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A 2009 Supplement to *Birds of the Rocky Mountains*

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A 2009 Supplement to

Birds of the Rocky Mountains

Paul A. Johnsgard

More than 20 years have elapsed since the publication of *Birds of the Rocky Mountains*, and many changes have occurred in that region's ecology and bird life. There has also been a marked increase in recreational bird-watching, and an associated need for informative regional references on where and when to look for rare or especially appealing birds. As a result, an updating of the text seemed appropriate, especially as to the species accounts and the technical literature. The following update includes all those species that have undergone changes in their vernacular or Latin names, have had important changes in ranges, or have shown statistically significant population trends or conservation status warranting mention. The accounts also includes six additional species (Eurasian collared-dove, barn owl, gray vireo, northern waterthrush, Scott's oriole and great-tailed grackle) that have been documented as occurring within the circumscribed Rocky Mountain region since 1986, even if proof of occurrence in one of the parks is still lacking. Nearly 30 of the range maps have been updated as to breeding ranges, and some in-text identification sketches have been inserted where space has permitted.

The species sequence followed here follows the book's original pagination and taxonomy of 1986, although there have since been substantial changes in the American Ornithologists' Union's nomenclature and official sequence of families and species. Resulting changes in English vernacular names and/or Latin names through 2009 are indicated. When this book was published no latilong data for Idaho were available. These data were first summarized by Stephens and Sturts. (1998) and are now being updated (IdahoBirds.net). Current breeding documentations of Idaho ranges (through September, 2009) from these surveys are noted here for those species having limited, ill-defined or otherwise problematic distributions. Although this book was not written as a bird-finding guide, comments on where some of the more elusive, rarer or charismatic Rocky Mountain birds might be found have been included. Some decorative sketches have also been added where page space has permitted.

In the following summary, the terms "increasing nationally" or "declining nationally" refer to statistically significant (>0.9 probability) mean national population trends in Breeding Bird Survey data for the species from 1966 to 2006. The term "northern Colorado" refers to those counties that are partly

or entirely north of Lat. 40°, the defined southern limits of the book's coverage. Species designated by Partners in Flight (Rich *et al.*, 2004) as species of continental conservation importance are identified as "PIF Watch List species."

McEaney (1988) reported that the following additional species have been reported as occurring at least once in Yellowstone National Park: wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), brant (*Branta bernicla*), yellow rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) and black-chinned sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*). All of these can be considered as no more than vagrant species in the Rocky Mountains region, and are not discussed further.

Page 8: Habitats and Ecological Distributions

Forest habitats of Wyoming's Medicine Bow Mountains (Wirsing and Alexander, 1975) and Bighorn Mountains (Hoffman and Alexander, 1977) are now available, as is an analysis of avifauna associated with post-fire succession in the coniferous forests of northwestern Wyoming (Taylor and Barmore, 1980).

Page 27: Synopsis of Major Bird-watching Areas

A guide to bird-finding in 40 national forests and grasslands (Boyle and Wauer, 1994) describes eight national forests in the northern Rocky Mountains. Montana sites include Flathead, Lolo, Deerlodge and Bitterroot national forests. Wyoming sites include Bridge-Teton and Wasatch-Cache national forests. Colorado sites include Routt and Arapaho national forests. Bird lists are available for all of these national forest sites from the appropriate local Forest Service District Office.

Variably recent bird checklists for some of the national wildlife refuges and national recreation areas in the Rocky Mountain region can be found at the web site of the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center: URL: <http://www.npwr.usgs.gov/resource/birds/chekbird/index/htm>. Colorado sites that are at least partly montane and have bird lists available include Brown's Park and Arapaho national wildlife refuges. Wyoming lists for sites with montane habitats include those for the Jackson Hole region and the National Elk Refuge. Montana lists are available for Red Rock Lakes and Lee Metcalf national wildlife refuges, Bitterroot National Forest, and also for the Pryor Mountains-Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. Idaho sites include bird lists for Grays Lake and Bear Lake national wildlife refuges.

General information on Dinosaur National Monument can be found at: www.nps.gov/dino/, and a checklist of local vertebrates ("All Things Checklist") is available at the Monument bookshop. In western Colorado and slightly south of this book's defined limits of coverage, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National

Park also offers birders opportunities to see many arid-adapted and canyon-dwelling species, such as canyon wrens, western scrub-jays and common ravens. Information on Black Canyon can be found at www.nps.gov/blca/. To visit the Colorado Birding Trails site, which also offers excellent locality information, see www.coloradobirdingtrail.com/.

“Watchable Wildlife” viewing guidebooks are now available for all four of the northern Rocky Mountain states. The Colorado guide (Young, 2000) describes birds and other wildlife in 201 public-access sites, including 73 Rocky Mountain locations. A similarly comprehensive bird-finding guide to Colorado has recently been published (Kingery, 2007), with more than 180 birding sites identified and described, and 482 species discussed. Kingery describes 93 sites, of which about 30 are montane locations. These include Dinosaur National Monument and Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as less well-known sites such as Arapaho and Brown’s Park national wildlife refuges in northwestern Colorado.

The wildlife viewing guide to Montana (Fischer and Fischer, 1995) describes 109 sites. Of these, eight are in Glacier National Park and 12 are in Yellowstone National Park. Terry McEneaney (1993) has authored a general bird-viewing guide to Montana that would serve as a valuable companion volume. It includes 45 birding routes with maps and detailed bird information a seasonal occurrence and relative abundance checklist of nearly 250 Montana species, and distribution maps and key birding sites for 137 “Montana specialties.” His list of 24 Glacier Park specialties includes such attractive birds as golden eagle, spruce and dusky grouse, white-tailed ptarmigan, black and Vaux’s swifts, pileated woodpecker, boreal and chestnut-backed chickadee, winter wren, varied thrush, Townsend’s and McGillivray’s warblers, and black rosy-finch. He lists 19 birds as typical of Yellowstone National Park, including common loon, trumpeter swan, harlequin duck, Barrow’s goldeneye, osprey, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, sandhill crane, great gray owl, Williamson’s sapsucker, three-toed woodpecker and American dipper. A new book by Jeff Marks on the birds of Montana is in preparation, with publication hoped for 2012.

The Wyoming wildlife viewing guide (Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 1996) describes 55 sites. A book-length survey of Wyoming birds, which will be the first modern ornithological survey of the state, should soon be available (Faulkner *et al.*, in press).

The Idaho wildlife viewing guide (Carpenter, 1994) includes 84 sites. In Idaho, the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area is famous for cliff-nesting raptors, representing the densest population of nesting raptors in North America. At least 24 raptors have been reported there, with notably large populations of breeding prairie falcons, golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, northern harriers and barn owls (Bureau of Land Management, 1979). There is now also a useful reference guide to the birds of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (U. S. Forest Service, 1994).

