



Colorado Chickens/Grouse

April 13 - 23, 2024

Guide Dorian Anderson



Summary

Humans have achieved much: constructing the Great Pyramid, splitting the atom, releasing Star Wars, introducing the Reese's Peanut Butter Cup. Impressive as are those feats, they pale in comparison to observing 13 species of game birds, many of them declining or range-restricted, on a nine-day birding tour. Hyperbole aside, this was a smooth, fun, and very successful tour. From mountains to canyons to prairies, we found a wonderful sample of Colorado's birds (172 species total). Temperatures fluctuated between 30 and 60 degrees, and what little snow fell didn't disrupt our schedule. We learned the Urban Sombrero is not family friendly, the Rocky Mountain oysters at Boss Hogg's are edible, and hand sanitizer complements any item on the Chinese buffet line. The eBird trip report is here, and a detailed, day-by-day recap follows below. All photos in this report were taken on this tour by Dorian Anderson. Below is a Greater Prairie-Chicken; or, maybe, it's a feathered spy drone with specialized antenna. No one knows for sure. Be careful regardless. And that's why you go on tour with Tropical Birding; we see tons of birds and have lots of fun!



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Day 0 - April 13 - Arrivals in Denver

Dorian met a quartet of eager clients in the hotel lobby at 6:30pm. A short drive delivered us to the Urban Sombrero, where made introductions over heaping plates of Mexican food. We discussed individual interests, outlined trip goals, and solidified plans for the following morning. That administration sort out, we retired ahead of a busy first day.

Day 1 - April 14 - Genesee, Loveland, and Dillion/Silverthorne en route to Walden

Clear skies and beaming sun accompanied our early-morning departure. Gaining elevation west, into the Front Range, we paused at Genesee Mountain Park. **Pygmy Nuthatch**, **Mountain Chickadee**, and **Western Bluebird** presented immediately, and we teased **Red Crossbill**, **Pine Siskin**, and **Cassin's Finch** from towering Ponderosa Pines. Throw in **Brown Creeper**, **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpeckers**, and **White-** and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and ours was a strong start (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168621994>).

Despite high hopes for ptarmigan, Loveland Pass didn't yield the bird (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168623423>). We missed our appointed turn in Dillon but found **American Dipper** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168621015>) as we doubled-back to the Cheba Hut for lunch. Everyone thought the marijuana-themed sandwich shop was a hoot! Only in Colorado, right? From there we moved to the Wildernest community, our plan to check the neighborhood feeders for rosy-finches and other seed eaters. It didn't take long for us to connect with 10-15 **Brown-capped Rosy-Finches** in one yard, and we scored another ~35 plus a lone **Gray-crowned** at another house about a mile away. That second stop was a gold mine as it also produced close views **Clark's Nutcracker** and **Pine Grosbeak** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168692534>).

Loveland Pass 11,992'



Clark's Nutcracker



Pine Grosbeak



Brown-capped Rosy-Finch



Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch



Riding that hot hand, we made two roadside stops as we departed Silverthorne. The first yielded **Osprey** and **Ring-necked Duck** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168692628>); the second produced **Common Merganser**, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, and **Bald Eagle** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168692260>). We made subsequent good time to Walden and visited the local reservoir with what daylight remained. And man, was that a good idea! **Blue-winged** and **Cinnamon Teals**, **Canvasback**, **Redhead**, and **Lesser Scaup** led a list of 17 waterfowl species, and **American White Pelicans** were everywhere. And we tacked on **American Avocet**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **California Gull** for good measure (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168690699>). But wait - there's more! After dinner, we scored **Boreal Owl** below Cameron Pass (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168704965>). It was heard-only, but it was still a great get. All considered, it was a strong first day!

