

w. Houston, *Harris* locations, the first present 3-7 Apr (*fide* PF) and the other 19-27 Apr (PWr).

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Colorado & Wyoming



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Hopes of a reasonably normal climatic season melted as quickly as the winter's snowpack when the Region experienced a hot, dry spring. Colorado's temperature ranking was classified "above normal" by NOAA, while Wyoming's temperature average ranked "much above normal" for the season. By 30 May, the U.S. Drought Monitor (<<http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>>) showed most of Wyoming with abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions, while Colorado graded from abnormally dry in the northwestern corner of the state to extreme drought conditions in the southeastern plains.

Colorado tallied a new icterid for the state list (pending acceptance of the photographed bird), and both states posted impressive if short-lived pulses of shorebirds, including a

few species in unheard-of numbers. A superb flight of Veery and Gray-cheeked Thrush upstaged the season's lackluster warbler migration (excepting Blackpolls). Several other species with few enough previous records to count on one hand kept birders busy and will undoubtedly engage both states' records committees as documentation is received.

Abbreviations: Bonny (Bonny Res., *Yuma*), Brush Hollow (Brush Hollow Res., *Fremont*) Cheraw (L. Cheraw, *Otero*); Cherry Creek (Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*); Chico (Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo/El Paso*); Crow Valley (Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grasslands, *Weld*); Jumbo (Jumbo Res., *Logan/Sedgwick*); Table Mt. (Table Mt. Wildlife Habitat Management Area, *Carbon*, WY), Tamarack (Tamarack Ranch S.W.A., *Logan*) "West Slope" denotes locations west of the Rockies. Due to reporting biases, all locations



The hip-pocket vagrant trap at Last Chance, Washington County, Colorado can be well worth the detour: among the noteworthy birds found there this season were two Varied Thrushes, including this female on 12 May 2006. Photograph by Glenn Walbek.

can be assumed to be in Colorado except that each Wyoming location is noted as such the first time it appears in the text.

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

A small pond in Sedgwick hosted 150 Greater White-fronted Geese 2 Apr (SL), a large number for Colorado. Now that Trumpeter Swans have become regular in Colorado, the only out-of-the-ordinary spring report was of a single bird at Silt, Garfield 18 Mar (A. Dahl). The male Eurasian Wigeon at Alamosa N.W.R., Alamosa 1 Apr (BKP, L. Edwards) may also have been found a few counties to the n., at Buena Vista, Chaffee, the next day (RH, SY). In Colorado, an apparent male Mexican Duck (currently considered the *diazi* subspecies of Mallard) was found at the northerly location of Walden Res., Jackson 20-21 Apr (MJI, BG, ph. C. Sheely); there are three previous specimen records for the state. Oddly, for spring, all three scoter species were reported in the Region, with an imm. male White-winged a holdover from winter in Adams (m.ob.) through at least 7 Mar and 2 Blacks at Cherry Creek 9 Apr (GW). Three reports of Long-tailed Duck were more than usual; one at Mack, Mesa 2 Mar (R. Lambeth) was on the West Slope, where rare. Spring Barrow's Goldeneyes were in typical locations, though the 28 in Buena Vista 2 Apr (RH, SY) provided a high count for Chaffee.

SA Though the Region's birders tend to get out pretty often in May, most of us missed out on the best shorebird ground-ing of the season 16-17 May, as that period fell mid-week. Dinsmore visited Table Mt. on the 16th and recorded a large number of shorebirds, with a few species of more-than-passing interest. Among these were 18 Black-bellied Plovers, a Snowy Plover (present through the 19th), a Hudsonian Godwit, 132 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 78 Pectoral Sandpipers, 511 Stilt Sandpipers, 6 Short-billed Dowitchers, 147 Long-billed Dowitchers, and 47 Red-necked Phalaropes. Then, Dinsmore traveled to the s. and, with Ely, found an unprecedented 19 Short-billed Dowitchers at Brunner Res., Broomfield on the 17th (ph. DAL), with 8 still there the next day. Also on the 17th, Peterson visited Bonny and found 12 Black-bellied Plovers, 72 Lesser Yellowlegs, 27 Sanderlings, 200+ White-rumped Sandpipers, 42 Pectoral Sandpipers, 3-4 Dunlins, 723 Stilt Sandpipers, and one Short-billed Dowitcher. Interestingly, no Whimbrels were reported in those two days, though four of the season's 14 reports of the species fell in the period 14-15 May.