The Rocky Mountain region is especially notable for its raptors, and several raptor-watching sites exist. The Rocky Mountain Front Eagle Migration Area south of Lincoln, Montana, is an unmatched site for viewing eagles and other migrating raptors between March and May. The Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Wildlife Management Area near Townsend attracts up to 1,000 bald eagles between October and December. The Bridger Raptor Migration Route, about 15 miles north of Bozeman, is the largest known migration corridor for Golden Eagles in the U.S., and attracts at least 16 other species of raptors during migration (Fischer and Fischer, 1995). The portion of Shields Valley between Clyde Park and Ringling along U.S. Highway 89, is especially good for seeing migrating golden and bald eagles from mid to late March (McEneaney, 1993). In Colorado the Dinosaur Ridge Raptor Migration Station above Morrison, Colorado is a major raptor-watching location during spring, and the West Divide Raptor Site near Glenwood Springs in the White River National Forest is heavily used during fall migration, from mid-September through October (Young, 2000).

General information on the birds and other wildlife of Glacier, Rocky Mountain, Grand Teton and Yellowstone parks can be accessed through the web site of the National Park Service: <http://www.nps.gov/oia/NPSSBirds.html>.

Species Accounts

Page 55. Loons

Pacific Loon (previously named the arctic loon).

Common Loon. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. McEneaney (1988) judged the Yellowstone Park population to be less than 15 pairs during the late 1980's. Yellowstone Lake is probably the best location for finding loons in that park (McEneaney, 1988). Nesting loons may be seen on the Seeley Valley's chain-of-lakes driving route, or from a canoe along the Clearwater Canoe Trail, both near Seeley Lake, Montana (Fischer and Fischer, 1995). In Idaho, common loons have bred in at least three latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Page 58. Grebes

Red-necked Grebe. In Idaho, red-necked grebes have bred in at least five latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Eared Grebe. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In Idaho, eared grebes have bred in at least ten latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Western Grebe & Clark's Grebe. The Clark's grebe has had confirmed breeding in Larimer and Boulder counties, and probable breeding was observed in Jackson County during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998). Cascade reservoir near Donelly is a major nesting area for both species, and both also nest at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge near Nampa and Market Lake Wildlife Management Area near Roberts (Carpenter, 1990). Both species also occur at Lake Cheraw, and at Nee Noshe and Neeso Pah reservoirs in southeastern Colorado (White, 1999). In Idaho, western grebes have bred in at least 11 latilongs, and Clark's grebes in two (IdahoBirds.net). One or both species are increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 64. Pelicans

American White Pelican. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In Idaho, white pelicans have bred in at least two southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). McEneaney (1988) judged the Yellowstone National Park (Yellowstone Lake) population at 200–400 pairs during the late 1980's. Idaho's only nesting colony, of about 40 pairs, is at Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge, near Rupert (Carpenter, 1990).

Page 65. Cormorants

Double-crested Cormorant. In Idaho, double-crested cormorants have bred in at least ten mostly southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), substantially west of the mapped usual range limits. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 66. Bitterns, Egrets and Herons

American Bittern. In Idaho, American bitterns have bred in at least one southern latilong (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Least Bittern. In northeastern Colorado breeding by this elusive species has been confirmed in several counties (Andrews and Righter, 1992).

Great Blue Heron. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Great Egret. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In northeastern Colorado breeding has been confirmed in Boulder and Weld counties (Andrews and Righter, 1992).

Snowy Egret. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In northern Colorado breeding was confirmed in Weld and Adams counties dur-

ing Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, snowy egrets have bred in at least seven southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Cattle Egret. The range map has been modified to show local breeding in southeastern Idaho. In northern Colorado breeding has been confirmed in Adams County (Kingery, 1998), and in Weld County (Andrews and Righter, 1992). In Idaho, cattle egrets have bred in at least four southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Green Heron, *Butorides virescens* (previously named the green-backed heron, and classified as *Butorides striatus*). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. In northern Colorado breeding has been confirmed in Logan County (Andrews and Righter, 1992) and also in Larimer County during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998).

Page 75. Ibises

White-faced Ibis. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In northern Colorado breeding was confirmed in Weld and Moffat counties during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, white-faced ibises have bred in at least five southeastern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), and one of North America's largest nesting colonies is at Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge, near Montpelier (Carpenter, 1990). In Montana, Benton Lake and Bowdoin national wildlife refuges are places where this species might often be seen (McEneaney, 1993).

Page 76. Swans, Geese and Ducks

Trumpeter Swan. The range map has been modified to show more widespread breeding north of Yellowstone Park. The largest local population in the Rocky Mountains region is at Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, where more than 100 swans usually breed. The Madison River is an excellent locations for finding these rare swans in Yellowstone National Park (McEneaney, 1988), McEneaney (1988) judged that park's population to be less than 15 pairs during the late 1980's. Grand Teton National Park has long had a small nesting population of trumpeter swans; Christian Pond supported a nesting pair every year from the 1970's into at least into the 1990's. Johnsgard (1986) judged the Grand Teton swan population to be about six pairs during the early 1980's. Trumpeter swans are also often present at the National Elk Refuge near Jackson. In Idaho, trumpeter swans have bred in at least three southeastern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Harriman State Park near Island Park is a major nesting and wintering area for this species, and Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area near St. Anthony is also an impor-

tant nesting area (Carpenter, 1990).

Canada Goose. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate, and now of nearly universal occurrence on regional wetlands.

Wood Duck. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate, and expanding its ranges westwardly across the Great Plains. In northern Colorado confirmed, probable or possible breeding has been reported from at least ten counties, as a combined result of range expansion and planned introduction programs (Andrews and Righter, 1992, Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, wood ducks have bred in at least 11 latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Mallard. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. Matings with domestic stock tends to confuse the breeding range.

Northern Pintail. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Cinnamon Teal. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Northern Shoveler. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Canvasback. In Idaho, canvasbacks have bred in at least five southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), including some in southern Idaho beyond the previously mapped range.

Redhead. In Idaho, redheads have bred in at least nine latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), including some in southwestern and northwestern Idaho beyond the previously mapped range.

Ring-necked Duck. As a result of an apparent recent range expansion, ring-necked ducks were found to be nesting fairly widely across western Colorado during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, ring-necked ducks have bred in at least seven widely scattered latilongs, with breeding suspected in two more (IdahoBirds.net). They also probably breed throughout much of the Rocky Mountain region of Montana and adjacent Canada, where breeding had been unknown or uncertain..

Lesser Scaup. In Idaho, lesser scaup have bred in at least five latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Long-tailed Duck (previously named the oldsquaw).

Harlequin Duck. McEneaney (1988) judged the Yellowstone National Park population of this beautiful diving duck at less than 20 pairs during the late 1980's. The Yellowstone River is a traditional location for finding these torrent-loving birds in Yellowstone National Park, especially below Fishing Bridge at LeHardy Rapids. Harlequins may at times also be seen on Greys River and its tributaries above Forest Park (Wyoming Game & Fish, 1996). However, harlequin ducks are more easily found in various parts of north-

ern Montana and adjacent Canada, such as at Glacier and any of the Canadian national parks. Kootanai Falls, near Troy, Montana, is a good place to find them (McEneaney, 1993). In Idaho, harlequin ducks have bred in at least four latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), and might be seen along the canyons of the Selway and Lochsa rivers and along the upper Priest and Clark Fork rivers (Carpenter, 1990). After the males have finished their breeding activities, they fly to the Pacific Coast to molt, so they are most likely to be seen before June.

