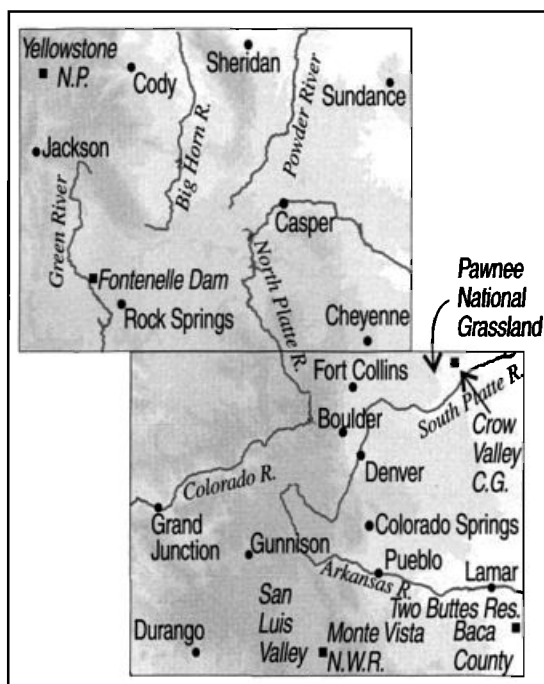


Mountain West



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This was the fall to see mountain species on the plains of e. Colorado. Sightings included Red-naped and Williamson's Sapsuckers; Steller's, Western Scrub-, and Pinyon Jays; Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak. Additionally, larger than normal numbers of western migrants such as Townsend's Warblers and Cassin's Vireos were noted in e. Colorado. One theory for this influx is that extremely dry conditions in the western sections of the region and large areas of forest fires may have moved birds east of normal.

Loons Through Waterfowl

A **Red-throated Loon** at L. Desmet, *Johnson*, 29 Oct (BSo) represented one of few records for Wyoming. One to 2 Red-throateds stayed at Pueblo Res., CO, 3 Nov+ (BKP, m.ob.) and another was at Boyd L., *Larimer*, CO, 5 Nov (NK). A Pacific Loon appeared at Healy Res., *Johnson*, WY, 18 Oct (CEM, BSo). Single Red-necked Grebes were at Pueblo Res., CO, 5 Oct–23 Nov (BKP, m.ob.), Cherry Creek Res., CO, 5 Oct (BB), and Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*, CO, 14 Oct–11 Nov (DE, JLD, MAP, m.ob.). *Pueblo's* first Neotropic Cormorant was an ad. at Pueblo Res., CO, 6–7 Aug (VAT, JT, BKP); an imm. was at Nee So Pah Res., *Kiowa*, CO, 6 Aug (MJ, BKP). A late Great Egret was at Healy Res., WY, 24–29 Oct (CEM, BSo, et al.). Colorado's 5th **Reddish Egret** was at L. Cheraw, *Otero*, 3–17 Sep (MJ, m.ob.). Two Trumpeter Swans were at L. Maria, *Huerfano*, CO, 28 Nov+ (VAT). Probably due to the lack of weather fronts this fall, scoters were reported in fewer numbers in Colorado this year; reports included 4 Surf Scoters and 2 White-winged Scoters, an imm. Black Scoter in

Larimer, 3 Nov (SJD), and an ad. male Black at Pueblo Res. 4–6 Nov (BKP, MJ, m.ob.).

Shorebirds Through Hummingbirds

Two American Golden-Plovers were at Soda L. in Casper, WY, 30 Oct (CEM, et al.). Single Ruddy Turnstones were at Barr L., *Adams*, CO, 1 Sep (TL), at Standley L., *Jefferson*, CO, 20 Sep (LS), at Chatfield Res., CO, 21 Oct (AS), and at Rocky Ford, *Otero*, CO 24 Oct (SO). Colorado Red Knots included one at Adobe Creek Res., *Bent/Kiowa*, 15 Aug (SO, DN), 2 at Rocky Ford, 3–12 Sep (MJ, m.ob.), one at John Martin Res., *Bent*, 4–11 Sep (MJ, VJ, m.ob.), and 2 at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, 8–9 Sep (JK, DSC, m.ob.) and one there 20–23 Sep (JV, BR, TL, DF). A bright juv. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, Colorado's 2nd, was at John Martin Res. 3–7 Oct (VAT, m.ob.). Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports included one at Soda L. in Casper, WY, 30–31 Aug (CEM, m.ob.), 2 at Jackson Res., CO, 12–17 Sep (DF, m.ob.), 3 in *Kiowa*, CO, 14–15 Sep (DN), and 2 near Hasty, *Bent*, CO, 17 Sep (MJ et al.). Short-billed Dowitcher reports included 1–4 at L. Henry, *Crowley*, CO 11–23 Sep (BKP, MJ), and 1–4 at Jackson Res., CO, 1–12 Oct (TL, LS, JV, DF, m.ob.). Colorado's 6th **American Woodcock** was at Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, CO, 15–16 Sep (VZ, SS). Single Red Phalaropes were at Baseline Res., *Boulder*, CO, 24 Sep (BK) and at Jackson Res. CO 3–4 Oct (DF, LS).

