

WildWings Colorado Grouse Tour report 2018

by Tour Leader Dick Filby

Greater Sage Grouse – Walden © Dick Filby



Overview

The Colorado tour in April 2018 was yet another very successful one, with all the lekking grouse species performing well for us, and many more other birds and mammals seen well too, in great scenery and good weather. Naturally it was the grouse-leks that stole the show, spectacular as always, and wherever possible we were again on private land and the only people present! It is getting harder to record new species as this popular tour enters its second decade, but we managed to add not one, but two this year – an out-of-range Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a gorgeous male, and an early arriving Gray Flycatcher. The total number of bird species recorded was just shy of 180, above the target, but of course it is not about the numbers, it's about the quality: species, views, sites/scenery, people and experiences. I pride myself on making this trip the best possible in all of those aspects, and this year was no exception. Also, this trip always does very well for mammals, and this year kept the bar high with a very respectable total of 29 mammal spp recorded, with Elk, Moose, Pronghorn Antelope, Mountain Goats and Mountain Sheep amongst the highlights.

Some of the highlights are listed in the day-by-day below, and a full species list of every bird and mammal that we recorded on this 2018 tour is included at the end

Day 1

Everyone arrived safely at Denver airport and after a welcome greeting at the motel by a Great Horned Owl and some American Robins, it was early to bed.

Day 2

An early start saw us heading up to northeast Colorado and birding as soon as it was light, with some early success! Whilst at a fuel station near to Fort Collins we were very fortunate to have a flock of 32 Long-billed Curlews fly low over us as they headed north on migration. Not long after, incredibly, an additional 40 flew north whilst we were birding the private lands in the vicinity of the Pawnee National Grasslands. In that area we were also suitably rewarded with views of several target species,

most especially Chestnut-collared Longspurs, here on the edge of their range, several hundred McCown's Longspurs, and a pair of Mountain Plovers – all in breeding plumage.

We paused to view to a Bald Eagle's nest, and as we drove saw a couple of migrant Swainson's Hawks, freshly arrived summer migrants, as well as a single Ferruginous Hawk – which are rather uncommon once the wintering birds have left the state.

We arrived in Wray in good time for a little birding, an early dinner, and early to bed, excited to be heading to our first lek in the morning.

Day 3



GreaterPrairie-Chicken, Wray, Colorado © Dick Filby

Met by our local guide, we set off early to be in position in a hide at our Greater Prairie-Chicken lek before first light. We parked up next to the hide, and soon after settling in we heard the display calls of Burrowing Owls, shortly followed by male Greater Prairie-Chickens calling from the darkness out in front of us, as well as Horned Larks and Western Meadowlarks. It was an exceptional, unforgettable, dawn chorus. The sky grew lighter from behind us, and we could soon make out the shapes of the owls and the chickens, some only a few yards away. As the light improved, the displays could be seen, and we realised that there were 18 or more males vying with each other for the attention of any females that might deign to show up today. They gave us an amazing, noisy, acrobatic and feisty display, even more so when five females arrived just before dawn itself. The activity was frenzied at times, and we saw at least one female mated. She would not return to the lek this season, unless her clutch was lost. Meanwhile six or more Burrowing Owls were on the lek, seemingly unconcerned by the frenetic activity of the Prairie Chickens all around. As dawn gave way to morning, the remaining female chickens left, the activity died down, some of the males also left, and after that, suitably exhilarated, then we left too, heading back into town for breakfast, and the journey southeast into Kansas, where we hope to see at dusk a few of remaining Lesser Prairie Chickens.

The drive south was punctuated with the occasional sighting, perhaps most notable of which was the cumulative minimum of 15 Rough-legged Hawks (Buzzards) seen – an exceptional number at this time of year. They can be readily found in winter, but have nearly all left by the end of March most years.

We checked in at the motel late afternoon, had an early dinner, and headed out to check a Lesser Prairie Chicken lek, as this species does perform at dusk as well as at dawn. Just before arriving at the site, we had the unexpected pleasure of a splendid male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher for several minutes, before we continued to the lek itself. After a short wait, we were very pleased to see that the lek was still in use this year and six Lesser Prairie Chickens displayed, a decent number for this species, as the leks are usually quite small. We stayed inside the van to avoid any possibility of disturbing the birds, cognisant that encroaching farmland and ongoing drought in much of their restricted range combine to cause serious concern for their future. The recent decline in numbers and contraction of the range is alarming. Pleased with our views we headed back to the motel where we arrived quite late but enjoyed the prospect of a minor lie-in, as our evening's success meant that we did not have to get up pre-dawn the next day.

