

Arkansas Valley Audubon Society

Annual Wet Mountain Valley Field Trip - 106 species

Saturday, August 16, 2008

The Arkansas Valley Audubon Society held their annual summer field trip to the Wet Mountain Valley on August 16. This is the 24rd consecutive year that this birding trip has been held, and the organizers who have attended all 24 trips report that this was the first time that rain hampered the morning's activities. But the hearty group persevered, and were rewarded with occasional periods in which the rain stopped. As one storm system appeared to move out of the area, another one took it's place, and by mid afternoon, the skies once again drenched the birds and birders. As a result, the day came to an early conclusion.

In spite of the challenging weather, the group tallied 106 species of birds for the day. In most years, there is usually one or two highlights of a bird the group might not expect to find, but this year, all of the species were ones the birders have come to expect will be present in the valley this time of year.

It is never too soon to mark the calendar for more birding events. The Westcliffe Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 20. Look for information to follow in the Tribune.

Participants for the outing included: Jan Swarm of Canon City; ; Brandon Percival, Pueblo; Dave Silverman, Rye; Leon Bright, Pueblo and Westcliffe; Steve Somora and Jane Pedersen, Hillside and Durango, and new participants Mary Alice, Janet, Mary and Elsie from Kansas and Texas; David Chartier of Colorado Springs; Karen Bickett and Sandy Selzer of Denver and Brush Creek; Paul and Polly Neldner and Beverly Jensen of La Veta; Cole Wild of Loveland; and Tina Jones of Littleton.

List of species seen on the August 16 field trip:

Canada Goose
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Cinnamon Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Ruddy Duck

Pied-billed Grebe

Eared Grebe
Western Grebe
American White Pelican
Great Blue Heron
White-faced Ibis
Turkey Vulture
Northern Harrier
Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk

Golden Eagle
American Kestrel
Prairie Falcon
American Coot
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Lesser Yellowlegs
Spotted Sandpiper
Long-billed Curlew
Semipalmated Sandpiper

Least Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Stilt Sandpiper
Wilson's Phalarope
Ring-billed Gull
California Gull
Black Tern
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove

Common Nighthawk
Black-chinned Hummingbird
Calliope Hummingbird
Broad-tailed Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Williamson's Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker

Olive-sided Flycatcher
Western Wood Pewee
Dusky Flycatcher

Say's Phoebe
Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird
Loggerhead Shrike
Plumbeous Vireo
Steller's Jay
Clark's Nutcracker

Black-billed Magpie
American Crow
Common Raven
Tree Swallow
Violet-green Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Bank Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee

Mountain Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Pygmy Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Rock Wren
House Wren
Western Bluebird
Mountain Bluebird
American Robin

Sage Thrasher
European Starling
American Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Green-tailed Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow

Lark Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Black-headed Grosbeak

Red-winged Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird
Bullock's Oriole
House Finch
Pine Siskin
Lesser Goldfinch
House Sparrow

Total: 106 species