Continuing the recent spate of nesting records, a female Hooded Merganser was spied with 11 downy young near Ryan Gulch Res., Larimer 29 May (D. Hall).

Two tardy Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen 2 Apr at Tamarack (SL), a wintering location at which the species is not known to breed. Rare in spring, an alternate-plumaged Red-throated Loon was a nice find at Pueblo Res., Pueblo 29 Apr (BKP). Of the 14 spring reports of Common Loon, only one was from the West Slope, an alternate-plumaged bird at L. Cata-mount, Routt 24 Apr-5 May (FL). Two Horned Grebes at Chico, Pueblo 25 Mar (BKP) provided a first record for this well-worked site. Single Red-necked Grebes were one-day wonders at Saratoga L., Carbon, WY 30 Apr (FB) and at Jumbo 8 May (HA); the species is rarer in spring than in fall in Colorado but still nearly annual. The Brown Pelican in Larimer 27 May (N. A. Komar) may have been the same as that reported not too far away in Greeley, Weld 29 May (NP); age/plumage was not described in either case.

Records of migrant American Bitterns are rare in the Region, as most are seen at or near known breeding sites; one at Lathrop S.P., Huerfano 7 May (RM) was clearly a migrant. Rare ardeids in Wyoming included a Great Egret far n. at Glendo Res., Platte 16 Apr (CM) and 2 Green Herons at E.K.W. 6 May (CM; one still present on 16 May). An ad. Little Blue Heron, first found at Belmar Park, Jefferson 19 Apr (K. Schofield, ph. BS), stayed in the area until at least 10 May. It was joined at East L., Jefferson by another ad. 3 May (DF) and may have accounted for a sighting of the species in Denver 11 May (CC). Reports of Cattle Egrets in the mts., where rare, included singles in Chaffee 13-14 Apr (RH), Spring Park Res., Eagle 27 Apr-6 May (D. Filby), and in Chaffee 11 May (RM); the only West Slope report of the species came from Routt 6 May (FL, VZ). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron played hide-and-seek at Rocky Ford S.W.A., Otero 19 Apr+ (SO). The ciconiiform of the season was an ad. White Ibis w. of Red Lion S.W.A., Logan 10-15 Apr (L. Johnson, N.

Hill) that would provide the state's 5th record. Glossy Ibis continue to be found in Colorado in high numbers, with 12 reports this spring, 15 Apr-29 May (m.ob.). There were also two reports of Glossy Ibis x White-faced Ibis hybrids: 4 at Cañon City, Fremont 12 Apr (MP; one still there 22 Apr) and one at East L., Jefferson 2-7 May (T. Mitchell).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Late on the plains on 20 Apr, a juv. Northern Goshawk at Chico (BM, BKP) may have been the same one seen there in Jan. A juv. Red-



An exceptional shorebird gathering at Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area, Goshen County, Wyoming 16 May 2006 included this Hudsonian Godwit. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.

shouldered Hawk was reported from Lamar, Prowers 10 May (JK, GW), a date that seems late for a migrant. The high count of Broad-winged Hawk at the Dinosaur Ridge hawk-watch, Jefferson was 5 (all light-morph ads.) on 20 Apr (TL).

Spring Regional reports of American Golden-Plover are relatively scarce, so one bird photographed by Mountain Plover oglers e. of Ault, Weld 13 May (J. & S. Mammoser) was of some interest. Wyoming got into the action, too, with an alternate-plumaged bird at Table Mt. 19 May (DF). Pale plovers were almost found more often outside the small Regional breeding areas than inside them, with the most far-flung Snowy Plovers being 3 at Bonny 16 Apr (NP, A. Boyce) and singles at Saratoga L. 26 Apr (ph. R. Gorrell), Brush Hollow 28 Apr (RM; first county record), Cheney Res., Mesa 2-4 May (D. Wright), Table Mt. 16-19 May (SD), and Bonny 26 May (TL). Wandering Piping Plovers included 2 at Red Lion S.W.A., Logan 5 May (TL et al.) and singles 5 km w. of Red Lion S.W.A. 8 Apr (HA), at Table Mt. 29 Apr-19 May (DF), and at Brush Prairie Ponds S.W.A., Morgan 8 May (E. Steele).