Day 4

After an early breakfast we headed back into SE Colorado and skirted the Comanche Grasslands to the ranch in the canyonlands, on the edge of Pinyon/juniper habitat, where we would spend the night. We have always enjoyed birding this area, and now that to see the Lesser Prairie Chickens we have to go so far into Kansas, staying at this Ranch back inside Colorado make a great break on what would otherwise be an extremely long drive. As usual, a warm greeting from our hosts awaited, it seems they look forward to our visit as much as we do – they love the enthusiasm with which we set about birding, and besides, the WildWings group were amongst their very first guests once they set up for visitors, and our host Laneha is now turning into an interested birder herself. We promised to chat more later and headed out to explore. The afternoon drive, interspersed with short walks, resulted in many good birds, the highlights of which included Rufous-crowned Sparrows, here at the edge of their range, our first Townsend Solitaire of the trip, Canyon Towhees, Chipping Sparrow, White-tailed and Mule Deer, and some Bighorn Sheep were all located, showing well, and a Ladder-backed Woodpecker.

After dinner in the ranch house we headed out for a night drive, which was not successful for owls, but added greatly to our day's mammal list. Gray Fox was best, added to some 30 or so Mule Deer, four Elk, five Bighorn Sheep and no less than five Raccoons! Not quite so early to bed afterwards, but at least we could have a lie-in tomorrow with no lek to get up early for and birding would start right outside the door!

Day 5

Heading out at dawn we enjoyed a lovely morning prior to breakfast at the ranch. Early highlights included several of yesterday's species, including another three Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, plus, today, a trifecta of wrens: Canyon, Rock and Bewick's all giving us good views, and a couple of Curve-billed Thrashers which were right by the house at breakfast time. It was interesting to chat to the owners about their way of life and to truly appreciate how green it was, compared to just a few years back when the place was seriously dry, though not as dry as when the famous dustbowl of the 30's was seated very close-by.

After breakfast we bade our farewells and headed northwest across very sparsely inhabited country towards the Arkansas river valley and eventually the Rocky Mountains. We paused at a couple of reservoirs, seeing many duck species, grebes, including five Clarke's Grebes, as well as four species of gull – Bonaparte's, Franklins, Ring-billed and California. Moving on, it wasn't long before we were at the base of the hills, and looking up at the Rocky Mountains themselves. However, time for one final stop in the foothills, at a favourite spot of mine, where a nice covey of Scaled Quail duly performed, before we were heading right up into the heart of the mountains.

Stopping at almost 11,000 feet, we set off in the snow in search of American Three-toed Woodpeckers, which, after a little perseverance, we were able to find. Thence it was a short but very scenic drive on down into the Gunnison Basin, a sea of Sagebrush surrounded by hills covered in mixed Aspen and spruce-fir forest, and pastures brimming with the meltwater of the winter's snows.

We checked on the lek site to orient ourselves for the morning viewing session, before heading into town, an early dinner and a good night's sleep.

Day 6

Heading out to the lek before dawn, we were soon seated in our hide and awaiting the Gunnison Sage Grouse. As first light broke we were able to get scopes trained on the birds, which, unlike a few years ago, now lek quite some distance away from the hide, but their endangered species status means that this is the only lek that one is allowed to visit, so we were grateful for our scopes and the opportunity to use them in the comfort of the hide. Eventually we got half-decent views, of 20 males (record count for the season thus far) and three females. Through our scopes we were able to clearly see the main two diagnostic features of the male Gunnison, that distinguish it from Greater Sage-Grouse: the thick tuft of filoplumes and the patterning of the white and black tail feathers – when they are erected in a fan. The head-bobbing, throat-pouch-emptying display is something to behold, and certainly whetted our appetite for the upcoming Greater Sage-Grouse lek in a couple of days time, which we usually get fantastic views of. After the lekking was complete, we headed back to the motel, breakfast and thence onto a brief roadside stop by a Gunnison Prairie Dog colony, before continuing to the dramatic Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument. Here, singing Spotted Towhee and Fox Sparrows greeted us, whilst Rock Squirrels ate buds in the tops of the dwarf species of oak found here, Gambel Oak, and Golden-mantled Ground-Squirrels foraged beneath, on the ground. Whilst the birds were great, the views were, arguably even better! We enjoyed many stunning views of the canyon, an incredibly deep and narrow gorge complete with viewpoints on the very brim. All too soon it was time to leave and we headed down to the Delta area for some lakeside birding where highlights included many Western Grebes, another two Clarke's Grebes, a splendid party of 46 Sandhill Cranes, singing Marsh Wrens, a gorgeous Bonaparte's Gull, a Greater Yellowlegs, five American Avocets and yet another Long-billed Curlew. We headed to our lodgings in comfortable apartments high in the hills, enjoying a self catered dinner before bed.

