

SPECIFIC LOCATIONS OF TARGET SPECIES

COLORADO 2001 ~ A CHICKEN ODESSEY

Itinerary

Day 1 ~ Friday April 13th

Drive approximately an hour north-east of Denver to Lower Latham Reservoir and the surrounding wet meadows, where Western and Clark's Grebe, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Cinnamon Teal and Wilson's Phalarope breed, and lingering Ross' Geese are possible.

We then head east to Wray for a 7pm meeting on the Greater Prairie Chicken.

Overnight: Wray

Denver Airport Area: 4/1 I could not locate any Great-tailed Grackle along 136th avenue and Buckley road. Two Burrowing Owls were at the Prairie Dog village 3.4 miles east of Tower Road and 96th avenue. One Rough-legged Hawk stood on a telephone pole near the Prairie Dog Village 0.5 miles south of Piccadilly Road and 128th avenue. (P.41)

Longmont (P.91)

An adult basic MEW GULL was seen at Jim Hamm Park east of Longmont on County Road 1 3/12 also check Union reservoir (P.30)

LUNA (Large, unnamed) Res: Greater/Lesser Scaup- the reservoir is just barely inside Weld Co. (north of Adams Co.) and just east of I-25. Take exit 229 and go east on Rt. 7. Where Rt. 7 starts bending to the SE, turn left onto 168th/2 Rd. Go east for a bit over a mile to 11 Rd and turn north. The reservoir is on the east side of 11 Rd. The best viewing is from the road at the NW corner of the reservoir. (P.30)

Jackson Reservoir

At Jackson Reservoir (Morgan County), we observed five Long-eared Owls in the western side campgrounds. (P.94) 1/4 mi. west of Ft. Lupton, north at Pearson Park about 2 blocks, on east side about 80 feet south of the entrance to the sewage ponds, - 3 large **great horned owl** chicks on the nest, with an adult 12 ft. away next to the trunk. (P.31)

BLUE JAY colony in La Salle, only one in CO (P.31)

Lower Latham Reservoir (P.87)

+ Short-eared Owl (up to 4) (first 11/14) last 3/10 (South side of CR 48; look south from Southwest oil company pullout) This evening 3/18 along Weld CR 48 on the south side of Latham Res. Were 3 SEOW's. 3/22 - About 6:20 PM, on the EW weld county road 1/2 mi south of the road that goes across the south end of the Latham Reservoir (3 miles east of LaSalle)....a great horned owl on top of a telephone pole....a short-eared owl working the fields about 1/2 mi. north

Ross Geese, Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, raptors & shorebirds (P.31)

NOTE: WATCH SPEED ON MORGAN to WRAY ROAD

Long Eared Owls

The owls were in thick (artificially planted) rows of pine/juniper behind a USDA Experimental Station, about four miles east of Akron. I just walked the rows the station is on the north side of the road. The line of pines/junipers stretches along a county road (I didn't get the road number) to the north. (P.95)

Day 2 ~ Saturday April 14th

At dawn we visit Greater Prairie-Chickens on their dancing grounds. We then travel west, spending the remainder of the day at the 775,000 acre Pawnee National Grassland where Golden Eagles, Ferruginous and Swainson Hawk's abound. Here we will search Crow Valley Park and Campground for woodland species, including Long-eared and Great Horned Owl. We'll search the short Buffalo grass prairie for our target birds, McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs and Mountain Plover all in breeding plumage. Sparrows including Brewer's, Cassin's and

Grasshopper should be seen along fence-lines and Burrowing Owl's nest in Black-tailed Prairie Dog holes. Other possible mammals in these grasslands include Pronghorn, Coyote and White-tailed Jackrabbits.
Overnight: Aurora/ Denver

GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN LEK in Wray: (P. 48) ~ Part of organized Tour

Pawnee Grasslands (P.37)

LONG EARED OWL in a group of trees on the west side of Weld County Rd 15 half mile north of WCR 90.
Campground – warblers, both goldfinches, Townsend Solitaire
Murphy's Pasture – McCown's & Ch S Longspur on both sides of road
Short Pasture – Mt Plover (P. 94/21)
BURROWING OWL (P. 94/21)

Mt. Plover - Shy, calm, quiet, and the perfect color to blend into the prairie. Preferred defense is to stand rock still when a vehicle approaches. Stay in your vehicle and patiently scan with binoculars. It often takes 5 minutes or more before the birds will move. Intersection of 114 and 45, intersection of 61 and 96. Burned over areas that are VERY attractive to the plovers.

Along Road 100 West of the tiny town of Keota. The first 6 miles (when headed West from Keota) is all good plover habitat. Very short grass, over grazed pasture, and fallow winter wheat field strips.

