

The Midwest & The Mountain States of the USA



18th of June to 7th of July 2008

Robert Tuveson, Vänersborg, Sweden

Patrik Axelsson, Göteborg, Sweden

Introduction

This trip was Robert's fifth and Patrik's second birding trip to North America. All in all we saw 262 species. Of the target species we saw/heard 40 out of 50, which we consider to be a success considering that many of our target species are more difficult to find during summer compared to in spring (i.e. owls and grouse). We found birding in Minnesota and North Dakota to be excellent, and in Wyoming and Colorado to be good. We feel that our itinerary was almost perfect, but including a day or two more in Colorado would have been good, if it had been possible. Lostwood NWR in North Dakota was included in our original itinerary, but during the trip we decided to exclude it, which proved to be a mistake, considering that we didn't get to see Baird's Sparrow at the stake-out site north of Steele despite four tries.

The flight ticket from Gothenburg to Minneapolis, via Stockholm and Chicago, with SAS and back from Denver to Gothenburg, via Frankfurt, with Lufthansa was 6800 Skr. We rented a car, a Dodge Avenger, through Holiday Autos (Alamo), which cost 6525 Skr plus the extra charge of 2859 Skr for returning the car in Denver. All in all we drove 4160 kilometers. Petrol for the entire trip was about 3200 Skr (520 \$). We spent the nights in motels, at camp sites and in the car. A good thing about the motels was that most of them, also the cheaper ones, had a free wireless Internet access service. Finding a place to stay in Yellowstone NP and Grand Teton NP can be difficult during this time of the year, why making reservations in advance is highly recommended.

Literature

Eckert, Kim R., *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota*, 4th Edition, 2002.

Kays, Roland W. and Wilson, Don E., *Mammals of North America*, Princeton Field Guides, 2002.

Kingery, Hugh, *Birding Colorado*, Falcon Guides, 2007.

Murphy, Bob, *Birding Guide for northwestern North Dakota: Burke, Divide, and northern Ward, Mountrail and Williams counties*. Available at

http://www.fws.gov/jclarksalyer/deslacs/nwND_bird_guide.pdf

Raynes, Bert and Wile, Darwin, *Finding the Birds of Jackson Hole*, 1994.

Roederer, Scott, *Birding Rocky Mountain National Park*, 2002.

Scott, Oliver K., *A Birder's Guide to Wyoming*, ABA, 1993.

Sibley, David, *The North American Bird Guide*, Pica Press, Sussex, 2001.

Svingen, Dan and Martin, Ron, *Birding North Dakota*.

CD-recordings

Peterson, Roger Tory, *Western Bird Songs*, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca

Peterson, Roger Tory, *Eastern/Central Bird Songs*, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca

¹ Sibley's Guide is also available in two compact forms; one for the eastern and one for the western portion of North America.

Useful Internet-resources

Minnesota

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/statemap/> [from here you can order the Official State Highway map free of charge]

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/map.html [Info about Minnesota state parks]

<http://www.aitkinbirds.com/> [Excellent info about birding in Aitkin County!]

<http://www.moumn.org/> [The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. Very good site that for example contains information about mou-net and the mou-net archives].

http://moumn.org/birders_guide.html [Corrections and Additions to *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota*]

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ricelake/> [Rice Lake]

<http://webpages.charter.net/mmhendrickson/> [Mike Hendrickson's homepage]

<http://www.birding-minnesota.com/> [Bob Ekblad's homepage]

North Dakota

<http://ndbirdingsociety.com/index.php> [North Dakota Birding Society with tips for finding ND specialities]

<http://listserv.nodak.edu/archives/nd-birds.html> [Archives of ND-BIRDS]

<http://www.fws.gov/lostwood/lnwr.htm> [Lostwood NWR]

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=62570> [Des Lacs NWR]

http://www.fatbirder.com/links_geo/america_united_states/north_dakota.html

Wyoming

<http://www.birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/WYOB.html> [Archive of Wyoming Birds]

<http://home.ease.lsoft.com/scripts/wa.exe?Ao=WYOBIRDS> [Subscribe to WYOBIRDS list]

<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/wy/> [Audubon in the state of Wyoming]

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/> [Yellowstone NP]

<http://www.nps.gov/grte/> [Grand Teton NP]

<http://www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge/> [National Elk Refuge]

Utah

<http://www.utahbirds.org/> [Very good section with places to bird]

Colorado

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cobirders/> [Cobirders list]

<http://home.att.net/~birdertoo/index.htm> [Colorado Birding Society]

<http://home.att.net/~birdertoo/countymap.htm> [Birding sites]

<http://www.coloradocountybirding.com/index.php> [Colorado County Birding]
<http://coloradobirders.blogspot.com/> [Rich Stevens's blog]
<http://www.nps.gov/blca/> [Black Canyon of the Gunnison]
<http://www.mountevans.com/> [Mt Evans]
<http://www.nps.gov/romo> [Rocky Mountain National Park]
<http://www.western.edu/bio/young/gunnsg/gunnsg.htm> [info about Gunnison Sage Grouse]
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/> [Pawnee National Grassland]

Trip Reports

<http://www.birdtours.co.uk/tripreports/usa/minnesota2/Minnesota-june-05.htm>
[Minnesota, 2005]
<http://www.birdtours.co.uk/tripreports/usa/dakota/report.htm> [Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, 1999]
<http://www.birdtours.co.uk/tripreports/usa/minnes1/min-jul-04.htm> [Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming, 2004]
<http://www.birdtours.co.uk/tripreports/usa/colorado/colorado-april-2006.htm> [Colorado, 2006]
http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/NorthwesternUSA2003_SH.pdf [Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Washington, 2003]

Comments about some sites (in chronological order)

Minnesota

Bass Pond

This is a nice place close to the airport in Minneapolis. To go there take Interstate 494 to Minnesota 77. Go south on MN 77 to the Old Shakopee Road exit. Bear off to the right when you get to Old Shakopee Road. Old Cedar Ave is at the first light. Take a left on Old Cedar Ave and drive all the way down to the bottom to a parking lot at the end of the street.

Tettegouche SP

We birded here together with Michael Steffes [steff001@umn.edu] who is very knowledgeable about where to find Black-throated Blue Warblers (he has GPS-positions). An alternative to Tettegouche SP for Black-throated Warblers is Oberg Mountain. Steffes knows where to find the birds there also, and so does Dory Spence [dorys@boreal.org].

Itasca SP

The feeders at Bert's Cabins are a safe bet if you want good looks of Evening Grosbeak. Information about Bert's Cabins, including how to find the place is found on <http://www.bertscabins.com/>

North Dakota

Steele

There are two places close to Tuttle, just north of Steele, which were good for Chestnut-collared Longspur, Sprague's Pipit, Short-eared Owl and Sharp-tailed Grouse. The first site is good also for Baird's Sparrow, with at least one breeding pair 2008, although we couldn't find any.

1) From I-94 at the town of Steele go north on Hwy 3 for about 18 miles. Proceed 0.75 mile east on 20 St SE and park along the road. Walk south into the School Section. This section is T142N, R73W, section 16. As you walk south into the prairie the Chestnut-collared Longspurs and Sprague's Pipits will be on the small hilltops where the vegetation is a bit thinner. Baird's Sparrows are supposed to be out about 0.25 mile in vegetation that is a bit thicker. We also found a Short-eared Owl and Ferruginous Hawks here.

2) At the junction of Hwy 3 and Hwy 36 near Tuttle go west on Hwy 36 for 1.5 miles. Turn north and go 1.4 miles. The best birding is in the pasture to the east. This is a state school section.

Wyoming

Mush Creek Road

This gravel road is found by driving 24 miles south of Upton, WY on Hwy 116 and turning east. We "only" found Lark Bunting, Prairie Falcon and Chestnut-collared Longspur here, but according to Jean, Sundance, [jgwindsong@RANGEWEB.NET], there are Greater Sage-Grouse, Mountain Plover, Sprague's Pipit and McCown's Longspur in the area. Greater Sage-Grouse and Mountain Plover are supposed to be possible in the area surrounding two windmills north of the road, although we never found them there.

We did find Mountain Plover close to Mush Creek Road along Hwy 450 west of Newcastle, and west of junction Hwy 450/116, at "3 Fingers Ranch Inc", on the north side of the highway and east of the ranch entrance road.

Lucerne Marina

We met Rick Steenberg, [RICK.STEENBERG@fmc.com], in Green River, who is very knowledgeable about birding in this area. He recommended Lucerne Marina for Gray Flycatcher, and we did find two birds at this site, and also Black-throated Gray Warbler. To get there drive south on 530 from Green River. Just north of Manila, UT, turn east on Lucerne Valley Rec Rd signed for "Lucerne Marina". Park just south of the junction. Walk east along the road towards the marina past a ravine and then northeast of the road towards the ridge. The birds were seen east of this ridge.

Colorado

Colorado National Monument

This is a good place to find Pinyon Jays, although we had no success. The best place to look for them is around the Saddlehorn Campground, located near the visitor center. Richard Stevens, [birdertoo@hotmail.com], gave me the following directions:

"The Pinyon Jays are found at the Saddlehorn campgrounds at the Colorado National Monument. If not there, look at the ranger's homes to the west (from west side of campgrounds). Several of the homes have feeders. If not there, go first to the east end of the campgrounds and then the southeast overlook (Book Cliff View). Pinyon Jays move around much. As a last resort, drive west on the gravel road heading toward Glade (it is inside the park). Pinyon Jays are sometimes found in the first 0.5 mile. You want the gravel road, not the paved one which also goes to Glade Park."

Gunnison

According to Richard Stevens, chances are almost nil to find Gunnison Sage-Grouse at a lek during summer. He suggested trying the intersection of Gunnison County Roads 38 and 38A. Access is 7-12 miles south of the road running south from the west side of the Gunnison airport (CR 38). After approximately 6 miles CR 38 turns into a pretty rough gravel road, why we chose to walk from there. We never reached the intersection Stevens suggested, but Patrik heard one bird calling while we walked south along CR 38. Stevens told us that this area is good because females bring their young to this area for some unknown reason, after the young have fledged. He told us that they get reports of several sightings from this area every summer.

Comments about some species we didn't see

Horned Grebe

According to Ron Martin, [jrmartin@srt.com], this species is very difficult to find in North Dakota; the ponds near headquarters at Lostwood and Horsehead Lake are the best bets according to him.

Spruce Grouse

A species very difficult to find in Minnesota during summer. According to Mike Hendrickson a good place in summer is Lima Grade Road off the Gunflint Trail.

White-tailed Ptarmigan

In 2008 the best places in Colorado were Guanella Pass and along the trail leading north from Medicine Bow Curve/Rocky Mountain NP. We tried both, but it's a difficult bird to find ... At Guanella Pass the following information might help you:

"I have more success by checking the hill to the southeast of the parking area. I like to walk to the sign-in box to the Rosalie and 603 trails (SE of parking area). Then walk south up hill on the 603 trail to top of the hill. Then hike east and pick up the Rosalie Trail about 100 yards from top of hill. Follow Rosalie Trail north and west back to Sign-in Box. Especially check either side of 603 trail. After 400 yards up the 603 trail, look to highest point to southeast. If you draw a line between this highest point (far off in distance), there is a large triangular rock surrounded by 4 or 5 fir trees (about 200 yards from you). Ptarmigan often are around this rock and fir trees. Along the Rosalie Trail check a clearing surrounded by willows about 30 yards below the trail (when trail is running south to north). Also check uphill from here to another large bowl with 4 evergreens in it."