Day 2 - April 15 - Coalmont and Steamboat Springs

While there is a lot to see in this north-central portion of Colorado, we focused on two species on this day: **Greater Sage-Grouse** and **Sharp-tailed Grouse**, both central to this itinerary. The go-to spot in the state for the first is a long-established lek outside Walden, and it was towards it that we headed under cover of darkness. Arriving at the lek an hour before sunrise, we staked out an eastward-looking position and watched from the van as the horizon lightened. Soon, we could see the outlines of bizarre, feathery balloons. Strutting males grew in number and were eventually joined by females. By the time the sun overcame the craggy peaks in the distance, the lekking spectacle was in full-swing, ~fifty birds engaged in the ancient ritual. It was magic. And it wasn't that cold, a huge plus given that we were sitting in the parked van for better part of 2.5 hours (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168763036>)!

Sunrise over Walden/Coalmont



Greater Sage-Grouse



Greater Sage-Grouse (female)



The lek eventually started to shut down, so we headed for Steamboat Springs. We enjoyed a late but massive breakfast at The Egg and returned to the field along the Yampa River. Our first stop, at Emerald Park, didn't yield much, but everyone enjoyed watching an Osprey catch and devour a massive (18 inch?) trout (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168779059>). Moving downriver, to West Lincoln Park we scored our first **Song Sparrows** and enjoyed bonus views of **American Dipper** as it bobbed along the creek margin (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168784421>)

As 1:30 approached, we turned our attention to Sharp-tailed Grouse. There isn't a publicly-assessable lek as there is for Greater Sage-Grouse, so we decided to focus our efforts on the rural roads outside Steamboat. Winding our way into the hills north of town, we connected with **Sandhill Crane**, **Swainson's** and **Red-tailed Hawks**, **Mountain Bluebird**, and **Brewer's Blackbird** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168842218>). Light drizzle turned to windy downpour around 3pm, so we retired to the hotel to rest. With precipitation and breezes abating towards 4:30, we resumed the van and returned to the hills. It was quiet until we reached beyond the various ranches, but we found what



looked pristine habitat beyond that development. And then boom! Two **Sharp-tailed Grouse** exploded from the roadside! They gave brief views as they landed on top of a nearby hill, but we had better views of two more as they emerged from the roadside brush. Our grand total of six birds represented a huge victory on this dreary afternoon. After ticking **Loggerhead Shrike** down the road, we enjoyed an excellent Indian dinner in town before retiring to the hotel (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168842330>).

Day 3 - April 16 - To Grand Junction and Colorado National Monument

If some Sharp-tailed Grouse is good, then more is better! With that as motivation, we took to the roads early, hoping for bonus views where we found the birds yesterday. Approaching that area in the dark, we skidded to a stop when we encountered a grouse in the dirt road. We initially thought it was a Sharp-tailed, but inspection revealed it as a **Dusky Grouse**, the most unpredictable species among our game bird targets! Sadly, we didn't get photos as

Dorian couldn't both keep the bird in the headlights and maneuver his 600mm lens at the same time. Regardless, it was a very, very lucky find and absolved us of having to find the bird along our remaining route, specifically at Black Canyon tomorrow (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168894649>). We did find two more **Sharp-taileds**, but those views weren't nearly as good as yesterday's (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168894649>, <https://ebird.org/checklist/S168894177>).

Moving west, towards Grand Junction, we made a pre-lunch stop at Coal Canyon. **Chukar** was calling from the parking lot when we arrived, and a keen-eyed Schuyler spotted a pair moments after we added **Black-throated Sparrow**. That the species is introduced hardly mattered; we had great views of it. But it didn't end there. We scored a cooperative pair of **Rock Wrens** and a lone **Pinyon Jay**. We hoped to find those at Colorado National Monument in afternoon, so it was great to handle them ahead of schedule (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168943490>).

