

Seven Ponds Nature Center

Colorado Birding Tour

June 21-27, 2017

BIRDS

Canada Goose – seen regularly at numerous locations

Gadwall – seen at both the Timnath and Walden reservoirs

American Wigeon – a pair seen in a wet area while driving the gravel roads of Coalmont Township in North Park

Mallard – seen regularly at numerous locations

Blue-winged Teal – seen at Stewart's Pond, the County Road 42 flooded field, and in Coalmont Twp.

Cinnamon Teal – seen first at Stewart's Pond, where we had 6 of them; also seen in Coalmont Twp. and the Walden Reservoir

Northern Shoveler – at least three shovelers seen on Stewart's Pond

Northern Pintail – one lone bird seen in a marshy area near the Walden Reservoir

Green-winged Teal – a pair seen at Stewart's Pond

Redhead – multiple birds seen at both Stewart's Pond and the Walden Reservoir

Ring-necked Duck – three birds seen at the Walden Reservoir

Lesser Scaup – all of our birds were seen up in North Park: Coalmont Twp, Arapaho NWR, and the Walden Reservoir

Common Goldeneye – this bird was seen out on the Walden Reservoir in North Park

Common Merganser – we found a lone female out on the Windy Gap Reservoir on the drive from North Park to Grand Lake when we stopped for a restroom break and to stretch our legs

Ruddy Duck – we had one or two of these small ducks at both Stewart's Pond and the Timnath Reservoir

Greater Sage-Grouse – after driving several miles of high desert sagebrush in North Park, we finally found this wonderful female with four young chicks in tow

White-tailed Ptarmigan – fantastic extended looks at a beautiful male bird above treeline at Medicine Bow Curve (RMNP) where we truly enjoyed this high alpine tundra bird

Pied-billed Grebe – several birds seen at Stewart's Pond, then also seen at both the Timnath and Walden reservoirs

Eared Grebe – good looks through the scope at 3 at Stewart’s Pond, then up-close-and-personal looks at Walden Reservoir, where they were diving and feeding on leeches; stunning to see these birds in full breeding plumage

Western Grebe – we saw Western Grebes at the Timnath Reservoir and at the Walden Reservoir

Double-crested Cormorant – seen at several locations, including Watson Lake, Timnath Reservoir, Arapaho NWR, and Walden Reservoir

American White Pelican – seen regularly at numerous locations

Great Blue Heron – seen regularly at numerous locations; particularly numerous flying over Old Saint Vrain Road

Snowy Egret – five individuals seen at Walden Reservoir in North Park

Black-crowned Night-Heron – seen at Arapahoe NWR – first in flight from the overlook, then in the creek from our van

Ibis sp. – a flock of four birds flew over as we were boarding the van at Stewart’s Pond; with our brief view of the birds overhead and flying away, it was not possible to put a positive ID on them; they were either White-faced Ibis (more common) or Glossy Ibis (less common)

Turkey Vulture – seen regularly at numerous locations

Osprey – seen twice: once along US-34 and once as we entered the Wild Basin area of Rocky Mountain National Park

Golden Eagle – adult and nest with young seen at Watson Lake; several individuals seen in North Park; immature birds seen at RMNP

Northern Goshawk – flushed while we were searching for sapsuckers and flycatchers at Upper Beaver Meadows in Rocky Mountain National Park

Swainson’s Hawk – first observed at Pawnee National Grasslands, then seen regularly at numerous locations, both perched on utility poles and in flight

Red-tailed Hawk – seen regularly at numerous locations, mostly perched on utility poles, otherwise in flight

American Coot – seen at Stewart’s Pond, Timnath Reservoir, Coalmont Twp, and Walden Reservoir

Black-necked Stilt – seen on a flooded field on County Road 42

American Avocet – we had these beautiful birds at Stewart’s Pond, CR 48, CR 42 (27 birds!), Coalmont Twp, and Walden Reservoir

Killdeer – common plover seen at several locations, including Pawnee Grasslands, Stewart’s Pond, CR 48, CR 42, Coalmont Twp, and Arapaho NWR

Mountain Plover – lone individual seen at the Pawnee Grasslands; great scope views

Long-billed Curlew – a great view out of the van as we got started in the Pawnee Grasslands; a strong candidate for “bird of the tour” honors

Pectoral Sandpiper – a lone bird seen in the flooded field along County Road 42

Wilson’s Snipe – seen and heard in the wet areas in Coalmont Township in North Park

Wilson’s Phalarope – seen in a few flooded fields (CR 48, CR 42, Coalmont Twp) and at the Walden Reservoir; in the field on County Road 48 we had a count of 44 phalaropes spinning and feeding in the water!