Greater Sage-Grouse

Difficult to find during summer for various reasons – according to Rick Steenberg, Green River, the best places in southwest Wyoming in summer are around Farson (tracks and roads to the east and northeast along the river) and at Seedskaadee NWR. According to Jean in Sundance they can be found around the two windmills at Mush Creek Road.

Yellow Rail

The best place in Minnesota is McGregor Marsh. Several birds were heard there in the spring 2008, but we never heard any in June. We were also informed that they can be heard around Horsehead Lake in North Dakota, but we never tried for them there. According to Ron Martin their presence there is quite variable from year to year, and he hadn't heard of any reports from 2008.

Long-eared Owl

According to Ron Martin, possible at the Headquarters at Des Lacs NWR.

Great Gray Owl

In Minnesota Great Gray Owls were seen in May/June 2008 at Pietz Road (junction of Co Rd 18 and Pietz's Rd and ~1/2 mile west of junction/2.7 miles east of US Hwy 169 and 3/10 of a mile east of the Hebron Cemetery) and at Sax-Zim Bog (McDavitt Road 2.8 miles north of the Sax Road/on Arkola Road 0.4 miles east of Owl Avenue and on Stickney Road 1.2 miles north of Arkola Road).

In Wyoming possible in Yellowstone NP and Grand Teton NP. We asked about the species in the visitor centers in both parks, but it wasn't until the last one, at Moose Junction in Grand Teton, that we got any useful information. A pair bred close to the visitor center 2008. We found the nest but not the birds, and unfortunately we didn't have time to wait there until dusk.

Boreal Owl

Cameron Pass, CO seems to be the place. Several birds were heard there 2008 (at the pullover less than 0.2 miles west of the summit and 0.2 miles west of the upper Joe Wright parking area).

Flammulated Owl

Pennock Pass, CO is the place. Here is some information that we got prior to the trip:

"From Interstate 25, take Highway 14 (Exit 269). Drive West on Hwy 14 (Mulberry) to west side of Fort Collins. You pass Mishawaka in 29.0 miles (from I25). From here you have two choices; I recommend number 2:

1. Continue past Mishawaka 13.0 miles to CR 63E (just east of Eggers). Turn South on CR 63E and follow it to sign to Pennock Pass. (Sign is about 12 miles or so from Hwy 14). Turn east on CR 44H and continue to summit. Return to Fort Collins by #2 (reversed of course).
2. Turn south on Stove Prairie Road (CR 27), 3.0 miles west of Mishawaka. Follow Stove Prairie Road (CR 27) 8.8 miles to CR 44H (marked well). Turn west on CR 44H to Pennock Pass summit. Summit is marked by wooden fence (but no sign). From either direction you coming from, you go from driving up to starting downhill. (Sounds elementary, however in the dark, it can be confusing and change is slight.) (It was the only fence that we crossed through during the drive.) If you come from the East (number 2 route). Set trip meter to zero at Stove Prairie Road & CR 44H. You cross cattle guards at: 1st: 10.9 miles; 2nd: 11.5 miles; 3rd: 12.5 miles Best FLOW location is 13.0 miles Then try 0.1 mile intervals (especially west from there) The owls reported by me were at 13.0 miles west of above intersection. Ehlmann found FLOW at 13.2 on 8/17/2005 Continuing west on 44H to 63E, Highway 14 is 29.2 mileage".

Northern Pygmy-Owl

In Wyoming the Sawmill Ponds, in Grand Teton NP, is supposed to be a good place. In Colorado two good places in 2008 were Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP (western end of the South Rim Drive) and Cow Creek in the Rocky Mountain NP (stairs close to parking). We tried both places in Colorado but had no luck.

Gray Vireo

We didn't "need" this species, but for those interested a good place, at least in 2008, is east of Flaming Gorge in WY. To get to the area take HWY 191 south off of I-80 on the west end of Rock Springs and head south about 4 miles to the CR 9/Little Firehole Road turnoff on the right (west) side of the road. Take this dirt/gravel road, about 5.8 miles south till you see some cottonwoods in a small ravine on the left (east) side of the road. Bushtit, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Gray Flycatcher can also be found at this site.

Baird's Sparrow

In 2008 seen for example at Lostwood, in the Horsehead Lake area and at Chase Lake.

Itinerary at a glance

- 18/6 Arrival to Minneapolis, MN. Bass Pond. Night in Chisago Inn, Chisago.
- 19/6 Chisago/Lindstrom/Taylor Falls, Carlos Avery WMA, Rice Lake and McGregor Marsh, MN. Night in McGregor Motel, McGregor.
- 20/6 Rice Lake and Pietz Road, MN. Night in Stardust Motel, Floodwood.
- 21/6 Sax-Zim Bog (CR 52, Stickney Road, Sax Road, McDavitt Road) and Tettegouche SP, MN. Night in tent at camp site, Tettegouche SP.
- 22/6 Tettegouche SP and Grand Marais, MN. Night in Outpost Motel, Grand Marais.
- 23/6 Gunflint Trail and Itasca SP, MN. Night in tent at R&D Resort and Campground between Park Rapids and Detroit Lakes.
- 24/6 Rothsay WMA, MN and Steele, ND. Night in Lone Steer Motel in Steele.
- 25/6 20 St SE (north of Steele) and Tuttle, ND. Night in Lone Steer Motel in Steele.
- 26/6 20 St SE, Horsehead Lake and Schnell Recreation Area, ND. Night in tent at Schnell Recreation Area.
- 27/6 Schnell Recreation Area, Painted Canyon, Theodore Roosevelt Park (south unit) and Stewart Lake, ND. Night in tent at KOA Campground at Devils Tower, WY.
- 28/6 Devils Tower, Mush Creek Road and "3 Fingers Ranch Inc", WY. Night in Motel 6, Sheridan.
- 29/6 Cody, Chapman Bench and Beartooth Pass, WY. Night in car.
- 30/6 Beartooth and Yellowstone NP (Pebble Creek, Lamar Valley, Artist Point and Hayden Valley), WY. Night in car.
- 1/7 Yellowstone NP (Pelican Creek, Yellowstone Lake, LeHardys Rapids, Lewis Falls) and Grand Teton NP (Colter Bay, Willow Flats, Oxbow Bend, Two Ocean Lake and Signal Mountain), WY. Night in car.
- 2/7 Grand Teton NP (Lupine Meadows, Jenny Lake, Moose Junction), Jackson and Seedskaadee NWR, WY. Night in Western Inn, Green River.
- 3/7 Lucerne Marina, Sheep Creek Geological Trail and Red Canyon Lodge, UT and Colorado National Monument, CO. Night in car.
- 4/7 Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP, Gunnison and Buena Vista, CO. Night in Super 8 Motel, Dillon.
- 5/7 Guanella Pass and Mt Evans, CO. Night in Super 8 Motel, Dillon.
- 6/7 Rocky Mountain NP, CO. Night in motel in Loveland.
- 7/7 Pawnee National Grassland (Murphy's Pasture) and junction CR 14/51, CO.

The trip day by day

June 18

We leave Gothenburg 8.25 a.m., and via Stockholm, we reach Chicago around noon after a nine hour flight. At O'Hare Airport we are able to watch parts of the European Championships soccer match between Sweden and Russia, while we are having a tasty blue cheese burger at Chili's, and we see Russia score 1-0. The match doesn't seem promising in our eyes, so we don't mind having to board the United Airlines plane ...

We arrive to Minneapolis Airport at the scheduled time 4.25 p.m., and already one hour later we are doing our first serious birding at **Bass Pond**, where we bird until 8 p.m. We manage to find the *Acadian Flycatcher* that has been around here for a couple of weeks, and we also enjoy *Northern Cardinals* and a *Green Heron*.

At a stop at a shop in Chisago we see two *Chimney Swifts* making a kamikaze flight into a chimney – cool! We check in at Chisago Inn at 9.30 p.m.

June 19

Being eager to do some birding we spend the morning hours birding in the motel area. There are lots of small lakes in the area, and it's quite a bird rich place. Among the more exciting species we see this morning are *Baltimore Oriole*, *Rose-breasted Grosbeak* and *Pine Warbler*.

We have decided to spend parts of this day visiting places related to the history of Swedish immigrants in Minnesota. Sure enough the entire area looks and feels Swedish, and many of the people we talk to know some Swedish. In Lindstrom, a town that got its name from the Swedish immigrant Daniel Lindström from Hassela, we watch the famous Karl-Oskar and Kristina statue and enjoy a late breakfast at Swedish Inn. In Scandia we visit Gammelgården Museum, <http://www.gammelgardenmuseum.org/>, where we are guided by a woman who tells us about the life of the descendants of the Swedish immigrants in today's Minnesota. From here we continue to the Glader Cemetery. Here are the tombstones of some of the early Swedish immigrants, which are shown in the end of the movie "Det nya landet", which is based on a book by Vilhelm Moberg.

Around 3.30 p.m. the cultural part of the trip is over and it's time for some serious target birding at **Carlos Avery WMA**. Between pool 9 and 10 we manage to find *Black-billed Cuckoo* and *Trumpeter Swan*, and not far north from here we find a congregation of approximately 60 *Sandhill Cranes*.

After having checked in at McGregor Motel we bird at dusk along the road leading west from the visitor center at **Rice Lake**. Almost immediately we hear the songs of *Golden-winged Warblers* and the drumming of *Ruffed Grouse*.

It's a wonderful evening, but the



Golden-winged Warbler, Rice Lake

mosquitoes plague us, why we continue to **McGregor Marsh**, situated close to the motel, where we manage to hear singing *Le Conte's*- and *Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows*, but despite a long walk along the marsh we never hear any Yellow Rails.

June 20

We start the day at **Rice Lake**. It's a sunny day, and there are not as many mosquitoes as yesterday evening. Along the road from the visitor center to the lake we make a stop along the gravel road, where we get good views of a singing *Golden-winged Warbler* and hear a *Black-billed Cuckoo*. At Mandy Lake we hear an *Alder Flycatcher*. After birding the North Bog Road, where we see a *Ruffed Grouse* on the road, we drive the auto tour loop. There are many raptors here, and to our great surprise we find a *Northern Goshawk*. In the prairie landscape the *Bobolinks* are singing, and on the lake itself are two *Trumpeter Swans*.

We arrive to **Pietz Road** late in the afternoon. We start at the Grant-in-aid Trail (snowmobile trail). While Patrik prepares himself for the walk with mosquito repellent Robert starts walking and flush an *American Woodcock*, a species we hadn't expected to see considering the time of the year! The wind is blowing really hard, and it's surprisingly silent in the fir forest. We spend 3.5 hours in this area, and are rewarded with *Blackburnian*- and *Mourning Warbler* and *Yellow-breasted Flycatcher*. Despite all the new species we feel a bit disappointed, considering what have been observed here earlier in the season.

