Colorado

Chasing Chickens

April 16 – 25, 2016

Guided by Andrew Spencer

All photos by the guide

If you ask the average tourist, April is not the ideal time to visit Colorado. The winter ski season is grinding to a close, with only a few slopes still open. At the same time, access to the backcountry that makes the state famous during the summer months is still patchy to say the least. And the weather, always fickle in the state, can vary from hot to freezing in a matter of hours, with anything from strong sun to strong snow falling down on you. But ask a birder, and they will likely say there is no better time to visit Colorado! Many of the winter specialties are still bopping around at mountain feeders and on the open plains, while spring arrivals have begun to trickle in. And most of all, the stunning variety of "chickens" that inhabit the area are in full form, dancing and clucking their hearts out in the cool spring dawn.

In 2016, Tropical Birding ran two concurrent trips to Colorado; this report covers the group that ran the tour in a counter-clockwise loop around the state. Some last minute changes forced by an untimely blizzard and a change in location for Lesser Prairie-Chicken resulted in more driving than usual, but we still managed to score just about every target species (and the full suite of grouse)!

Day 1:

The tour started on the teeth of a blizzard that blanketed the state and closed some mountain passes. Luckily all the participants made it into Denver before the airport closed, so we were able to leave the hotel right on schedule. What wasn't on schedule was that instead of heading up into the mountains right away as originally planned, we first worked our way north onto the Pawnee National Grasslands. Strong winds, cold temperatures, and the occasional bit of snow made for some interesting birding, but we still found just about everything we searched for.

The first stop was at the marshes near Lower Latham Reservoir, where we quickly found our first shorebirds of the trip in the form of **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Baird's Sandpiper, American Avocet**, and **Black-necked Stilt**. The cattails nearby produced (after a bit of work) a cooperative **Sora** and **Virginia Rail**, as well as a good variety of Icterid species that included the handsome **Yellow-headed Blackbird** and impressive **Great-tailed Grackle**.

Continuing to the north, a roadside stop had has enjoying point-blank views of a female **Merlin**, a species only rarely found on this tour. Some searching for Mountain Plover unfortunately turned up empty, but we enjoyed better luck looking for longspurs just to the east. A large pasture had truly impressive numbers of **McCown's Longspurs** among the many hundreds of **Horned Larks**, but it took significantly more work before we found a few **Chestnut-collared Longspurs** in the mix.

Heading west, we stopped for a quick lunch in Ft. Collins before starting up the mountains. The weather had mostly cleared (thankfully), and we were able to make it up the Poudre Canyon without any issues. As we ascended we made a few roadside stops for the likes of **American Dipper** and **Cooper's Hawk**. Cresting Cameron Pass, we made it to our last birding stop of the day, the Moose Visitors Center. The feeders were their usual pumping self – the clear highlight was a single **Brown-capped Rosy-Finch**, but several **Cassin's Finches**, a single **"Slate-colored" Fox Sparrow**, and several **Steller's Jays** were also appreciated.

Day 2:

In the aftermath of the blizzard the day started cold and a bit snowy as we made out way south of Walden. Luckily the roads weren't too bad, and we found ourselves on site right on queue. As it began to lighten, the swooshing and popping sounds of **Greater Sage-Grouse** soon became apparent, and it wasn't long before we were looking at them dancing their hearts out at point-blank range. Unfortunately it wasn't long after that when a **Golden Eagle** flew by and flushed them. They eventually started to return, when it happened again! I normally am quite pleased to see Golden Eagles, but this is certainly one time when I wasn't. Again they returned, and again they were flushed (this time by a **Common Raven**), before they finally started lekking a bit more distantly after they calmed down.

In the midst of all this we killed some time by watching a distant pair of Moose, and some closer Pronghorn. When the grouse finally came back in, we got to see another of the top

highlights of a trip when a **Prairie Falcon** stooped on a male sage-grouse and came within inches of its head! Surprisingly, the grouse barely even blinked, as if it new that the much smaller falcon wouldn't follow through.

After the morning show, and some nice breakfast in Walden, we checked out the nearby Walden Reservoir. An impressive variety of ducks included a pair of **Barrow's Goldeneye** and several **Canvasbacks** among the more common species. Our drive to the south and west was interrupted several times by some **Rough-legged Hawks** before we made it to our next stop, Windy Gap Reservoir. On the way, one of the top mammals of the trip put in an appearance, in the form of an American Mink that was gather material for its den right by the highway!