In e. Colorado, 6 Pomarine Jaegers were reported from five locations 30 Sep–7 Nov and 8 Parasitics were reported from seven sites 25 Sep–5 Nov. Colorado's 6th **Long-tailed Jaeger**, an intermediate-morph juv., was at Jackson Res. 2–5 Sep (JRo, DSC, m.ob.). An additional 3 unidentified jaegers were reported from e. Colorado. An imm. Laughing Gull was at Pueblo Res. 7 Oct (PH, BKP, SMO). A juv. Little Gull was found at Big Johnson Res. 24–27 Sep (JW, BG, m.ob.). An ad. **Black-headed Gull** at Barr L. 9 Oct (DF, TL) provided the 4th Colorado record. A first-basic Mew Gull was at Pueblo Res. 11–16 Nov (MJ, BKP). Nine Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed in e. Colorado 2 Oct–5 Nov. Great Black-backed Gulls included an ad. at Cherry Creek Res., CO, 11 Sep+ (BB), a 3rd-year at L. Henry, CO, 12 Sep (VAT), and an "imm." at Loveland, *Larimer*, CO, 4–5 Nov (NK). Two Sabine's Gulls were at Gray Reef Res., *Natrona*, WY, 2 Nov (CEM, BSo, et al.) and a state-record 75 Sabine's Gulls were in Colorado 7 Sep–23 Oct. An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake was at Chatfield Res., CO, 25–28 Oct (JBH, m.ob.). Rare in Colorado, **Arctic Terns** included an ad. at Big Johnson Res. 23 Sep (JW); an ad. at Pueblo Res. 29 Sep (BKP); a juv. at Union Res., *Weld*,

5–11 Oct (JPr, TL, LS, MJ, m.ob.); and 1–2 juv. at Chatfield Res. 7–10 Oct (JK, JBH, m.ob.). A juv. Least Tern was at Pueblo Res. 8 Sep (BKP).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to be seen in additional locations in Colorado; 2 were at Monte Vista, *Rio Grande*, 15 Aug (JRa, LR) and up to 3 were in Ovid, *Sedgwick*, 19 Aug–10 Sep (JK, NE, SSt, m.ob.). Inca Doves now appear be residents of Rocky Ford, CO; up to 6 were there all season (SO, m.ob.). Another Inca was in Golden, *Jefferson*, 24 Sep (BSp). Two Boreal Owls were found in the upper Rio Grande Basin in the San Luis Valley, CO, 5 Sep (JRa). Five **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, including 2 ad. males, were at feeders n. of Lamar, CO, 10–16 Sep (MJ, BKP, SO, LP, m.ob.), representing the 4th Colorado record. If more feeders were observed in e. Colorado towns, it is possible that this and other species may more common than records indicate. Also at the same feeder were an imm. male Calliope Hummingbird 16 Sep (SS) and a Broad-tailed Hummingbird 24 Aug (LPa, EP, IP).

Woodpeckers Through Vireos

Single Williamson's Sapsuckers, an irregular rarity on the e. plains of Colorado, were at Pueblo 5 Sep (VAT), Greeley, *Weld*, 23 Sep (NEK), Ft. Collins 7–8 Oct (DAL), s. of Pueblo 16 Oct (BBH, BH), near Lamar 18 Oct (DN, LPa), and at Pueblo 30 Nov (BKP, DSi, SC). Fourteen Red-naped Sapsuckers were on the e. plains of Colorado 11 Sep–8 Oct (v.o.).

Single calling Eastern Wood-Pewees were in Lamar, CO, 31 Aug and 24 Sep (BKP). The nesting Vermilion Flycatchers stayed at Higbee Cemetery, *Otero*, CO, to 1 Oct (Smo); another Vermilion was at Rocky Ford S.W.A., *Otero*, CO, 10 Sep (BKP, MJ, SO). At Chatfield Res., an imm. White-eyed Vireo 20–28 Oct (JBH, KS, m.ob.) and a Yellow-throated Vireo 9 Sep (JK) were observed. A Cassin's Vireo was in *Natrona*, WY, 20–22 Aug (CEM). At least 8 Blue-headed Vireos were found in e. Colorado 22 Aug–26 Oct (v.o.). An unexpected 6 Philadelphia Vireos were reported this fall in Colorado: singles at Rocky Ford S.W.A. 10 Sep (BKP), in Lamar 17 Sep (DAL, BKP, RO, m.ob.), near Lamar 24 Sep (BKP, MJ), at Rocky Ford 1 Oct (BKP, MJ), at Ft. Collins 6–7 Oct (DAL, m.ob.), and near Ft. Lyon 8 Oct (VZ, MJ, BKP).