Prairie dog towns and water tanks are also good areas to check out. They don't want the water, just the very over grazed areas around the tanks. T.8N., R.60W., Sections 19 and 20, grassland road 101. Good prairie dog town and short grass.

McCown's Longspur - By mid May, they are our third most common bird on the prairie. Look for them almost everywhere. Pick up a copy of our self guided bird tour at the Pawnee office in Greeley or at Crow Valley Campground 1/4 mile north of Briggsdale. Follow the tour and watch for the black and white tail pattern as the birds fly from the roadside. Mid April
the numbers are still a little low but more arriving every time the weather warms.

Chestnut-collared Longspur - Prefer grass that is boot top high, so that limits their occurrence on the Pawnee. Most of our grass is too short. But reliable locations are ... Intersection of 100 and 49. Park and walk West checking all the little birds that flush as you go. Make slow loops

up to 1/2 mile North and South of the two track road that is running due West. Also from this same intersection (100 and 49) as you travel East over the next 1 mile check North and particularly South of road 100. Junction of Hwy 14 and Co. Hwy 77(Briggsdale) go West 2 1/2 miles to road 607 (runs North). Take 607 North. Get out and walk any grass that is boot top high. 607 eventually joins Rd. 96 about 3 1/2 miles North. Rd.114 and US Hwy 85. (Central Plains Experimental Range) Walk the prairie that is South of 114 as you travel East from this intersection for the next mile. You are on the leading edge of the Chestnut Collared arrival as well but more birds arriving with each warm spell.

Day 3 ~ Sunday April 15th

We begin this morning checking out the waterfowl on Cherry Lake in Denver, before heading southeast to work the lakes and riparian corridor along the Arkansas River to Nee Noshe Reservoir. Here we'll look for migrant warblers, various waders, shorebirds and waterfowl as well as Neotropic Cormorant. Barn Owl and Western Screech Owl are possible and there is always the distinct chance we may come across Leconte's Sparrow or Black Rail!

Overnight: Springfield

Cherry Creek Reservoir SP

A second basic GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL and first basic THAYER'S GULL were seen at Cherry Creek SP on the 3/10th. (P.40)

Thayer's Gull (adult) (first 3/10) last 3/12

Thayer's Gull (1st basic) first 3/9) last 3/10

4/7 -Wood ducks and cinnamon teal in the woodland pond where the road crosses Cherry

Creek. One Clark's Grebe was hiding among about 35 western grebes. One rough-legged hawk was still there (P.40)

Rocky Ford (Otero) sightings of Inca or Eurasian Collared-Doves. (P.98)

Sewage Ponds – Bonaparte's, Yellowlegs, Avocet, BN Stilt (P.98)

Lake Cheraw:

CASPIAN TERN 1 (in breeding pl. -- first spotted by BP) (P.98)

Ft. Lyons Wildlife Easement (P.55)

WESTERN SCREECH OWL is common along the Arkansas River all the way west to the KS line, but once you get to Lamar, you have to start worrying about EASO (there's a pair at the Lamar Comm. College). Probably one of the most reliable locations is at the Ft. Lyons Wildlife Easement just west of John Martin Res., in Bent Co. However, at that time of the year, one could probably play a tape in good habitat anywhere in the riparian corridor and find them.

If you're at Ft. Lyons, you could check the nearby marshes for **BLACK RAILS**, which might be back by then.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: In the past two years, there have been several winter reports of this bird. If they are in Colorado, your best search would be Fort Lyons Wildlife Area. This is the western end of John Martin Reservoir (between Lamar and La Junta). From highway 50, take CR 16 south to water. Walk the cattails and willows to east and north. You are between CR JJ and CR HH. (P99)

BARN OWL - Fort Lyons Wildlife Easement Area

From Las Animas, Drive East along Highway 50

At 5.0 miles East, turn South (Right) on Bent County Road 16

Follow CR 16 several miles to CR HH

Also check trees at intersection CR JJ and CR 16 in the trees at the Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement, at Rd. HH & 16, east of Ft. Lyon. (P.99)

NORTHERN PARULA

John Martin Reservoir:

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT 1 in breeding pl. (Lake Hasty)

Located along Highway 50; 45 miles East of La Junta; 21 miles West of Lamar

Turn South at Hasty; travel 3.0 miles to John Martin Reservoir

Lake Hasty is located below the dam at JM (P.99)

Directions for good view of Finger Island

At Sign to Lake Hasty, take right fork to Picnic area

At fork in 1.0 miles, again take right fork.

In 0.3 miles you will cross cattle guard.

Continue through cattle guard for another 0.5 miles.

Park here and walk final 0.2 miles up hill to view of Finger Island!