Common Goldeneye. This species has not been yet proven to nest in the Teton region or within in the Rocky Mountain region of west-central Montana. Confusion with the Barrow's Goldeneye makes such documentation difficult. In Idaho, common goldeneyes have bred in at least seven latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Barrow's Goldeneye. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In northern Colorado this species was first found nesting in the Flat Tops Wilderness Area in 1988. Nesting was again documented between 1991 and 1993, in wetlands at nearly 10,500 feet in elevation (Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, Barrow's goldeneyes have bred in at least four latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Bufflehead. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. Although not mapped-in, an estimated 50–100 pairs of Buffleheads breed in northwestern Colorado's Jackson County (Kingery 1998). In Idaho, buffleheads have bred in at least six latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Hooded Merganser. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In Idaho, hooded mergansers have bred in at least five latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Red-breasted Merganser. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. This species has not been yet proven to nest in the region of western Montana mapped with a question mark, nor in Yellowstone National Park. Similarities to female common merganser make such documentation very difficult.

Common Merganser. In Idaho, common mergansers have bred in at least 14 latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), or virtually throughout the state.

Ruddy Duck. In Idaho, ruddy ducks have bred in at least nine latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), including some in southwestern and northwestern Idaho beyond the previously mapped range.

Page 110. American Vultures

Turkey Vulture. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 111. Ospreys, Hawks and Eagles

Osprey. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. McEneaney (1988) judged the Yellowstone National Park population at 50–60 pairs during the late 1980's. Artist and Lookout Points are excellent locations for observing nesting by these birds in Yellowstone Park (McEneaney, 1988). In Montana the highest density of osprey nests is at Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge, near Stevensville (McEneaney, 1993). In Idaho, ospreys have bred in at least 11 latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), and Heyburn State Park near Plummer supports over 50 nesting pairs (Carpenter, 1990).

Bald Eagle. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In Montana the Bald Eagle was nesting across nearly the entire western half of the state by the 1990's (Kingery, 1998). McEneaney (1988) judged the Yellowstone National Park population at about 15 pairs during the late 1980's. Yellowstone River and Lake are excellent locations for finding them in Yellowstone National Park during summer, while in winter Mammoth and Gardiner are good locations (McEneaney, 1988). Elsewhere in Wyoming many bald eagles winter between Kemmerer and Cokeville in the Bear River Valley (Wyoming Game & Fish, 1996). From early November to mid-December large numbers of bald eagles concentrate at the Riverside campground below Canyon Ferry Dam, near Townsend, Montana. Nesting bald eagles can be readily seen at many Montana locations, such as Swan River National Wildlife Refuge, near Swan Lake, and along the Kootenai River near Libby (Fischer and Fiseher, 1995). In Idaho, bald eagles have bred in at least 13 latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). The state's largest nesting population is located along the canyon of the South Fork of the Snake River, while wintering concentrations may be easily seen at places such as Berber Park near Boise, or at the American Falls Dam on the Snake River, near American Falls (Carpenter, 1990).

Northern Harrier (previously named the marsh hawk). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Northern Goshawk (previously named the goshawk). This species, as well as the sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawk, also nests locally in the northwestern corner of Colorado (Kingery, 1998).

Swainson's Hawk. McEneaney (1988) judged the Yellowstone National Park population to be less than 80 pairs during the late 1980's. It is much more common on the arid plains of Wyoming and Montana, where an abundant prey

base of rodents is available. A PIF Watch List species.

Red-tailed Hawk. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Ferruginous Hawk. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. Like the Swainson's hawk, this buteo is most common in the arid plains such as the Chares M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge of Montana where rodents, especially prairie dogs, are abundant.

Page 124. Falcons

American Kestrel. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Merlin. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Peregrine Falcon. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. The range map has been updated to indicate general regions of local breeding in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana; actual breeding sites are quite scattered. In Idaho, peregrines have bred in at least nine latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). McEneaney (1988) judged the Yellowstone National Park population to be about 12 birds during the late 1980's. Hayden Valley is an excellent location for finding these birds in Yellowstone National Park (McEneaney, 1988). In Montana, the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River region below Fort Benton is a very good location for seeing peregrines (Fischer and Fischer, 1995).

Prairie Falcon. The densest concentration of prairie falcons in North America is in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area south of Kuna, where up to 200 pairs nest on cliff ledges. Other good Idaho sites include the cliffs along the lower Blackfoot River near Blackfoot, and City of Rocks National Reserve, near Oakley (Carpenter, 1990).

Page 130. Pheasants, Grouse and Quails

Gray Partridge. In Idaho, gray partridges have bred in at least 11 latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Chukar. In Idaho, chukars have bred in at least 12 latilongs (IdahoBirds.net),

Ring-necked Pheasant. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. The range map has been updated to indicate general regions of recent breeding in the Rocky Mountain region, which tend to center on agricultural regions.

Spruce Grouse, *Falciennis canadensis* (previously classified as *Dendragapus canadensis*). In Idaho, spruce grouse have bred in at least five latilongs (Ida-

hoBirds.net). In Montana, the forests around the Chief Mountain Customs Station and a trail leading to the Belly River from the campground at Summit Siding in Glacier National Park are two of the best places to find spruce grouse during summer (McEneaney, 1993).

Dusky Grouse (previously named the blue grouse). In Idaho, dusky grouse have bred in at least 21 out of 28 latilongs (IdahoBirds.net); they breed at least locally south to the Nevada and Utah borders, or well to the south of the mapped range that represents coniferous forest. The widely-ranging "blue grouse" of western North America was recently split into two species, with the Pacific-slope representative now being called the sooty grouse (*D. fuliginosus*). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

White-tailed Ptarmigan. In Idaho, white-tailed ptarmigan have presumably bred in at least two northern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), but have not yet been documented from the small area of northeastern Idaho shown on the map. The rocky tundra along Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park, and Summit County in western Colorado are good places to look for this very hard-to-see species (Kingery, 2007). Other favorable Colorado sites for finding these birds during summer include Guanella Pass, near Georgetown, and the alpine trails to nearby Grays and Torrey's Peaks, the Mount Evans Highway, Independence Pass near Twin Lakes, and Twin Lakes Reservoir (Young, 2000). In Montana, Hidden Lake Overlook at Logan Pass (6,680 feet) in Glacier National Park one of the few places to find black rosy-finches during summer (McEneaney, 1993).