We reach Stardust Motel in Floodwood at 8.30 p.m., a really nice but pretty expensive motel. The German owner recommends us a restaurant nearby. The huge restaurant is almost empty and the food served is not very tasty, but it's kind of amusing talking to the waitress who seems truly amazed that we have gone here all the way from Europe for birding. At first she says that she has actually visited Sweden, but after a while she says that it might have been Switzerland. No big difference is there!?

June 21

Early in the morning we reach the **Sax-Zim Bog** area, filled with high expectations. Birding along CR 52 is an extremely rewarding experience. Within an hour we have seen/heard *Sharp-tailed Grouse*, two singing *Connecticut Warblers* giving great views and *Boreal Chickadees*. While we are watching and photographing one of the Chickadees Patrik all of the sudden discovers three *White-winged Crossbills* sitting in treetops behind us. A wonderful surprise - another species we hadn't had high hopes finding.



Boreal Chickadee, Sax-Zim Bog

On the western side of McDavitt Road there are lots of dead trees. We haven't even got out of the car before we find the first *Black-backed Woodpecker* flying over the road. After leaving the car we soon find the nest on the east side of the road. We also enjoy the song of *Chestnut-sided Warblers*.

At lunch time the bird activity is almost zero why we decide to spend some time shopping at a mall in the northwestern outskirts of Duluth. We don't get bad conscience

since the rain is pouring down now. With a couple of new trousers in our luggage we drive on towards **Tettegouche SP**, which we reach five minutes before the office closes at 8 p.m. The tent site is perfect, and we enjoy listening to a constantly singing *Ovenbird* a few meters from our tent while we have a couple of Samuel Adams Black Lagers.

June 22

At 5.30 a.m. we meet up with Michael Steffes, who is a local birder, familiar with where to find Black-throated Blue Warblers at **Tettegouche State Park**. We drive to the western part of the park and begin the walk uphill. After a short while we take an almost invisible track heading north into the green and lush forest. After checking two of Michael's GPS-spots we decide to turn back and try another track. All of the sudden we hear a song that reminds us, and Michael, very much of the song of Black-throated Green Warbler, but with a slight difference. Robert decides to check this bird out, and to our surprise it's our first *Black-throated Blue Warbler*, singing with a song Michael has never heard before. Further on along the track we hear *Mourning*-, *Bay-breasted*- and *Canada Warbler*. We also hear two more *Black-throated Blue Warblers*, birds singing with the typical song that is easily distinguished from other warblers. We get to see one of the birds at a very close distance - what a stunning beauty!

After this successful morning, in a beautiful landscape and with great company, we say goodbye to Michael and continue north towards Grand Marais. Along the road we get a brief look at a *Merlin* that flies over the road. We check in at Outpost Motel, located by the shore of Lake Superior, a couple of miles north of Grand Marais. The rain starts pouring down, which doesn't prevent us from scoping the lake from our motel. We are rewarded with *Common Goldeneye* and *Red-breasted Merganser*, species that are common back home in Sweden.

In the afternoon we drive down to Grand Marais, a pleasant little town with a picturesque harbour, where we spend time at an Internet café and at the Angry Trout restaurant where we have a splendid fish meal.

June 23

Early this beautiful morning with a clear blue sky we head west along the **Gunflint Trail**. We make our first stop at the South Brule River, where we find *Northern Parulas* and *Magnolia Warblers*, two species that are common in the forests around here.

We turn off Gunflint Trail, west on Lima Mountain Road, where the birding is incredible. We make several stops along this road, and every stop adds new species. Along the road we enjoy *Connecticut*-, *Canada*-, *Cape May*-, *Blackburnian*-, *Palm*-, *Nashville*-, *Magnolia*-, *Yellow-rumped*-, *Black-throated Green*- and *Chestnut-sided Warbler*, *Northern Waterthrush*, *Alder*- and *Yellow-bellied Flycatcher*, *Blue-capped Vireo* and *Boreal Chickadee*. During the hours we bird here only one car comes driving along this gravel road, so we really get the feeling that we bird in the wilderness. What a place!

When we make our last stop, and walk north on Lima Grade Road, the bird activity is low. Almost back to the car Patrik discovers a *Black Bear* moving around in the forest line a



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly

few meters from the car. After a while the bear moves back into the forest and we can walk back to the car. We leave the area around noon.

From Gunflint Trail we drive almost non stop all the way to the northern side of **Itasca State Park**, making only one brief stop at **Cass Lake**. We reach Itasca at 7.20 p.m. and immediately drive to **Bert's Cabins**. On the way there we see an adult *Bald Eagle* fishing in a creek along the road. When we have reached the cabins we ask the nice owners if we are allowed to watch their feeders and sure enough we are. It doesn't take long before we can tick *Evening Grosbeak*!

June 24

On Internet we have read two reports of a *Henslow's Sparrow* at **Rothsay WMA**, why we have included this place in our itinerary. It takes us two hours to get here from our tent site between Park Rapids and Detroit Lakes and when we reach the area at 7.30 a.m. the weather has changed from dark clouds to a clear blue sky. We follow the directions from Internet and sure enough we manage to find a singing *Henslow's Sparrow*, with its short but distinct song. There are also loads of *Bobolinks* here, a couple of singing *Le Conte's Sparrows* and a *Wilson's Phalarope* circling around us, giving warning calls. Walking west along the road Robert all of a sudden discovers a flying *Greater Prairie-Chicken*. After a while it flies again and also Patrik gets to see it. It feels good to see this species, considering that Rothsay claims to be the Prairie-Chicken capital of Minnesota, and honours this with a big statue of a Prairie-Chicken at the entrance road to the town. Later on Patrik discovers a *Gray Partridge* running over the road, a bird we unfortunately don't find again. We leave Rothsay around noon.



Bobolink, Rothsay WMA

After driving along highway 94, and after lunch at Denny's and shopping in Jamestown, we reach **Steele** at 6 p.m. We check in at Lone Steer Motel and immediately drive towards Tuttle. The sky is filled with black clouds, the wind is blowing and we can hear distant thunder. Already at our first stop, where loads of *Franklin's Gulls* have gathered, we discover a *Ferruginous Hawk*. Reaching 20 St SE we enjoy our first prairie birding, although it's at first a bit difficult to bird because of the wind and the rain. We get to see *Short-eared Owl*, *Sharp-tailed Grouse*, *Chestnut-collared Longspur* and *Sprague's Pipit*. At dusk we hear and see two perched *Great Horned Owls*.

June 25

Today we start at the same location, north of Steele, where we finished yesterday. The sun is shining and there is almost no wind. At **20 St SE** we meet a British birder, Christopher. Together with him we bird the pastures south of the road. In the fields are *Chestnut-collared Longspurs*, singing *Sprague's Pipits*, a lone *Dickcissel*, loads of *Grasshopper Sparrows*, five *Sharp-tailed Grouses*, a *Short-eared Owl* and two *Ferruginous Hawks* hunting around us providing excellent views. All those birds, but no Baird's Sparrows, the

number one target for us all. We listen carefully and check every Grasshopper Sparrow, but can't find the birds that are supposed to breed here according to local birders we have been in contact with. We also try another location just northwest of Tuttle, but despite hearing birds singing a song sounding very much like Baird's Sparrow we have to leave the site empty-handed.

In the tiny town of **Tuttle** time seems to have come to an end. Along the main street no one moves, and in the Coop Food Store we are the only customers. We enjoy tasty donuts filled with jelly and some coffee before we walk around birding in the town streets. We find a couple of *Brown Thrashers*, a breeding colony of *Purple Martins*, a bit outside their breeding range according to Sibley's guide, and a *Bell's Vireo*. Tuttle is a cool place!

On the way back we make another effort at 20 St SE, but no sparrows this time either.

June 26

This sunny day we start at **20 St SE**, the fourth time here in three days. Unfortunately the gods aren't by our side this time either. We decide to bird **Horsehead Lake** from the north end to the south. Most of the road is a gravel road, but it's a good one. The northwestern part of the lake provides good shorebird habitat, and to our surprise and joy there are already some migrating shorebirds: *American Golden-Plover*, *Hudsonian Godwit*, *Greater- and Lesser Yellowlegs* and *Least Sandpiper*. South of here it's hard to find any good places to scope the now distant lake. We find one place pretty close to the shore, where we scope for Horned Grebes, but only find *Eared Grebes* and *Buffleheads*. The lake area is nice, but we are however disappointed that we can't get really close to the lake and the birds.



Chestnut-collared Longspur, 20 St SE

We arrive to **Schnell Recreation Area** at 7.15 p.m. After having been driving along the highway in the plain prairie landscape it's wonderful to reach this hilly and lush spot. We begin walking along one of the trails. Bird activity is low, but we flush a *Great Horned Owl* and get great views of a *Black-and-white Warbler*. After a while we meet a local birder who tells us about the birds in the area. According to him there are, or at least have been, Baird's Sparrows at some fields nearby. Yes – another chance! We walk to the spot but only see lots of *Grasshopper Sparrows*, a *Sharp-tailed Grouse* and some *Chestnut-collared Longspurs*.

June 27

After spending the night in our tent at the nice tent site at **Schnell Recreation Area** we make another attempt for the sparrow, after watching nesting *Say's Phoebes* and *Mountain Bluebirds* at the tent site, but it turns out the "good" old way.

Driving west we soon get to **Painted Canyon**, a place that reminds us about Grand Canyon in Arizona. Apart from the fantastic scenery we enjoy a *Rock Wren* and a *Spotted Towhee*.

After having lunch in the town of Medora, a place that despite its touristy approach has its charm, we enter **Theodore Roosevelt National Park** (south unit). We make our first stop at Cottonwood Campground where we see *Lazuli Bunting*, *Lark Sparrow*, *Western Wood-Pewee*, *Violet-green Swallow* and *Red-headed Woodpecker*. The scenery along Little Missouri River is stunning. We continue along Scenic Loop Drive, a loop that is not very bird-rich but surely scenic.

After a one hour drive we reach **Stewart Lake**, a place that is said to be good for Baird's Sparrow. The wind gales make it very hard to hear any birds, why our hopes aren't very high as we walk out to the stone shelter. There are many *Chestnut-collared Longspurs* in the fields and in the lake itself are a few *Canvasbacks* and a *Western Grebe*.

Entering South Dakota we start keeping our eyes open for Lark Buntings, a species that normally is found in North Dakota, but is supposed to be very scarce there this year. South of Ludlow on Hwy 85, at milemarker 134, Patrik discovers *Lark Buntings* from the car. After a not too exciting day bird-wise we are very happy being able to tick this beautiful species. Here are also two *Dickcissels*.

After a long drive we reach the KOA campground at **Devils Tower** at midnight. Exhausted we have to put up the tent in the dark trying to avoid disturbing other campers.



Stewart Lake

June 28

In daylight the campsite is a magnificent place. From our tent opening we have a clear view over **Devils Tower**, rising 441 meters (1267 feet) above the Belle Fourche River. The cliffs around the tent site have a unique red colour, reminiscent of the colours of Ayers Rock, Australia. In a tree close to our tent a pair of *Bullock's Orioles* has their nest. Over the cliffs there are *White-throated Swifts* and a *Red-tailed Hawk*. From a birder in Sundance we have heard that there is a possibility for *Pinyon Jays* in the area surrounding the Devils Tower, but to get up there you have to pay an entrance fee of 10\$. This combined with the fact that we need to be at the next site as early as possible makes us decide to leave.