Spotted Sandpiper – seen at the flooded field along County Road 42 and at Stewart’s Pond

Greater Yellowlegs – a lone bird seen in the flooded field along County Road 42

Willet – seen in the flooded field along County Road 42, and again (two birds) at Walden Pond

Ring-billed Gull – one individual seen at CR 48 (was this the only Ring-billed Gull we saw?)

California Gull – large numbers of birds seen flying by while we were in Walden; nesting colony seen at the Walden Reservoir

Rock Pigeon – yes, we saw Rock Pigeons! Best place (perhaps) was at our lunch stop in Ault (A Unique Little Town)

Band-tailed Pigeon – three birds seen at/around the feeders at the Estes Park YMCA Camp

Eurasian Collared-Dove – seen regularly at numerous locations

Mourning Dove – seen regularly at numerous locations

Burrowing Owl – numerous individuals and small groups seen at the Pawnee Grasslands – what a treat!

Barn Owl – seen by seven of us on our final night when we stopped by Barr Lake State Park on the way to Denver; first we saw the adult next to nest hole, then a young bird popped its head up to check us out

Common Nighthawk – a couple birds seen during the middle of the day as we had lunch at the Crow Valley Campground at Pawnee; seen again from the parking lot of the historic Chedsey Motel in Walden

Chimney Swift – seen by some flying above while we were in Grand Lake (and possibly other places?)

White-throated Swift – first seen along the Golden Eagle nest cliff at Watson Lake; better views were had by some at Old Saint Vrain Road; all views were of birds flying high and far away (typical for this bird)

Black-chinned Hummingbird – observed on Old Saint Vrain Road; with Ted Floyd

Broad-tailed Hummingbird – first observed at Lory State Park, then seen regularly at numerous locations; most of our observations were “heard only” as the bird buzzed past with its characteristic “wing trill”

Belted Kingfisher – a lone bird seen perched on a wire near Walden Reservoir in North Park

Red-naped Sapsucker – first seen at the Moose Visitor Center on the west side of Cameron Pass – including a pair doing a shift change in the “Nest Hole Tree”

Downy Woodpecker – seen on Day 3, but I don’t have a record of where (Old Saint Vrain Road?)

American Three-toed Woodpecker – after much searching, we finally got a look at this bird at the Coyote Valley Trail in Rocky Mountain National Park

Northern Flicker (red-shafted) – seen on Old Saint Vrain Road and Rainbow Curve (RMNP); other sightings as well

American Kestrel – seen regularly at numerous locations, often while we were traveling

Western Wood-Pewee – seen (more often heard) regularly at numerous locations; first seen at Lory State Park; seen on a nest at Old Saint Vrain Road

Hammond’s Flycatcher – a lone bird seen and heard in the Wild Basin area of RMNP – in appropriate habitat, in “coniferous forests, usually perching high in tall trees” (Sibley)

Dusky Flycatcher – a lone bird seen and heard in the Wild Basin area of RMNP – in appropriate habitat, in “brushy patches within open forests” (Sibley)

Cordilleran Flycatcher – several individuals heard, and three seen very well along Old Saint Vrain Road with Ted Floyd; others heard elsewhere during our travels; “bo peep!”

Western Kingbird – first seen at Lory State Park ; seen regularly at numerous locations during our first four days (not seen during our RMNP days)

Eastern Kingbird – seen at Watson Lake and Timnath reservoir

Loggerhead Shrike – the “catch me if you can” butcher bird at Pawnee Grasslands, where many were seen, but few were seen well by many

Plumbeous Vireo – good looks at a couple individuals of this spectacled gray bird at Old Saint Vrain Road; with Ted Floyd

Warbling Vireo – heard often by many, seen by none

Gray Jay – three birds seen at close range, but not for long, at our first stop at Rainbow Curve (RMNP)

Stellar’s Jay – seen at three locations: Moose Visitor Center, Endovalley (RMNP), and the Wild Basin area (RMNP)

Blue Jay – seen/heard on Day 2 and Day 3, but I don’t have a record of where we saw them

Black-billed Magpie – seen regularly at numerous locations; first recorded at Watson Lake (Golden Eagle nest site)

Clark's Nutcracker – great looks at a very close bird on our second stop at Rainbow Curve (RMNP)

American Crow – seen regularly at numerous locations

Common Raven – seen regularly at numerous locations

Horned Lark – 150+ seen at the Pawnee Grasslands; also seen while driving the gravel roads in Coalmont Twp

Tree Swallow – seen regularly at numerous locations; of note was the pair we saw at the top of a dead tree at the Moose Visitor Center – thought by some to be the fifth tenant of the “Nest Hole Tree” – although we never saw them actually visit the vacant hole

Violet-green Swallow – seen regularly at numerous locations; first seen at Old Saint Vrain Road

Barn Swallow – seen regularly at numerous locations

Cliff Swallow – seen regularly at numerous locations; perhaps the most numerous swallow on our tour (?)