Day 7

It was a chilly morning and birding before breakfast was very quiet, so it was with eager anticipation that we headed into the Grand Junction area, where we were swiftly and plentifully rewarded.

We started by watching a co-operative Western Screech Owl, shortly thereafter followed by three Scaled Quail, before we headed into the National Park of the Colorado National Monument where we went straight to a couple of my favourite spots and highlights were dutifully plentiful: 50+ White-throated Swifts, Peregrine Falcon, Gray Vireo, Pinyon Jays, Steller's Jay, Juniper Titmouse, Bushtits, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Mountain Bluebird, some early migrant warblers including a couple of Orange-crowned, a Virginia's Warbler, three Black-throated Gray Warblers, a single Yellow-rumped (Audubon's form) as well as a Gray Vireo, our first ever on the tour. A singing Black-throated Sparrow delighted everyone with great views, this is truly a good looking species! Great birds, spectacular setting: We concluded that our visit to the National Park had been well worthwhile and we headed further west, right to the edge of the desert, in search of the recently split Sagebrush Sparrow. We duly located several at a remote site, and they showed fairly well, we were grateful once again for scope views! We had added a new state to our list in the process, Utah.

Day 8

No lek today, so another "lie-in" until just before dawn when we headed up to the ski-resort village of Snowmass. In order to give us the best possible chance of seeing Rosy-Finches, my wife, Denise, had been putting in great efforts to feed Rosy-Finches at a friend's house, who was away from home for a few weeks. It is a 50 mile round trip from ours, but despite all the food, and perhaps due to the early, warmish spring, they were not coming to the feeders as often as we would have liked. Stories from

across the state were again of people failing to see any, or just one or two species in low numbers. However, this early morning we found ourselves in a private estate thrilling to hundreds of Rosy-Finches, of all three species, including several splendid Black Rosy-Finches, all just yards away. They were gorging at the feeders, and we were lapping up the spectacle! Well done Denise, a hearty thank-you!

Other treats this morning included several Evening Grosbeaks, an American Dipper near a nesting site on the Roaring Fork river, a record breaking (for this tour) 40+ Barrow's Goldeneyes on a spring staging area, followed by brunch at our house courtesy of Denise, accompanied by the expected distraction of many birds at our feeders including the recently split Woodhouse's Scrub Jay and Lesser Goldfinches.

In the afternoon we headed north, pausing to look again, successfully again, for American Three-toed Woodpecker, but failing, again, on Gray Jay, but seeing in the process not one but six Clark's Nutcrackers and several Mountain Bluebirds.

We arrived in the intermontane plain of North Park late afternoon, a splendid 'sea' of wild Sagebrush, mixed with pastures and willow-fringed wetlands, all surrounded by forested hills and snow-capped mountains. The purple and yellow hues of the willow barks are particularly intense, especially when offset by the last patches of the winter snows. After checking into our motel, we enjoyed an early meal, which was interrupted by news of two Moose strolling through town. We got splendid views! Afterwards we headed early to bed, in anticipation of a great morning to follow.