We lunched at McAlister's Deli and headed for the Devil's Kitchen Trail once we entered the national monument. It was a million degrees when Dorian and the 2022 tour visited this area, so temperatures in the sixties were a welcome change on this afternoon. The birds apparently agreed; there was activity everywhere we looked, **Juniper Titmouse** showing 50 yards from the parking lot! **Gambel's Quail** did the same, and we added **White-throated Swift**, **Bushtit**, **Brewer's Sparrow**, and **Spotted Towhee** along the trail. A heard-only **Canyon Wren** remained high overhead and out of view (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168953640>).

We used the remainder of the afternoon to drive the scenic loop through the park. The views were spectacular and augmented by Richard's running geological narrative. **Canyon Wren** continued to taunt us from hidden perches, but we did get eyes on **Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay** and **Peregrine Falcon**, the second swooping by us at high speed. The 'whoosh' it made was amazing (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S168973391>). Dinner at Spoons Bistro hit the spot.

Day 4 - April 17 - General birding to Black Canyon

We found ourselves in an unusual position on this morning; we didn't need to return to the National Monument because we cleaned-up at that location yesterday, but we didn't need to rush to Black Canyon because we'd already secured Dusky Grouse. With an open morning, we decided to enjoy some general birding as we closed the distance to Gunnison. We made our first stop at the Pear River section of Colorado River State Park and found it alive with birds. **Cinnamon Teal** and **Ring-necked Duck** led a nice list of waterfowl, and we enjoyed flight views of **White-faced Ibis** and **Snowy** and **Great Egrets** as they commuted between ponds. Otherwise, we grew the trip list with the likes of **Cooper's Hawk**, **Belted Kingfisher** and **Northern Rough-winged** and **Bank Swallows** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169029686>).

Confluence Park in Delta didn't yield much beyond **Common Merganser** and **Western Grebe** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169058265>), but we found more at Sweitzer Lake State Park down the road. A **Vesper Sparrow** appeared on a barbed wire fence; a **Black-necked Stilt** rested on the shoreline; a **Marsh Wren** perched in a tree after avoiding our gaze for what felt like hours. A lone **Virginia Rail** cackled from the reeds, but we were unable to pull it into view (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169053142>).

Disregarding stiff winds at Black Canyon afterwards, we ticked **Townsend's Solitaire** and **Fox Sparrow** against the amazing geology. From the canyon rim to the river at the bottom was nearly two thousand vertical feet! It was truly spectacular. And it was nice to enjoy it without Dusky Grouse hanging over our heads. Black Canyon used to be a go-to spot for that shift bird, but it's become quite rare the over the last ten years. A local birder (from nearby Montrose) who visits regularly said it's been 2-3 years since he saw a Dusky at Black Canyon. Dorian managed one on the 2022 tour,

but it looks like there isn't going to be an easy place to get this bird moving forward. Bummer (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169195819>).

We continued to Gunnison and enjoyed a pizza dinner at High Alpine Brewing Company. Afterwards, and at Richard's suggestion, we explored a local cemetery and scored **Great Horned Owl** sitting on a nest. If we weren't riding a hot hand already, it felt like we couldn't miss at that

moment. It was another strong day!<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169110332>.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison



Day 5 - April 18 - Gunnison and the long drive to La Junta

Dealing with **Gunnison Sage-Grouse** has become a headache in recent years because a local conservation group has taken it upon themselves to arbitrarily close the 'official' viewing area on random days in April (and they don't announce these days far enough in advance to plan the tour around them). While we appreciate their dedication to the birds, the closures make zero sense; a parked car of birders positioned in the viewing area — 3/4 of a mile from the lek — is negligible disturbance compared to the massive farm trucks which tear along the adjacent public road in the same predawn hours. A volunteer told us the viewing area was closed when we arrived, but we respectfully negotiated and finagled and had the expectedly-awful views of the distant birds from the public road right next to the official viewing spot. There's

no good way to do this bird, and there's nothing redeeming about the experience; we only include the bird in the itinerary because people want it for their life lists (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S170156173>).