After a couple of hours we reach **Mush Creek Road**, south of Upton. This is a site Robert came to know about through the bird list WYOBIRDS. A couple of visiting birders had a great day there last year with a lot of good birds. We easily find the right road, and after turning off we immediately find two *Loggerhead Shrikes*. The tranquillity along this gravel road is total, and we really have an opportunity to enjoy the songs of *Lark Buntings*, *Chestnut-collared Longspurs* and *Horned Larks* without disturbing sounds from cars. After a while we find the two windmills mentioned by Jean in Sundance. We park the car and walk northeast towards the mills along a dirt track. Along the way we find a *Lark Bunting* that is really close, why we try to digiscope it. This proves to be a very difficult task indeed, as the bird never sits on the same place for more than a few seconds. As we get closer to the windmills the adrenaline starts pumping knowing that this is supposed to be a good place for Greater Sage-Grouse and our number one trip target bird, Mountain Plover.

Despite two hours of searching the area, around the fields and ditches, no exciting birds are found, why we disappointed return to the car.

On the way back, just before the Mush Creek Road junction with Hwy 116, we discover a prairie dog town south of the road. We decide to check this, which proves to be a good choice, because it doesn't take long before Robert discovers a *Prairie Falcon* flying towards us, and soon we have the bird circling over our heads giving excellent views.

Driving west along Hwy 450, west of Newcastle, we find a prairie dog town north of the road, just east of the entrance road to “3 Fingers Ranch Inc”. Soon we discover an interesting looking shorebird flying east over the field. We immediately suspect *Mountain Plover*, and walking east we soon find the bird on a field. It is the target species - wonderful!



Lark Bunting, Mush Creek Road

Feeling really satisfied we continue west to Sheridan where we decide to check in at the good, but expensive, Motel 6 to be able to get a good nights sleep after two nights in the tent.

June 29

From the motel room in Sheridan we have a view over the snow-capped mountains that we are driving towards today. The scenery along the road leading west towards Cody is stunningly beautiful. We make a few stops to take pictures and at one of those stops we find several *Wilson's Warblers*, *Fox Sparrows* and *White-crowned Sparrows*. Along the highway we also see a *Golden Eagle*.

Cody is a surprisingly pleasant little town, where we spend some time eating lunch at our favourite American fast food chain, Wendy's, and shop some food as a preparation for a couple of days in the mountains. On the way into Cody we saw some interesting looking ponds that we now decide to check. One of them has a nice selection of birds: *Caspian Terns*, *Redheads*, *Eared Grebes*, *Wilson's Phalaropes*, *American Avocets* and *Franklin's Gulls*.

On the way up to Beartooth Pass we make a few stops at **Chapman Bench**, starting 20 miles north of Cody on State Highway 120, a place supposed to be good for species such as Greater Sage-Grouse and McCown's Longspur. We are not surprised finding bird activity to be almost zero considering that it's really hot now in the afternoon. The only birds we find are *Sage Sparrow*, *Vesper Sparrow* and *Horned Lark*.

When we have reached **Chain Lakes** it is winter again – everywhere around us there is snow, and the campgrounds and the roads leading to the campgrounds are closed because of the snow. In this area we find *American Pipits*, *White-crowned Sparrows*, a *Fox Sparrow* and a *Yellow-rumped Warbler*.

Up at **Beartooth Pass**, at over 3790 meters (10 900 feet), we almost immediately find the main target, *Black Rosy-Finch*. They are seemingly unbothered by humans and we can get really close when we are taking pictures. At one point two of them are foraging around our feet! Standing in this “moon landscape”, with a wide view over snow-capped

mountains, and accompanied by *Mountain Goats*, *Pikas*, *Black Rosy-Finches*, *American Pipits* and *Horned Larks* is a truly memorable birding experience!

Back to Chain lakes we try driving slowly at sunset along the road to catch a glimpse of hunting owls or a grouse, but we have no luck with this.

June 30

We start the day at **Chain Lakes** by scoping the trees and tree tops from a hill with a wide view. In Samuel Hansson's trip report we have read that he had Pine Grosbeaks here, why we spend time looking for them, but we score zero. The most exciting birds we see are a *Lincoln's Sparrow* and a *Ruby-crowned Kinglet*...

We continue to the northeast entrance to **Yellowstone National Park**, via Cooke City and Silver Gate in Montana, and pay the 25\$ entrance fee good for both Yellowstone and Grand Teton. Yellowstone NP is the world's first national park, established already 1872.



Black Rosy-Finch, Beartooth Pass

At Pebble Creek Campground there are lots of *Violet-green Swallows*. The stunningly beautiful Lamar Valley is famous for its wildlife, and we get to see *Bison*, *Bull Elks* and *Pronghorns*. Close to Tower Fall many cars are parked along the road and people are obviously excited about something – there's a *Black Bear* close to the road! Driving on past Tower Fall there is a traffic jam, and park police try to force people driving on – here are two *Black Bears*, a big mother and her young. The situation here, with excited people taking pictures and parking everywhere, reminds us of what happens on the island of Öland in Sweden when a rare bird turns up in May or October.

After a cloudburst we begin walking the trail up towards Mount Washburn. At the entrance to the trail there is a sign warning for Grizzly Bears, thought-provoking. Bird activity is low in the drizzling rain but we enjoy seeing *Townsend's Solitaires* and *Yellow-bellied Marmots*, and the scenery with subalpine meadows and lodgepole pine forests.

After a short stop at the too crowded Artist Point, with views over Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and Lower Falls, we head down to the famous Hayden Valley. The meandering Yellowstone River holds a lot of birds, for example *Cinnamon Teals*, *Barrow's Goldeneyes*, *Common Mergansers*, *Lesser Scaups* and *Buffleheads*. There is also a lot of other wildlife here and we see *Moose*, *Bull Elks* and *Bison* herds. We are almost about to give up our quest for our target here, when we all of the sudden hear a howling *Wolf*. It doesn't take long before we find it in our scopes and we can follow it running east, and over the road close to us. Great! A few moments later we see that an assembly of people close by are excited about something that they watch in their scopes and binoculars – they are watching two *Grizzly Bears*! How fast everything can change! After a day with few birds this is a memorable and satisfying ending.

July 1

After spending the night in Lake Village we start the day in **Yellowstone** at Pelican Creek, close to Fishing Bridge. Also here is a warning about the presence of Grizzly Bears. A short walk in the forest doesn't provide any birds of note, why we continue to the Mary Bay of Yellowstone Lake. Close to the shore is a *Common Loon*, two *Clark's Grebes* and lots of *Western Grebes*. Further out are huge amounts of *Eared Grebes* and *Barrow's Goldeneyes*.



Harlequin Ducks, LeHardys Rapids

Between the two parking lots at LeHardys Rapids we soon find beautiful *Harlequin Ducks*, our target bird here. At Lewis Falls, south of Lewis Lake, we find an *American Dipper* after spending some time in car queues caused by road work.

After driving through John D. Rockefeller, JR. Memorial Parkway we reach **Grand Teton National Park**. In Colter Bay Robert calls Bert Raynes, a local birder supposed to have expert knowledge about where to find owls in Grand Teton, while Patrik asks at the visitor center for owl information. Raynes doesn't know much, since he hasn't birded much lately, why it feels very frustrating for Robert when Patrik tells him he has seen *Pine Grosbeaks* while waiting for him. We walk around in the area in the pouring rain but can't find the birds again, but at least we find *Evening Grosbeaks* and *Warbling Vireos*.

Along the way towards Two Oceans Lake we make brief stops at Willow Flats and Oxbow Bend, two places that are recommended in our two guides to birding in Wyoming. We find nothing of interest at those two sites. The last stretch of road towards Two Oceans Lake is a pretty rough gravel road, why we decide to walk to the lake along the road and park the car at the junction with Pacific Creek Road. The weather is unstable and there are plenty of mosquitoes, but after a while the sky clears up and we get used to the blood-suckers. Along this walk we find *Western Tanagers*, a *Cassin's Finch*, a *Ruffed Grouse* and plenty of *Red Crossbills*. The most exciting find is however a young *Black Bear* close to the road.



Ruffed Grouse, Two Oceans Lake

In the evening we drive up to the top of Signal Mountain. At the lower parking lot the first bird we see is a *Dusky Grouse* on the road! All in all we see three or four of them along

the road to the upper parking lot. One male keeps on “hooting” as he runs along the road a couple of meters from us. What an experience! The sunset over the Teton Range visible from here is simply outstanding. While enjoying the views, we hear and see a *Common Nighthawk* and a *Green-tailed Towhee*.

July 2

After enjoying sunrise on Signal Mountain we continue our birding in **Grand Teton** at Lupine Meadows. Although we are here really early the small parking lot is almost filled with cars. The walk in the forest here is really a nice experience. Bird-wise the most exciting bird is the sound of a *Ruffed Grouse*. A short distance from here is the parking lot to the trail along the south shore of Jenny Lake. This trail is certainly overcrowded, why we decide to turn back almost immediately.

At Moose visitor center we make a last try to get some information about Great Gray Owls. To our surprise we are told a pair has bred or is breeding nearby. We are certainly excited hearing this and we almost run the short distance to the site. We find the nest easily, but despite two hours of searching the small area no owls are seen. One of the caretakers tells us he saw one Great Gray Owl here yesterday ... The best birds in the area are a huge flock of *Red Crossbills*. There are also two *Moose* here. After this fiasco we feel exhausted.



Grand Teton

We are too tired to get out of the car to scope Flat Creek. In the busy town of Jackson, that seems to be a very touristy place, we have lunch at Wendy's. Just south of town we discover a couple of *Trumpeter Swans*. It feels a bit strange that we have tried so many stake-out places in Yellowstone and Grand Teton supposed to be good for this bird and all of the sudden it is seen at a place we hadn't heard about ...

Since we have the time we decide to try **Seedskadee NWR**, a site not in our trip plan, but a place that seems pretty good according to Scott's guide. When we reach it the headquarters are closed and the ponds have almost no water. Despite this we give it a try and walk along the trails in the area. *Sage Sparrows* and *Sage Thrashers* are certainly common here. There are also breeding pairs of *Bald Eagle* and *Osprey*.

Pretty early in the evening we check in at a motel in Green River. We give Rick Steenberg a call, and he suggests that we meet at our motel. We get a lot of valuable information from him, i.e. about where to find the elusive Greater Sage-Grouse and the best spot for Gray Flycatcher. We spend the rest of the evening shopping food, eating a delicious late dinner, writing picture postcards and e-mails and checking recent observations in Colorado on Internet.

July 3

The first site we visit today is **Lucerne Marina**. We park at the big but empty parking area. From here we scope some ponds south of here and enjoy a *Rock Wren* jumping around really close to the car. It's very hot, although it's quite early in the morning. The landscape

and the heat remind us of a previous visit to Arizona. The first half hour or so almost no birds at all are seen and we begin to despair. After a discussion about where Rick really meant that we should look for Gray Flycatcher we decide to check the east side of the ridge. There is no bird activity here whatsoever, but suddenly we get a glimpse of a bird flying between two junipers. We get the bird into the scope and to our joy it is a *Gray Flycatcher*! After a while a second bird turns up.