Just the 14 reports made it a good spring for Whimbrel in Colorado, but the amazing 240 at Adobe Creek Res., Bent/Kiowa 1 May (DN) was Regionally unprecedented (by an order of magnitude). Two Hudsonian Godwits graced

the Region, single birds at Table Mt. 16 May (ph. SD) and Duck L., *Larimer* 27-30 May (NK, ph RHo). Ruddy Turnstones are annual in spring and fall, at least in Colorado, but Nelson's efforts at monitoring Piping Plovers and Least Terns in the Arkansas R. valley in se. Colorado enables him to visit a considerable amount of reasonable habitat. This spring, he encountered 3 at Neegrando Res., *Kiowa* 15 May, with one (still?) there four days later. Single Ruddy Turnstones were also found at Boulder Res., *Boulder* 4 May (T. Heinrich) and at Cheraw 21 May (LS, TL). Pushing typical early arrival dates were single White-rumped Sandpipers near St. Vrain S.P., *Weld* 4 May and Red Lion S.W.A. 5 May (both TL). A whopping 13 Dunlins (seven reports) were seen this spring, with the most noteworthy being the alternate-plumaged bird in Wyoming at Saratoga L. 5 May (FB) and 4 each at Cheraw 26 Apr (J. Drummond) and Bonny 17 May (MP). The 250 Red-necked Phalaropes spinning on Duck L. 19 May (DE, E. Zorawowicz) must have been a nice sight and provided a relatively high single-site count.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An ad. Laughing Gull loafed at Pueblo Res. 4-13 May (BKP), the only one of the season. The only Mew Gulls reported were those at and near known wintering sites in *Pueblo* (3) and *Boulder* (one). Two Glaucous Gulls (ages unreported) at Glendo Res. 2 Apr (CM) were fairly late, but an ad. at Cherry Creek was quite late 30 May (B. Brown); ads. are, moreover, relatively rare in the Region, and late birds are almost invariably first-cycle birds. A third-cycle Great Black-backed Gull that visited the JTL Ponds, *Natrona* 15-18 Mar (ph. G&JL) provided only the 2nd Wyoming record. Another, larger, bird present at the same time may have been a second-cycle Great Black-backed Gull, but the identification was not certain. Two extralimital Least Terns were reported, one each at Cañon City 15 Apr (RM) and Chico, *Pueblo* 25 Apr (ph. BKP), the latter a first local record.

The comings and goings of Colorado's Band-tailed Pigeons are poorly known, so the 50 in Beason's yard in Paonia, *Delta* 24 May were of interest. Of the 22 reports of White-winged Dove, only one was of multiple birds: 2 in Casper, *Natrona*, WY 15-16 May (A. & W. Hines). The only reports of Inca Dove came again from the small, resident colonies in Rocky Ford, *Otero* and Lamar. Single Greater Roadrunners were seen out of range twice: n. of Salida, *Chaffee* 4 Apr (G. Mihalik) and at Castle Rock, *Douglas* 24 May (K. Huffstater). A Western Screech-Owl at Chico, *El Paso* 31 May provided a first local record and nearly



Colorado's fifth (and probably most cooperative) White Ibis loitered near the Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Logan County, Colorado 10-15 (here 15) April 2006. Photograph by Bill Schmoker.

defines the n. limit of the species' range in e. Colorado. The population of Burrowing Owl on Colorado's Western Slope has declined considerably, so an ad. noted at Cortez, *Montezuma* 23 May is encouraging. Surveys conducted by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service in the Spanish Peaks area, *Huerfano/Las Animas* turned up 2 singing Boreal Owls 2 Mar (*fide* L. Semo), thus extending the known range a bit eastward. If correctly identified, a Lesser Nighthawk reported from e. of Colorado City, *Pueblo* 31 Mar (B. Hahn) would be of interest and some three weeks early. A singing Whippoorwill of the nominate (e.) subspecies satisfied happy listeners at Chico, *El Paso* 19-21 May (T. VerCauteren, LS, m.ob.).