Neehoshe Reservoir Boat Ramp (P.53)

Drive edge for fields - Leconte's & Brewer's Sparrow (P.99)

NOTE: DINNER IN LAMAR
COLLECT KEY IN SPRINGFIELD FOR CAMPO BLIND

Day 4 ~ Monday April 16th

Another pre-dawn start finds us in Campo on the display grounds of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken.

Several species of sparrow, Lark Bunting, Scaled Quail and Catcus Wren inhabit the surrounding sage habitat.

Heading east through the Comanche Grasslands, we look for Long Billed Curlews, and visit scenic Cottonwood and Carrizo Canyon, an area of pinyon-juniper habitat. It is here that we encounter the colorful Lewis Woodpecker.

Other species include Mississippi Kite, Chihuahuan Raven, Spotted and Canyon Towhee, Harris, Vesper and Lark Sparrow, Vermillion Flycatcher and Lesser Goldfinch.

Overnight: Pueblo West

Lesser Prairie-Chicken Lek

Highway 287 from Springfield, Colorado to Campo (22 miles)

East on CR J to CR 36 (8 miles)

South to CR G (2 miles)
East on CR G pass light tower (3 miles)
Continue on CR G to Culvert (1 mile)
Turn south here to Lek (1.2 mile)
LEK in Campo (P.64): Can view the whole lek from the middle to right of the car park (P.103)

Campo Area

On the drive back out of the sage, ½ mile to the main drag, SCALED QUAIL were along CR J on the trip to the lek, CASSIN's, Grasshopper, Vesper Sparrow (Bird Management area, south of Campo Lek), Barn Owl, Lark Buntings, Roadrunner, Ladder-backed Woodpecker and CACTUS WREN – Only place for Southwestern species. (P.103)

RETURN KEY TO SPRINGFIELD – BREAKFAST IN CAMPO (or AT TRUCK STOP DINER in SPRINGFIELD)

Comanche Grasslands

Check for LB Curlews along M RD(P.101)

M.Plover: On Comanche try the burn by rd M about six miles or so west of junction with 285 (Springfield-Campo rd)

Carrizo Canyon & Cottonwood Canyon 3/16 (P.65)

Two Western Screech-Owls (best place is Cottonwood Canyon They nest around the camping area), Rufous-crowned Sparrows in their usual location 1.4 miles east-northeast of the camping area in Cottonwood Canyon), (Picture Canyon), Bewick's Wren, Spotted and Canyon Towhee, Harris, Vesper and Lark Sparrow, Vermillion F/C, Lesser Goldfinch (P.101)

At the fork/ old ranch house- bare left and go about ½ mile to the old primitive campsite. Pull in and check the dead tall cottonwoods for LEWIS W/P . Cassin's Kingbird a little further down.

Pueblo Reservoir (P.178)

JUNIPER TITMOUSE the PJ areas at Pueblo Reservoir (particularly, the campground).

2 first winter GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULLS were seen on the 3/3 after one on the 25th, a juvenile THAYER'S GULL was seen on the 17th

Dinner: Steak House. Rte 50 east to just before I-25, go North on frontage rd. ¾ mile up on left

Day 5 ~ Tuesday April 17th

Today we get our first crack at the Rosy Finches. Visiting the Royal Gorge Nature Center where there should be late stragglers. At Canon City we'll check the river walk for the wintering Harris' Sparrow. We head north through Buena Vista, stopping for Pinyon Jay's and through the mountain valleys on our way to Georgetown, we'll look for such montane species as American Dipper, Mountain Chickadee and Red-naped Sapsucker. If we have time we'll stop at Loveland Ski area for another search of Rosy Finches.

Overnight: Georgetown

Royal Gorge Nature Center. It is not a part of the Canon City Riverwalk. It will be open when you plan to visit. It is located several miles west of Canon City (go back to H50 and take it west thru town and up to turn-off to Royal Gorge Bridge which, as a major tourist park, is very well marked (you follow signs to the Royal Gorge Bridge but make a u-turn right before the pay gate and park in the marked areas. The Nature Center is a stone building located just northeast of , but outside of, the pay gates and the trail is accessed from the marked parking areas. It does not cost anything to go to the Nature Center, but does cost if you enter the Royal Gorge Bridge Park (info on the Park can be obtained at <www.royalgorgebridge.com>) There have been only a few Rosy-Finches seen lately, but I will be up there on 4-14 so can give you more info after that if you would like.

