Sparrows to Redpolls

Single Am. Tree Sparrows were seen by Whitebird, ID Dec. 31 (DNS, IS), and in Grangeville, ID Jan. 31 (DNS, IS). Idaho's 11th Swamp Sparrow was at the Ted Trueblood W.M.A., *Elmore*, ID Dec. 28 (DT). Several of Idaho's records have come from there. Another Swamp Sparrow was at the Hagerman W.M.A., *Gooding*, ID Feb. 10 (LB), where a bird was also seen last winter (LB). A single White-throated Sparrow was in Garden Valley, ID during February (R&SF). Snow Buntings were more common than usual along w. Montana highways (PW), except in the Bozeman area (EL).

One-two female Great-tailed Grackles were at Marsing, ID from Dec. 23-Feb. 28 (JG, DL). Eight Great-taileds were near Pocatello Dec. 18-mid-January (CT). The Burley, ID birds were not seen after early December (fide CT).

As first noted in last season's report, White-winged Crossbills were abundant through the fall and winter in the Region's northern-most areas. Small flocks were also noted by Dixie, ID Dec. 24 (DNS, IS) and Grangeville Dec. 27 and Feb. 11 (DNS, IS).

The status of Black Rosy-Finch in Idaho is unclear. The species again wintered in Ketchum, where ≤20% of the 200 rosy-finches were Blacks. A lone Lapland Longspur was near Gannet, ID Feb. 2–5 (LB)., filling one of the "holes" in the species Idaho range.

Although regular in Montana, Com. Redpoll are irregular in Idaho. The species made a typical showing in w. Montana this winter, but was more widespread than usual in Idaho, including a single in Lewiston Dec. 9 (C.B.), 16 in Moscow Dec. 12–Jan 4 (KD, m.ob.), 20 near Challis Feb. 4 (AD), and 60 in Deary Feb. 22 (CV). At least one Hoary Redpoll associated with the Moscow redpoll flock Dec. 15–Jan. 1 (†KD, ph. †MD, †DNS, m. ob.), for Idaho's 4th documented sighting.



Great-tailed Grackle is continuing to expand its small foothold in the interior of the Northwest. This female was at Marsing, Idaho, through February 1996. Photograph/John Gatchet.

With greater coverage and more regular reporting, Hoary's will likely turn out to be much more regular in northern-most Idaho than is generally accepted.

Addendum

The newly established fall hawk watch on Boise's Lucky Peak continues to produce Broad-winged Hawks. Nine birds were seen there this fall, mostly in the last 2 weeks of September (GK). One Broadwinged was banded.

Observers cites (subregional editors in boldface): IDAHO: Vern Anderson, Larry Barnes, Joan Bergstrom, Caynon Birders (C.B.), Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society (C.A.S.), Rich Del Carlo (RDC), Pat Cole, Mark Collie, Gordon and Pam Comrie (G&RC), Ross Dake, Art Dahl, Mike Denny, Kas Dumroese, Ralph & Sherry Foote (R&SF), John Gatchet (JG), Bill Gundlach, Winnie Hepburn, Greg Hirth, John Hirth (JH), Marty Hirth, Dave Hollick (DHkk), Greg Kaltenecker, Merlene Koliner, Florence Knoell, Al Larson, Hilda Larson, Tony Latham, George and Louise La Voie (G&LL), Dave Lawrence (DL), John Montgomery, John Nigh (JWN), Chris O'Brien, Jim Paruk (JPr), Susan Patla, Hadley Roberts, Ken Salzman, John Shipley, Marie Smith, Shirley Sturts (SHS), Dan Svingen (DNS), Ila Svingern, Dave Trochlell, Charles Trost, Carol Vande Voorde. MONTANA: Sharon Browder, Dan Casey, Stacey Drasen, Erick Greene, Joan Hardie (JHa), Denver Holt (DH), Eric Lichtwardt, David Lockman (DLo), Mike Myers, John Ormiston, John Parker (JP), Jean Robocker (JRb), Philip Wright.

—Dan Svingen, P.O. Box 132, Grangeville, ID 83530.

Mountain West Region

VAN A.TRUAN AND BRANDON K. PERCIVAL

As a whole, this winter seemed mild throughout the Region into January. In mid-January and February, several "Arctic Blasts" returned winter to the eastern portions of the region. It was 78° F. in Pueblo, Colorado, February 2; the next day it plummeted to a record-low -26° F. These extreme temperature changes have to affect birds. Southern areas of the Region were extremely dry, such as the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Colorado, and northern areas seemed normal or above-average in precipitation. Many lakes in northern areas remained open into mid-December or later, which aided in increased reports of waterbirds, but kept Bald Eagles north.