Many observers commented this season on the decline of Lewis's Woodpecker popula-

tions in e. Colorado, even along the Arkansas R., where formerly fairly plentiful. However, observers in the Teton, WY area reported that the species' local populations are increasing. Red-bellied Woodpeckers w. of normal included one at Crow Valley 1-7 May (DAL) and another at Pueblo, *Pueblo* 7 May (M. Yaeger). Red-naped Sapsuckers were found in late Mar at two or three sites in *Prowers* (L. Paulson, DAL, VT), well out on the e. plains, where quite rare in spring.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

Two singing Eastern Wood-Pewees were noted this spring, one each at Lamar 5 May (BKP) and the CF&I Ponds, *Pueblo* 13 May (P.

Sandstrom-Smith). Though rare, the species is reported somewhere in Colorado nearly every spring. After Colorado birders broke the block on Yellow-bellied Flycatcher by finding the state's 2nd and 3rd state records last fall, the 4th was found, like the 3rd, in a mist net, this one at Chico, *El Paso* 24 May (ph. BG, m.ob.). All 6 Alder Flycatchers reported this spring were found at Chico, *El Paso/Pueblo* 14-25 May, with 2 there 20-21 May (BG, LS, TL, BKP). The two breeding flycatchers of piñon-juniper woodlands in Colorado, Gray Flycatcher and Ash-throated Flycatcher, have differing vagrancy patterns in e. Colorado with Gray being more common in spring and Ash-throated more common in fall. This spring did not buck the trend, as we received 15 reports of presumed overshooting Gray Flycatchers in e. Colorado, a number higher than usual, and only three of Ash-throated. All reports of Grays originated from in or near the Front Range urban corridor from *Pueblo* to *Larimer*, spanning 24 Apr-16 May. Two of the Ash-throated reports came from out on the plains, with singles at Last Chance, *Washington* 19 May (GW et al.) and Crow Valley 22 May (JR); the other was at Belmar Park 16 May (MC).

If correctly identified, the farthest extralimital reports of Black Phoebe and Eastern Phoebe came from Crow Valley 9 Apr (D. Smith) and Boulder, *Boulder* 6 May (R. Siebert), respectively. Of the 6 Vermilion Flycatchers found, 2 were at Chico, *El Paso*: a male 18-19 Mar and a female 21 Apr (both

SA An ad. male Broad-billed Hummingbird found at a feeder in Colorado Springs, *El Paso* 13 Apr was captured for banding that day (F. & T. Engelman) and provided a 3rd Colorado record. Incredibly, the bird was already wearing a band, having been banded in New Iberia, LA the previous Dec! This bird was last observed in Louisiana in Mar. Still more remarkably: the first Colorado record of the species, a female present in fall 2002, had also been banded in Louisiana the previous winter! The bird supplying the 2nd state record was not captured and photographs do not show the legs, so we know not whether that one, too, was banded.

BKP). The others were a male in s. *Baca* 5-10 Apr (J. Ogle) and single females in Campo, *Baca* 17-26 Apr (*fide* MJI, BG), *Chaffee* 26 Apr (RM), and Chatfield Res., *Douglas* 28-30 Apr (JK). The only out-of-range Great Crested Flycatchers reported were at Chico, *Pueblo* 20 May (BG, TL, LS), a first there in spring, and at Prewitt Res., *Washington* 28-29 May (DAL). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was slightly out of range at Hasty, *Bent* 16 Apr (BG, MJI), and another was well out of range and provided a first local record at Estes Park, *Larimer* 23 Apr (S. Rashid).