Black-capped Chickadee – seen at Old Saint Vrain Road on Day 3

Mountain Chickadee – seen at several locations, including the Moose Visitor Center (at the “Nest Hole Tree”), Endovalley and Upper Beaver Meadows (RMNP), and the Estes Park YMCA Camp

Red-breasted Nuthatch – one of the four nesting birds on the “Nest Hole Tree” at the Moose Visitor Center; also seen at the Wild Basin area of RMNP

White-breasted Nuthatch – we came across this bird twice: Upper Beaver Meadows (RMNP) and the Estes Park YMCA Camp

Pygmy Nuthatch – heard-earned views of this active bird at both the Estes Park YMCA Camp and the Wild Basin area (RMNP) – we had two birds at both places

Rock Wren – a nice find on a fence wire at the Pawnee Grasslands

Canyon Wren – seen well by all on the cliff face along Old Saint Vrain Road; with Ted Floyd

House Wren – seen/heard at numerous locations, including nesting in the “Nest Hole Tree” at the Moose Visitor Center

Marsh Wren – heard at Arapaho NWR and seen well at the Walden Reservoir

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – seen and heard at Lory State Park on our first day of the tour

American Dipper – observed dipping in the Cache De Poudre River at Old Saint Vrain Road; with Ted Floyd

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – heard regularly by many, seen by none (?)

Mountain Bluebird – first seen at Lory State Park, then seen in a few locations in RMNP (Alpine Visitor Center, Endovalley, Upper Beaver Meadow)

Townsend's Solitaire – a single bird seen well through the scope at Rainbow Curve at RMNP

American Robin – Michigan State Bird; seen daily, nearly every place we went

Gray Catbird – numerous birds seen and heard along Old Saint Vrain Road

Brown Thrasher – a lone bird seen while we had our picnic lunch at Crow Valley Campground at the Pawnee Grasslands

Sage Thrasher – seen both days as we drove the gravel roads of the high desert sagebrush area of Coalmont Twp. in North Park; good looks through the scopes the second day we were in that area

European Starling – seen regularly at numerous locations, did not appear to be as common as in the Midwest

American Pipit – several seen above the tree line in the alpine tundra area of RMNP at Medicine Bow Curve

Cedar Waxwing – a small flock seen in the trees along Old Saint Vrain Road

Chestnut-collared Longspur – we found at least three individuals in the Pawnee Grasslands on the gravel road in front of our trusty van; the more difficult of the two longspurs to find, we actually got these fairly quickly, and had to work for the McCown's

McCown's Longspur – four birds seen later in the day we spent at the Pawnee Grasslands; looked for a while like we may miss these “common” grassland birds!

MacGillivray's Warbler – perhaps the most frustrating bird of the tour – a couple of males gave us very brief views flying back and forth across the gravel road at Endovalley (RMNP); finally, a few of us got a decent look (0.23 seconds) at a perched bird before it flew across the road and disappeared for good

Common Yellowthroat – heard (and maybe seen?) on both Day 2 and Day 4

Yellow Warbler – seen or heard regularly at numerous locations

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) – seen at least three times in Rocky Mountain National Park: Coyote Valley Trail, Hidden Valley Beaver Ponds, Wild Basin area

Wilson's Warbler – seen at three different locations: Moose Visitor Center and both days in RMNP

Yellow-breasted Chat – reported on our checklist on Day 1 (Lory State Park), and Day 3, but I'm not sure where on Day 3; were these heard-only birds?

Grasshopper Sparrow – good looks at a lone bird at the Pawnee Grasslands

Brewer's Sparrow – scope views of this bird at the sagebrush area of Coalmont Twp. in North Park

Lark Bunting – Colorado State Bird; dozens (100+?) seen at the Pawnee Grasslands

Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-crowned) – we saw this Rocky Mountain subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco in several locations, including the Moose Visitor Center, Rocky Mountain National Park (Rainbow Curve, Hidden Valley Creek, Upper Beaver Meadows, Coyote Valley Trail), and the Estes Park YMCA Camp

White-crowned Sparrow – we first saw this bird at the Cameron Pass Visitor Center on our way to North Park; we also got them in Arapaho NWR, Grand Lake and Medicine Bow Curve (RMNP)