Feeling relief we walk back towards the car. Along the trail we get close views of two beautiful *Black-throated Gray Warblers*.

After driving the short distance to **Sheep Creek Geological Trail** we are in a very lush and scenic area, totally different from the landscape at Lucerne Marina. In this pretty bird rich area we find *Yellow-breasted Chats*, *Virginia's Warblers*, *White-throated Swifts* and *Plumbeous Vireos*. This is supposed to be a good place for Gray Flycatcher, Northern Pygmy-Owl and Pinyon Jay, but we don't find any of those species here.



Gray Flycatcher, Lucerne Marina

After returning to the main road we make a short detour to **Red Canyon Lodge**, a site Rick Steenberg recommended, where there are some feeders. Within minutes we have seen *Black-chinned*- and *Broad-tailed Hummingbirds* and a couple of *Cassin's Finches*.

After a very long drive we reach **Colorado National Monument** around 7 p.m. The target here is Pinyon Jay, why we immediately drive to the Saddlehorn Campground. The view to the east from the parking lot at the visitor center is simply outstanding. The red-coloured cliffs are fantastic – a must-see place! We spend an hour and a half walking around in the campground area, but apart from *Western Scrub-Jays* we see no jays. An *Olive-sided Flycatcher* is a trip first.

All along the road down to Grand Junction and in the city there are cars parked and people sitting in chairs and on car roofs waiting for the 4th of July fireworks. The many police officers patrolling the streets in cars and on foot make the traffic run smoothly however.

Hoping for Northern Pygmy-Owl we drive to the **Black Canyon of the Gunnison**. Once there we drive along the South Rim Drive westwards. Driving along this curvy road in the dark we almost run over a *Black Bear* running over the road. It's quite windy, and far from ideal owl conditions, why we give up after listening at a few places.

July 4

At sunrise we make another fruitless effort to get Northern Pygmy-Owl at **Black Canyon of the Gunnison**. We start at the west end of the South Rim Drive and bird along the road eastward. Bird activity is high and we get to see *Black-headed Grosbeak*, *Dusky Grouse* and lots of *Virginia's Warblers* and *White-throated Swifts*. We also find two new warbler species, *Orange-crowned Warbler* and *MacGillivray's Warbler*, adding up to a total of 28 warbler species seen during the trip! As we need to be at the next site as early as possible we don't stay in this wonderful place, where we without doubt could have spent a couple of

hours, but instead we drive to **Gunnison**. Along the road we almost run over probably the same *Black Bear* as yesterday at the same place as yesterday.

We follow the directions from Stevens and easily find CR 38. After about 6 miles on this road the road turns from an asphalted one to a rough gravel one, why we decide to park our car and walk south from here. Along this road we see a *Bullock's Oriole*, many *Rock Wrens* and Patrik hears a *Gunnison Sage-Grouse* and sees a *Peregrine Falcon*.

Our next stop is **Buena Vista Overlook**, where we spend a couple of hours scoping the hills around the KOA campground for *Pinyon Jays*. We get brief looks of two distant birds, and also get to see *Western Scrub-Jay*, *Williamson's Sapsucker* and a *Band-tailed Pigeon*. We don't feel completely satisfied leaving the spot. We try on the west side of the hill instead, driving north along a gravel road. We get another brief look of a *Pinyon Jay* and a good look of a *Prairie Falcon*, but within short we are approached by a father and his daughter living in the house nearby. At first they are pretty aggressive asking us what we are doing there, but after we have told them that we are Swedish birders the man gets nice, too nice. At first he wants to check our bird book, and he starts telling us about what birds in the book he has seen around his house. It's pretty obvious that he doesn't know what he is talking about, if this is not a rarity magnet of extraordinary proportions. He talks and talks, totally uninterested in our answers, and after a while it gets really frustrating. After going through the book he continues with telling us about where to go birding in the area, despite that we have told him that we have to move on. After an hour or so we are finally released ... We decide to make a last try, for a maximum of 30 minutes, for *Pinyon Jay* in the town of Buena Vista. Along Brookdale Avenue we find two *Lewis Woodpeckers*. We continue along CR 350, and then turn north along CR 361. Just after the junction CR 361/CR 363 we all of the sudden hear the distinct sound. Getting out of the car we get fantastic views of something like 30 *Pinyon Jays* moving around in a garden close to the road. Yes!

July 5

Early in the morning we leave Dillon and drive the short distance to Georgetown. From here on the road towards **Guanella Pass** is partly a rough and curvy gravel road. From the upper parking lot we walk south to the nearest hill where the trailhead to Rosalie and 603 trails is situated. We walk south around the hill along the trail, scoping the hill and the surrounding area very carefully for our target bird, White-tailed Ptarmigan. Although there are a lot of people in the area, almost no one walk the trail we are



Guanella Pass

following, why we can enjoy the tranquillity and beautiful scenery up here undisturbed. We spend a couple of hours in the area, but no "moving rocks" can be found, which feels kind of disappointing considering that we got here early and worked really hard to get the bird at a location where the species has been seen a couple of times this year. There are almost no birds at all up here, and the only bird we see that is kind of exciting is a *Prairie Falcon* flying by.

We move on to **Mt Evans**. At the entrance station we pay the fee of 10\$. The road from the entrance station to the top of the mountain, at an elevation of 4340 meters (14 240 feet), is a winding and narrow but asphalted road. It's amazing to see how a lot of people ride bicycles to the top. We drive all the way up to the top immediately, which isn't a very good thing to do considering the altitudes. When we reach the top Robert is feeling dizzy, and after a while it's obvious that he suffers from altitude sickness, why we decide to drive downwards again to Summit Lake. Here, in the drizzling, cold rain, we find three *Brown-capped Rosy-Finches* in the northwest corner of the lake, foraging on the snow. At **Echo Lake**, we try for Pine Grosbeak along Chicago Lake Trail, where the species has been seen in June. The rain is pouring down and the trail is really slippery, why we decide to give up and return to the car.

Since Robert is feeling sick, because of the altitude sickness, we decide to change our plans and go back to the motel in Dillon instead of driving to Rocky Mountain NP, which was our original plan.

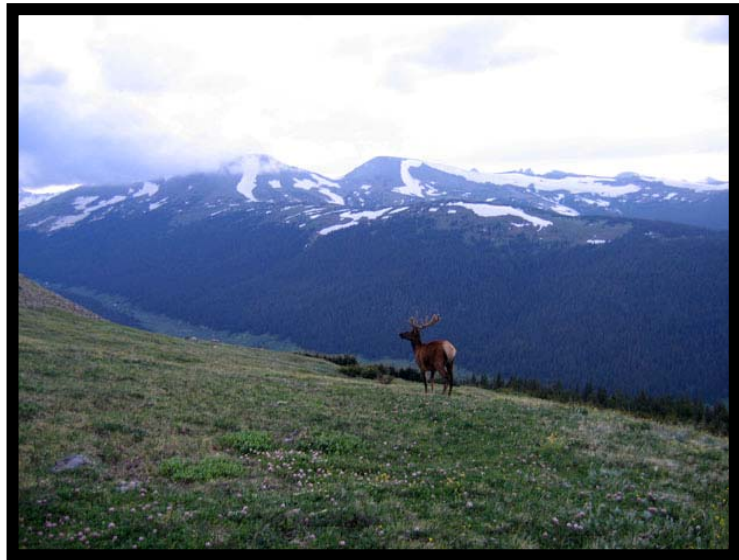
July 6

After doing some serious shopping in the great outlet stores in Silverthorne, while the rain is pouring down, we continue to **Rocky Mountain National Park**, which we enter at Grand Lake entrance station. Our first stop is made at Farview Curve where we enjoy the spectacular views and see a *Pine Grosbeak* and a *Townsend's Solitaire*. Nearby is Lake Irene where we find three more *Pine Grosbeaks* and the gray-headed form of *Dark-eyed Junco*. The road is really good and we soon reach Medicine Bow Overlook, at an elevation of 3595 meters (11796 feet). Walking north on the trail from the overlook we begin our quest for White-tailed Ptarmigan. Up here in the alpine zone there are a lot of grey stones making it very difficult to find a well camouflaged Ptarmigan. The time of the day is not perfect either. After an hour or so we give up and return to the car, because we want to be at the next site at sunset.

Despite having a precise direction in Roederer's guide book how to find our way to Cow Creek Trailhead we have to ask for directions two times in Estes Park before finding the right road. The last part of the road is a rough gravel road. When we reach the site it unfortunately has already got dark. We make three stops along the way listening for Northern Pygmy-Owl, but it is totally silent.

After this site we have planned to go to Pennock Pass for

Flammulated Owl and Cameron Pass for Boreal Owl, but it's a long drive there and after the failures with White-tailed Ptarmigan and Northern Pygmy-Owl it seems like our motivation is gone. We therefore decide to drive immediately towards Briggsdale and try to find a motel along the way. In Loveland, that is pretty close to Briggsdale, we find a motel where we spend the night.



Rocky Mountain National Park

July 7

From Loveland we drive to Briggsdale, and from there to Murphy's Pasture in **Pawnee National Grasslands**. The landscape here is really flat with no trees or bushes in sight. Along CR 69 and CR 96 we find lots of *McCown's Longspurs* (mainly along CR 96), *Lark Buntings*, *Horned Larks* and a *Golden Eagle*. From here we continue to the junction of CR 14 and CR 51, a place that is supposed to be a "perennial can't miss site" for Mountain Plover. Sure enough we soon find a lone *Mountain Plover* southeast of the junction. Here is also one *Burrowing Owl*, and northeast of the junction are six more.

From the above mentioned junction we continue to Denver, having lunch and doing some shopping along the way. The traffic is good and it's very easy to find our way to the airport car rental returns. The last part of the road is a toll road costing 1\$.

We leave Denver International Airport at 5.45 p.m., and via Frankfurt, we reach Gothenburg 12.40 p.m. the 8th of July.



McCown's Longspur, Pawnee National Grasslands

List of bird-species

Species marked with * were new ABA-ticks for the compiler

Common Loon *Gavia immer* (Svartnäbbad islom)

Small numbers in Minnesota 22-24/6 and one in Yellowstone Lake, WY 1/7.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* (Gråhakedopping)

1 in a pond between Fargo and Steele, ND 24/6.

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* (Svarthalsad dopping)

1 in Rice Lake, MN 20/6, 2 at Steele, ND 25/6, 10 in Horsehead Lake, ND 26/6, 2 in Stewart Lake, ND 27/6, 15 in Cody, WY 29/6, 400 in Yellowstone Lake, WY 1/7, 6 in Flaming Gorge, UT 3/7 and 1 along the road toward Rocky Mountain NP, CO 6/7.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (Tjocknäbbad dopping)

1 in Rice Lake, MN 20/6, 1 at Tettegouche SP, MN 22/6 and 2 at Itasca, MN 23/6.

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (Mörk svandopping)

1 at Stewart Lake, ND 27/6, 35 in Yellowstone Lake and 3 in Oxbow Bend, WY 1/7, 1 in Seedskaadee NWR, WY 2/7 and 2 at Flaming Gorge, UT 3/7.