3 ROSY FINCHES- Royal Gorge Nature Center, Canon City call Glenda Schleve 719 275-7507 or 888 333-5597 grschleve@yahoo.com

From Canon City, take highway 50 West out of town. After approx. 8.5 miles, at Buckskin Joes turn South and follow signs to Gorge. Nature Center can be observed with paying entrance fee. (P.71)

Temple Canyon State Park (P.182)

JUNIPER TITMOUSE is readily gotten at numerous places in the SE; you could particularly try Temple Canyon in Fremont Co. This is easy find in Temple Canyon State Park. There is not much in the park. Gray Vireos, Gray Flycatchers, Juniper Titmice, and Bewick's Wrens nest here. There is the possibility of Evening and Black-headed Grosbeaks also. (P.71)

Canon City (P.183)

2 1st W HARRIS' SPARROW continues through the 1st at the Canon City Riverwalk since first seen on February 5th 150-200 feet west of the McKenzie parking lot gate to the park bench, in trees behind the bench (up to 2 imm 3/13)

4 Greater White-fronted Geese were seen on February 11th through March 1st in fields north of the riverwalk and east of Ash Street.

3 Yellow-rumped Warblers--east end of Canon City riverwalk

2 Cassin's Kingbirds--Tunnel Drive area in pinyons (1st I've seen this year)

1 Broad-tailed Hummingbird--heard flying over at the Tunnel Drive area

2 Say's Phoebes--Tunnel Drive parking lot

7 Scaup species--water treatment ponds on Tunnel Drive

1 American Dipper--Temple Canyon Park (saw a nearby nest under a bridge that had 1) (P.72)

The MacKenzie parking area for the Canon City Riverwalk is accessed as follows: coming towards Canon City going west on H50 you will pass a major prison complex on the south side of highway then proceed down a long curved hill. Get into left lane, as you will turn left at bottom of hill at MacKenzie, which is the first street going to the south. This is several hundred feet before the first stop light in town. Proceed south on MacKenzie for a mile or so before going over a bridge (over the Arkansas River), then a few hundred feet beyond the bridge is a small sign for Riverwalk at the first road (the dirt road not the paved one after it). Turn right on dirt access road and follow it to the parking area, which has large sign for Riverwalk and gate marking beginning of trail. Check out the area around the parking area as the Harris' Sparrows have been seen there.

If not, proceed down the trail about 200 feet to the park bench--this is where I usually see them, in trees or on ground in this area. I find them pretty shy and have had to visually pry them out of the thickets, especially dried vine tangles that they hide in. I was there at 10 am Sunday and did not see them. Saturday I saw them both at 9 am and 6:30 pm--I would suggest early rather than later as I have seen them fewer times in late afternoon. Checkout overlook just south of entrance for other birds and view. (P.72)

Buena Vista Overlook - PINYON JAY

One mile East of the intersection of highways 24 and 285

Walk to the highest point of the overlook and look West-North West

You will see why the Pinyon Jays are here year round (KOA campground) (P.60)

Granite - Rosy Finches

Go right in the center of town, and cross a stream and take the first left onto a dirt road that parallels Rte 24. The 2nd house on the right with an American flag, and a sign in the driveway saying Caution chukar chick xing, has feeders and Gray-crowned RF's. (P.47)

Check the Mt Valleys for DIPPER on the way to Georgetown

SilverThorne - ROSY FINCHES

From Interstate 70, take Highway 9 (exit 205)

Drive North on Highway 9 to Wildernest (first left)

Follow Wildernest West to Buffalo Mountain Drive (CR 1240)

Turn Right and drive west to Elk Thistle Drive (quite a ways down road)

Turn North on Elk Thistle Drive.
Feeders at next to last house on the right! (P.39)

Loveland Basin/ Pass Ski Area 3/14 (P.147)

Take Interstate 70 West of Denver to Exit 216 Loveland Pass. Then turn right to the Ski Area- South side of interstate of I-70. A large wooden feeder is located between Lift #1 and the Ski Patrol Lodge.

4/8 -Loveland Ski area 150 Rosy-Finches, 7 or 8 percent Black, and the rest half Brown-caps and half Gray-crowns. Also present were 3 Pine Grosbeaks and 20 Red-winged Blackbirds.

Fantastic viewing standing only 15 feet away. I have not seen them at Silverplume or Georgetown all winter. (P.38)

Day 6 ~ Wednesday April 18th

We begin this morning searching the feeders in town, in the hope of coming up with all three rosy-finches if we still need them. It is then onto Guanella Pass (el. 11,665'), for White-tailed Ptarmigan. A search of the Subalpine Fir a little lower down may produce Gray Jay, Pine Grosbeak or Clark's Nutcracker, and a search for 3-toed Woodpecker at the campground.

As we head north towards Walden surrounded by snow-capped peaks, we enter the sagebrush flats and meadows of the North Park mountain valley. On the way we visit Windy Gap as well as Walden Reservoir, where Barrows Goldeneye and White Pelican are possible. Arapaho NWR will provide a good variety of waterfowl including Eared Grebe. After dinner we'll visit Cameron Pass to search for Boreal Owl.