Jays Through Goldfinches

Four Pinyon Jays wandered into Lamar 17 Sep (BKP, RO). For the first time since the winter of 1972–1973, Clark's Nutcrackers were on the e. plains of Colorado. Sightings included one at Neenoshe Res., Kiowa, 14 Sep (DN, EP, IP)

and one w. of Crowley 22 Oct (MJ, BKP, VAT). Mountain Chickadees were found in high numbers throughout e. Colorado. Pygmy Nuthatches rarely make it to the plains for lack of pine trees, so one in Rocky Ford, CO, 22 Oct (BKP) was probably a county first. A Sedge Wren was singing at Lamar 16 Sep (SS). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was near Ft. Lyon, CO, 11 Sep (BKP). An early Varied Thrush was at Storey, *Sheridan*, WY, 17 Aug (BSO).

A male Blue-winged Warbler was discovered near Lamar 11–13 Sep (BBH, SC, LP). A late Tennessee Warbler at Ouray, CO, 7 Nov (DF, TL, et al.) was unusual for the western slope. A Nashville Warbler was in *Natrona*, WY, 28 Aug (CEM). Northern Parula reports included one at Crow Valley Campground, CO, 30 Aug (N. Erickson), one at Pueblo, CO, 5 Oct (BKP), and 1–2 at Chatfield Res., CO, 23–27 Oct (DSc, BB, KS, LM, m.ob.). Six Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported from e. Colorado 9 Sep–15 Oct. Single Cape May Warblers were at Chatfield Res. 22–25 Oct (AS, m.ob.) and in Boulder in Nov (BK, m.ob.). A female Black-throated Blue graced *Natrona* 8 Sep (CEM), and a male appeared in Montrose 5 Oct (MA). E. Colorado had 12 Black-throated Green Warblers 19 Aug–25 Oct and 5 Blackburnian Warblers 1 Sep–18 Oct. A male **Prairie Warbler** was found in *Natrona* 5 Sep (CEM), representing one of the few records for Wyoming; in Colorado, a male was at Cherry Creek Res. 5 Oct (LK). A Bay-breasted Warbler was at Boulder, CO, 15 Oct (JPr) and another was at Chatfield Res. 22–25 Oct (JK, AS). A Black-and-white Warbler was seen in *Natrona* 18 Aug (CEM). Prothonotary Warblers made a good showing in e. Colorado, with one at L. Henry, 11 Sep (BKP, GR); one at Barr L., 16 Sep–1 Oct (AP, TL, m.ob.); one near Ft. Lyon, 7–8 Oct (I. Sanders, m.ob.); and another in Colorado Springs, 9 Oct (AV). An imm. Mourning Warbler was at Colorado City, CO, 25 Aug (DSi), and a female Hooded Warbler was reported in Wheat Ridge, CO, 18 Sep (BSp).

Single Summer Tanagers were found at Colorado City 12 Aug (DSi) and in *Pueblo*, CO, 24–29 Aug (BKP, m.ob.) & 18–25 Sep (BKP, RK, m.ob.). A female Scarlet Tanager was in *Pueblo* 13 Aug (MJ, BKP). A male Eastern Towhee was near Lamar 25 Sep (BKP) and another was at Colorado City 6–16 Nov (DSi). Eight Field Sparrows were recorded in e. Colorado 20 Sep–8 Oct. A **Baird's Sparrow** was found at Big Johnson Res. 26 Sep–1 Oct (MJ, m.ob.). Single Red Fox Sparrows were at Boulder, CO, 22–23 Oct (JPr) and Ouray, CO, 6–8 Nov (TL, RL, DF). A Swamp Sparrow was at Ouray, 8 Nov (DF, TL, RL). An imm.

Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Barr L. 9–22 Oct (DF, TL, m.ob.). A male Snow Bunting was at Ft. Carson, *El Paso*, CO, 6 Nov+ (BM, m.ob.). A late Black-headed Grosbeak was found at Ouray 6–7 Nov (TL et al.). A Red Crossbill was at Lamar 17 Sep (BKP, DAL, RO). A Common Redpoll was at Ft. Collins, CO, 8 Oct (DAL). An Evening Grosbeak was at Ovid, CO, 19 Sep (NE, JK, SSt) and 4 were at Lamar 29 Sep (DAL).

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