Ruffed Grouse. In Idaho, ruffed grouse have bred in at least 15 latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), extending south beyond the mapped limits all the way to the Utah border. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Greater Sage-grouse (previously named the sage grouse). In Idaho, greater sage-grouse have bred in at least seven central and southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). The sage-grouse of Colorado were split into two species after the publication of this book, with the population of the Gunnison Basin of west-central Colorado and adjacent Utah recognized as the Gunnison sage-grouse (*C. minimus*). Both species have been declining over most of their ranges, owing to the loss of their critical sagebrush habitat. This is especially true of the fairly newly discovered Gunnison sage-grouse, which is perhaps endangered, and occurs south of the defined limits of this book. Montane sites having statistically significant greater sage-grouse populations include Grand Teton National Park and Brown's Park National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado. In southwestern Wyoming, the vicinity of Farson has the highest density of sage-grouse known. The flatlands near Round Mountain (north of Diamondville) has an accessible lek just off U.S. Highway

189, and another lek is near the town of Clark, close to the Clark's Fork Fish Hatchery. (Wyoming Game & Fish, 1996). In Montana one of the state's bigger leks may be seen near Big Sheep Creek near Lima (Fischer and Fischer, 1995). There are also leks near Ermont, 22 miles west of Dillon, and near Dyce Creek, about 31 miles west of Dillon (McEneaney, 1993). In Idaho, the Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area near St. Anthony is one of the public-access sites where leks can be found, and this same general area also supports sharp-tailed, dusky, and ruffed grouse. The Picabo Hills (Picabo Desert Road between Idaho Highway 75 and U.S. 20) provides access to several sage-grouse leks as well, and in the Owyhee Mountains of southwestern Idaho leks may be found between Goose Creek and Triangle Reservoir, and between Hyde Saddle and Oreana (Carpenter, 1990).

Sharp-tailed Grouse. The sharp-tail's Columbian race (which occurs west of the Continental Divide) has been declining sharply and is in near-threatened status. In Idaho, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse have definitely bred in only two southeastern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net); a small relict population may also persist in Washington County (Johnsgard, 2002). In northwestern Colorado this race is a local and uncommon resident of Routt, eastern Moffat and possibly a few other western counties (Andrews and Righter, 1992). The Plains race of this species is surviving better, especially in Montana. Pine Butte Swamp Preserve, a Nature Conservancy property near Choteau, and Blackleaf Wildlife Management Area, near Bynum, are among the many sites in central Montana where the Plains sharp-tailed grouse may be seen displaying in spring (Fischer & Fischer, 1995). At Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge a public-access blind is available at a sharptail lek, and another good lek location (on private land) is near Lakeside, east of Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge (McEneaney, 1993).

Wild Turkey. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant and remarkably high rate. The species' range has correspondingly increased greatly during the past 30 years.. Turkeys now occur throughout nearly all of Montana and Wyoming at lower elevations. In Idaho, wild turkeys have bred in at least nine latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Ponderosa pine forests with oak understories are favored habitats of the widely introduced Rio Grande subspecies, while riverine hardwood forests are favored by the native Merriam's race (Andrews and Righter, 1992). Turkeys also favor sites having local water sources and elevated roosting sites.

Page 111. Rails, Gallinules and Coots

Virginia Rail. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 146. Cranes

Sandhill Crane. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. The Rocky Mountain population and range of the greater sandhill crane has been increasing steadily, and by the late 1990's numbered close to 20,000 birds. In Grand Teton National Park favored crane habitats include willow flats near Jackson Lake dam, sedge meadows behind Christian Pond, and beaver ponds below Teton Point and along the Buffalo Fork River. In Yellowstone National Park Lamar and Hayden Valleys are highly favored habitats, and other good crane habitats exist at Willow Park, Swan Lake Flats, Blacktail Ponds, Antelope Creek and near Fishing Bridge. Elsewhere in Wyoming, the Bear River Valley between Sage Junction and Cokeville has more than 70 pairs of nesting sandhill cranes, and attracts large flocks during migration between mid-March and late April. The Salt River Valley north of Afton (U.S. Highway 89) and Fairview (Wyoming Highway 238) is another important nesting area as are the wetlands along the Green and New Fork rivers in Sublette County, where flooded meadows and willows provide ideal nesting habitats. During the fall migration in September and early October more than 5,000 cranes might be seen near Border Junction (Wyoming Game & Fish, 1996). In Idaho, sandhill cranes have bred in at least 14 latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), or half of the state's total. Grays Lake and Bear Lake national wildlife refuges in Idaho support good breeding crane populations, as does Harrison State Park, near Island Park. In southwestern Montana sandhill cranes nest at sites such as Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Blackfoot Waterfowl Production Area near Ovando, and at Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area, near Anaconda (Fischer & Fischer 1995). Morgan Bottoms, on the Yampa River in northwestern Colorado, is an important fall stopover area for migrating sandhill cranes (Young, 2000), and several other excellent crane-watching sites exist in the Rocky Mountain region (Johnsgard, in prep.).

Whooping Crane. The population of this species that was initiated by cross-fostering with sandhill crane eggs in southeastern Idaho failed to reproduce, and that population no longer exists. The population suffered from high pre-fledging mortality, and the few birds that lived long enough to attain sexual maturity were probably sexually imprinted on sandhill cranes and never showed any inclination to mate with their own species.

Page 149. Plovers

Killdeer. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Mountain Plover. This nationally threatened species has apparently not been yet

proven to nest in southern Montana, but may breed north almost to the Montana border in Wyoming, and it certainly also breeds in adjacent Nebraska. Pawnee National Grassland in northeastern Colorado is a major stronghold for this species.

Page 154. Stilts and Avocets

Black-necked Stilt. The range map has been modified to show more extensive breeding in central Montana and probably also in southern Wyoming. In Montana stilts are likely to be found at Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge, or at Freezout Lake, near Choteau (McEaney, 1993). In northern Colorado breeding has been confirmed in Jackson, Weld, Boulder and Larimer counties (Andrews and Righter, 1992, Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, black-necked stilts have bred in at least four southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), and might be seen at Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area near Parma, Ted Trueblood Wildlife Area near Grandview, and Market Lake Wildlife Management Area near Roberts (Carpenter, 1990).

Page 156. Sandpipers, Snipes and Woodcocks

Greater Yellowlegs. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Lesser Yellowlegs. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Willet, *Tringa semipalmatus* (previously classified as *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Upland sandpiper. In Idaho, upland sandpipers have bred in at least one northern latilong (IdahoBirds.net).

Long-billed curlew. In Idaho, long-billed curlews have bred in at least nine latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). The map has been redrawn to show updated distributional information (Stanley and Skagen, 2007).

Wandering Tattler, *Tringa incana* (previously classified as *Heterocelus incanus*).

Wilson's Snipe, *Gallinago delicata* (previously named the common snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*), a name now reserved for a European relative.

Page 183. Gulls and Terns

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* (previously classified as *Larus pipixcan*). In Idaho, Franklin's gulls have bred in at least five southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Up to 40,000 birds were breeding colonially at Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge during the 1980's (Carpenter, 1990).