Arriving at Windy Gap, the numbers of **Barrow's Goldeneye** on the reservoir peaked at an impressive 42, while a distant pair of **Hooded Mergansers** were our first of the trip. A single **Belted Kingfisher** was also a first, and we had another chance to study most of the duck species we had seen previously.

We had lunch in Steamboat Springs, and then drove to a nearby

neighborhood where we quickly found some **Evening Grosbeaks**. Then a short drive up a side road and we were soon looking at a nice male **Red-naped Sapsucker.** The rest of our afternoon birding came along a few other side roads along the Yampa River and another valley; highlights came in the form of several **Sandhill Cranes**, a few **Mountain Bluebirds**, and a couple of cool mammals such as Porcupine and Striped Skunk.

Day 3:

An unfortunate side-affect of the blizzard a couple of days previously quickly became apparent when it caused us to not be able to visit our normal lek of the morning. Luckily I had a backup location, and our customary early start had us standing along the side of the road and watching several **Sharp-tailed Grouse** pirouetting on a nearby hilltop! The pristine snow covered hills made for a gorgeous backdrop, and at the end of the trip it was voted "best dance" of all the grouse.

Back at the hotel for a quick breakfast, we were soon on our way south. It took a bit of a drive, but eventually we were driving through the towering canyon walls near Cameo in the Colorado River valley. Normally birding here can be somewhat frustrating as we search for our main target, but today luck was with us, and we soon found a **Chukar** sitting on top of a rock right along the road! And even more amazingly, it sat there for long enough for everyone to get a good view. At the end of the road we hopped out to search for a few other birds that call the saltbush and canyon walls home, and scored a **Rock Wren** and a couple of flyover **Broad-tailed Hummingbirds**, but otherwise it was fairly quiet.

We grabbed lunch at a nice Mexican restaurant in Fruita, and then it was out to the borderlands. Specifically, the border with Utah, where our main target species was soon found with a cooperative **Sagebrush Sparrow** that sat up nicely

(even if it did refuse to come in as close as the photographers would have liked). A couple of **Sage Thrashers** and **Brewer's Sparrows** nearby were also appreciated, while perhaps the most impressive sighting came in the form of displaying **Golden Eagles** talon-locking and tumbling through the air. On the furry front, an impressive spot by Eric gave us all the chance to ogle the rarely-seen American Badger.

With a couple of long days coming up, we took the opportunity to head in a bit earlier than usual and catch up on some rest. Even so, we had enough time to check out a single **Marbled Godwit** on a small pond, and a **Great Horned Owl** nest with two chicks right along the highway.

Day 4:

This day was something of an exception for the tour – we didn't have a grouse lek to visit during the early morning hours. Instead we drove to the nearby Colorado National Monument, one of the most scenic spots in the west. The first couple of hours were spent walking in the shadows of towering sandstone walls and juniper and sage covered hillsides. The bird mix was quite a bit different than elsewhere we had been, and species such as **Black-throated Sparrow**, small, active flocks of **Bushtit**, several **Canyon Wrens**, a nice, close **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, and a noisy **Juniper Titmouse** were all seen nicely. A single male **Virginia's Warbler** was unfortunately less cooperative.

Driving further into the monument, we combined scenery stops with whatever birds we could find. It didn't take us long to find one of the most

wanted species, a small group of noisy **Pinyon Jays**, later followed by a large and even noisier flock of the same (this time with many loudly begging young!) A couple of **Western Scrub-Jays** and our only **Peregrine Falcon** of the trip also put in an appearance.

Wrapping up in the Grand Junction area, we then headed up the Gunnison River to the small town of Eckert. Our stop here was short, but successful when a single **Lewis's Woodpecker** perched out beautifully, allowing all a chance to see one of the best looking woodpeckers in the state. The nearby large and shallow Fruitgrowers Reservoir was, as usual, chock-full of birds. These included a couple of **Clark's Grebes** among the abundant **Western Grebes**, an amazingly large flock of 140 **Marbled Godwits**, both **Lesser** and **Greater Yellowlegs**, our only **Willet** of the trip, and large flocks of **Yellow-headed Blackbird**.