That acrimonious tick achieved, we ate breakfast at the hotel before returning east. A stop at Monarch Mountain Ski Area failed to reveal Canada Jay (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169171689>), but we connected with **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and **Black Phoebe** at Sands Lake a bit later (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169182355>). Tunnel Drive didn't hold much (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169195647>), but lunch at the nearby Happy Ending Caboose was great.

Our next stop was at the west end of Lake Pueblo, where we found all sorts of new birds: **Cliff Swallow**, **Clark's** and **Horned Grebes**, and **Ring-billed**, **Bonaparte's** and **Franklin's Gulls** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169211522>). Moving east afterwards, we slow-cruised (cased?) a local neighborhood and found **Curve-billed Thrasher**, **Common Grackle**, and **Scaled Quail** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169213352>, <https://ebird.org/checklist/S169213853>). The east end of Lake Pueblo held **Common Loon** and **Yellow-headed Blackbird** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169220762>), and we found **Wood Duck**, **Blue Jay**, and **Common Yellowthroat** while walking the area below the immense dam (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169225899>). But wait - there's more! Unwilling to end the day's birding, we took a lap around the nearby Valco Ponds and grew the trip list to 135 species with **Hooded Merganser**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, and **Eastern Phoebe** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169230342>). And we capped it all off with dinner at Boss Hogg's in La Junta. For better or worse, the place has some serious local flavor. Richard loved everything about it — before he threw up! Thankfully, he could laugh about it the next day. And so could the rest of us!

Scaled Quail



Day 6 - April 19 - General birding en route to Kansas

Without target chickens/grouse on this morning, we were free to enjoy some general, low-pressure birding as we closed the distance from La Junta (CO) to Colby (KS). We didn't reach that first outpost in time to bird Holbrook Reservoir yesterday, so that's where we headed first. There were thousands of birds present; waterfowl, grebes, shorebirds, gulls, swallows, and blackbirds were represented in numbers and diversity. Among our 45 species, **Lesser Yellowlegs** was the lone

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additional to the trip list. It was also nice to improve on yesterday's distant views of **Clark's Grebe** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169324642>).

Returning to town and continuing south from it, we reached Higbee Valley, a quiet farm road running through drier habitat, where observed **Ladder-backed Woodpecker**, **Rufous-crowned Sparrow**, and **Canyon Towhee**. In between those generally-southwestern specialties, we scraped out **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, **Brown-headed Cowbird**, and **Northern Mockingbird**. Some caught glimpses of **Lincoln's Sparrow**, but everyone was able to enjoy a **Harris's Sparrow** as it associated with **White-crowns** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169325036>). And the icing on the cake? Our first (and eventually only) **Western Kingbird** as we returned to town (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169743810>). Lunch at Mauricio's Tacos was great. Pro tip - don't sleep on the churros; they're money!

Stuffed with Mexican, we headed east to Lake Hasty. The impoundments held shorebirds including **Marbled Godwit** and **Wilson's Phalarope**, and we added migrant **Orange-crowned** and **Yellow-rumped Warblers** in the campground trees. Though not new for the trip, a confiding **Cooper's Hawk** in that same grove was a crowd pleaser. We knew tomorrow morning would be an early one for Lesser Prairie-Chicken, so we departed Hasty at 3pm and began the three-hour drive to our overnight in Colby, Kansas. The agricultural landscape didn't change a lick across that time/distance, but roadside sightings of **Ring-necked Pheasants** helped break-up the monotony. We narrowly missed hitting one particular female as she exploded from the roadside. She gave us quite the scare!

Dinner was a bit of an adventure. With our go-to, Tate's, shuttered since 2022, we were short on options. Fortunately, clients were understanding, and we enjoyed a better than expected turn through the local Chinese Buffet. The self-serve ice cream was a huge bonus.