Bonaparte's Gull, *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* (previously classified as *Larus philadelphia*).

Ring-billed Gull. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

California Gull. In Idaho, California gulls have bred in at least seven southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Herring Gull. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Caspian Tern. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In Idaho, Caspian terns have bred in at least five southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Common Tern. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 197. Pigeons and Doves

Rock Pigeon (previously named the Rock Dove).

Band-tailed Pigeon. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. A PIF Watch List species.

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. Not yet reported for any of the national parks, but likely eventually to occur. Probably all of the lower altitudes of the mapped states will become occupied. In Idaho, collared-doves are suspected to have bred in at least five latilongs, and have been reported from at least 16 of 28 latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Page 200. Cuckoos

Black-billed Cuckoo. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. In northwestern Colorado breeding was confirmed in Routt County during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, yellow-billed cuckoos have bred in at least two southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Page 202. Owls

Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*. Not included in the book, and not yet reported from any of the regional national parks. However, it is very likely that this species will be found in Dinosaur National Monument, as it has been reported from adjacent Brown's Park National Wildlife Refuge. In northern Colorado breeding has been confirmed in Routt, Larimer, Weld, Boulder and Sedgwick counties (Andrews and Righter, 1992, Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, barn owls have

bred in at least six latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Flammulated Owl. The range map has been modified to show a considerably more widespread, although still only poorly documented, presumptive breeding range in the northern Rocky Mountain region. In northern Colorado breeding has been confirmed in Larimer and Boulder counties, and probable or possible breeding records exist for Routt and Rio Blanco counties (Andrews and Righter, 1992, Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, flammulated owls have bred in at least one southern latilong (IdahoBirds.net). This inconspicuous and highly nocturnal owl is notoriously hard to find, but Maclay Flat Recreation Area near Missoula, Montana, is one place where it might profitably be sought out. A PIF Watch List species.

Western Screech-Owl, *Megascops kennicottii* (previously classified as *Otus kennicottii*). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. In northern Colorado possible or probable breeding records were obtained in Moffat and Rio Blanco counties during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, western screech-owls have bred in at least five latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Eastern Screech-owl. In northern Colorado confirmed breeding records for Larimer, Boulder, Logan and Yuma counties, and possible or probable records for Weld and Morgan counties, were obtained during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998). At least in Colorado, breeding records for this species do not extend west of Long. 106°, and there is no evidence of overlapping breeding ranges.

Snowy Owl, *Bubo scandiaca* (previously classified as *Nyctea scandiaca*).

Northern Hawk-Owl. In Idaho, northern hawk-owls have bred in at least the state's northernmost latilong (IdahoBirds.net), making this area one of very few south of Canada where these diurnal owls might be seen during the breeding season.

Northern Pygmy-Owl. In northern Colorado confirmed or probable breeding records were obtained in Rio Blanco, Larimer and Boulder counties during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, northern pygmy-owls have bred in at least four latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). This tiny owl is not easily seen, but in Colorado sites such as Mesa Trail, near Boulder, and East Brush Creek in Sylvan Lake State Park (Kingery, 2007) might be tried. Kirk Hill, a Museum of the Northern Rockies site near Bozeman, Montana, also offers a sighting possibility (Fischer and Fischer, 1995).

Burrowing Owl. In Idaho, burrowing owls have bred in at least nine latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Barred Owl. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. Since the

1980's barred owls have continued to move west and now occupy much of the Pacific Northwest's coniferous forests. In Idaho, barred owls have bred in at least five northern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Great Gray Owl. McEneaney (1988) judged the Yellowstone National Park population to be less than 100 birds during the late 1980's. Canyon Junction and the Tower-Roosevelt area are excellent locations for finding these birds in Yellowstone National Park (McEneaney, 1988). In Montana, great gray owls are often seen at the Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area south of Seeley Lake (Fischer and Fischer, 1995). Other Montana locations known to support great gray owls include Kirk Hill (see northern pygmy-owl account above) (Fischer and Fischer, 1995). In Idaho, great gray owls have bred in at least 11 latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). With luck and persistence they might be seen at Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area near Lewiston, around Cascade Reservoir near Donelly, in Boise National Forest's Bear Valley, and especially around Big Springs near Island Park, which has the state's best population (Carpenter, 1990).

Short-eared Owl. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Boreal Owl. The range map has been modified to show considerably more widespread although still only poorly documented breeding in the northern Rocky Mountain region. In northern Colorado probable or possible breeding records have been obtained from Garfield, Grand, Moffat and Larimer counties, and there was a confirmed record from Jackson County during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998). Rabbit Ears Pass near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, is a good place to look for boreal owls, as are Cameron Pass above Poudre Canyon, Endovalley Picnic Area in Rocky Mountain National Park, and the high-altitude forests of Grand Mesa (Kingery, 2007). Trappers Lake, in Flat Tops Wilderness Area of Routt National Forest, is also known to support boreal owls (Young, 2000). In Idaho, boreal owls have bred in at least four latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). In Montana two of the best locations are the Lolo Pass area, near Stevensville, and Chief Josef Pass, near Wisdom (McEneaney, 1993).

Northern Saw-whet Owl. In northern Colorado confirmed breeding records were obtained in Moffat, Routt, Jackson and Boulder counties during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, saw-whet owls have bred in at least nine latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). This hard-to-observe but appealing owl might be encountered along Deep Creek, in Colorado's White River National Forest (Young, 2000), or along the Fall River Road in Rocky Mountain National Park (Kingery, 2007).

Page 216. Nighthawks and other Goatsuckers

Common Nighthawk. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Common Poor-will. In Idaho, common poor-wills have bred in at least one latilong (IdahoBirds.net).

Page 220. Swifts

Black Swift. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. In northern Colorado breeding records have been obtained in Larimer and Boulder counties (Andrews and Righter, 1992). One of the few places to see black swifts in Colorado in Treasure Falls, about 15 miles north of Pagosa Springs, where white-throated swifts also nest. Black swifts might also be seen nesting at Rifle Falls State Park, near Rifle (Young, 2000). In Idaho, black swifts have bred in at least two northern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). In Montana, Avalanche Creek Picnic Area above Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park one of the best places to find black swifts during summer, and Libby Dam, east of Libby, is also a possibility (McEneaney, 1993). A PIF Watch List species.

Chimney Swift. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Vaux's Swift. In Idaho, Vaux's swifts have bred in at least two northern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). In northwest Montana Vaux's swifts may often be seen around Kalispell, at Swan River National Wildlife Refuge near Swan Lake, or at various sites in Glacier National Park, such as Fish Creek Campground (McEneaney, 1993).

White-throated Swift. In Idaho, white-throated swifts have bred in at least four latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). They are widespread in western Montana, such as at Missouri Headwaters State Park, near Three Forks (McEneaney, 1993). A PIF Watch List species.