Clark's Grebe *Aechmophorus clarkia* (Ljus svandopping)

2 in Yellowstone Lake, WY 1/7.

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (Hornpelikan)

Common in North Dakota 24-26/6, in Yellowstone, Grand Teton and southwestern Wyoming 30/6-3/7 and observed in small numbers in Colorado 6-7/7.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* (Öronskarv)

Observed seven days; seen in Minnesota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado.

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* (Amerikansk rördrom)

1 in Rice Lake, MN 19/6 and 1 at Sax Road, MN 21/6.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* (Amerikansk gråhäger)

Observed nine days; seen in Minnesota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* (Ägretthäger)

6 at Bass Pond, MN 18/6 and 4 at Carlos Avery WMA, MN 19/6.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* (Grönryggad häger)

1 at Bass Pond, MN 18/6 and 1 at Chisago, MN 19/6.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Natthäger)

1 at Bass Pond, MN 18/6 and 3 at Chisago, MN 19/6.

Trumpeter Swan* *Cygnus buccinators* (Trumpetarsvan)

2 at Carlos Avery WMA, MN 19/6, 2 in Rice Lake, MN 20/6 and 3 at Jackson, WY 2/7.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (Kanadagås)

Common; observed sixteen days.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* (Brudand)

40 at Bass Pond, MN 18/6, 20 at Carlos Avery WMA, MN 19/6, 10 in Rice Lake, MN 20/6 and 8 at Itasca, MN 23/6.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (Gräsand)

Common; observed nineteen days.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* (Snatterand)

Common in North Dakota and Wyoming; observed nine days.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (Stjärtand)

Seen four days in North Dakota and Wyoming.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (Amerikansk bläsand)

Seen seven days in North Dakota and Wyoming.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (Skedand)

Seen five days in North Dakota and Wyoming.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* (Kanelårta)

5 in Hayden Valley, Yellowstone, WY 30/6.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (Blåvingad årta)

Seen eight days in Minnesota, North Dakota and Wyoming.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* (Amerikansk kricka)

Seen five days in North Dakota and Wyoming.

Canvasback *Aythya valisineria* (Svartnäbbad brunand)

6 in Stewart Lake, ND 27/6.

Redhead *Aythya americana* (Amerikansk brunand)

Seen six days in North Dakota and Wyoming.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (Ringand)

Seen five days in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (Mindre bergand)

Seen seven days in North Dakota and Wyoming

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* (Strömand)

8 at LeHardys Rapids, WY 1/7.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (Knipa)

3 on Lake Superior, MN 22/6.

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica* (Islandsknipa)

10 in Yellowstone, WY 30/6 and 80 in Yellowstone Lake, WY 1/7.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* (Buffelhuvud)

8 in Horsehead Lake, ND 26/6, 20 in Yellowstone, WY 30/6 and 4 in Yellowstone, WY 1/7.

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* (Kamskrake)

2 in Itasca, MN 23/6.

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* (Storskrake)

Common in Yellowstone and Grand Teton, WY 30/6-2/7.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* (Småskrake)

3 in Lake Superior at Outpost Motel and 5 in Grand Marais, MN 22/6.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* (Kalkongam)

Common; seen fifteen days.

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus* (Blå kärrhök)

Observed nine days in Minnesota, North Dakota and Wyoming.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus* (Amerikansk sparvhök)

1 at Two Oceans Lake, WY 1/7 and 1 at Moose, WY 2/7.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* (Coopers hök)

1 at Cass Lake, MN 23/6, 1 at Mush Creek Road, WY 28/6, 1 in Yellowstone, WY 1/7 and 1 at Lupine Meadows, WY 2/7.

Northern Goshawk* *Accipiter gentilis* (Duvhök)

1 at Rice Lake, MN 20/6.

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus* (Bandvingad vråk)

1 at Rice Lake, MN 20/6.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* (Bredvingad vråk)

2 at Carlos Avery WMA, MN 19/6 and 1 at Rice Lake, MN 20/6.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* (Prärievråk)

Common in North Dakota and northeastern Wyoming 25-28/6.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* (Rödstartad vråk)

Seen nine days in North Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado.

Ferruginous Hawk* *Buteo regalis* (Kungsvråk)

2 at Steele, ND 24/6, 2 at Steele, ND 25/6, 4 at Steele/Horsehead Lake, ND 26/6, 1 at Schnell Recreation Area, ND 27/6 and 1 at Mush Creek Road, WY 28/6.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (Kungsörn)

1 seen east of Cody, WY 28/6, 1 at Rocky Mountain NP, CO 6/7 and 1 at Pawnee, CO 7/7.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Vithövdad havsörn)

Seen six days in Minnesota and Wyoming.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (Fiskgjuse)

2 in Yellowstone, WY 30/6, 1 at Jenny Lake and 2 at Seedskafee NWR, WY 2/7 and 3 south of Rocky Mountain NP, CO 6/7.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* (Stenfalk)

1 seen from car driving from Tettegouche towards Grand Marais, MN 22/6.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* (Sparvfalk)

Seen eleven days throughout the region.

Prairie Falcon* *Falco mexicanus* (Präriefalk)

1 at Mush Creek Road, WY 28/6, 1 at Buena Vista, CO 4/7 and 1 at Guanella Pass, CO 5/7.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (Pilgrimsfalk)

1 at Gunnison, CO 4/7.

Gray Partridge *Perdix perdix* (Rapphöna)

1 seen by Patrik at Rothsay WMA, MN 24/6.

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* (Fasan)
Seen/heard six days in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Dusky Grouse* *Dendragapus obscurus* (Gråjärpe)
2 at Signal Mountain, WY 1/7 and 1 at Black Canyon, CO 4/7.

Ruffed Grouse* *Bonasa umbellus* (Kragjärpe)
2 at Rice Lake, MN 19/6, 1 at Rice Lake, MN 20/6, 1 at Two Oceans Lake, WY 1/7 and 1 at Lupine Meadows, WY 2/7.

Sharp-tailed Grouse* *Tympanuchus phasianellus* (Spetsstjärtad präriehöna)
2 at CR 52, MN 21/6, 2 at Steele, ND 24/6, 5 at Steele, ND 25/6, 5 at Steele and 1 at Schnell Recreation Area, ND 26/6 and 3 at Schnell Recreation Area, ND 27/6.

Greater Prairie-Chicken *Tympanuchus cupido* (Större präriehöna)
1 at Rothsay WMA, MN 24/6.

Gunnison Sage-Grouse *Centrocercus minimus* (Gunnisonhöna)
1 heard by Patrik south of Gunnison Airport, CO 4/7.

American Coot *Fulica americana* (Amerikansk sothöna)
5 in Stewart Lake, WY 27/6.

Sora *Porzana carolina* (Karolinasumphöna)
1 at McGregor Marsh, MN 19/6 and 1 at Seedskafee NWR, WY 2/7.

Sandhill Crane *Grus americana* (Prärietrana)
Seen eight days in Minnesota (i.e. 65 at Carlos Avery 19/6) and Wyoming.

American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (Amerikansk tundrapipare)
2 at Horsehead Lake, ND 26/6.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* (Flikstrandpipare)
2 at Steele, ND 25/6

Mountain Plover* *Charadrius montanus* (Bergpipare)
1 at "3 Fingers Ranch Inc", WY 28/6 and 1 at junction CR 14/51 (southeast), CO 7/7.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* (Skrikstrandpipare)
Seen eight days throughout the region.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* (Amerikansk skärfläcka)
Common in North Dakota 25-27/6 and 8 in Cody, CO 29/6.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* (Större gulbena)
5 at Horsehead Lake, ND 26/6.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipeds* (Mindre gulbena)
2 at Steele, ND 25/6 and 20 at Horsehead Lake, ND 26/6.

Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* (Willetnäppa)
2 at Steele, ND 25/6, 4 at Horsehead Lake, ND 26/6, 1 at Pelican Creek, WY 1/7 and 1 at Seedskafee NWR, WY 2/7.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* (Fläckdrillsnäppa)

2 at Stewart Lake, WY 27/6, 2 at Le Hardy Rapids, WY 1/7 and 1 at Sheep Creek Geological Trail, UT 3/7.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* (Piparsnäppa)

2 at CR 52, MN 21/6 and common in North Dakota 24-27/6.

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus* (Långnäbbad spov)

2 seen from car south of Theodore Roosevelt (south unit), WY 27/6.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* (Hudsonspov)

1 unexpected at Horsehead Lake, ND 26/6.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* (Präriespov)

Common in North Dakota 24/6-27/6.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (Dvärgsnäppa)

1 at Horsehead Lake, ND 26/6.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (Större beckasinsnäppa)

1 at Steele, ND 25/6.

American Woodcock* *Scolopax minor* (Amerikansk morkulla)

1 at Pietz Road, MN 20/6.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* (Wilsonbeckasin)

Seen/heard seven days in Minnesota, North Dakota and Wyoming.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (Wilsonsimnsnäppa)

Common in North Dakota and observed in small numbers at Rothsay WMA, MN 24/6 and in Cody, WY 29/6.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (Präriemås)

2 at Bass Pond, MN 18/6, common in North Dakota 24-26/6 and 30 in Cody, WY 29/6.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* (Ringnäbbad mås)

Common around Duluth and along the shore of Lake Superior, MN 21-22/6.

California Gull *Larus californicus* (Prärietrut)

Common in North Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado; seen eleven days.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (Gråtrut)

Common around Duluth and along the shore of Lake Superior, MN 21-22/6.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (Skräntärna)

5 in Cody, WY 29/6.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (Kärrtärna)

Seen in small numbers between Fargo and Steele, ND 24/6 and 3 at Horsehead Lake, ND 26/6.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* (Svarttärna)

40 at Carlos Avery, MN 19/6, 10 at Rice Lake, MN 20/6 and common in North Dakota 24-26/6.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* (Spetsstjärtad duva)
Common; seen sixteen days.

Rock Dove *Columba livia* (Klippduva/Tamduva)
Common; observed twelve days.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Columba fasciata* (Bandstjärtsduva)
1 at Buena Vista, CO 4/7.

Black-billed Cuckoo* *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (Svartnäbbad regngök)
1 at Carlos Avery, MN 19/6 and 1 at Rice Lake, MN 20/6.

Short-eared Owl* *Asio flammeus* (Jorduggla)
1 seen north of Steele, ND 24-26/6.

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* (Virginiau)
2 north of Steele, ND 24/6 and 1 at Schnell Recreation Area, ND 26-27/6.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia* (Prärieuggla)
7 at junction CR 14/51, CO 7/7.

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* (Större falknattskärä)
Common in North Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado; seen eight days.

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* (Skorstensseglare)
Seen in low numbers in Minnesota 18-20/6 and 24/6.

White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatalis* (Brokseglare)
2 at Devils Tower, WY 28/6, 30 at Sheep Creek GT, UT 3/7 and 40 at Black Canyon, CO 4/7.