There were some exceptional birds recorded this season, including four Black Scoters, three Gyrfalcons, an Ancient Murrelet, a Black Phoebe, one each of Yellow, Prairie and MacGillivray's warblers, and a LeConte's Sparrow in Colorado. In Nevada, there were two Mountain Plovers and an American Redstart; in Utah, a Yellow-billed Loon, a Black Scoter, and a Savannah Sparrow; and in Wyoming, a Greater Yellowlegs.

Abbreviations: State Wildlife Area (S.W.A.) † (written description on file with R.E.), and * (speciman submitted to Denver Musuem of Natural History).

Loons to Herons

With the mild weather reservoirs and lakes remained open into mid-December, thus reports of loons, grebes, Am. White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, and herons were much higher than usual. There were two Red-throated Loons at Chatfield Res., Dec. 1 (†BKP, DSm, GC) and one at Union Res., Dec. 8-12 (DAL). Up to nine Pacific Loons were observed at 5 e. Colorado reservoirs in December, one at L. Powell, UT Jan. 19 (JS, CP), one at Pyramid L., NV Jan. 17 (DT), and one at L. Mead, UT Feb. 10 (J&MC). The only Yellow-billed Loon recorded was in Utah at L. Powell Feb. 16 (CP), providing Utah's 3rd state record. Reports of Com. Loon were above-average. A Pied-billed

Grebe was observed at Burchfield S.W.A., Baca, CO Dec. 1, providing the first winter record in this area. Three Red-necked Grebes were reported this winter. One at Chatfield Res., Dec. 6-20 (m.ob.) and one at McLellan Res. (both in Denver), and one at L. Powell, UT Jan. 20 (JS, CP). The only Eared Grebes reported were two at Pueblo Res., Jan. 27, possibly early migrants. Both Western and Clark's grebes wintered in e. Colorado, with high counts of eight Westerns at Pueblo Res., Jan.1-27 (BKP), five all season at Hamilton Res., Weld, CO (RAR), and single Clark's at four reservoirs in December. American White Pelicans lingered into mid-December in e. Colorado, and there were three at Dave Johnson Power Plant, Converse, WY Dec. 20 (RCR, DR), one at Pacific Power Plant, WY Jan. 14 (W&AH), and one at Carson L., NV Dec. 20-23 (LN). Double-crested Cormorants wintered in record numbers in e. Colorado. There were high counts of 63 at Horse Creek Res., Otero, Dec. 3 (BKP, MJ), ≤12 wintered at Pueblo Res., and seven seen at Walter Walker S.W.A., Mesa, in December, Also, two visited Provo, UT Feb. 24 (SS, PS, M&PD). Great Egrets were n. of usual wintering areas, with three at Fish Springs, UT (becoming regular) Dec. 12 and Jan. 9, four at Carson L., NV Jan 3 (DT), and ≤50 at Fallon, NV all winter. One was in Greeley, Weld, from Dec. 22-30 (IH), very rare in winter in Colorado. Nevada had 3 reports of Snowy Egrets, one at Carson L., Jan. 3 (DT) and two at Fallon Jan. 18 (LN). In Nevada, ≤six Cattle Egrets were observed at Carson L., Dec. 14-Jan. 8 (LN, m.ob.) and another one was at Fal-

lon Dec. 23 (LN). Black-crowned Night-Herons also stayed later than usual in Colorado, with sfive in the Denver area all winter (D.F.O.) and ≤three in Grand Junction, Mesa (PA, CD). Ten Whitefaced Ibises were observed Dec 5 and five Dec. 14 at Monte Vista N.W.R. (RG). This species is very rare in Colorado in winter and in the San Luis Valley (>7,500 ft above sea level), where these birds were found. In December the ground and water is usually solidly frozen, and even Killdeer are hard to find, but with a mild fall and early winter, the ground remained pliable.

Waterfowl

In Colorado, it appears that Trumpeter Swan are being seen more annually often than Tundra Swans. Colorado had only 2 reports of Tundra Swans, two at Pueblo Res., Dec. 5 (BKP) and four near Center, Saguache, Dec. 12. There were two ad. Trumpeter Swans at Huerfano Res., Pueblo, Dec. 2 and three adults there Dec. 24 (†MJ, DJ); eight at Platte Canyon Res., Dec. 16 (†HEK, m.ob.), one adult at L. Cheraw, Otero, Dec. 12-Jan 14 (JK, CW, †MJ et al.), and three adults at De Beque, Mesa, Jan. 30-Feb. 5 (†KP, RL, CD). Snow Geese wintering in s.e. Colorado (Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, and Otero) appear to be increasing from hundreds in the 1970s to around 20,000 the last few years. Local observers believe this is due to increased winter irrigation water storage in the Arkansas Valley. A "western race" Brant appeared for the 2nd consecutive year in Weld, CO Feb. 29 (JH).