Vesper Sparrow – a good view of this bird was had by the group in the sagebrush of North Park; the white outer tail feathers were clearly seen in flight after the bird left its perch on the fence near the road

Savannah Sparrow – after a few false alarms while looking at Little Brown Jobs, we finally put a positive ID on this bird with a good view out the van windows while driving the gravel roads / sagebrush area of Coalmont Twp. in North Park

Song Sparrow – seen three times throughout our travels, including the North Park sagebrush area and the Wild Basin area (RMNP)

Lincoln's Sparrow – seen perched in a tree over the trail as we walked back toward the parking lot in Upper Beaver Meadows (RMNP)

Green-tailed Towhee – seen twice: in the sagebrush of North Park and during our picnic lunch in Endovalley (RMNP)

Spotted Towhee – good views of this bird at Lory State Park and Old Saint Vrain Road

Western Tanager – we had an “in your face” view at Lory State Park, and then a more distant but still excellent view at our Endovalley (RMNP) picnic area

Black-headed Grosbeak – seen first at Lory State Park, and then at Old Saint Vrain Road, where the group saw a pair attending to a nearly-fledged nestling in a nest

Lazuli Bunting – another bird that was seen at both Lory State Park and Old Saint Vrain Road

Red-winged Blackbird – seen regularly at numerous locations

Western Meadowlark – seen regularly the first four days (not seen during our RMNP days); first seen while driving to Lory State Park

Yellow-headed Blackbird – several seen at Stewart's Pond, then also seen at CR 48, Coalmont Twp, and the Walden Reservoir

Brewer's Blackbird – great views of this iridescent blackbird in Coalmont Twp, Arapaho NWR, and Walden Reservoir, all in their typical open, grassy habitat common in North Park

Common Grackle – seen regularly the first four days (not seen during our RMNP days)

Great-tailed Grackle – lone bird seen well at while we were at Stewart's Pond

Brown-headed Cowbird – seen regularly at numerous locations

Orchard Oriole – this bird was seen by several members of our group while we picnicked at Crow Valley Campground in the Pawnee Grasslands

Bullock's Oriole – the default oriole of Colorado, we saw this brilliant orange bird at Lory State Park, Crow Valley Campground (Pawnee National Grassland), and Old Saint Vrain Road

Brown-capped Rosy-Finch – lone bird seen feeding along the melting snow at the Lava Fields at RMNP; scope views

House Finch – seen at Old Saint Vrain Road and the Estes Park YMCA Camp

Cassin's Finch – a female was seen in Grand Lake as we contemplated breakfast behind the van; we got a pair at the Estes Park YMCA Camp feeders

Red Crossbill – we saw a pair through the scope perched high in a tree at Upper Beaver Meadows (RMNP)

Pine Siskin – seen at Coyote Valley Trail (RMNP) and the Estes Park YMCA Camp feeders

Lesser Goldfinch – seen at Lory State Park, including a great view on dead branches of both a Lesser and an American perched in the same view – and then they switched places for us!

American Goldfinch – seen at Lory State Park

House Sparrow – seen at several locations on three days, but apparently not as common as in the Midwest

TOTAL BIRDS SEEN/HEARD BY OUR GROUP: 143 (+1 spp)

MAMMALS

Abert's Squirrel – the squirrel of Rocky Mountains and foothills

American Red Squirrel – seen at the Estes Park YMCA (perhaps other places as well?)

White-tailed Prairie Dog – seen in the North Park area (Walden)

Black-tailed Prairie Dog – seen on the eastern side of the Rockies, particularly in Pawnee

Yellow-bellied Marmot – seen in Rocky Mountain National Park

Ground Squirrel sp. – five species of ground squirrels in Colorado – not sure which species we saw

Chipmunk sp. – five species of chipmunks in Colorado – not sure which species we saw

American Pika – seen in Rocky Mountain National Park

Black-tailed Jackrabbit – seen in North Park – nice view of a large rabbit alongside the van and moving up the slope

Coyote – seen at a distance in North Park

Raccoon – seen by seven of us at Barr Lake State Park on the final evening after we saw the Barn Owls

Pronghorn – seen throughout the Pawnee Grasslands, singly and in bands, including a doe with a calf

Elk – seen throughout Rocky Mountain National Park, including mature bulls, large herds, and a cow with a calf

Moose – our first sighting was a large bull alongside the road just past Cameron Pass; then seen regularly on the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park, including a cow with a calf

Mule Deer – seen occasionally during our tour

Bighorn Sheep – seen at a few locations in RMNP, including three massive rams near Rock Cut

TOTAL MAMMALS SEEN BY OUR GROUP: 14 (+2 sp)