcon – Falco mexicanus**

12-04

1 ex. at Arriba in flight.

17-04

1 ex. giving very nice overhead views at Coalmont.

87. ***GRAY FLYCATCHER – Empidonax wrightii**

16-04

1 ex., an unexpected lifer, at the Colorado National Monument. A grey Empi is the best description, solitaire high up in small conifers.



Grey....

88. **Eastern Phoebe – Sayornis phoebe**

11-04

1 ex. seen well at a stop near Dodge City.

89. **Say's Phoebe – Sayornis saya**

Common and seen on every day of the trip.

90. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – Tyrannus forficatus**

11-04

1 ex. was a surprise bird along the way in Kansas.



Rare so far north and quite early in the year.



Pinyon Jay not an easy species to photograph.

91. **Loggerhead Shrike – Lanius ludovicianus**

A total of 14 seen spread over the trip.

92. **Gray Jay – Perisoreus Canadensis ssp: capitalis**

15-04

1 male found on call at Rabbit Ears Pass giving great

views.



Always curious, Gray Jay

93. **Pinyon Jay – *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus***
 13-04 15 ex. in one flock along the way east of Gunnison.
 16-04 15 ex. near Colorado National Monument. Great
 views of these nomadic birds.
94. **Steller's Jay – *Cyanocitta stelleri* ssp: *macrolopha***
 Quite common in the Rockies parts of the trip. All birds had white lines above the lores.
95. **Blue Jay – *Cyanocitta cristata***
 11-04 1 ex. in flight a few times near Dodge City.
96. **Woodhouse's Scrub Jay – *Aphelocoma woodhouseii***
 A total of 8 birds seen in the Black Canyon and Colorado National Monument part of the trip.
97. **Black-billed Magpie – *Pica hudsonia***
 Common and seen almost daily.
98. **Clark's Nutcracker – *Nucifraga clumbiana***
 15-04 1 ex. in flight (but seen well) overhead at Black
 Canyon.
99. **American Crow – *Corvus brachyrhynchos***
 Common throughout the trip.
100. **Common Raven – *Corvus corax***
 Common throughout the trip. Most of them IDed as Common.
101. **Chihuahuan Raven – *Corvus cryptoleucus***
 10-04 2 ex. a pair, small and calling like Mallards, in flight
 along the way.
102. **Plumbeous Vireo – *Vireo plumbeus***
 16-04 1 ex. near Colorado National Monument, singing a
 first arrival of the spring.
103. **(American) Horned Lark – *Eremophila alpestris***
 One of the commonest birds encountered on the trip in the desert and plains.
104. **Tree Swallow – *Tachycineta thalassina***
 Quite common and seen on many trip days.
105. **Violet-Green Swallow – *Tachycineta thalassina***
 15+16-04 Common at Black Canyon and the National
 Monument.
106. **Bank Swallow – *Riparia riparia***
 09-04 2 ex. above Squirrel Creek Road.
107. **Barn Swallow - *Hirundo rustica***
 Quite common, arriving migrants and almost seen daily.
108. **Black-capped Chickadee – *Poecile atricapillus***
 A total of 13 seen spread over the trip in small groups.
109. **Mountain Chickadee – *Poecile gambeli***
 A total of 14 birds seen spread over several days in the Rocky forests.

110. **Juniper Titmouse – *Baeolophus ridgwayi***

1 ex.

16-04 1 ex. seen well along the road near the

Colorado National Monument.



Juniper Titmouse and "Slender-billed" or Interior White-breasted Nuthatch, both at the same site.

111. **Red-Breasted Nuthatch – *Sitta canadensis***

13-04

1 ex. at Genesee Park

17-04

1 ex. along the way.

112. **White-breasted Nuthatch – *Sitta carolinensis* ssp: *nelsoni***

13-04

1 ex. at Genesee N.P

16-04

1 ex. along the road near the Colorado National

Monument. Good to see this subspecies.

113. **Pygmy Nuthatch – *Sitta pygmaea***

A total of 16 seen spread over the trip, often in small flocks and at feeders.