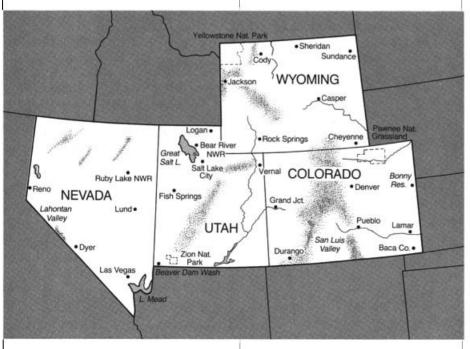
Six Cinnamon Teal were at Carson L., NV Dec. 23-Jan. 20 (LN). Eurasian Wigeon included one at Carson City, NV Jan. 22 (DT), one at Truckee, NV Dec. 6-16 (MM, KG), two at Ft. Collins Dec. 15-Feb 29 (m.ob.), and Lower Latham Res., Feb. 15 (JH). Up to 12 Oldsquaw were in e. Colorado this winter, and possibly two at L. Powell, one Jan. 20 and one Feb. 15 (JS, CP). An amazing four Black Scoters were recorded in e Colorado. One at McLellan Res., Dec. 1-Jan 20 (BKP, DSm, GC et al.) was found in November; other sightings included a at L. Meredith, Crowley, Dec.3 (†MJ, BKP), an imm. at Pueblo Dec. 10-19 (BD, DJ, †MJ et al.), and a second bird joined the one at McLellan Res., Jan 10 (BS, WF). Utah had a at Great Salt L., Jan. 15 (VAS). Single White-winged Scoters were found in Colorado at McLellan Res., Dec. 1 (BKP, DSm, GC), Greeley Dec. 1-17, L. Meredith Dec. 3. (BKP, MJ), and Pueblo Dec. 16-22 (DP et al.). Two Barrow's Goldeneye were at L. Powell Dec. 6, one at Bicknell Bottoms, UT Feb. 28, a remarkable >180 in Eagle and Mesa, CO Dec 4-Feb.3 (KP, RL), and 13 others in e. Colorado.

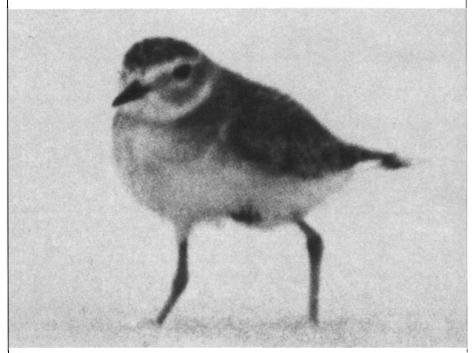
Raptors

An Osprey was at La Salle, Weld, Dec. 25 (KS); this is among the few winter records for Colorado. Northern Goshawk appeared to have invaded the e. plains and lower elevations of w. Colorado this year. Reports of single birds from La Junta Jan. 7 (VAT), Rocky Ford S.W.A., Otero, Jan 14 (VAT, BD, LL et al.), Baca Jan. 26 (DB), near Tamarack Ranch, Logan, Feb. 18-19 (KS), Fruita throughout the period (RL, CD), and Eagle Jan 8 (JM). Others reports were of one at Torrey, UT Dec. 3 (AS) and seven in the foothills of Colorado. Peregrine Falcons reports were higher than usual: one at Ayre's Natural Bridge, WY Feb. 26 (W&AH); in Utah, one each at Bucknell Bottoms Dec. 6 (AS) and Lower Calf Cr., Feb. 26 (AS); in Colorado, single birds were in the Grand Valley, Cañon City, Denver, Pueblo, Ft. Collins, and two in Boulder. Colorado had 3 Gyrfalcon reports, an imm. "brown morph" at Lower Latham Res., Dec. 8 (WPL, JH), an imm. "gray morph" at L. Meredith Dec. 12 (MJ), and a "gray morph" at Grover Jan. 23 (JH).