Overnight: Walden

Check the feeders in SilverPlume & Georgetown before breakfast

Georgetown BREAKFAST: The Happy Cooker across from the Hotel de Paris

Check feeders on Rose Street for ROSY FINCHES & BIGHORN SHEEP

rosy finch this winter, and that was at a residential feeder in Georgetown (3rd & Rose), generally a pretty reliable place to see finches – (P.39)

Silver Plume

23 Nov 2000 About 100 ROSY FINCHES were seen this morning on the rocks behind the Silver Plume Firehouse and at a feeder NE of the Firehouse. The feeder is on the West side of a greenish house that hugs the cliff. All three species were observed on the feeder including the Coastal and Interior races of the Gray-crowned. Also observed was a flock of 16 Evening Grosbeaks

Also Check near the churches on Main Street

Directions: Take Exit 226 of Interstate 70

At the end of the westbound exit ramp there is a parking area with restroom.

Walk three blocks north along road just east of old gas station. Check rocky hill behind Fire Station. Rosy Finches here and on rocks to the north. Coming to feeders at west end of most northern house, below rocks.

The Rosys come to ground feed in the front yard of 347 Main, the house with the Flamingos and between the lavender house and the church.

Road to Guanella Pass/ Green Lake (P.145)

DIPPER at end of lake in small stream (P.39)

Guanella Pass (P.145) Check out July 92 Winging It

THREE TOES W/P is reasonably reliable is along the road up to Guanella Pass, often near the upper campground. (3/24) two Three-toed Woodpeckers around noon at Guanella Pass campground. They parked across from the entrance, and about 20 yards up the road the woodpeckers were working on a dead spruce, or at least one with some dead limbs.

Campground is about 2 miles before (North) Guanella Pass Summit

Latest Three-toed Woodpecker sightings: An Adult Female was feeding juvenile male bird along forest road & 0.1 miles south of CG entrance. Birds worked favorite trees along forest road 118 and then flew to southwest corner of CG.

PTARMIGAN – (3/24) 40 White-tailed Ptarmigan this morning at Guanella Pass. They parked at the pass, then walked about 200 yards past the trailheads (Rosalie and Biernstadt?) further up the road. A rocky knoll is on the

left, there is very little snow, and up the side of the hill were the ptarmigan. South of Trails 603 & Rosalie. 3/26 past the top-of-the-pass parking area at around 12:30 pm, 56! at most 100 feet from the road, with some as close as 30 feet. WOW! They were still in their hanging-out-after-waking-up-but-before-eating-willow-buds mode, so mostly ignored us gawking and photographing. They were in a patch of short willows that extended above the snow, which was different from the situation (willow-snow) than in most of the surrounding area. This was well before the patch of stunted conifers (after starting downhill) in which I've seen large numbers before.

4/8 – Guanella Pass However, I did find 2 White-winged Crossbills at the tree line (P.39)

Golden Gate State Park (P.120)

2 NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL 3/28 at 6 pm 2.5 miles up Crawford Gulch Road

The best way to get to the site is to take Rt. 93 in Golden to Golden Gate Canyon rd. Go west into the canyon for approx. 4 miles to Crawford Gulch rd. Take a right onto Crawford Gulch. There is a narrow pullover 2.5 miles from the intersection of GGC rd and Crawford Gulch road. Opposite the pullover is a faded old coffee cup on a fence post. This is the site.

3/27 The N.Pygmy-owl first seen on March 5, then mating with another on March 8, was calling this evening from approximately 6 pm to at least 6:45. My brother Christof and I found the lone Pygmy-owl two tenths of a mile uphill from the original sighting on 3/5. It was very active, flying frequently from perches on both sides of the road and calling every few minutes. It seemed to remain on a stretch of Crawford Gulch Rd. within 2.4 mi. to 2.7 mi. from the intersection of Crawford Gulch Rd. and Golden Gate Canyon Rd. (P.40)

Rocky Mountain National Forest (P.97)

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER: These birds are found in higher forests of Colorado. Infrequently, they are in Pike National Forest. People feed them in Rocky Mountain National Forest. Look for turnoffs along Trail Ridge Road on the way to the summit. If you enter park before 7:00AM, you avoid the \$10 entrance fee (they do not collect it on the way out). Check the forest near Cameron Pass summit during the day. You should keep an eye out for Blue Grouse during the day here. (P.29)

Wind Gap Reservoir, nr. Granby (P.104)

Opp 125 turn off onto Power St, Barrow's Goldeneye, Grebes, Ruddy Duck, Eagles, Common Merganser, American Pipits (P.28)

Arapaho NWR (P.104) (P.17)

Walden Reservoir

White Pelican, Yellow-headed Blackbird (P.17)

Cameron Pass

BOREAL OWL: Your best shot here is Cameron Pass (60 miles west of Fort Collins). Try the eastern end of the parking area for Joe Wright Reservoir. The birds nest across highway 14 from highest parking area. If you strike out here, go to the rest area at the summit to Cameron pass. I recently heard several Boreal Owls just to the west of the parking area.