114. **Rock Wren – *Salpinctes obsoletus***

16-04

3 ex. along the road near the Colorado National

Monument, seen well in song.

115. **Bewick's Wren – *Thryomanes bewickii* ssp: *eremophilus***

16-04

2 ex. along the road near the Colorado National

Monument, in the pinyon scrub.

116. **American Dipper – *Cinclus mexicanus***

14-04

2 ex. seen well at a stream near Crested Butte.

117. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet – *Regulus calendula***

07-04

2 ex at the Great Sand Dunes N.P

16-04

3 ex. along the road near the Colorado National

Monument,

118. **Golden-Crowned Kinglet – *Regulus satrapa***

15-04

3 ex found on call at Rabbit Ears Pass with the Gray

Jay, giving great views.

119. **Western Bluebird – *Sialia mexicana***

15-04

15-04 1 male seen along the road to Black Canyon.

120. **Mountain Bluebird – *Sialia currucoides***

Common , mostly in the western part of the trip.

121. ***TOWNSEND SOLITAIRE – Myadestes townsendi**

08-04 1 ex. in flight at Silverthorne,
09-04 2 ex. a very nice pair, sitting in the open on a branch
at Fillius Park <https://observation.org/waarneming/view/136535009> giving great views, with their grey
plumage, eyering, and orange wing line, also visible in flight, the only drawback was the camera in the
car....

122. **American Robin – Turdus migratorius**

Common throughout the trip

123. **Curve-billed Thrasher – Toxostoma curvirostre ssp: oberholseri**

09-04 1 ex. near the hotel.
10-04 5 ex., along the Squirrel Creek Road and near Pueblo.

124. **Brown Thrasher – Toxostoma rufum**

11-04 1 ex. at a stop for Harris’s Sparrows in Kansas.

125. ***SAGE THRASHER – Oreoscoptes montanus**

A total of 8 birds present in the visited sage habitat. Often in song, great to see this small thrasher singing
in top of the sage.



Sage Thrasher at the Great Sand Dunes was less exciting as a male McCown’s Longspur at the Pawnee Grasslands

126. **European Starling - Sturnus vulgaris**

Common throughout the trip, an introduced species.

127. **Chestnut-collared Longspur – Calcarius ornatus**

12-04 2 males in summer plumage, seen quite well in the
fields at Arriba

128. ***MCCOWN’S LONGSPUR - Rhynchophanes mccownii**

12-04 3 birds (a male and female in summer plumage and
an immature male at Arriba.

18-04 15+ seen in flight (with the white obvious outer parts
of the tail), and one male seen very well on a fence at the Pawnee Grasslands.

129. **(Audubon’s) Yellow-Rumped Warbler – Setophaga coronata ssp: auduboni**

10-04 1 ex. (or an intergrade?) at the Holbrook Reservoir.
15-04 10 ex., migrants at a Montrose lunch stop.

130. **Grasshopper Sparrow – Ammodramus savannarum**

11-04 1 ex. seen well in the scope, at the Buckner Creek lek
near Dodge City.

131. **Chipping Sparrow – *Spizella passerina***

18-04

2 ex. seen along the way.

132. **Brewer's sparrow – *Spizella breweri***

15-04

4 ex. seen very well in song and perched along the

border with Utah.



Nice migrating Audubon's Warblers and singing Brewer's Sparrow.

133. **Black-Throated Sparrow – *Amphispiza bilineata***

16-04

7 ex. at the Colorado National Monument

134. **Lark Sparrow – *Chondestes grammacus***

11-04

4 ex. at the Buckner Creek lek.

135. **(Slate-colored) Fox Sparrow - *Passerella iliaca* ssp: *schistacea***

15-04

2 ex. seen well along a stream near Gunnison.



Slate-colored Fox Sparrow and Sagebrush Sparrow both much wanted on this trip.

136. **Dark-eyed Junco – *Junco hyemalis* ssp: *mearnsi* + *caniceps***

07-04

2 ex. of the subspecies *mearnsi* between the

caniceps birds at Great Sand Dunes N.P.