Day 9

Up early we headed out of town to be in position before first light in our private hide at a Greater Sage Grouse lek. As the dawn crept up behind the hide, over our shoulders, Sage Thrashers started to sing, and the Sage Grouse started to display, even before there was scarcely a hint of light in the eastern sky. Compared to the Gunnison Sage Grouse viewing, these birds were close, indeed, they were close enough that you could hear their wings swishing against their flanks as they expelled air from their huge throat sacs with ear popping noises. Over fifty males on the lek, as well as at least seven females, kept an incredible show going until well after sunrise. Then, as the activity finally diminished, around 8am, we drove back to the reservoir for a brief but productive session. Amongst the highlights were a splendid summer plumaged Great Northern Diver (Common Loon), Pied-billed, Black-necked (Eared) and Western Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants and scores of American White Pelicans, several Black-crowned Night-Herons, White-faced Ibis, a Lesser Yellowlegs and an excellent selection of ducks, but a well deserved hearty brunch called us back to town, after which we drove up into the hills to continue our search for Gray Jay. No luck initially, but a Golden Eagle on roadside pole allowed close approach, before we spotted that it was hassling a Red Fox that had killed a White-tailed Prairie-Dog. The Fox was doing its best to avoid the eagle by constantly ducking and weaving under the three strand wire fence, and after several minutes of stand-off, the wily fox had the better of the encounter when the eagle left. Riveting stuff at very close quarters from the mobile hide! The search for Gray Jay wasn't done, and we weren't giving up easily, but it took three more stops until we finally scored! Well deserved it was too. However our ongoing search for Dusky Grouse was another dip at a site where I rarely fail. Plenty of other great birds, some splendid scenery and a tasty dinner were good consolation, and it was early to bed in time for our next lek tomorrow, the irrepressible "Sharpies".

Day 10

Up and out shortly before first light, it was a short drive to meet up with our guide for the morning who, along with a colleague, drove us up a steep, muddy track in four-wheel drive vehicles up onto their property to view a Sharp-tailed Grouse lek. In the half-light I helped them speedily erect some portable hides and it was not long before the male "Sharpies" were 'strutting their stuff' only a few

yards away. So crazed are they on their single objective that they pay little attention to the alien hides, and whenever a female was present on the lek, they stopped at nothing to try and impress her. If disturbed by a raptor, they will crouch, or even fly off, but they are typically back on the lek and “at-it” within minutes. This frantic scene was something to behold from close quarters, with up to 25 or more birds present, and they enthralled us until nearly 8am before I called it a day and we packed up and left to head for breakfast and to prepare ourselves for the high point of our trip. A four hour drive through some splendid mountain scenery brought us above the tree-line, to almost 12,000 feet, and to our search for the pure white “ghost” of the snowy mountaintops – White-tailed Ptarmigan. Stepping out of the van, we were pleased that we had taken a few days before attaining this elevation, but even still any walking that involved any amount of uphill caused us to notice the altitude, and we really appreciated the fact that we could drive all the way up here. With the help of a local guide we scoured the hills from the roadside, looking anywhere and everywhere from the verges off to the higher tops. All the time, skiers and snowboarders were getting out of vehicles and setting off, carving turns across the slopes as they descended to their waiting ride below, and after a while we hoped that one might put up a ptarmigan. If they did, it was not whilst we were looking! However, our persistence paid off (it always does when looking for ptarmigan) and after a just a couple of hours we were able to enjoy scopes views from by the van!

Replete with good views of White-tailed Ptarmigan, we were soon heading back down the road, and proceeded to bird in a nearby valley, where we spotted some Mountain Goats right next to the road, and just maybe a glimpse of a Dusky Grouse, but it was very brief, indeed furtive, in the deep shadows of dusk.

Soon we were back at the motel, dinner and early to bed – as usual, but with a celebratory note. All the local specialities performing at their leks, and one of the hardest, White-tailed Ptarmigan, saved until last. Whilst we had not seen Dusky Grouse, which does not lek so can be harder to find, that species is widespread in western North America.

Day 11

It was a rainy/snowy morning as we headed out in search of last night’s possible Dusky Grouse. Alas, no sign, so we headed down into the Front Range hills just west of Denver, into the Ponderosa Forest, in search of several speciality birds. The trifecta of Pygmy Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch and Red-breasted Nuthatch all showed for us, as did several Western Bluebirds, but no sign of Williamson’s Sapsucker. With the weather still inclement, we headed to the cafe for a big brunch, and then to the famous Red Rocks Park (famous as an outdoor concert venue). Birding is always good there, and of note we had a Broad-tailed Hummingbird, and finally, our one and only Prairie Falcon of the trip, which showed very well indeed. The dramatic scenery was a great setting for such a magnificent raptor. Nearby we paused by a pond that often hosts Hooded Mergansers well into the spring, and it did not disappoint, with good views of three pairs. Next stop was in search of a wintering Harris’s Sparrow on the eastern outskirts of Denver, close to our hotel. Generally it had not been easy to find, but that was not the case for us, and we found it very quickly. Nearby there were plenty of Black-tailed Prairie-Dogs that showed very well, often scolding us from the entrance to their burrows if we approached too closely, but all the while keeping eyes open for their true enemies, the omni-present Red-tailed Hawks and other raptors.