Day 7 - April 20 - Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Today started early. Like 4am early. Departing the hotel at 4:30, we rendezvoused with Jim Millensifer, a local businessman and personality, and continued to a private ranch, where we'd arranged to view **Lesser-Prairie-Chicken**. Arriving at the site, we climbed into a horse trailer, assumed benches, and waited for the lek to come to life as the sky lightened behind us. The birds arrived late, likely because of overnight rain, but the males put on a nice show once they were in motion. And beyond ten Lessers, there was a bonus **Greater!** It was cool to note the differences in size, plumage, and booming behavior between the two species. A **Northern Harrier**, our first for the trip, scared all birds off the lek forty minutes after sunrise, so we used that jailbreak as an excuse to vacate the area. It's not advisable to leave a lek before the activity winds down because a premature exit can disturb the displaying males, decrease mating success, and - ultimately - compromise the future health of the declining population. Responsibility always wins the day (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169427974>)!

Heading to Oakley, we enjoyed a massive breakfast at IHOP before returning east via Brewster (KS), Goodland (KS), and Burlington (CA). There aren't many places to stop and bird in the agricultural swath which connects those small towns, but we found some nice birds at the wastewater treatment plants in each. Brewster was particularly productive, and we found a number of shorebirds for the trip list: **Long-billed Dowitcher**, and **Semipalmated, Baird's, and Least Sandpipers** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169454816>). At Goodland, we added **Wilson's Phalarope** and **Willet** (leader only, ugh). We also had another **Harris's Sparrow** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169481558>). **Savannah Sparrow** was an overdue trip bird at Burlington (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169486374>).

Lesser Prairie-Chicken



Continuing north, towards our Wray, we found **Burrowing Owl** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169493507>) and **Wild Turkey** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169500549>). A visit to the Wray Fish Hatchery produced **Great Horned Owl** plus **Northern Cardinal** and **Eastern Bluebird**, those last two anticipated trip birds (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169520034>). Moving across the road to Stalker Lake, Dean picked a **Spotted Sandpiper**, our only one of the entire trip (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169554090>)

At 4pm, we headed to the another private ranch, where we would view Greater Prairie-Chicken the following morning. Host/owner/MC Bob proved friendly and funny and regaled our quintet with stories of ranching, celebrities, and dinosaurs. His fossil collection was awesome, particularly the Triceratops horn and the T-rex claw! He showed us where to bird the following morning, and we continued to El Vaquero afterwards. The portions were huge!

Day 8 - April 21 - Greater Prairie-Chicken and Pawnee National Grassland

Like so many others on this tour, this day started well before sunrise, a notable difference being that overnight skies were crystal clear. We pulled up to the lek an hour before sunrise and waited for the males to begin their display. We heard it before we saw it, and the approaching sunrise slowly revealed the comical birds strutting, stomping, and booming. Warm light and close proximity made for incredible viewing; those with cameras were loving it! At the peak, there were 10 birds present. We didn't see any females, and the males started dispersing at 7am; by 7:30, they'd all moved on. Using their departures as our cue, we vacated the area. Notable birds along our exit included

Burrowing Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, and Northern Bobwhite (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169743332>). The last was significant because it gave us 12 of the 13 game birds, native and introduced, in Colorado, White-tailed Ptarmigan being our only miss (but more on that in a moment).

Greater Prairie-Chicken



Mountain Plover (digi-scope!)



We returned to the hotel, grabbed breakfast, and started towards Pawnee. Upon arriving we scanned agricultural fields for Mountain Plover. When that bird failed to present, we took a lap of the usual Pawnee loop and found **Thick-billed Longspur**. We had to be patient, the birds more elusive this year than in others, but we did have great looks at the few which we saw. Buoyed by that success, we return to the farmed fields and connected with Mountain Plover. Initially very far away, we eventually had two within fifty feet of of us. A second turn of the loop failed to reveal Chestnut-collared Longspur. But hey, you never get 'em all, right?