Boreals have been heard this year, at the highest parking area for Joe Wright Reservoir and at the parking lot for Cameron Pass. The best of time of night for success is 10pm - 1am.

Moonlit nights do not appear to make a difference; however, any wind/snow will make it near impossible to hear them.

Tactics: Wearing your lucky hat, drive several miles west past the top of Cameron Pass. Turn the car around, get out, and listen. Walk or drive east towards the summit. Stop every 0.5 mile and listen. Keep going east until you are several miles down from the summit. If the weather is better on one side, stay with that side. Repeat as necessary.

A slight twist on the above tactic: Wearing your lucky hat backwards, drive to the summit. Walk or drive west from the summit. Stop every 0.5 mile and listen. Repeat as necessary.

Mile markers 61.5 and 69.5 have been successful in the past (Cameron pass summit is near MM 65.0). (P.18)

Colorado State Forest

Last year, I camped in the Colorado State Forest (fee area, I think \$4). This area is 10 miles or so west of Cameron pass. Go into park and drive main road to Ruby Jewel Road. Turn right up Ruby Jewel Road for about 0.5 miles. There is a clearing here where you can see that others have camped (shortly after this spot, the road becomes rather poor and not recommended for 2-wheel drive cars). The rest of roads are not bad; I just want to indicate where primitive camping spot (free) is located. Last May at 4:00AM, a FLAMMULATED OWL started to call. After

about 10 minutes, a BOREAL OWL joined in. I had the pleasure of listening to them compete for about 45 minutes! One of my great birding moments. (P.18)

Day 7 ~ Thursday April 19th

This morning, the Sage Grouse. Other birds to look for in the area are Sage Thrasher and Mountain Bluebirds. Before reaching Hayden we'll keep a look out for such mountain species as Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskins, Evening Grosbeaks, Stellars Jay and Townsend Solitaires.

The afternoon will be spent looking for Blue Grouse and checking potential Sharp-tailed leks.

Overnight: Craig

GREATER SAGE GROUSE LEK in Coalmont: Car park is 150 yards form lek (P.17)

From Walden, take highway 14 (from its junction with hw 125)

Go West and South to County Road 26 (14.5 miles)

Turn West (Right) to area marked by a sign on your right (1.6 miles)

Parking and viewing area (0.3 miles)

Lek 100 yards to East

BREAKFAST either in Walden or Steamboat Springs

Forest Road

All the Junco's, Mt Bluebird, GC Kinglet, Solitaires, Stellar's Jay, Flicker, CASSIN's FINCH, EVENING GROSBK – check all the feeders, do as far as you can along the road (P.16)

Hayden (P.290)

BLUE GROUSE on 80Rd North of intersection w/ 70 RD - Park at the cattle guard at the top of the hill, woods are on the right. (P.15)

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE (Gerry's spot) – on 80Rd North of intersection w/ 70 RD go past cattle guard 2-3 miles, 10 fence posts down from the red gate. Embankment is 2' high and where the Fence is 8' from the road. Watch from van along the road (P.15)

Sharp-tailed Grouse Leks

Take Highway 40, East out of Hayden

4.8 miles East of Hayden (0.5 miles East of Power Plant)

Turn South on Routt County Road 27 (20-Mile Road)

Go South 5.4 miles past Power Lines

0.5 miles further you come to an unimproved gated road

Just past a large pond on the right (West)

Lek is located here

Another Lek is near farm road, 0.3 miles further South on CR 27

I have personally found these directions confusing.

After passing the pond on the west side of 20-mile road,

as you start up the hill, there is an old gate on east side.

Grouse display to the west of 20-mile road, even with this gate.

Active Lek in 2001 is 8.6 miles south of highway 40 on 20-Mile Road.

The lek is on a round hill-top west of an old section of Twenty-Mile Road which serves as a safe pullover and observation point. Even though the Grouse were at quite a distance, I could still hear their cooing and calling.

DINNER: Small Mexican Restaurant near the north end of town/Craig on Rte 13

Day 8 ~ Friday April 20th

Another pre-dawn start for Sharp-tail Grouse. By mid-afternoon, we'll walk Coal Canyon in Cameo in search of Chukar. The canyon is also good for Black throated Sparrow, Pinyon Jay, Lazuli Bunting and Rock Wren. As we make our way towards Grand Junction, we'll lookout for Gambel's Quail.