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri* (Svarthakad kolibri)
6 at Red Canyon Lodge, UT 3/7.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* (Rubinkolibri)
Observed three days in Minnesota: Bass Pond 18/6, Rice Lake 20/6 and Itasca 23/6.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird *Selasphorus platycercus* (Bredstjärtad kolibri)
1 at Red Canyon Lodge, UT 3/7 and 7 at Mt Evans, CO 5/7.

Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon* (Bälteskungsfiskare)
1 at CR 52, MN 21/6 and 1 at Theodore Roosevelt (south unit), ND 27/6.

Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (Rödhuwad hackspett)
1 at Theodore Roosevelt (south unit), ND 27/6.

Lewis's Woodpecker *Melanerpes lewis* (Kråkspett)
2 in Buena Vista, CO 4/7.

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus* (Karolinaspett)
1 at Bass Pond, MN 18/6.

Williamson's Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus thyroideus* (Svartryggig savspett)
1 in Buena Vista, CO 4/7.

Red-naped Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus nuchalis* (Rödnackad savspett)
2 at Two Oceans Lake, WY 1/7, 1 at Jenny Lake, WY 2/7 and 2 at Sheep Creek GT, UT 3/7.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius* (Gulbröstad savspett)
Common in Minnesota; observed daily 19/6-23/6.

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens* (Dunspett)
1 at Bass Pond, MN 18/6, 1 in Chisago and 3 in Carlos Avery, MN 19/6 and 1 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus* (Hårspett)
1 at Tettegouche SP, MN 22/6, 1 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6, 1 at Theodore Roosevelt, ND 27/6 and 2 at Beartooth, WY 30/6.

Black-backed Woodpecker *Picoides arcticus* (Svartryggig hackspett)
2 at nest McDavitt Road/Sax-Zim Bog, MN 21/6.

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus* (Guldspett)
Common throughout the region; seen fifteen days.

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* (Amerikansk spillkråka)
1 at Pietz Road, MN 20/6, 2 at Tettegouche SP, MN 22/6 and 1 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* (Nordlig pivi)
1 at Colorado National Monument, CO 3/7.

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus* (Västlig pivi)
2 at Theodore Roosevelt, ND 27/6 and 2 at Devils Tower, WY 28/6.

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens* (Östlig pivi)
2 at Carlos Avery, MN 19/6 and 1 at Tettegouche SP, MN 22/6.

Acadian Flycatcher* *Empidonax virescens* (Akadempid)
1 at Bass Pond, MN 18/6.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher* *Empidonax flaviventris* (Gulbukig empid)
1 at Pietz Road, MN 20/6, 1 at McDavitt Road/Sax-Zim Bog, MN 21/6 and 1 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii* (Pilempid)
1 at Itasca, MN 23/6 and 1 at Rothsay WMA, MN 24/6.

Alder Flycatcher* *Empidonax alnorum* (Alempid)
2 at Rice Lake, MN 20/6, 4 at Sax-Zim Bog, MN 21/6 and 3 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus* (Dvärgempid)
2 at Carlos Avery, MN 19/6, 1 at Sax-Zim Bog, MN 21/6, 1 at Tettegouche SP, MN 22/6, 2 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6, 1 at Rothsay WMA, MN 24/6, 2 at Horsehead Lake, ND 26/7 and 2 at Schnell Recreation Area, ND 27/6.

Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri* (Bergempid)
1 at Two Oceans Lake, WY 1/7 and 1 at Moose, WY 2/7.

Gray Flycatcher* *Empidonax wrightii* (Gråempid)
2 at Lucerne Marina, UT 3/7.

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe* (Grå fibi)
Common in Minnesota and North Dakota; seen five days.

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya* (Rödbrun fibi)

2 at Schnell Recreation Area, ND 27/6.

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* (Större topptyrann)

1 at Bass Pond, MN 18/6, 2 at Carlos Avery, MN 19/6 and 1 at Rice Lake, MN 20/6.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Östlig kungstyrann)

Common throughout the region; observed twelve days.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* (Västlig kungstyrann)

Common in North Dakota, northeastern Wyoming and in Colorado; seen six days.

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* (Amerikansk törnskata)

2 at Mush Creek Road, WY 28/6.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (Rödögd vireo)

Common in Minnesota 19-23/6, and 1 at Theodore Roosevelt, ND 27/6.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus* (Sångvireo)

2 in Yellowstone, WY 30/6 and 2 at Colter Bay, WY 1/7.

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii* (Sumpvireo)

1 in Tuttle, ND 25/6.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* (Gulstrupig vireo)

1 in Chisago, MN 19/6.

Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus* (Blygrå vireo)

2 at Sheep Creek GT, UT 3/7.

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius* (Glasögonvireo)

1 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri* (Stellerskrika)

1 at Pelican Creek and 2 at Le Hardy Rapids WY 1/7, 2 at Lupine Meadows, WY 2/7, 1 at Sheep Creek GT, UT 3/7, 1 at Black Canyon, CO 4/7 and 1 at Mt Evans, CO 5/7.

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata* (Blåskrika)

Common in Minnesota – seen daily 19-23/6.

Western Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma californica* (Västlig snårskrika)

2 at Colorado National Monument, CO 3/7 and 3 in Buena Vista 4/7.

Gray Jay *Perisoreus canadensis* (Grå lavskrika)

2 at Pietz Road, MN 20/6, 2 at Sax-Zim Bog, MN 21/6, 5 at Beartooth, WY 30/6 and 2 at Rocky Mountain National Park, CO 6/7.

Pinyon Jay* *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus* (Tallskrika)

30 in Buena Vista, CO 4/7.

Clark's Nutcracker *Nucifraga columbiana* (Grå nötskrika)

Common in Yellowstone and Grand Teton, WY 30/6-2/7 and also seen at Lucerne Marina, UT 3/7 and in Rocky Mountain NP, CO 6/7.

American Magpie *Pica hudsonia* (Skata)

Common in Wyoming and Colorado.

Common Raven *Corvus corax* (Korp)

Common in Minnesota, Wyoming and Colorado; seen fourteen days.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* (Amerikansk kråka)

Common in Minnesota, Wyoming and Colorado; seen fifteen days.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* (Berglärka)

Common in North Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado; seen eleven days.

Purple Martin *Progne subis* (Blå storsvala)

Nesting in Tuttle, ND 25/6.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (Nordlig kamvingesvala)

1 at Theodore Roosevelt, ND 27/6 and 1 at Seedskaadee NWR, WY 2/7.

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* (Backsvala)

Common at Carlos Avery, MN 19/6, 1 north of Steele, ND 26/6 and a few at Yellowstone, WY 30/6.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina* (Violettgrönsvala)

1 at Theodor Roosevelt, ND 27/6 and common in Yellowstone, WY, Grand Teton, WY and Flaming Gorge, UT 30/6-3/7.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* (Trädsvala)

Common throughout the region; seen sixteen days.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* (Stensvala)

Common throughout the region; seen fourteen days.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (Ladusvala)

Common throughout the region; seen seventeen days.

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapilla* (Amerikansk talltita)

Common in Minnesota and 3 seen at Schnell Recreation Area, ND 26/6.

Mountain Chickadee *Poecile gambeli* (Bergtita)

Common in Yellowstone and Grand Teton, WY 30/6-2/7.

Boreal Chickadee* *Poecile hudsonica* (Kanadames)

6 at Sax-Zim Bog, MN 21/6 and 2 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis* (Rödbröstad nötväcka)

1 at Itasca, MN 23/6 and common in Yellowstone and Grand Teton, WY 30/6-2/7.

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis* (Vitbröstad nötväcka)

3 in Chisago, MN 19/6, 1 in Tuttle, ND 25/6 and 2 at Schnell Recreation Area, ND 26/6.

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana* (Amerikansk trädskrypare)

1 at Sax-Zim Bog, MN 21/6 and 1 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* (Husgärdsmyg)

1 at Bass Pond, MN 18/6, 6 at Theodore Roosevelt, ND 27/6, 1 at Devils Tower, WY 28/6 and 1 south of Gunnison Airport, CO 4/7.

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* (Gärdsmyg)

4 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis* (Starrgärdsmyg)

Common in Minnesota; seen/heard there six days out of seven.

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris* (Kärrgärdsmyg)

1 at Carlos Avery, MN 19/6 and common in western Minnesota and North Dakota 24/6-26/6.

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus* (Klippgärdsmyg)

1 at Painted Canyon, ND 27/6, 4 at Lucerne Marina, UT 3/7 and 15 south of Gunnison Airport, CO 4/7.

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus* (Grå strömstare)

1 at Lewis Falls, WY 1/7.

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa* (Guld kronad kungsfågel)

1 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula* (Röd kronad kungsfågel)

2 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6, 2 in Yellowstone, WY 30/6, 1 at West Thumb, WY 1/7 and 1 at Lupine Meadows and 3 at Jenny Lake, WY 2/7.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea* (Blågrå myggsnappare)

3 at Carlos Avery, MN 19/6, 2 at Rice Lake, MN 20/6, 3 at Lucerne Marina, UT 3/7 and 6 at Black Canyon, CO 4/7.

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* (Nordlig solitärtrast)

2 in Yellowstone, WY 30/6 and 1 in Rocky Mountain NP, CO 6/7.

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides* (Bergsialia)

Common in western North Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado; seen ten days.

Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana* (Västsialia)

1 at Colorado National Monument, CO 3/7.

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia mexikana* (Östsialia)

4 in Chisago, MN 19/6, 1 at Pietz Road, MN 20/6 and 1 at Schnell Recreation Area, ND 26/6.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* (Vandringstrast)

Very common; seen every day of the trip.

Veery *Catharus fuscescens* (Rostskogstrast)

Common in Minnesota; seen 19/6-23/6.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (Beigekindad skogstrast)

Common in Yellowstone and Grand Teton, WY 30/6-2/7.

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* (Eremitskogstrast)

3 at Tettegouche SP, MN 22/6.

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* (Grå kattfågel)

Common in Minnesota 18/6-22/6, 2 at Theodore Roosevelt, ND 27/6 and 1 at Two Oceans Lake, WY 1/7.

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum* (Rödbrun härmtrast)

3 in Tuttle, ND 25/6 and 1 in Schnell Recreation Area, ND 26/6.

Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus* (Buskhärmtrast)
7 at Seedskadee NWR, WY 2/7 and 4 at Lucerne Marina, UT 3/7.

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (Stare)
Common; seen ten days.

Sprague's Pipit* *Anthus spragueii* (Präriepiplärka)
4 seen north of Steele, ND 24/6-26/6.

American Pipit* *Anthus rubescens* (Hedpiplärka)
30 at Beartooth Pass, WY 29/6 and 5 at Beartooth, WY 30/6, 20 at Mt Evans, CO 5/7 and 10 at Rocky Mountain NP, CO 6/7.

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* (Indiansidensvans)
Common in Minnesota 19-23/6 and 2 at Schnell Recreation Area, ND 26/6.

Northern Parula *Parula americana* (Messångare)
10 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata* (Orangekronad skogssångare)
1 at Black Canyon, CO 4/7.

Golden-winged Warbler* *Vermivora chrysoptera* (Guldvingad skogssångare)
2 at Rice Lake, MN 19/6 and 3 at Rice Lake, MN 20/6.