Of the rarer migrant vireos, we received reports of 5 White-eyed, 2 Yellow-throateds, 5 Cassin's, one Blue-headed, and 2 Philadelphia's, all on the e. plains or along the e



This Gray Vireo was one of two present at Little Firehole, Sweetwater County, Wyoming on 29 May 2006; this photograph represents the first firm evidence of the species in the state. Photograph by Dave McDonald.

foothill edge, where expected, though Cassin's should certainly be migrating in spring through the Western Slope. The Blue-headed was at Chico, El Paso, where banded 15 May (BG), providing the first acceptable local record. Carolina Wrens at Lamar and Tamarack no longer raise eyebrows quite so high (though a pair nested at Lamar this year [DR, m.ob.]), but one at Colorado City 2 Apr (D. Silverman) was well w. of normal. Out-of-place Bewick's Wrens included 2 different birds at Chico—12 Apr in Pueblo (BKP) and 14-20 May in El Paso (BM)—and one at Estes Park 13-21 Apr (J&SR). A male Eastern Bluebird was w. of normal at Casper Mt., Natrona, WY 24 May (CM, JL), particularly for so late in the season. Conversely, as many as 4 Western Bluebirds at Chico 25 Mar–8 Apr (KL) were on the plains, where quite rare.

Oddly, the only Varied Thrushes of the spring were both singles out on the plains at Last Chance: a male 7 May (LM, G. Goodrich) and a female 12 May (N. Erthal, LM et al.). Colorado's 2 wintering Long-billed Thrashers were present into Apr, with the Denver bird's last date being the 3rd and

Chico's the 19th. A Curve-billed Thrasher was quite a surprise n. of normal at Lakewood, Jefferson 19 May (MC).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

With few exceptions—among them the second-strongest Blackpoll flight in recent years (coincident with the Gray-cheeked Thrush flight)—the warbler migration was mediocre, with only 36 species being found in Colorado. Lucy's Warblers returned to Yellow Jacket Canyon, Montezuma for at least their 3rd year (m.ob.), but only a single

Nashville Warbler was reported. All but one of the 8 Black-throated Gray Warblers reported from Colorado's e. plains were at Chico 1-13 May (m.ob.); the other was not far away at Clear Springs Ranch S.W.A., El Paso 30 Apr (BKP). "Eastern" warblers in the mountains were mostly found in Chaffee, with a male Black-throated Green and a female Blackpoll 11 May (RM) and a female Black-and-white 23 Apr (NP) at Frantz L., and, at Sands L., a female American Redstart 19 May (RM) and a Northern Waterthrush 9 May (VT). The only other montane "eastern" warblers were an imm. male American Redstart at Curecanti N.R.A., Gunnison 18 May (Jbn) and a Northern Waterthrush at L. DeWeese, Custer 24 May (RM). Wyoming's only out-of-range warbler was a Black-and-white Warbler at Fontenelle Dam, Lincoln/Sweetwater 21 May (R. Steenberg). Finally, Wilson's Warbler put on its best spring showing on the plains in recent memory (it is abundant there in fall).

An imm. male Summer Tanager at Sands L. 5 May (SY) was in the mts., where quite rare, and provided a first Chaffee record; another was in Laramie, Albany, WY the next day

(fide D. McDonald). Chico's wintering Eastern Towhee tarried until at least 19 May, providing unexpected amusement, as it was seen and heard mimicking many local species, such as Blue Jay, American Robin, and Curve-billed Thrasher (BM, m.ob.). Another Eastern Towhee that may have wintered locally was heard singing 7-25 Apr in Boulder (ph. R. Byers). Finally, an out-of-range and out-of-season Eastern Towhee was reported from Crow Valley 22-23 May (JR). A singing Canyon Towhee was a bit n. of normal, at least on the plains, at Chico 8 Apr–20 May (KL, m.ob.).

