

# 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***Columbia 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*

**RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW**

*Aimophila ruficeps*

**CANYON TOWHEE**

*Melospiza fusca*

**CHIPPING SPARROW**

*Spizella passerine*

**BREWER'S SPARROW**

*Spizella breweri*

**VESPER SPARROW**

*Pooeectes 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 GROSBEAK**

*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