Subspecies *caniceps* was a common bird during the Rockie habitat visits, and also in migrating flocks in the Great Sand Dunes N.P.

137. **(Gambel's) White-crowned Sparrow – *Zonotrichia leucophrys* ssp: *gambelii***

Quite common during the trip in small flocks, mainly in the lowlands.

138. **Harris's Sparrow - Zonotrichia querula**

11-04 3 ex in breeding plumage. in a woodlot, north-west of Dodge City. Nice big sparrow with a prominent black face and throat, white belly and obvious pink bill. Head grey and upperparts nice brown with a streaked mantle. It has been many years (1996) since I saw this species.

139. ***SAGEBRUSH SPARROW – Artemisiospiza nevadensis**

07-04 1 ex. seen well coming into the tape, and probably just arrived from their wintering place.

15-04 5 ex. seen very well in song and perched along the border with Utah. After Bell's in the '98 a very welcome lifer.

140. **Vesper Sparrow – Pooecetes gramineus**

Seen on four days during the trip, with the most on 12-04, when it was quite common in flocks in the visited area's

141. **Song Sparrow – Melospiza melodia**

14-04 1 ex. singing near a stream at Gunnison.

16-04 1 ex. near the Colorado National Monument.

142. **Canyon Towhee – Melospiza fusca**

10-04 2 ex. along the Y.L road.

143. **Green-tailed Towhee – Pipilo chlorurus**

16-04 1 singing male at Black Canyon, seen well.



The only we saw, by Cory Gregory

144. **Spotted Towhee – Pipilo maculatus**

16-04 5 singing males at Black Canyon, seen well.

145. **Northern Cardinal – Cardinalis cardinalis**

11-04 1 female at the Harris Sparrow stop near Dodge City.

146. **Red-winged Blackbird – Agelaius phoeniceus**

Common throughout the trip, also in big migrating flocks.

147. **Western Meadowlark – Strunella neglecta**

Common on the plains, one of the sounds of the prairie.

148. **Yellow-headed Blackbird – *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus***

Hundreds seen on five days of the trip often in (mixed with Red-winged) migrating flocks.



149. **Brewer's Blackbird - *Euphagus cyanocephalus***

11-04

10 ex. along the way in one flock.

150. **Common Grackle – *Quiscalus quiscula* ssp: *versicolor***

Common throughout the trip, mainly on the eastern loop.

151. **Great-tailed Grackle – *Quiscalus mexicanus***

Quite common throughout the trip, mainly on the eastern loop, often near villages and farms.

152. **Brown-headed Cowbird – *Molothrus ater***

Quite common throughout the trip, mainly on the eastern loop and mixed in with other blackbirds.

153. **Hepburn's Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch – *Leucosticte tephrocotis* ssp: *littoralis***

09-04

1 ex. seen very well in a flock of other Rosy-finches, at a feeder in Silverthorne. A very big Rosy-finch (looked bigger than the rest) with all grey sides of the head (and a small black crown) and a (therefore) obvious yellow bill.

154. **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch – *Leucosticte tephrocotis* ssp: *tephrocotis***

08-04

2 ex. seen well at the feeders in Silverthorne.

09-04

15 ex. seen well at the feeders with their nice grey ear flash.

155. ***BLACK ROSY-FINCH – *Leucosticte atrata***

08-04

1 female at a feeder at Silverthorne.

09-04

1 male at a feeder at Silverthorne.

14-04

2 males at a different feeder at Silverthorne. The males where "cracking" birds with nice pink underbellies and undertailcoverts.



The second male, with nice brown-capped.

156. ***BROWN-CAPPED ROSY-FINCH – *Leucosticte australis***

08-04 80 ex. at a feeder at Silverthorne.
09-04 200 ex. at a feeder at Silverthorne.
13-04 Quite common at Loveland Pass.
14-04 Many at a different feeder at Silverthorne. The
commonest Rosy-finch taxon but a lifer.