An amazing 3 Field Sparrows were reported from Front Range counties this spring, with individuals at Dixon Res. 24 Apr (N. Komar), at Chico, Pueblo 11 May (BG), and at Chico, El Paso 20 May (b. TL). Single Black-throated Sparrows were outside their small e. Colorado breeding range near Two Buttes Res. in Prowers 27 Apr (MP, BKP) and at Denver 29-30 May (P. Vance, N. Lewis). The annual e. Colorado Sage Sparrow vagrancy season (an above-average 5 this spring) was bookended by the two northernmost reports, both in Larimer: one in a Loveland yard 10-13 Mar (ph. C. Kogler, m.ob.), the other in Estes Park 13 Apr (J&SR). A Red Fox Sparrow was quite a nice find at Chico 5 Apr (MP et al., ph. BM); most Regional records are from fall and winter. A presumably wintering Harris's Sparrow was in Crawford, Montrose until 15 Mar (VZ); West Slope records are relatively scarce. The only out-of-place Northern Cardinals were single birds (sex unreported) e. of Casper, Natrona, WY 10 Mar (fide DF) and at Louviers, Douglas 23 Apr (T. Halverstadt). A Varied Bunting, originally identified as an Indigo Bunting, was reported from Arvada, Jefferson 14 May (†CC); the Colorado B.R.C. will have to ponder this one, as there are no state or Regional records.

Bobolinks are not often found in Colorado away from breeding areas, so the migrants found at Chico, Pueblo 17 (J. Drummond et al.) & 20 May (BKP et al.) and at Arvada 18 May (DF) help to define the migration season for the species locally. At least one Eastern Meadowlark of subspecies *lilianae* returned to a Lesser Prairie-Chicken lek e. of Campo, Baca, where recorded for the past four years, singing there 29 Apr (MP). A brilliant orange ad. male Hooded Oriole brightened feeders at a residence in Grand Junction, Mesa 26-30 May (ph. J. & M. Hill) and provided the first state and Regional record. Baltimore Orioles away from Colorado's far e. plains included singing imm. males at Chico, El Paso 10 May (MP) and Last Chance 13 May (TL, LS) and, even farther w., a female at the Soapstone

SA The *Catharus* flight in Colorado in mid- to late May was unprecedented in the relative abundance of Veeries and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, two species whose primary migration routes take them e. of our Region; oddly, Swainson's Thrush numbers were not elevated, though Gibbons did band a russet-backed Swainson's at Chico (19 May) for the 2nd year in a row, providing Colorado's 3rd record. Some 31 Veeries were reported on the e. plains (one of those in Wyoming) 9-27 May, apparently of both e. and w. subspecies, with Gibbons banding 4 at Chico 10-16 May (including a bird referable to *salicicola* of the West on the 10th); a typical spring sees five to 10 reports of Veery on the Colorado plains.

The Gray-cheeked Thrush story this spring was nothing short of incredible! A whopping 35 were reported (2 of those in Wyoming), 11-28 May, with 24 of them being found 14-17 May. Eight reports were of multiple birds, with the maximum being 6 at Chico (4 in El Paso, 2 in Pueblo) 15 May; Gibbons banded 6 in El Paso 15-16 May! At least 3 were at the Ft. Lupton cemetery, Weld 14 May (ph. TL; with the only other *Catharus* being 9 Swainson's Thrushes), with at least one still there the next day, and 3 were on a private ranch elsewhere in Weld 19 May (GW et al.). A typical spring sees one or two Regional reports! Interestingly, a single Wood Thrush was found in the Region this spring, that at Chico, Pueblo on the last day of the season (BM).

Ranch, Larimer 24 May (CW). A wintering Bullock's Oriole × Baltimore Oriole hybrid was in Lamar until 28 Mar (DR), and a Purple Finch wintering at Rocky Ford S.W.A. from 4 Nov was last seen 26 Mar (SO). Lesser Goldfinches reported from unusual locales include 2 at the Stulp residence, *Prowers* (singles on 9 & 30 May; JS) and a black-backed male from Chico, Pueblo 20 May (BG); both locations are on the plains, where the species is a fairly rare migrant.

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Idaho & Western Montana



David Trochlell

Spring 2006 temperatures varied widely across the Region, but most locations experienced record-high temperatures in May and above-average precipitation for the season. Bird migration was generally considered mostly uneventful but did include some notable early and late arrivals.