Overnight: Gunnison

Hayden

SHARP TAILED GROUSE LEK: Opp. Gravel pit, small hill 20' high – go past and look back at the lek (P.26)
This morning (April 1) at about 7 am, I found 8 male Sharp-tailed Grouse at the lek west of Twenty Mile Rd 8.6 mi. south of highway 40. In addition to the Grouse displaying, I saw 2 pairs of 2 flying away. The lek is on a round hill-top west of an old section of Twenty Mile Rd which serves as a safe pullover and observation point. Even though the Grouse were at quite a distance, I could still hear their cooing and calling.

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I have personally found these directions confusing. After passing the pond on the west side of 20-mile road, as you start up the hill, there is an old gate on east side. Grouse display to the west of 20-mile road, even with this gate.

Active Lek in 2001 is 8.6 miles south of highway 40 on 20-Mile Road.
The lek is on a round hill-top west of an old section of Twenty-Mile Road which serves as a safe pullover and observation point. Even though the Grouse were at quite a distance, I could still hear their cooing and calling.

Cameo (P.278)

CHUCKAR best after 3:30 (P.43)

GAMBEL'S QUAIL (P.259/261) South of Grand Junction, near Whitewater – Forest Rd100 & Lands End Rd (P.55)

Colorado National Monument (P.258)

Juniper Titmouse quickly and easily seen in Grand Junction at Colorado Nat. Monument (P.42)

DINNER: in Grand Junction or Montrose

Day 9 ~ Saturday April 21st

This morning, Gunnison Sage Grouse. From here we head southeast towards the San Luis Valley, where extensive wetlands dot the valley floor. We'll search for Sage Sparrow and Bendire's Thrasher, visit Russell Lakes for Cliff Swallow and expect to see Sandhill Cranes and Roseate Spoonbills at Monte Vista NWR, before reaching the Pueblo area, where we hope to locate our eleventh 'chicken' the Scaled Quail.

Overnight: Pueblo

Gunnison

Gunnison Sage-Grouse Leks Wuanita Hot Springs Lek.
Travel 19 miles east of Gunnison on Highway 50
(From intersection of US Highway 50 & Rd 43; East on US 50 6.8 miles)

Turn Left (North) on Gunnison county Road 887 at sign for Wuanita Hot Springs
Go 0.6 miles and park where road widens on the east, allowing cars to park safely.
Scope to East in the distant meadow. This is private property so don't leave the road!
Birds display anywhere from 0.3 to 1.0 miles up county road from highway 50.

4/8 -The Gunnison Sage-Grouse lek that I visited is a half mile north of U.S. Hwy. 50 on the county road to Wuanita Hot Springs. This county road is just west of Doyleville, which is between Monarch Pass and Gunnison. The observation site is on the shoulder of the road and is marked with a DOW sign and hay bales. Use a scope to view the lek, a little distance east of the road. Rules are posted on sign. (P.69)

2nd Gunnison's Lek

4/9- This was the lek at Parlin. Turn left (South) on Rd 43 in Parlin .Go .25 miles, bear left, and cont.1.5 miles. Turn left (East) and go .3 miles. There are old wooden posts and a gravel parking are on the left. The birds were to the left about 200yds out. We went to this lek first and then Wuanita Sprgs. By 7:30 the birds were off the Wuanita lek but probably helped by the eagle.

Off Wood Gulch Road, which is approximately two miles WEST of the Juanita Hot Springs road where the lek is. These were female birds, about 1/4 to 1/2 mile down this dirt road, after where it turns, just past a farmstead. They were in the shrubby, riparian willow carrs foraging on the grassy hummocks along beside Highway 50. If they're in the same spot, you will need to scope them across the field, looking south.

Wood Gulch Road is probably about 18--20 miles EAST of Gunnison, right off Highway 50. You would turn NORTH, or left, coming from Gunnison.

I've also seen them 8 or 9 miles east of Gunnison along Highway 114 that goes to Saguache. Just drive 5 or 6 miles in, after turning off 50, to where the creek comes close to the road somewhere. I've seen female birds here in August. The ones on Wood Gulch road I saw over Labor Day weekend one year. (P.69)

Black Mesa – BLUE GROUSE drive along Rte 92 the last 10 miles in western Gunnison County (P.67)

JUNIPER TITMOUSE If you're going over to go after Gunnison Sage-Grouse, then most any good patch of lower-elevation PJ west of Gunnison should supply the beast for you.