The nearby bridge over the Gunnison River had out only **Black Phoebe** of the trip, and a dirt bank in the area the first **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** we were to see. Another lake just to the south had many of the same birds as Fruitgrowers, but also an unexpected pair of **Horned Grebes** and a single **Common Loon.**

Then it was time to chase our grouse for the day, in the afternoon instead of the morning. Driving eastward, we started checking the road along the south rim of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, scanning carefully for our quarry. It took some time (and many **Western Scrub-Jays** and a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** later), but eventually we found a wonderfully cooperative **Dusky Grouse** right by the side of the road! It sat there in typical Dusky Grouse fashion as we got to enjoy point-blank views. Then it pulled out all the stops, and sauntered within a few feet of us, tail cocked and air sacks inflated, while it saucily headed down the road! Easily among the top sightings of the trip, and the perfect way to end the day.

Day 5:

The grouse of day 5 was also the rarest of the trip, and with that fact in mind, it was also the one we were careful to keep the furthest away from, to avoid disturbance. Even so, with the aid of some scopes we were able to see the identifying marks of some nine **Gunnison Sage-Grouse** displaying on a distant ridge. The views couldn't be called all that satisfactory, but with the disastrous decline this recently-described species is undergoing we were grateful to have any views at all.

Some recent developments on the target for the next day meant that we had a gargantuan drive ahead of us, so we left as soon as we could, and only had time to make a few stops along the way. The first of those stops was atop the snow-bound Monarch Pass. It took some work (and some cold feet!), but we eventually scored some superb views of a pair of **American Three-toed Woodpeckers** on a nearby tree!

Once we finished on Monarch, it was time to bid the mountains adieu for a while. We made a quick roadside stop for a **Wilson's Snipe** that flew across the road, but then we drove straight out of the foothills to Pueblo. A nice neighborhood on the outskirts of town here soon produced the hoped for **Scaled Quail**, as well as a couple of **Curve-billed Thrashers** and a single **Canyon Towhee**.

As we headed out onto the plains, we switched strategies and hit up a couple of reservoirs. The first of these, Holbrook Reservoir, was filled with a variety of waterbirds that included our only **Bonaparte's Gulls** of the trip, and a surprise pair of **Caspian Terns** in addition to the more common **Forster's Tern** and a nice mix of ducks and grebes.

The marshes at John Martin Reservoir were unfortunately pretty quiet, but the reservoir itself was pumping! A couple of rarities highlighted the haul, with an unseasonal **Thayer's Gull** and a long-staying **Brown Pelican** both being firsts for the tour. A good mix of duck and grebe species were also around, as was a nice cloud of **Cliff Swallows** preparing to

breed on the dam. The scrub just to the south of the lake was less productive, but some nice views of a flying over **Prairie Falcon** kept it from being a waste of time.

With perhaps an hour of total birding time we could afford to spend, and still get to our destination at a reasonable hour, we decided to make one last attempt at Mountain Plover. On the way out to the areas south of Holly where I usually see the species we stumbled on a few **Lark Buntings**, as well as our only **Ferruginous Hawk** of the trip. Finally arriving in the right area, we started our search. For a while it was slow going (other than some large flocks of migrating **Swainson's Hawks**), but finally there it was! A pristine **Mountain Plover** sitting in an open pasture. Not long after we found another pair of plovers, but then it was time to drive east, finally making it to Dodge City late in the night.

Day 6:

The precipitous decline of Lesser Prairie-Chicken in Colorado (and throughout their range) has been alarming, to say the least. In regards to our Colorado grouse tour, it has meant that we've had to try harder and harder to find the species at all. In 2016 it turned out that our normal lek for the species had no birds visiting, and we had to change plans at the last minute to drive well into Kansas to another lek where we could see it.

So it was that the morning of Day 6 has us along the side of a dirt road near Dodge City, Kansas, watching some distant **Lesser Prairie-Chickens** dancing across the prairie. They were too far away for a photo, but we could still hear their weird bubbling clucks and crazy cackles, and getting any view at all of this increasingly rare species is always a treat. The habitat nearby wasn't without its own draws, and we found our only **Field** and **Lark Sparrows** of the trip, in addition to a few **Loggerhead Shrikes** and other more common birds. A surprise addition came in the form of a single **White-winged Dove** right outside our hotel in Dodge City.

With a long drive back into Colorado ahead of us, we started our way west and north. We didn't get any more birding in until after lunch, when, back in Colorado, we stopped at a

few places around the former Bonny Reservoir. By then the wind had picked up, so our first few stops were a bit slow. But a lucky bathroom request by Brooke then brought us face to face with a rather tame pair of **Northern Bobwhite**, saving a slow afternoon and turning into one of the sightings of the trip! A small flock of **Wood Ducks** nearby were our only ones of the tour, and Ed got some brief views of a **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, also our only one of the trip.