Two of the party had elected to leave the trip a day early due to flight considerations, so late afternoon we bade them fond farewell and safe travels, before proceeding to our final birding site of the day at Cherry Creek State park. Lots of mixed habitats there, and plenty of birds, most notable were many American Pipits, two Semi-palmated and a single Least Sandpiper, a Broad-tailed Hawk roosting in a tree, many sparrows in the snow comprising mainly the very distinctive Vesper Sparrows but with a couple of Brewers and Chipping Sparrows thrown in for good measure.

We headed to dinner and our last night’s stay in high spirits.

Day 12

Leaving the motel on a winter-like morning, we headed back up to the foothills for some final birding. The forest was buried in a big fresh spring snowfall, and it was truly a winter wonderland that awaited us in the Ponderosa Pines. A splendid Cassin's Finch sang from the top of one tree, and the Pygmy Nuthatches put on quite a show too, as did a male Hairy Woodpecker, and a Brown Creeper. No sign however of the Williamson's Sapsuckers. We headed to brunch and the promise of warmer weather at lower elevation. More Hooded Mergansers awaited, as well as a single Northern Rough-winged Swallow amongst the Tree Swallows, a migrant Broad-winged Hawk – this one an adult – flew over in front of us, and past an island covered in nesting Double-crested Cormorants and Black-crowned Night-Herons. House Wrens are a summer migrant in Colorado, and today we saw the first one of the trip. Blue Jays and Fox Squirrel rounded out the list and we headed back to the motel and made our goodbyes as it was soon time to fly

Thanks to all participants – it was a great trip, and a real pleasure to show you the birds, mammals and scenery. If you are reading this report with a view to joining the trip, then contact the office soon, as the trip usually fills up quickly, sometimes more than a year in advance. Occasionally, due to last minute cancellations, places can sometimes become available closer to departure. Also note that the trip may not be offered every year.

Dick Filby
Tour Leader

Full Species List for 2018 below

BIRDS recorded on 2018 WildWings Colorado Tour

SNOW GOOSE

Chen caerulescens

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 (Goosander)

Mergus merganser americanus

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

Mergus serrator

RUDDY DUCK

Oxyura jamaicensis

SCALED QUAIL

Callipepla squamata

GAMBEL'S QUAIL

Callipepla gambelli

RING-NECKED PHEASANT

Phasianus colchicus

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

Centrocercus urophasianus

GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE

Centrocercus minimus

WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN

Lagopus leucura

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Tympanuchus phasianellus

GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN

Tympanuchus cupido

LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN

Tympanuchus pallidicinctus

WILD TURKEY

Meleagris gallopavo

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER

Gavia immer (Common Loon)