San Luis Valley (P.201)

SAGE SPARROW and SAGE THRASHER south of Fort Garland (P.21)

Monte Vista

In Monte Vista, the EURASIAN COLLARED DOVES are easily seen in the alley between Dunham and Morris Streets, between 2nd and 3rd street. Many feeders align this alley and its got a lot of action lately. Also watch for 4 RED CROSSBILLS there as well, and an occasional BLUE JAY. (P.80)

Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge (P.203)

+ Whooping Crane (up to 2) first 2/22) last 3/10 (Last observed on auto-tour route; also observed 0.5 south of Headquarters)

Sandhill Crane, Western Willet and Roseate Spoonbill (P.90)

San Luis (Mosca) Reservoir

Sage Thrasher (P.81)

N. of Del Norte

BENDIRE'S THRASHER (P.205), Sage Thrasher's also in the area in lower swales (P.79)

Russell Lake (P.204)

Cliff Swallow

Check the farm ponds & pot holes for Brewers Blackbird, Vesper Sparrow, Cinnamon Teal, Redheads, Swainson's Hawk, Harriers (P.80)

Rye

"Brandon K. Percival" <flammowl@juno.com>

Date: Fri, 24 Nov 2000

Van Truan and I went to Sherry Chapman's yard on Old Lake Isabel Road, above Rye, in Pueblo County this morning (24 Nov.). We were able to see ALL the ROSY FINCHES. We had ~250 Gray-crowned, ~50 Brown-capped, and 6 Black Rosy-Finches. The Brown-capped and Blacks were new county birds for both of us. The Black Rosy-Finch is a new species for Pueblo County, the 402nd bird species that has been reported in the county. We thank Sherry Chapman for posting a note to cobirds about these rosy-finches and thank Tony Leukering for sending me an e-mail saying "have I seen the rosy-finches at Sherry's yard yet?". I hadn't as I didn't know about them until yesterday. I have seen them now and I am very happy (two new Pueblo County birds for me, plus three more year birds, as I hadn't seen any rosy-finch this year until today). Now if I can only see the SnowBunting and Bohemian Waxwing!! (P.83)

Dinner: Steak House. Rte 50 east to just before I-25, go North on frontage rd. ¾ mile up on left

Day 10 ~ Sunday April 22nd

Our final morning will be spent heading north through Phantom Creek Canyon to Victor, where we'll check the feeders for rosy finches including the 'Hepburn's' race of Gray-crowned, and possibly into Pike National Forest for Williamson Sapsucker and 3-toed Woodpecker, before getting to the airport mid-afternoon.

SCALED QUAIL & CURVE-BILLED THRAHER outside of the motel, check pond area as well as the roof tops

Phantom Creek Canyon (P.185) (P..62)

Victor (P.187)

Check feeders in town for Mt Bluebird, Siskin, Mt Chickadee, both Crossbills and Rosy finches (P.62)

Pike National Forest

THREE TOED W/P: Your best shot for this bird is Pike National Forest. Look at recent locations on CoBus website. This area is Pine Valley Ranch Park and the forest east of Bailey. There are several dozen birds in the area. I did hear a Flammulated Owl while camping along FR 550 last year (about 0.7 miles west of parking area for Colorado Trail). The birds have infrequently been found at the southwest end of Echo Lake (on the way to Mt. Evans summit). You do not have to enter fee area of Mt. Evans for search.

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER: There usually are half a dozen birds in Pike National Forest. You should see them while searching for Three-toed Woodpecker. They nest along Buck Gulch Trail near bridge as it crosses creek. There is a map of the area on CoBus website.

Chatfield SP (P.139)

A first basic GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL was seen at Chatfield SP on the 8th and 9th . last 3/12 (P.40)

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (P.119)

+ Eastern Screech-Owl (up to 2) (first 3/2) last 3/16 First cottonwood along bike path, west of parking area going west off Kipling Avenue parking area. The dead cottonwood is south of the bike path and just west of three or four fir trees.

Referring to the ABA Lane's guide, we went to the wrong parking lot first. Eventually, we figured it out. From I70, take the Kipling exit, and turn South. Instead of taking a right on 44th Ave (as the book mentions), take a right on 41st Ave. Pass the sewage ponds to the parking lot.

+ Long-eared Owl first 3/10 (75 yards west; 30 yards north of EASO tree)

+ Harris's Sparrow (1st winter) (first 12/27) last 3/10 (Northwest end of parking area, west off of Kipling) (P. 40)

Red Rocks State Park

Rosy finches, when frequenting feeders, are most reliable during the first 30 minutes of daylight. The feeders behind the Trading Post at Red Rocks State Park, in the foothills just west of Denver, have lots of rosy finches in some years (all 3 -- or all 4 if you count Hepburn's), but I haven't checked to see if they're being reported (P.40)