157. **Pine Grosbeak – *Pinicola enucleator* ssp: *montana***

09-04 2 ex. a male and female on the feeders at
Silverthorne, giving great views feeding. The male was also calling.

158. **House Finch – *Haemorhous mexicanus***

Quite common during the trip.

159. **Cassin's Finch – *Haemorhous cassinii***

14-04 6 ex., males and females at the feeders near
Silverthorne.
17-04 2 ex. at the Moose Visitor's Center.



Nice Cassin's Finches and Evening Grosbeaks were encountered

160. **Red Crossbill – *Loxia curvirostra* ssp: *benti***

A total of 16 seen during the trip, giving nice views on many encounters.

161. **Pine Siskin – *Spinus pinus***

Seen on three days, and quite common on those days, in the Rockies'

162. **Lesser Goldfinch – *Spinus psaltria***

15-04 7 ex. in the village of Montrose.

163. **American Goldfinch – *Spinus tristis***

10-04 4 ex. at Holbrook Reservoir.
14-04 10 ex. in a flock along the way.

164. **Evening Grosbeak – *Coccothraustes vespertinus* ssp: *brooksi***

08+14-04 20+ in total in Silverthorne and near the feeders at
Crested Butte.
17-04 1 ex. at Steamboat Springs.

165. **House Sparrow – *Passer domesticus***

Common throughout the trip. An introduced species.

MAMMALS

DESERT COTTONTAIL (*Sylvilagus audubonii*) – These were the common bunnies on the eastern plains (including Denver).

BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBIT (*Lepus californicus*) – This was the big jackrabbit that we saw all over eastern Colorado and Kansas.

LEAST CHIPMUNK (*Tamias minimus*) – Fairly common in western Colorado.

HOPI CHIPMUNK (*Tamias rufus*) – At least a couple were near the visitor center at Colorado National Monument.

WYOMING GROUND SQUIRREL (*Spermophilus elegans*) – Fairly common in the western half of the state.

THIRTEEN-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL (*Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*) – One showed off at the edge of a farm road in Arriba, CO.

SPOTTED GROUND SQUIRREL (*Spermophilus spilosoma*) – Good views near Holbrook Reservoir on the plains.

ROCK SQUIRREL (*Spermophilus variegatus*) – Seen several times, but the best views were along the rocky shoreline of Holbrook Reservoir.

GOLDEN-MANTLED GROUND SQUIRREL (*Spermophilus lateralis*) – A quick view of one at Black Canyon.

BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) – Abundant in the eastern plains.

WHITE-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG (*Cynomys leucurus*) – Fairly common around North Park/ Walden.

GUNNISON PRAIRIE DOG (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) – We saw these range-restricted prairie-dogs on several occasions around Gunnison.

FOX SQUIRREL (*Sciurus niger*) – A few were in towns on the eastern plains during our drive toward the mountains.

RED SQUIRREL (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) – We heard the scolding of this conifer-loving squirrel in Wildernest.

ORD'S KANGAROO RAT (*Dipodomys ordii*) – One was hopping along a sand road at Bledsoe Cattle Company.

BEAVER (*Castor canadensis*) – One swam across a pond in Meeker, CO.

RED FOX (*Vulpes vulpes*) – One past us in Gunnison.

COYOTE (*Canis latrans*) – These big handsome canids posed on several occasions. Those in Cory's van even got to see one do an exaggerated plunge dive for a rodent in Crested Butte.

ELK (*Cervus canadensis*) – Common in the western part of CO.

MULE DEER (*Odocoileus hemionus*) – Common, especially near Gunnison.

MOOSE (*Alces alces*) – One was at the side of the highway in Wyoming (just north of the Colorado border).

PRONGHORN (*Antilocapra americana*) – Common in open grasslands.

BIGHORN SHEEP (*Ovis canadensis*) – Excellent views in the mountains, with some animals actually walking across the road in front of us between Silverthorne and Buena Vista.



Ending the trip at Pawnee Grasslands was a good choice