Day 9 - April 22 - Swing day around Denver

Our mission on this day was superficially simple; return to Loveland Pass and find White-tailed Ptarmigan. If we could accomplish that task, then we'd run a clean sweep on all 13 Colorado game birds, a significant victory for any spring loop through the state (mainly because Dusky has become so damn difficult). Though we were optimistic as we departed Denver, strong gales gathered as we gained elevation west. By the time we reached the pass at 11,992 feet, the wind was hugely confounding; we tried to bird, but scoping was impossible. As Dorian expected the birds to be high on the slopes, we decided to move downslope, where we be more sheltered. Our efforts from that vantage felt token, but Dorian was encouraged when he spied a round, white blob on a rocky outcropping. When he zoomed in, a beak and eye resolved. **White-tailed Ptarmigan!** It was a distant view, but there was no doubt about it (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169807195>). And we'd done the very, very difficult in finding all the game birds! Woot Woot!

White-tailed Ptarmigan



We coasted down the backside of the pass and headed for Wilderrest/Silverthorne, where we hope to redeem our miss on Black Rosy-Finch on Day 1. We had initial trouble connecting with the main rosy-finch flock (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169838221>) but eventually caught up with a group of ~40 on Elk Thistle Drive. The overwhelming majority were **Brown-capped**, but we eventually pulled a single **Gray-crowned** and two **Black** from the swirling group (<https://ebird.org/checklist/>



S169838178). Ticking two difficult birds at end of the trip after missing them earlier was a sweet feeling. And that was before our return visit to the Cheba Hut for lunch!

With a bit of time to spare, we made a stop at Conifer Community Park to look for **Red-naped** and **Williamson's Sapsucker**. Dorian found both birds in the area with his 2022 tour, and a bit of playback brought each into decent view on this last afternoon (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169862316>). But we weren't done! A final stop at Prospect Lake turned up **Solitary Sandpiper** for our final new bird (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S169877974>)! Our farewell dinner at Cattivella was excellent. And with that we wrapped! Thanks for a great trip, fellas!



Species Total = 172 (171 + a 'leader-only' Willet)

Of those 172, we saw 171, Boreal Owl being our lone 'heard-only'

Again, here is the electronic eBird Trip Report: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/222070>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>
American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>
Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>
Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>
Scaled Quail	<i>Callipepla squamata</i>
Gambel's Quail	<i>Callipepla gambelii</i>
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>
Greater Sage-Grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>
Gunnison Sage-Grouse	<i>Centrocercus minimus</i>
Dusky Grouse	<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>
Sharp-tailed Grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>

Greater Prairie-Chicken	<i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	<i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i>
White-tailed Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus leucura</i>
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>
Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>
Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Mountain Plover	<i>Anarhynchus montanus</i>
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>

Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>
Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
Boreal Owl	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>
Williamson's Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>
Red-naped Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates scalaris</i>
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates villosus</i>
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>

Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	<i>Aphelocoma woodhouseii</i>
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>
Clark's Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>
Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>
Juniper Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus ridgwayi</i>
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Corthylio calendula</i>
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>
Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>
American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>

European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>
Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>
Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Pine Grosbeak	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	<i>Leucosticte tephrocotis</i>
Black Rosy-Finch	<i>Leucosticte atrata</i>
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	<i>Leucosticte australis</i>
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>
Cassin's Finch	<i>Haemorhous cassinii</i>
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>
Thick-billed Longspur	<i>Rhynchophanes mccownii</i>
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>
Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>
Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>
Harris's Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia querula</i>
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>
Canyon Towhee	<i>Melospiza fusca</i>
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i>

Spotted Towhee	Pipilo maculatus
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus
Western Meadowlark	Sturnella neglecta
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater
Brewer's Blackbird	Euphagus cyanocephalus
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula
Great-tailed Grackle	Quiscalus mexicanus
Orange-crowned Warbler	Leiothlypis celata
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Setophaga coronata
Northern Cardinal	Cardinalis cardinalis

The plate on our rental couldn't have been more apropos - BRD!