Page 222. Hummingbirds

Magnificent Hummingbird, *Eugenes fulgens*. An out-of-range breeding record has been obtained in Boulder County of northern Colorado (Andrews and Righter, 1992).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Black-chinned Hummingbird. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In Idaho, black-chinned hummingbirds have bred in at least six latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Calliope Hummingbird. In Idaho, calliope hummingbirds have bred in at least six latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). A PIF Watch List species.

Broad-tailed hummingbird. In Idaho, broad-tailed hummingbirds have bred in at least three latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Breeding in the Bighorn Mountains is now apparently established.

Rufous Hummingbird. In Idaho, rufous hummingbirds have bred in at least two northern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. A PIF Watch List species.

Page 229. Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher, *Ceryle alcyon* (previously classified as *Megaceryle alcyon*). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 230. Woodpeckers

Lewis's Woodpecker. In Idaho, Lewis's woodpeckers have bred in at least 13 latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). This attractive but elusive woodpecker may be seen in burned-over woods at places such as the National Bison Range near Moise, Montana, and on Clark Fork River's Kelly Island, near Missoula (Fischer and Fischer, 1995). It is more likely to be found at lowland and foothill sites than in montane forests, and often favors burned-over areas, such as in the Ekalaka Hills–Long Pines area near Montana's South Dakota border (McEaney, 1993). A PIF Watch List species.

Red-headed Woodpecker. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. A PIF Watch List species.

Red-naped Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus nuchalis* (previously considered a subspecies of the yellow-bellied sapsucker, *S. varius*, which was taxonomically subdivided into three species after this book's publication). Probably all the Rocky Mountain breeding references to the yellow-bellied sapsucker can be referred to the red-naped sapsucker. In Idaho, red-naped sapsuckers have bred in at least nine latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Williamson's Sapsucker. In Idaho, Williamson's sapsuckers have bred in at least ten latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Hairy Woodpecker. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

White-headed Woodpecker. In Idaho, white-headed woodpeckers appear to be spreading and have bred in at least seven western latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area and Winchester State

Park, both near Lewiston. are two of the best locations for finding this species. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

American Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides dorsalis*. Previously named the three-toed woodpecker (*P. tridactylus*), this vernacular name is now restricted to a very similar Eurasian woodpecker that was previously considered to be conspecific with the American form. Rabbit Ears Pass near Steamboat Springs and Red Sandstone Road near Vail, Colorado, are good places to look for this hard-to-see species (Kingery, 2007). It is most likely to be found at burned-over or insect-diseased forests, such as around Our Lake, near Choteau, Montana (Fischer and Fischer, 1995), or around the Indian Creek Campground, south of Mammoth, in Yellowstone National Park (McEneaney, 1993). Elsewhere in Wyoming, the Greys River Wildlife Habitat Management Area above Alpine these woodpeckers might be found in old-growth forests (Wyoming Game & Fish, 1996). In Idaho, three-toed woodpeckers have bred in at least nine latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Idaho sites where one or both species of three-toed woodpeckers might be found include Sawtooth Valley near Stanley, Harrison State Park near Island Park, and coniferous woods around Cascade Reservoir, near Donnelly (Carpenter, 1990). Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Black-backed Woodpecker. In Idaho, black-backed woodpeckers have bred in at least seven latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Owing to losses of forests owing to fires and insect damage, three-toed woodpeckers of both species are likely to increase in both range and abundance.

Northern Flicker. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Pileated Woodpecker. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In Idaho, pileated woodpeckers have bred in at least seven latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). In Idaho, this species might be seen at Round Lake State Park near Westmond, Ponderosa State Park near McCall, or around Cascade Reservoir, near Donnelly (Carpenter, 1990). Good Montana locations for finding this species are Vinal Creek in Kootenai National Forest, the Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area near Seeley Lake, and Greenbough Park in Missoula (Fischer and Fischer, 1995; McEneaney, 1993).

Page 242. Tyrant Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher. A PIF Watch List species.

Western Wood-Pewee. In Idaho, western wood-pewees have bred in at least five latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Willow Flycatcher. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. A PIF Watch List species.

Least Flycatcher. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Hammond's Flycatcher. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Gray Flycatcher. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In Idaho, gray flycatchers have bred in at least three southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Cordilleran Flycatcher, *Empidonax occidentalis*. At the time of book publication the Rocky Mountain populations of this montane flycatcher, as well as those in the Sierra and Cascade ranges, were collectively called the western flycatcher, *E. difficilis*. The name *E. difficilis* is now exclusively applied to the more western-oriented Pacific-slope flycatcher, while the Rocky Mountain breeding population is now specifically separated and has been named the cordilleran flycatcher. In Idaho, cordilleran flycatchers have bred in at least four western latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Eastern Phoebe. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In northeastern Colorado a confirmed breeding record was obtained in Yuma County during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998).

Say's Phoebe. In Idaho, Say's phoebes have bred in at least nine latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Ash-throated Flycatcher. In Idaho, ash-throated flycatchers have bred in at least three southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Eastern Kingbird. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 260. Larks

Horned Lark. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 262. Swallows

Purple Martin. In northwestern Colorado confirmed or probable breeding records were obtained in Moffat, Routt and Rio Blanco counties during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998).

Barn Swallow. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 269. Jays, Magpies and Crows

Blue Jay. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Western Scrub-Jay (previously named the scrub jay). In Idaho, scrub-jays have bred in at least one southeastern latilong (IdahoBirds.net).

Pinyon Jay. In Idaho, pinyon jays have bred in at least two southeastern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. A PIF Watch List species.

Clark's Nutcracker. In Idaho, Clark's nutcrackers have bred in at least one southeastern latilong (IdahoBirds.net). Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. The species is apparently not yet proven to breed in northeastern Wyoming, but probably does so, as it is a permanent resident of South Dakota's Black Hills. In montane parks these birds can often be seen at many forested and subalpine areas, and like other corvids they often are found near campgrounds.

American Crow. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate, following major population declines associated with West Nile disease.

Common Raven. In Idaho, common ravens have bred in at least nine latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Ravens are not yet known to have bred in northeastern Wyoming, and there are no recent breeding records from the Black Hills of South Dakota. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate, so future re-colonization of these regions would seem possible.

Page 278. Chickadees and Titmice

Black-capped Chickadee, *Poecile atricapillus* (previously classified as *Parus atricapillus*). Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Mountain Chickadee, *Poecile gambeli* (previously classified as *Parus gambeli*). In Idaho, mountain chickadees have bred in at least five latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Boreal Chickadee, *Poecile hudsonicus* (previously classified as *Parus hudsonicus*). In Idaho, boreal chickadees have bred in at least one northern latilong (IdahoBirds.net). One place where they may be seen is the Purcell Mountains area near Bonners Ferry (Carpenter, 1990). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee, *Poecile rufescens* (previously classified as *Parus rufescens*). In Idaho, chestnut-backed chickadees have bred in at least four latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Idaho sites where these chickadees can be found include the forests around Lake Coeur d'Alene and the Mallard-Larkins Pi-

oneer Area of the Clearwater National Forest (Carpenter, 1990). They also may be seen on both slopes of Glacier National Park, but especially on moister western-slope sites, such as around Fish Creek Campground (McEneaney, 1993).