Abbreviations: Camas (Camas N.W.R., Jefferson, ID); L.M. (Lee Metcalf N.W.R., near Stevensville, MT); latilong (area encompassed by one degree latitude and one degree longitude used in mapping bird distribution in both Idaho and Montana).

GEESE THROUGH GULLS

Greater White-fronted Geese were noted in locations where they are considered extralimital: 2 were in Flathead, MT 13 Mar (BR), and a single was in Kootenai, ID 29 Mar

(SS). A total of 9 Cackling Geese (mostly *minima*) stopped in n. Idaho 9-11 Mar (TG, CS), but even better finds were single *taverneri* and *hutchinsii* near Somers, MT 19 Mar (DC). Eurasian Wigeons were scarce, with only 3 noted in Idaho and one in w. Montana. Although Long-tailed Ducks are not annual in spring, a commendable season total of 6 came from n. Idaho, and 2 were recorded in w. Montana. Pacific Loons are very rare in spring, so one at Sandpoint, ID 4 Mar (MH) and a late one in Elmore, ID 23 May (MC, RLR) were especially noteworthy. Apparently Great Egrets are increasing in Montana, as evidenced by one in Powell 1 May (JB) and 2 at L.M. 24 May (WT). If accepted, a Little Blue Heron discovered in Madison 22 Apr (ph., †D&MW) will represent w. Montana's 3rd record. Following hard on the heels of last summer's first Idaho report at Camas was the discovery of up to 3 Glossy Ibis in Jefferson, ID 28 Apr–27 May (DCI; ph., †CW). Also present there were several possible Glossy Ibis × White-faced Ibis hybrids (ph., †CW). Bringing in a 2nd record for Idaho's Latilong 2 was a White-faced Ibis near Cataldo 23 May (SS).

Broad-winged Hawks, rare in spring, were seen near Missoula, MT 22 Apr (one; NK) and n. of Howe, ID 7 May (2; †J&CO). Quite impressive was the concentration of 100 Rough-legged Hawks in Beaverhead, MT 18-20 Apr (DC). The only Gyrfalcons reported were a few winter holdovers in Lake, MT in Mar (JB, DH). Two unusually early American Golden-Plovers near Lennup, MT 12 Apr (MD) represented a 2nd local spring record. Especially rare in spring were 2 Whimbrels at

Camas 5 May (†BD), a Stilt Sandpiper at Camas 13-18 May (JC), a Short-billed Dowitcher at L.M. 3 May (WT), and 6 Short-billeds in Fremont, ID 11 May (†CW). Interesting rare larids included a Mew Gull in Kootenai, ID 9-22 Mar (LH), a Thayer's Gull in Flathead, MT 18 Mar (DC), a Glaucous-winged Gull in Owyhee, ID 12 Apr (RLR), and single Glaucous Gulls in Gooding, ID 11 Mar (LB) and Owyhee, ID 12 Apr (RLR).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Eurasian Collared-Doves made an unprecedented range extension, with at least a total of 12 reported from seven new s. Idaho locations and a pair discovered in Deerlodge, MT. Barn Owls are rare and local in Montana, but at least 10 were reported in the Mission Valley in mid-Apr (DH), and several pairs reportedly nested and fledged young. Montana Snowy Owls were unusually late: singles were near Red Lodge 2 Apr (BJ), Bozeman 12-14 Apr (PW), and in the Mission Valley 13 Apr (DH). Barred Owls continued to wander out of range in Idaho, with 2 in Blaine in early Mar (PWP) and one in Gem 24-25 Mar (MW). Two Black Swifts at Camas 27 May (JC) provided a local first. Two Black-chinned Hummingbirds in Eagle, ID 17 Mar (GW) were record early. Earliest local record by three weeks was a Red-naped Sapsucker near Bozeman, MT 13-14 May (AK). If accepted, an Alder Flycatcher in Jefferson 28 May (†CW) would be a first for Idaho. Single Eastern Phoebes, not annual in Idaho, turned up in Jefferson 14-15 Apr (ph., †MH) and in Bonner 28-31 May+ (†BB). An unprecedented gathering of kingbirds was observed near Gardiner,