Finally pulling into Wray, we met with the rancher whose property we would be on the next day, and got an interesting talk about his operation. Afterwards we went out to check our lek site for the next morning, and were treated to a distant but first view of some **Greater Prairie-Chickens**, making for a two prairie-chicken day.

Day 7:

The last day of the tour dawned warmer and calmer than most preceding it, a fact much appreciated by everyone involved! We made our way back to the lek from the afternoon before, and it wasn't long before we were surrounded by the eerie-sounding booms of dozens of **Greater Prairie-Chickens**! We spent a wonderful couple of hours enjoying the antics of the birds as they displayed at times right in front of the car, and got to see everything from fights to dances to mating. Some voyeuristic **Burrowing Owls** were also enjoying the show from their nearby burrows, as were a smattering of sparrow species.

The real surprise of the morning was saved for the drive out, when a shorebird flushed right in front of us and landed on a nearby fencepost. **Upland Sandpiper!** This species is an uncommon breeder in the state, and not really expected on the tour. It made a nice farewell to the plains, since after breakfast we bundled into the van and headed west, trying to make it back into the mountains for a last chance at some high-elevation species.

Since the blizzard on the first day had messed up our plans to bird the high-country, we booked it to Loveland Pass to try one last time for that whitest of chickens. Luckily it took almost no time at all before we were enjoying some stunning views of a pair of **White-tailed Ptarmigan** (see photo at the beginning of this report)! This last minute save meant we had swept the possible chicken species for the tour. A small flock of Rosy-Finches has a single **Gray-crowned** amid the more common **Brown-capped**, rounding out our haul on this high-up pass.

Our last birding stop of the trip came just downhill, at Genesee Mountain Park. Here the ponderosa-clad hills are host to some of species not found elsewhere on our trip, and it didn't take us long to find one of them when a squeaky band of **Pygmy Nuthatches** came by. Then a hawk-like scream alerted us to the presence of our main target, a pair of **Williamson's Sapsuckers**, which gave a nice view as they sat on a nearby tree. The final new species of the trip was a cooperative group of **Red Crossbills** that sat atop a tall ponderosa, wrapping up a surprisingly good haul for a windy afternoon in the mountains!

Trip List
A total of 176 species were found on the trip, including 1 heard only. 30 mammal species were also found, and are listed at the end of this section.

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae	
Canada Goose	*Branta canadensis*
Wood Duck	*Aix sponsa*
Gadwall	*Anas strepera*
American Wigeon	*Anas americana*
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*
Blue-winged Teal	*Anas discors*
Cinnamon Teal	*Anas cyanoptera*
Northern Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*
Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*
Green-winged Teal	*Anas crecca*
Canvasback	*Aythya valisineria*
Redhead	*Aythya americana*
Ring-necked Duck	*Aythya collaris*
Lesser Scaup	*Aythya affinis*
Bufflehead	*Bucephala albeola*
Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula*
Barrow's Goldeneye	*Bucephala islandica*
Hooded Merganser	*Lophodytes cucullatus*
Common Merganser	*Mergus merganser*
Ruddy Duck	*Oxyura jamaicensis*
GALLIFORMES: Odontophoridae	
Scaled Quail	*Callipepla squamata*
Gambel's Quail	*Callipepla gambelii*
Northern Bobwhite	*Colinus virginianus*
GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae	
Chukar	*Alectoris chukar*
Ring-necked Pheasant	*Phasianus colchicus*
Greater Sage-Grouse	*Centrocercus urophasianus*
Gunnison Sage-Grouse	*Centrocercus minimus*
White-tailed Ptarmigan	*Lagopus leucura*
Dusky Grouse	*Dendragapus obscurus*
Sharp-tailed Grouse	*Tympanuchus phasianellus*
Greater Prairie-Chicken	*Tympanuchus cupido*
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*
Wild Turkey	*Meleagris gallopavo*
GAVIIFORMES: Gaviidae	
Common Loon	*Gavia immer*