PIED-BILLED GREBE

Podilymbus podiceps

EARED (Black-necked) GREBE

Podiceps nigricollis

WESTERN GREBE

Aechmophorus occidentalis

CLARK'S GREBE

Aechmophorus clarkii

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax auritus

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

GREAT BLUE HERON

Ardea herodias

GREAT EGRET

Ardea alba

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

Nycticorax nycticorax

WHITE-FACED IBIS

Plegadis chihi

TURKEY VULTURE

Cathartes aura

OSPREY

Pandion haliaetus

BALD EAGLE

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

NORTHERN HARRIER

Circus cyaneus

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

Accipiter striatus

COOPER'S HAWK

Accipiter cooperii

BROAD-WINGED HAWK

Buteo platypterus

SWAINSON'S HAWK*Buteo swainsoni***RED-TAILED HAWK***Buteo jamaicensis***ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK***Buteo lagopus* (Rough-legged Buzzard)**FERRUGINOUS HAWK***Buteo regalis***GOLDEN EAGLE***Aquila chrysaetos***AMERICAN COOT***Fulica americana***SANDHILL CRANE***Grus canadensis canadensis***BLACK-NECKED STILT***Himantopus mexicanus***AMERICAN AVOCET***Recurvirostra americana***KILLDEER***Charadrius vociferus***MOUNTAIN PLOVER***Charadrius montanus***GREATER YELLOWLEGS***Tringa melanoleuca***LESSER YELLOWLEGS***Tringa flavipes***LONG-BILLED CURLEW***Numenius americanus***MARbled GODWIT***Limosa fedoa***LEAST SANDPIPER***Calidris minutilla***SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER***Calidris pusilla***BONAPARTE'S GULL***Larus philadelphia***FRANKLIN'S GULL***Larus pipixican***RING-BILLED GULL***Larus delawarensis***CALIFORNIA GULL***Larus californicus***FERAL (ROCK) DOVE***Columba livia***EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE***Streptopelia decaocto***MOURNING DOVE***Zenaida macroura***WESTERN SCREECH-OWL***Otus kennicotti***GREAT HORNED OWL***Bubo virginianus***BURROWING OWL***Athene cunicularia***WHITE-THROATED SWIFT***Aeronautes saxatalis***BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD (heard)***Archilochus alexandri***BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD***Selasphorus platycercus***BELTED KINGFISHER***Ceryle alcyon***LEWIS' WOODPECKER***Melanerpes lewis***LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER***Picoides scalaris***DOWNY WOODPECKER***Picoides pubescens leucurus /medianus***HAIRY WOODPECKER***Picoides villosus monticola***AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER***Picoides dorsalis***NORTHERN FLICKER***Colaptes auratus collaris (red-shafted)***AMERICAN KESTREL***Falco sparverius***MERLIN***Falco columbarius***PEREGRINE FALCON***Falco peregrinus***PRAIRIE FALCON***Falco mexicanus***GRAY FLYCATCHER***Empidonax wrightii***EASTERN PHOEBE***Sayornis phoebe***SAY'S PHOEBE***Sayornis saya***CASSIN'S KINGBIRD***Tyrannus vociferans***SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER***Tyrannus forficatus***LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE***Lanius ludovicianus***GRAY VIREO***Vireo vicinior***GRAY JAY***Perisoreus canadensis capitalis***PINYON JAY***Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*

STELLER'S JAY

Cyanocitta stelleri macrolopha

BLUE JAY

Cyanocitta cristata

WOODHOUSE'S SCRUB-JAY

Aphelocoma woodhouseii woodhouseii

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER

Nucifraga columbiana

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE

Pica hudsonia

AMERICAN CROW

Corvus brachyrhynchos

CHIHUAHUA RAVEN

Corvus cryptoleucus

(Common) RAVEN

Corvus corax

HORNED LARK (Shorelark)

Eremophila alpestris

TREE SWALLOW

Tachycineta bicolor

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW

Tachycineta thalassina

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW

Stelgidopteryx serripennis

BANK SWALLOW (Sand Martin)

Riparia riparia

CLIFF SWALLOW

Petrochelidon pyrrhonota

BARN SWALLOW (Swallow)

Hirundo rustica

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

Poecile atricapillus garinus /septentrionalis

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE

Poecile gambeli

JUNIPER TITMOUSE

Baeolophus griseus

BUSHTIT

Psaltriparus minimus

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Sitta canadensis

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Sitta carolinensis nelsoni

PYGMY NUTHATCH

Sitta pygmaea

BROWN CREEPER

Certhia americana (western)

ROCK WREN

Salpinctes obsoletus

CANYON WREN

Cartherpes mexicanus

HOUSE WREN

Troglodytes aedon

MARSH WREN

Cistothorus palustris

BEWICK'S WREN

Thryomanes bewickii

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER

Polioptila caerulea obscura /caerulea

AMERICAN DIPPER

Cinclus mexicanus

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

Regulus calendula

EASTERN BLUEBIRD

Sialia sialis

WESTERN BLUEBIRD

Sialia mexicana bairdi

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

Sialia currucoides

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE

Myadestes townsendi

AMERICAN ROBIN

Turdus migratorius

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER

Toxostoma curvirostre

SAGE THRASHER

Oreoscoptes montanus

(European) STARLING

Sturnus vulgaris

AMERICAN PIPIT

Anthus rubescens alticola

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR

Calcarius ornatus

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR

Rhynchophanes mccownii

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER

Oreothlypis celata orestera

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER

Oreothlypis virginiae

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (Myrtle)