Rails to Shorebirds

A Sora was at Clifton, CO Jan.4 (CD, RL), one was heard at Colorado City, Pueblo, Jan. 9 and Feb. 17 (DS), and one was reported at Fallon, NV Dec. 21-26 (DT, LN, GC). Two Com. Moorhen were at Orem, UT Feb. 24 (SS, PS, M&PD). In Yellowstone N.P., WY, a single Sandhill Crane was recorded Dec. 20 (TR), and in





Unexpected was this Mountain Plover [one of two present] near Carson City, Nevada, January 27, 1996. Photograph/Jane Thompson.

Colorado, there were 53 Sandhill Cranes at Horse Creek Res., Otero, and two at L. Cheraw Dec. 3 (MJ, BKP), Two Mt. Plover were at Carson City Jan. 25-31 (†JE, m.ob.) Single Greater Yellowlegs were reported near Torrington, WY Jan. 21 (JD, RD), Monte Vista N.W.R., Dec. 17 (†RG), near Loveland, CO Jan 14-16 (CH), and two-three on the Colorado R., CO all winter (CD). A Sanderling was observed at Pyramid L., NV Jan. 1 (LN). A Spotted Sandpiper visited Grafton Sewage Ponds, UT Jan 20 (JAG, RoW, SF). Dunlin reports included one in Denver Jan. 13-17 (L&BB) and two at Quichapa L., UT Dec.18 (SS, PS ,SSt). A very late Wilson's Phalarope was e. of Glenrock, WY Dec. 20 (RCR, DR), and an early migrant visited Fallon Feb. 26 (GC, LN).

Gulls to Owls

The mild weather resulted in >75 Bonaparte's Gulls into December in s.e. Colorado (BKP, MJ). Single Mew Gulls showed up in Jefferson, CO Dec. 19-24 (TJ), Runyon L., Pueblo, Jan. 23 (DJ), and Reno, NV Feb. 22 (JE, MM). A single Glaucous-winged Gull at Sutcliffe, NV Jan .7 (DT, JT, E&CM). Two Glaucous Gull were reported in Nevada: Pyramid L., Jan. 4 and Reno Jan. 17 (GC, DH). Colorado reported three Glaucous Gulls at Weld Dec. 12-18 (JMa, WPL, JFB), Jefferson Dec. 20 (TL), and Crowley Feb. 18-19 (MJ). Birders at Pueblo Res. observed an ad. Great Black-backed Gull Dec. 1-Feb. 23; it is believed that this bird arrived in

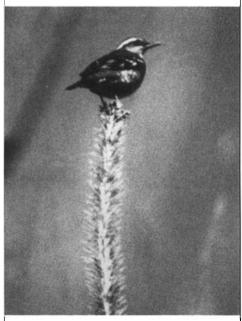
first-winter plumage in March 1993, and has returned each year since. Another adult was observed at Cherry Creek Res., Feb. 25 (TL, JBr); the dates hint that this may be the same individual recorded at Pueblo Res. An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake graced Union Res., Weld, CO Dec. 10–12 (JP). A single Ancient Murrelet, Colorado's 6th record, was at Chatfield Res., Jefferson, CO Dec. 5 (JK, m.ob.). On Dec. 16, a small flock of "alcids" was reported flying at Wellington, Larimer, CO (S&KM); the birds were presumed to be Ancient Murrelets. If true, this would be amazing.

Five species of owls were recorded in Yellowstone N.P. this winter: a N. Pygmy-Owl Jan. 22 (DTh), Great Gray Jan. 6–24 (m.ob.), a road-kill Short-eared Feb. 4 (NV), Boreal Feb. 3 (AK), and N. Saw-whet Jan. 18. A N. Pygmy Owl at Springdale, UT Jan 22–24 (JAG). The e. plains of Colorado had three N. Saw-whet Owls, two n. of Briggsdale Jan. 15–21 (KS, D&DM) and a roadkill near Ordway, Crowley, Feb. 11 (MJ, BKP, * to DMNH).

Woodpeckers to Waxwings

Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were recorded at Loveland, Ft. Collins, Denver, and Boulder, and four in Pueblo, suggesting that they are a regular wintering species w. into the Colorado foothills. A Red-naped Sapsucker remained through the winter at Collbran, *Mesa*, CO (CD, RW, KP). An ad. Red-headed Woodpecker provided Wyoming's first winter record

