

Here is the report written for the Wet Mt. Tribune with names of attendees. It was a wonderful day!
Jane Pedersen

Wet Mountain Valley Birding Field Trip August 21, 2010

The 26th Annual Birding Field Trip to the Wet Mountain Valley was held on Saturday, August 21. Beautiful weather, coupled with an enthusiastic 28 participants, contributed to a final tally of 116 different species of birds sighted for the day. This field trip to Westcliffe, sponsored by the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society, is a regional favorite for beginners and experts alike, as the valley has so many different habitats which draw a wide range of resident species, as well as migrants heading for warmer winter climates.

After 26 years of collecting data for this August trip, the group found 2 new species: a brightly plumaged male Wood Duck, and several Great Tailed Grackles, both at Lake DeWeese. One species not seen very often is the Great Horned Owl, present in good numbers in the valley but with nocturnal habits. On this day, the group found 2: one at Alvarado Campground "hooting" to the early risers, and a fluffy juvenile discovered sitting on a fence post on Highway 69 near Beckwith Ranch.

Following is a list of all the species seen on August 21. However, in spite of 116 being a very good number of birds, there were several birds that were seen in the valley the day before or day after the field trip. They just didn't make themselves known to the group on Saturday. These missed species included: American Avocet, Belted Kingfisher, Red-naped Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Cordilleran Flycatcher, American Dipper, Lazuli Bunting.

Participants:

Dave Silverman, Rye
Jan Swarn, Canon City
Margie Joy, Pueblo
Tom Rauch, Westcliffe and St. Louis
Tom Maddux, Westcliffe and Texas
Jane Pedersen and Steve Somora, Hillside and Durango
Wayne and Jan Anderson, Westcliffe and Iowa
David Chartier, Colorado Springs
Leon and Treva Bright, Westcliffe and Pueblo
Kaye Rocheleau, Westcliffe
Mark Peterson, Colorado Springs
Donna Emmons, Colorado City
Paul Snyder, Westcliffe
Harry Rurup, Pueblo
Tom Doerk, LaVeta
Rosemary and Joe Sleevi, Denver
Judy Cisney, LaVeta and Denver
Jim and Irene Thompson, LaJunta
Sonny Zimmerman, Canon City

Birds seen 8-21-10:

Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Gadwall
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Cinnamon Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Redhead
Wild Turkey
Pied-billed Grebe
Western Grebe
American White Pelican
Great Blue Heron
White-faced Ibis
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Northern Harrier
Cooper's Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Prairie Falcon
American Coot
Killdeer
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Long-billed Curlew
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Wilson's Phalarope
Ring-billed Gull
California Gull
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Great Horned Owl
Common Nighthawk
Black-chinned Hummingbird
Calliope Hummingbird

Broad-tailed Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird
Lewis' Woodpecker
Williamson's Sapsucker
Red-shafted Flicker
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Western Wood Pewee
Willow Flycatcher
Dusky Flycatcher
Say's Phoebe
Western Kingbird
Plumbeous Vireo
Steller's Jay
Pinyon Jay
Clark's Nutcracker
Black-billed Magpie
American Crow
Common Raven
Tree Swallow
Violet-green Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Mountain Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Pygmy Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
House Wren
Western Bluebird
Mountain Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
American Robin
Gray Catbird
European Starling
Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Northern Waterthrush
MacGillivray's Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Western Tanager
Green-tailed Towhee

Spotted Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Lark Bunting
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Black-headed Grosbeak
Red-winged Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Common Grackle
Great-tailed Grackle
Cassin's Finch
House Finch
Pine Siskin
Lesser Goldfinch
American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak
House Sparrow

Total: 116 species