Setophaga coronata coronata

Yellow-rumped Wblr (Audubon's form)

Setophaga coronata auduboni

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER

Setophaga nigrescens

SPOTTED TOWHEE

Pipilo maculatus montanus

RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW

Aimophila ruficeps

CANYON TOWHEE

Melospiza fusca

CHIPPING SPARROW

Spizella passerine

BREWER'S SPARROW

Spizella breweri

VESPER SPARROW

Pooecetes gramineus

LARK SPARROW

Chondestes grammacus

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW

Amphispiza bilineata

SAGEBRUSH SPARROW

Artemisiospiza nevadensis

SAVANNAH SPARROW

Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis

FOX SPARROW (Rocky Mountain form)

Passerella iliaca schistacea

SONG SPARROW

Melospiza melodia montana

LINCOLN'S SPARROW

Melospiza lincolni

HARRIS'S SPARROW

Zonotrichia querula

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

Zonotrichia leucophrys oriantha /gambelli

DARK-EYED JUNCO (Oregon form)

Junco hyemalis shufeldti

Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed form)

Junco hyemalis caniceps

Dark-eyed Junco (Pink-sided form)

Junco hyemalis mearnsi

Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-coloured form)

Junco hyemalis hyemalis

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Agelaius phoeniceus

WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Sturnella neglecta

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD

Euphagus cyanocephalus

COMMON GRACKLE

Quiscalus quiscula versicolor

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE

Quiscalus mexicanus prosopidicola

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD

Molothrus ater

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH

Leucosticte tephrocotis tephrocotis

"Hepburn's" Gray-cr. Rosy-Finch

Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis

BLACK ROSY-FINCH

Leucosticte atrata

BROWN-CAPPED ROSY-FINCH

Leucosticte australis

HOUSE FINCH

Haemorhous mexicanus

CASSIN'S FINCH

Haemorhous cassinii

PINE SISKIN

Spinus spinus

LESSER GOLDFINCH

Spinus psaltria

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

Spinus tristis

EVENING GROSBEEK

Coccothraustes vespertinus

HOUSE SPARROW

Passer domesticus

179 species of birds

2 new for the tour in 2018:

- Gray Flycatcher
- Fork-tailed Flycatcher

MAMMALS - 2018 WildWings Colorado Tour

DESERT COTTONTAIL

Sylvilagus auduboni

EASTERN COTTONTAIL

Sylvilagus floridanus

MOUNTAIN COTTONTAIL

Sylvilagus nuttalli

SNOWSHOE HARE (tracks only)

Lepus americanus

BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBIT

Lepus californicus

Least/Colorado Chipmunk spp

Tamias spp

YELLOW-BELLIED MARMOT

Marmota flaviventris

WYOMING GROUND -SQUIRREL

Spermophilus elegans

GOLDEN-MANTLED GROUND -SQUIRREL

Spermophilus lateralis

THIRTEEN-LINED GROUND -SQUIRREL

Spermophilus tridecemlineatus

ROCK SQUIRREL

Spermophilus variegates

GUNNISON PRAIRIE-DOG

Cynomys gunnisoni

WHITE-TAILED PRAIRIE-DOG

Cynomys leucurus

BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE-DOG

Cynomys ludovicianus

FOX SQUIRREL

Sciurus niger

PINE SQUIRREL (Red Squirrel)

Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

ORD'S KANGAROO-RAT

Dipodomys ordii

COMMON MUSKRAT

Ondatra zibethicus

COYOTE

Canis latrans

GRAY FOX

Urocyon cinereoargenteus

RED FOX

Vulpes vulpes

RACCOON

Procyon lotor

STRIPED SKUNK

Mephitis mephitis

ELK

Cervus elaphus

MULE DEER

Odocoileus hemionus

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Odocoileus virginianus

MOOSE

Alces alces

PRONGHORN

Antilocapra americana

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Oreamnos americanus

MOUNTAIN SHEEP (Bighorn Sheep)

Ovis canadensis

29 species of mammals