at Devil's Tower Dec. 1-Feb. 29 (†G&MS). Colorado's first wintering Black Phoebe was at Cañon City Dec. 17-Feb. 3 (†BKP et al.); this bird was first seen in October 1995. An Eastern Phoebe on the Rawhide CBC Dec. 31 (BDi) represented the 2nd winter record for Colorado. Two Empidonax flycatchers (one possibly a "Western type") were observed at Lower Calf Cr., Garfield, UT Dec. 23. The "Western" bird was observed for 2 hours in bright light: It had a bright olive to olive-gray back, the head was slightly crested, tail was medium length, breast and belly were yellowish-white, gray wings with white wingbars, and an eye-ring which was tear-drop shaped. Other details were included in the report (†AS). These may provide the first wintering records for Utah of this genus. Three Scrub Jay and Mountain Chickadee each were reported from Walsh, Baca, CO; both are very rare that close to the Kansas line (JT, PB, SM). The Carolina Wren wintered again in Beulah, CO, for the 5th year (PF et al.), and another visited Denver Jan. 18 (†RGa). A House Wren was at Springdale, UT Jan 24 (JAG). Hermit Thrushes were seen at Provo Feb. 25 and Muir Springs, CO Ian 20-21 for the only reports this winter. As many as three Varied Thrushes appeared in Colorado, at Ft. Collins Dec. 16-Feb. 29 (DAL, DCE), Evergreen Jan. 3-Feb. 29 (M&LS), and Greeley Jan. 22-24 (JH). A rare winter Gray Cathird was recorded on the Denver CBC Dec. 16 (MC). Bohemian Waxwing invaded Wyoming: Sheridan had the highest report of just over 2000.



Female Varied Thrush at Fort Collins, Colorado, in February 1996. Photograph/Dave Leatherman.



American Redstart (female or Immature) at Reпо, Nevada, December 19, 1995. Photograph/Doug Booth.

Warblers to Goldfinches

This was the winter of the warbler, especially in the Pueblo area. In a riparian area along the Arkansas R. between Pueblo and Pueblo Res., ≤36 Yellow-rumped Warblers(both varieties) were observed Dec. 14-Jan. 27 (m.ob.), an imm. Cape May Dec 12-28 (†BKP, †MJ et al.), an incredible imm. Prairie Dec.14-16 (BD, †MJ, †BKP et al.), providing Colorado first winter record, and an imm. or female MacGillivray's Warbler Dec. 12 & 27 (†BKP), representing Colorado's 2nd winter record. In Cañon City, an imm. Com. Yellowthroat dropped in Dec. 18 (TL). In Clifton, a Yellow Warbler was found dead Dec. 4 (CD, RL), providing the first winter record for Colorado. In Utah, a Orange-crowned was reported at Washington City Jan. 13, and in Nevada, a surprising imm. or female American Redstart was observed at Reno Dec. 19-20 (DBo, †DM et al.). A Dickcissel visitied a feeder at Ft. Collins Jan. 1-5 for Colorado's first winter record. (BDi). Three Green- tailed Towhees were observed in e. Colorado: Muir Springs Dec. 1-Jan. 21, Florence, Fremont, Dec. 17, and Ft. Morgan Dec. 23. A late Savannah Sparrow was at Cheraw, CO Dec. 3 (MJ, BKP) and there was an early report of the species from Morgan, UT Feb. 24-29 (VAS). A LeConte's Sparrow at L. Meredith, CO Dec. 30-Jan. 16 provided the first Pueblo area record and Colorado's 7th (†MJ, DJ, BD, m.ob.). Golden-crowned Sparrows returned to Red Rocks Park, and one resided in Colorado Springs during the period. Eight Chestnut-collared Longspurs at Genoa, NV Jan 20 (JW, GC) were unusual for Carson Valley. They wintered n. of their usual area in Colorado: one at L. Henry, Crowley, Dec. 17 (MJ) and five in Las Animas Jan. 28 (MJ, BKP). Six Snow

Buntings were seen in n. Colorado, and one in Utah at Morgan Feb. 24 (VAS). Increasing reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds wintering in Colorado are possibly due to the expanding cattle feedlot industry. Six Purple Finch were observed in Cody, WY Dec. 1-Jan . 14 (†CWr, WM) and an ad. at Loveland, CO Jan. 21-22 (CH), all at feeders. Common Redpolls invaded the mountains, foothills, and plains of n. Colorado, with reports totaling >500 individuals at 13 locations. Lesser Goldfinches were reported n. of usual wintering grounds. In Utah, there were two s. of Kanarraville Jan. 20 (SS), four at Springdale Jan. 6-8 (JAG), and eight in Ogden Jan. 21-24 (AB, VAS). In Colorado, 10-12 brightened Grand Junction all winter (CD, RW), and three were at Barr L., Adams,, Dec. 5 (m.ob.).

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) Susan Roney Drennan, Editor