Juniper Titmouse, *Baeolophus ridgwayi* (previously called the plain titmouse, and classified as *Parus inornata*). In Idaho, juniper titmice have bred in at least two southeastern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Bushtit. In Idaho, bushtits have bred in at least three southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Page 284. Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

White-breasted Nuthatch. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Pygmy Nuthatch. In Idaho, pygmy nuthatches have bred in at least three northern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). In Wyoming, this species evidently also breeds in the Devil's Tower region, and it also disjunctively breeds farther east, in South Dakota's Black Hills and Nebraska's Pine Ridge.

Page 288. Wrens

Rock Wren. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Canyon Wren. In Idaho, canyon wrens have bred in at least one western latilong, and breeding is suspected to occur over most of the state. (IdahoBirds.net). This species also evidently breeds in the regions of northeastern Wyoming and the parts of Montana that had been previously mapped as uncertain.

House Wren. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Winter Wren. In Idaho, winter wrens have bred in at least two northern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Marsh Wren. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 295. Kinglets

Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. In Idaho, blue-gray gnatcatchers have bred in at least three southeastern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net) well to the north of the previously mapped range. The western race *amoenissima* is expanding its range in brushy habitats in several western states, extending north from Colorado

into Wyoming, including the Bighorns and western Black Hills, and locally reaching southernmost Montana.

Page 298. Thrushes, Bluebirds and Solitaires

Eastern Bluebird. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In northern Colorado confirmed breeding records have been obtained west to at least Boulder County (Kingery, 1998).

Western Bluebird. In Idaho, western bluebirds have bred in at least six latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Mountain Bluebird. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Townsend's Solitaire. In Idaho, western bluebirds have bred in at least nine latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Veery. In Idaho, veerys have bred in at least one northern latilong (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Swainson's Thrush. In Idaho, Swainson's thrushes have bred in at least nine latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Hermit Thrush. In Idaho, hermit thrushes have bred in at least two latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

American Robin. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Varied Thrush. In Idaho, varied thrushes have bred in at least four northern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Page 308. Mockingbirds & Thrashers

Northern Mockingbird. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Sage Thrasher. In Idaho, sage thrashers have bred in at least seven latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Brown Thrasher. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 312. Pipits

American Pipit, *Anthus rubescens* (previously named the water pipit, and classified as *Anthus spinoletta*). In Montana Hidden Lake Overlook at Logan Pass (6,680 feet) in Glacier National Park one of the best places to find American pipits during summer. They may also be found on other high-altitude Montana passes, such as Daisy and Lulu passes on the Beartooth Highway (McEneaney, 1993).

Sprague's Pipit. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. A PIF Watch List species.

Page 314. Waxwings

Bohemian Waxwing. In Idaho, Bohemian waxwings have bred in at least the state's northernmost latilong (IdahoBirds.net), and in Montana may be found during summer at the higher elevation forests of Glacier National Park (McEneaney, 1993).

Cedar Waxwing. In Idaho, cedar waxwings have bred in at least eight latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 316. Shrikes

Loggerhead Shrike. In Idaho, loggerhead shrikes have bred in at least five southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 318. Starlings

European Starling. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 319. Vireos

Gray Vireo. *Vireo vicinor*. Although not included in the book, this arid-adapted vireo is a probable occasional visitor if not a breeder in Dinosaur National Monument. In northwestern Colorado a confirmed breeding record was obtained for Rio Blanco County during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998), and the gray vireo also has been found at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, not far to the south of the book's geographic limits. A PIF Watch List species.

Plumbeous Vireo, *Vireo plumbeus*. and Cassin's Vireo, *V. cassinii*. At the time this book appeared both these very similar vireos were part of the solitary vireo. The solitary vireo was later separated into three distinct species, of which two breed in the northern Rockies. The more southerly of these, the plumbeous vireo, breeds in the mountains of southern Idaho (one confirmed and four probable latilong breedings), Colorado, and Wyoming (Bighorns and Black Hills regions), and probably extends north locally to extreme southern Montana. The Cassin's vireo of the Pacific Northwest has bred in at least five Idaho latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), and extends east locally into the mountains of adjacent western Montana. The third species, the blue-headed vireo, *V. solitarius*, breeds in Canada's boreal forest

east to the Atlantic Coast, and migrates east of the Rocky Mountains. The Cassin's and blue-headed vireos are increasing nationally at statistically significant rates.

Warbling Vireo. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Philadelphia Vireo. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Red-eyed Vireo. In Idaho, red-eyed vireos have bred in at least two northern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 323. Wood Warblers

Golden-winged Warbler. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Orange-crowned Warbler. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Northern Parula. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Magnolia Warbler. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Black-throated Gray Warbler. In Idaho, black-throated gray warblers have bred in at least two southeastern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Townsend's Warbler. In Idaho, Townsend's warblers have bred in at least three latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). This beautiful warbler is not easily seen, as it often forages high in coniferous forest trees, but Glacier National Park is a good place to search for it (McEaney, 1993).

Palm Warbler. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Bay-breasted Warbler. A PIF Watch List species.

Black-and-white Warbler. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

American Redstart. In Idaho, American redstarts have bred in at least three northern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Prothonotary Warbler. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. A PIF Watch List species.

Ovenbird. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In northern Colorado confirmed and probable breeding records were obtained in Larimer County during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998).

Northern Waterthrush. In Idaho, northern waterthrushes have bred in at least two northern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

MacGillivray's Warbler. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Common Yellowthroat. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Wilson's Warbler. In Idaho, Wilson's warblers have bred in at least two western latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Canada Warbler. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. A PIF Watch List species.

Yellow-breasted Chat. In Idaho, yellow-breasted chats have bred in at least two latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Page 354. Tanagers, Grosbeaks, and Buntings

Western Tanager. In Idaho, western tanagers have bred in at least eight latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Black-headed grosbeak. In Idaho, black-headed grosbeaks have bred in at least six latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Blue Grosbeak, *Passerina caerulea* (previously classified as *Guiraca caerulea*). Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate. In Idaho, blue grosbeaks have bred in at least two latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Indigo Bunting. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. In northern Colorado possible or probable breeding records were obtained west to Larimer and Boulder counties during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998). Hybridizes locally with the lazuli bunting across much of the western Great Plains, including eastern Colorado (Andrews and Righter, 1992).

Page 363. Towhees, Sparrows and Longspurs

Green-tailed Towhee. In Idaho, green-tailed towhees have bred in at least three latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Eastern Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. This species breeds in eastern North America west to the central Great Plains (Greenlaw, 1996b), where it meets and intergrades with the spotted towhee (Andrews and Righter, 1992), significantly blurring both geographic limits and taxonomic boundaries. In northeastern Colorado confirmed breeding of presumed eastern towhees were obtained in Logan, Sedgwick and Phillips counties during Colorado breeding bird sur-

veys (Kingery, 1998).

Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus* (considered a subspecies of the rufous-sided towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, at the time this book was published). In northern Colorado confirmed or probable breeding records have been obtained of birds presumed to be Spotted Towhees east as far as Logan and Yuma counties (Andrews and Righter, 1992), and to Larimer and Boulder counties during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, spotted towhees have bred in at least five latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Canyon Towhee, *Pipilo fuscus* (previously named the brown towhee). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Cassin's Sparrow, *Aimophila casinii*. This is a sage-grassland species that was not included in the book, and has not yet been reported from any of the Rocky Mountain national parks. In northern Colorado confirmed or probable breeding records were obtained from Larimer east to Sedgwick and Yuma counties during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998).

Clay-colored Sparrow. In Idaho, clay-colored sparrows have bred in at least the state's northernmost latilong (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Brewer's Sparrow. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. A PIF Watch List species.

Field Sparrow. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Vesper Sparrow. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Lark Sparrow. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Black-throated Sparrow. In Idaho, black-throated sparrows have bred in at least two southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Sage Sparrow. In Idaho, sage sparrows have bred in at least four southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Lark Bunting. In Idaho, lark buntings have bred in at least three southeastern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Baird's Sparrow. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. A PIF Watch List species.

Grasshopper Sparrow. In Idaho, grasshopper sparrows have bred in at least five western and southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

- Henslow's Sparrow. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. A PIF Watch List species.
- Fox Sparrow. In Idaho, fox sparrows have bred in at least one southern latilong (IdahoBirds.net).
- Song Sparrow. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.
- Lincoln's Sparrow. In Idaho, Lincoln's sparrows have bred in at least one northern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).
- Swamp Sparrow. Increasing nationally at a statistically significant rate.
- White-throated Sparrow. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.
- White-crowned Sparrow. In Idaho, white-crowned sparrows have bred in at least five latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).
- Harris's Sparrow. A PIF Watch List species.
- Dark-eyed Junco. In Idaho, dark-eyed juncos have bred in at least 14 latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.
- McCown's Longspur. A PIF Watch List species.
- Smith's Longspur. A PIF Watch List species.
- Chestnut-collared Longspur. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 393. Blackbirds, Meadowlarks, Orioles and Cowbirds

- Bobolink. In Idaho, bobolinks have bred in at least one southern latilong (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.
- Red-winged Blackbird. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.
- Western Meadowlark. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.
- Rusty Blackbird. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate. A PIF Watch List species.
- Brewer's Blackbird. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.
- Common Grackle. In Idaho, common grackles have bred in at least seven southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net) beyond the previously mapped range. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.
- Great-tailed Grackle, *Quiscalus mexicanus*. Although not included in the book, and not yet reported from any of the national parks included this book, this expanding species has been found breeding as far north in northwestern Colorado as the Yampa River, near Dinosaur National Monument, and is

likely to be documented there eventually. Elsewhere in northern Colorado confirmed breeding records have been obtained in Grand, Larimer and Weld counties (Andrews and Righter, 1992, Kingery, 1998). In Idaho, it has bred in at least three latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Brown-headed Cowbird. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula* (included with the following form as a collective species, the northern oriole, *I. galbula* when this book was published). This incompletely isolated species hybridizes with the Bullock's oriole along east-west riparian corridors in the western Great Plains (see below). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Bullock's Oriole, *Icterus bullockii* (considered a subspecies of the northern oriole, *Icterus galbula*, when this book was published). In northeastern Colorado three breeding records were obtained of birds identified as hybrids of Baltimore orioles during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998). A broad hybrid zone occurs along the South Platte Valley in Logan and Sedgwick counties (Andrews and Righter, 1992), and continues east into the Platte Valley of Nebraska. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Scott's Oriole, *Icterus parisorum*. Not yet reported from one of the montane parks, but in Idaho Scott's orioles have bred or presumptively bred in at least two southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net).

Page 403. Finches

Gray-crowned, *Leucosticte tephrocotis*, Brown-capped, *L. australis*, and Black (*L. atrata*) Rosy-Finches. At the time this book was published these three forms were considered subspecies of *Leucosticte arctua*, and were collectively called the rosy finch. The brown-capped rosy-finch may be seen during summer along Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park, the Mount Evans Highway, Guanella Pass near Georgetown, and in alpine areas in the vicinity of Breckenridge (Kingery, 2007). In Idaho, black-capped rosy-finches have bred in at least one western latilong (IdahoBirds.net). In Montana the crest of the Beartooth Pass (10,947 feet) and Hidden Lake Overlook at Logan Pass in Glacier National Park are among the best places to find black rosy-finches in summer (McEneaney, 1993). Non-breeding black and gray-capped rosy-finches may also be found in Colorado's mountains during winter, and during that season rosy-finches of all species spread out widely over lower altitudes. The black and brown-capped rosy-finches are PIF Watch List species.

Purple Finch. In Idaho, purple finches have bred in at least four latilongs (Idaho-

Birds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Cassin's Finch. In Idaho, Cassin's finches have bred in at least four latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

House Finch. The current breeding range of this still-expanding western species now includes virtually all the lower elevations of Colorado, Wyoming Idaho and Montana, plus adjacent southern portions of British Columbia and Alberta. Like the house sparrow, it is rarely found far from human habitation.

Red Crossbill. In Idaho, red crossbills have bred in at least five latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). The species-level taxonomy of red crossbills is in a state of flux; probably several sibling species exist that differ slightly in bill shape, foraging adaptations, and vocalizations (Adkisson, 1996). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

White-winged Crossbill. In Idaho, white-winged crossbills have bred in at least two northern and western latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). In northern Colorado possible or probable breeding records have been obtained in Jackson, Larimer and Boulder counties (Andrews and Righter, 1992, Kingery, 1998).

Common Redpoll, *Acanthus flammea* (previously classified as *Carduelis flammea*).

Hoary Redpoll, *Acanthus hornemanni* (previously classified as *Carduelis hornemanni*).

Pine Siskin, *Acanthus pinus* (previously classified as *Carduelis pinus*). In Idaho, pine siskins have bred in at least three latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Lesser Goldfinch, *Spinus psaltria* (previously classified as *Carduelis psaltria*). In Idaho, lesser goldfinches have bred in at least four western and southern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net), substantially beyond the mapped breeding range. In northern Colorado possible, probable or confirmed breeding records were obtained in all of the northern-tier counties from Moffat to Weld during Colorado breeding bird surveys (Kingery, 1998),

American Goldfinch, *Spinus tristis* (previously classified as *Carduelis tristis*)

Evening Grosbeak. In Idaho, evening grosbeaks have bred in at least three western and northern latilongs (IdahoBirds.net). Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

Page 416. Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow. Declining nationally at a statistically significant rate.

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