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae	
Pied-billed Grebe	*Podilymbus podiceps*
Horned Grebe	*Podiceps auritus*
Eared Grebe	*Podiceps nigricollis*
Western Grebe	*Aechmophorus occidentalis*
Clark's Grebe	*Aechmophorus clarkii*
SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae	
Double-crested Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax auritus*
PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae	
American White Pelican	*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*
Brown Pelican	*Pelecanus occidentalis*
PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae	
Great Blue Heron	*Ardea herodias*
Great Egret	*Ardea alba*
PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae	
White-faced Ibis	*Plegadis chihi*
ACCIPITRIFORMES: Cathartidae	
Turkey Vulture	*Cathartes aura*
ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae	
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*
ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae	
Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*
Northern Harrier	*Circus cyaneus*
Sharp-shinned Hawk	*Accipiter striatus*
Cooper's Hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*
Northern Goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis*
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
Swainson's Hawk	*Buteo swainsoni*
Rough-legged Hawk	*Buteo lagopus*
Red-tailed Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*
Ferruginous Hawk	*Buteo regalis*
GRUIFORMES: Rallidae	
Virginia Rail	*Rallus limicola*
Sora	*Porzana carolina*
American Coot	*Fulica americana*
GRUIFORMES: Gruidae	
Sandhill Crane	*Grus canadensis*
CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae	
Black-necked Stilt	*Himantopus mexicanus*
American Avocet	*Recurvirostra americana*
CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae	
Snowy Plover	*Charadrius nivosus*
Killdeer	*Charadrius vociferus*

Mountain Plover	*Charadrius montanus*
CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae	
Greater Yellowlegs	*Tringa melanoleuca*
Willet	*Tringa semipalmata*
Lesser Yellowlegs	*Tringa flavipes*
Upland Sandpiper	*Bartramia longicauda*
Marbled Godwit	*Limosa fedoa*
Baird's Sandpiper	*Calidris bairdii*
Least Sandpiper	*Calidris minutilla*
Wilson's Snipe	*Gallinago delicata*
Wilson's Phalarope	*Phalaropus tricolor*
CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae	
Bonaparte's Gull	*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*
Franklin's Gull	*Leucophaeus pipixcan*
Ring-billed Gull	*Larus delawarensis*
California Gull	*Larus californicus*
Thayer's Gull	*Larus thayeri*
Caspian Tern	*Hydroprogne caspia*
Forster's Tern	*Sterna forsteri*
COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae	
Rock Pigeon	*Columba livia*
Eurasian Collared-Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*
White-winged Dove	*Zenaida asiatica*
Mourning Dove	*Zenaida macroura*
STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae	
Barn Owl	*Tyto alba*
STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae	
Great Horned Owl	*Bubo virginianus*
Burrowing Owl	*Athene cunicularia*
APODIFORMES: Apodidae	
White-throated Swift	*Aeronautes saxatalis*
APODIFORMES: Trochilidae	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	*Archilochus alexandri*
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	*Selasphorus platycercus*
CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae	
Belted Kingfisher	*Megaceryle alcyon*
PICIFORMES: Picidae	
Lewis's Woodpecker	*Melanerpes lewis*
Red-bellied Woodpecker	*Melanerpes carolinus*
Williamson's Sapsucker	*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*
Red-naped Sapsucker	*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*
Hairy Woodpecker	*Picoides villosus*
American Three-toed Woodpecker	*Picoides dorsalis*

	Northern Flicker	*Colaptes auratus*
	FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae	
	American Kestrel	*Falco sparverius*
	Merlin	*Falco columbarius*
	Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*
	Prairie Falcon	*Falco mexicanus*
	PASSERIFORMES: Tyrannidae	
	Say's Phoebe	*Sayornis saya*
	Black Phoebe	*Sayornis nigricans*
	PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae	
	Loggerhead Shrike	*Lanius ludovicianus*
	PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae	
	Pinyon Jay	*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*
	Steller's Jay	*Cyanocitta stelleri*
h	Blue Jay	*Cyanocitta cristata*
	Western Scrub-Jay	*Aphelocoma californica*
	Black-billed Magpie	*Pica hudsonia*
	American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*
	Common Raven	*Corvus corax*
	PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae	
	Horned Lark	*Eremophila alpestris*
	PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae	
	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*
	Tree Swallow	*Tachycineta bicolor*
	Violet-green Swallow	*Tachycineta thalassina*
	Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*
	Cliff Swallow	*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*
	PASSERIFORMES: Paridae	
	Black-capped Chickadee	*Poecile atricapillus*
	Mountain Chickadee	*Poecile gambeli*
	Juniper Titmouse	*Baeolophus ridgwayi*
	PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae	
	Bushtit	*Psaltriparus minimus*
	PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae	
	Pygmy Nuthatch	*Sitta pygmaea*
	PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae	
	Rock Wren	*Salpinctes obsoletus*
	Canyon Wren	*Catherpes mexicanus*
	Marsh Wren	*Cistothorus palustris*
	Bewick's Wren	*Thryomanes bewickii*
	PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae	
	American Dipper	*Cinclus mexicanus*
	PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae	

Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*Regulus calendula*
PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae	
Western Bluebird	*Sialia mexicana*
Mountain Bluebird	*Sialia currucoides*
American Robin	*Turdus migratorius*
PASSERIFORMES: Mimidae	
Curve-billed Thrasher	*Toxostoma curvirostre*
Sage Thrasher	*Oreoscoptes montanus*
PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae	
European Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae	
American Pipit	*Anthus rubescens*
PASSERIFORMES: Bombycillidae	
Cedar Waxwing	*Bombycilla cedrorum*
PASSERIFORMES: Calcariidae	
Chestnut-collared Longspur	*Calcarius ornatus*
McCown's Longspur	*Rhynchophanes mccownii*
PASSERIFORMES: Parulidae	
Virginia's Warbler	*Oreothlypis virginiae*
Yellow-rumped Warbler	*Setophaga coronata*
Black-throated Gray Warbler	*Setophaga nigrescens*
PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae	
Spotted Towhee	*Pipilo maculatus*
Canyon Towhee	*Melozone fusca*
Chipping Sparrow	*Spizella passerina*
Brewer's Sparrow	*Spizella breweri*
Field Sparrow	*Spizella pusilla*
Vesper Sparrow	*Pooecetes gramineus*
Lark Sparrow	*Chondestes grammacus*
Black-throated Sparrow	*Amphispiza bilineata*
Sagebrush Sparrow	*Artemisiospiza nevadensis*
Lark Bunting	*Calamospiza melanocorys*
Savannah Sparrow	*Passerculus sandwichensis*
Grasshopper Sparrow	*Ammodramus savannarum*
Fox Sparrow	*Passerella iliaca*
Song Sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*
White-crowned Sparrow	*Zonotrichia leucophrys*
Dark-eyed Junco	*Junco hyemalis*
PASSERIFORMES: Icteridae	
Red-winged Blackbird	*Agelaius phoeniceus*
Western Meadowlark	*Sturnella neglecta*
Yellow-headed Blackbird	*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*
Brewer's Blackbird	*Euphagus cyanocephalus*

Common Grackle	*Quiscalus quiscula*
Great-tailed Grackle	*Quiscalus mexicanus*
Brown-headed Cowbird	*Molothrus ater*
PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae	
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	*Leucosticte tephrocotis*
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	*Leucosticte australis*
Pine Grosbeak	*Pinicola enucleator*
House Finch	*Haemorhous mexicanus*
Cassin's Finch	*Haemorhous cassinii*
Red Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra*
American Goldfinch	*Spinus tristis*
Evening Grosbeak	*Coccothraustes vespertinus*
PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae	
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*

Mammals

Muskrat	*Ondatra zibethicus*
American Mink	*Neovison vison*
Long-tailed Weasel	*Mustela frenata*
American Badger	*Taxidea taxus*
Ord's Kangaroo Rat	*Dipodomys ordii*
North American Pocupine	*Erethizon dorsatum*
Gunnison Prairie-Dog	*Cynomys gunnisoni*
White-tailed Prairie-Dog	*Cynomys leucurus*
Black-tailed Prairie-Dog	*Cynomys ludovicianus*
Yellow-bellied Marmot	*Marmota flaviventris*
Wyoming Ground-Squirrel	*Spermophilus elegans*
Spotted Ground-Squirrel	*Xerospermophilus spilosoma*
Golden-manted Gr.-Squirrel	*Spermophilus lateralis*
Rock Squirrel	*Spermophilus variegatus*
Hopi Chipmunk	*Tamias rufus*
Colorado Chipmunk	*Tamias quadrivittatus*
Eastern Cottontail	*Sylvilagus floridanus*
Desert Cottontail	*Sylvilagus audubonii*
Mountain Cottontail	*Sylvilagus nuttallii*
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	*Lepus californicus*
White-tailed Jackrabbit	*Lepus townsendii*
Swift Fox	*Vulpes velox*
Red Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*
Coyote	*Canis latrans*
Pronghorn	*Antilocapra americana*
Elk	*Cervus canadensis*
Moose	*Alces alces*

Mule Deer	*Odocoileus hemionus*
White-tailed Deer	*Odocoileus virginianus*
Bighorn Sheep	*Ovis canadensis*