Virginia's Warbler *Vermivora virginiae* (Virginias skogssångare)
3 at Sheep Creek GT, UT 3/7 and 11 at Black Canyon, CO 4/7.

Nashville Warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla* (Nashvilleskogssångare)
1 at Pietz Road, MN 20/6, 5 at Sax-Zim Bog 21/6 and very common at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* (Gul skogssångare)
Common throughout the region; seen ten days.

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica* (Brunsidig skogssångare)
3 at Sax-Zim Bog, MN 21/6, 2 at Tettegouche SP, MN 22/6, 1 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6 and 1 at Rothsay, MN 24/6.

Magnolia Warbler* *Dendroica magnolia* (Magnoliaskogssångare)
1 at Tettegouche SP, MN 21/6 and 11 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Cape May Warbler *Dendroica tigrina* (Brunkindad skogssångare)
1 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Black-throated Blue Warbler* *Dendroica caerulescens* (Blåryggad skogssångare)
3 at Tettegouche SP, MN 23/6. What a bird!

Blackburnian Warbler* *Dendroica fusca* (Orangestrupig skogssångare)
1 at Pietz Road, MN 20/6 and 1 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* (Gulgumpad skogssångare)
5 at Tettegouche SP, MN 22/6, 3 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6, 1 at Beartooth, WY 29/6, 3 at Beartooth, WY 30/6, 4 at Pelican Creek and 3 at Two Oceans Lake, WY 1/7, 8 at Lupine Meadows, WY 2/7 and 1 at Rocky Mountain NP, CO 6/7. The birds in Minnesota "Myrtle", the birds in Wyoming and Colorado "Audubon's".

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens* (Svartstrimmig skogssångare)
2 at Lucerne Marina, UT 3/7.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens* (Grönryggad skogssångare)
7 at Tettegouche SP, MN 22/6 and 2 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Palm Warbler *Dendroica palmarum* (Brunhättad skogssångare)
1 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Pine Warbler *Dendroica pinus* (Tallskogssångare)
1 in Lindstrom, MN 19/6 and 1 at Pietz Road, MN 20/6.

Bay-breasted Warbler* *Dendroica castanea* (Brunbröstad skogssångare)
1 at Tettegouche SP, MN 22/6.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* (Svartvit skogssångare)
2 at Rice Lake, MN 20/6, 1 at Tettegouche SP, MN 22/6, 3 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6 and 1 at Schnell Recreation Area, ND 26/6.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* (Rödstartad skogssångare)
Common in Minnesota; seen daily 18/6-23/6.

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus* (Rödkronad piplärksångare)
2 at Tettegouche, MN 21/6, 12 at Tettegouche, MN 22/6 and 2 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* (Nordlig piplärksångare)
1 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Mourning Warbler* *Oporornis philadelphia* (Sorgskogssångare)
1 at Pietz Road, MN 21/6 and 1 at Tettegouche SP 21/6 and 22/6.

Connecticut Warbler* *Oporornis agilis* (Connecticutskogssångare)
2 at CR 52, MN 21/6 and 2 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

MacGillivray's Warbler *Oporornis tolmiei* (Gråhuvad skogssångare)
2 at Black Canyon, CO 4/7.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* (Gulhake)
Common in Minnesota and Wyoming; seen eight days.

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla* (Svartkronad skogssångare)
8 east of Cody, WY 29/6 and 1 at Two Oceans Lake, WY 1/7.

Canada Warbler* *Wilsonia canadensis* (Kanadasskogssångare)
3 at Tettegouche SP, MN 22/6 and 3 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* (Trastskogssångare)
2 at Sheep Creek GT, UT 3/7.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (Västlig tangara)
2 at Two Oceans Lake, WY 1/7, 5 at Lupine Meadows, 2 at Moose WY 2/7 and 2 at Black Canyon and 2 south of Gunnison Airport, CO 4/7.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* (Röd kardinal)
4 at Bass Pond, MN 18/6 and 3 in Chisago, MN 19/6.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus* (Svarthuvad kardinal)
1 at Black Canyon, Co 4/7.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (Brokig kardinal)
Common in Minnesota; seen daily 19-23/6.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* (Indigofink)
1 in Tuttle, ND 25/6.

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena* (Lazulifink)
3 at Theodore Roosevelt, ND 27/6, 1 east of Cody, WY 29/6 and 2 at Sheep Creek GT, UT 3/7.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana* (Dickcissel)
1 north of Steele, ND 25/6 and 2 along Hwy 85 between Ludlow and Buffalo, SD 27/6.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* (Fläckig busksparv)
1 at Painted Canyon and 3 at Theodore Roosevelt, ND 27/6, 1 at Sheep Creek GT, UT 3/7 and 3 at Black Canyon, CO 4/7.

Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus* (Grönstjärtad busksparv)
1 at Signal Mountain, WY 1/7, 1 at Lupine Meadows, 1 at Moose, WY 2/7 and 2 at Black Canyon, CO 4/7.

Sage Sparrow *Amphispiza belli* (Malörtsparv)
1 at Chapman Bench, WY 29/6, common in Seedskafee, WY 2/7 and Flaming Gorge, UT 3/7.

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla* (Åkersparv)
1 at Theodore Roosevelt, ND 27/6 and 1 at Sheep Creek GT, UT 3/7.

Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri* (Brewersparv)
4 at Mush Creek Road, WY 28/6, 4 at Two Oceans Lake, WY 1/7 and 7 south of Gunnison Airport, CO 4/7.

Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida* (Lerfärgad sparv)
2 at Rothsay WMA, MN and 1 north of Steele, ND 24/6, 2 north of Steele, ND 25/6, 12 north of Steele, ND 26/6, 2 in Theodore Roosevelt, ND 27/6 and 4 at Mush Creek Road, WY 28/6.

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina* (Tjippsparv)
The most common sparrow species; seen twelve days.

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* (Gräshoppsparv)
Common in North Dakota 24/6-27/6.

Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammodramus leconteii* (Le Contes sparv)
15 at McGregor Marsh, MN 19/6, 1 at McDavitt Road, MN 21/6, 4 at Rothsay WMA, MN 24/6 and 1 at Horsehead Lake, ND 26/6.

Henslow's Sparrow* *Ammodramus henslowii* (Henslowsparv)
1 at Rothsay WMA, MN 24/6.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow* *Ammodramus nelsoni* (Nelsonsparv)
2 at McGregor Marsh, MN 19/6 and 1 at Horsehead Lake, ND 26/6.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* (Gulbrynad grässparv)
3 at CR 52, MN 21/6, common in Rothsay WMA, 24/6 and north of Steele, ND 25-26/6.

Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus* (Aftonsparv)
1 north of Steele, ND 25/6, 1 in Theodore Roosevelt, ND 27/6 and 1 in Yellowstone, WY 30/6.

Lark Bunting* *Calamospiza melanocorys* (Svartsparv)
12 at Hwy 85, mile 134, between Ludlow and Buffalo, SD 27/6, 300 in the Mush Creek Road area, WY 28/6 and 40 at Pawnee National Grassland, CO 7/7.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (Lärksparv)
2 in Theodore Roosevelt, ND 27/6 and 2 at Mush Creek Road, WY 28/6.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* (Vitstrupig sparv)
5 in the Sax-Zim Bog area, MN 21/6, 2 in Tettegouche SP, MN 22/6 and 3 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* (Vitkronad sparv)
Common in Yellowstone and Grand Teton, WY 29/6-1/7 and at Guanella Pass and Rocky Mountain NP, CO 5-6/7.

Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca* (Rävspär)
3 east of Cody and 1 at Beartooth, WY 29/6 and 2 in Yellowstone, WY 30/6.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia* (Sångsparv)
Common in Minnesota 18/6-24/6, 1 at Horsehead Lake, ND 26/6 and common in Seedskaelee NWR, WY 2/7.

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii* (Lincolnsparv)
1 at Beartooth, WY 30/6 and 3 at Pelican Creek, WY 1/7.

Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana* (Träskspär)
1 at Carlos Avery, MN 19/6 and 1 at Gunflint Trail, MN 23/6.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* (Mörkögd junko)
Common in Yellowstone and Grand Teton 30/6-2/7 and 3 in Rocky Mountain NP, 6/7. "Pink-sided" in Wyoming and "Gray-headed" in Colorado.

McCown's Longspur* *Calcarius mccownii* (Prärielappspär)
25 at Pawnee National Grassland, CO 7/7.

Chestnut-collared Longspur* *Calcarius ornatus* (Praktlappspär)
4 north of Steele, ND 24/6, 15 north of Steele 25/6, 60 north of Steele and in the Horsehead Lake area and 2 at Schnell Recreation Area, ND 26/6, 20 at Stewart Lake, ND 27/6 and 10 at Mush Creek Road, WY 28/6.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta* (Västlig ängstrupial)
2 at Rothsay WMA, MN 24/6, common in North Dakota 24/6-27/6, in Wyoming 28-29/6 and at Pawnee, CO 7/7.

Bobolink* *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (Bobolink)
7 at Rice Lake, MN 20/6, 30 at Rothsay WMA, MN 24/6, 20 north of Steele, ND 25/6, 3 north of Steele 26/6 and 2 at Schnell Recreation Area, ND 27/6.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* (Brunhuvad kostare)
Common; seen eighteen days.

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (Gulhuvad trupial)
Seen throughout the region in suitable habitat; seen seven days.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* (Rödvingetrupial)
Common; seen sixteen days.

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus* (Präietrupial)
Common; seen fourteen days.

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula* (Mindre båtstjärt)
Common; seen ten days.

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii* (Bullockstrupial)
2 at Devils Tower Campground, WY 28/6 and 1 south of Gunnison Airport, CO 4/7.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* (Baltimorestrupial)
1 in Chisago and 1 at Carlos Avery, MN 19/6 and 1 at Itasca, MN 23/6.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* (Trädgårdstrupial)
Common in North Dakota 24-27/6.

Evening Grosbeak* *Coccothraustes vespertinus* (Aftonstenknäck)
1 at Itasca, MN 23/6 and 2 at Colter Bay, WY 1/7.

Pine Grosbeak* *Pinicola enucleator* (Tallbit)
2 at Colter Bay, WY 1/7 and 3 at Rocky Mountain NP, CO 6/7.

Brown-capped Rosy-Finch* *Leucosticte australis* (Brunkronad alpfinck)
3 at Mt Evans, CO 5/7.

Black Rosy-Finch* *Leucosticte atrata* (Svart alpfinck)
20 at Beartooth Pass, WY 29/6.

Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus* (Purpurrosenfink)
1 at Itasca, MN 23/6.

Cassin's Finch *Carpodacus cassinii* (Cassins rosenfink)
1 at Two Oceans Lake, WY 1/7, 2 at Lupine Meadows, WY 2/7, 6 at Red Canyon Lodge, UT
and 5 at Colorado National Monument, CO 3/7.

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus* (Husrosenfink)
1 in Lindstrom, MN 19/6 and 1 in Tuttle, ND 25/6.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* (Mindre korsnäbb)
11 at Two Oceans Lake, WY 1/7, 2 at Lupine Meadows and 100 at Moose, WY 2/7.

White-winged Crossbill* *Loxia leucoptera* (Bändelkorsnäbb)
3 at CR 52, MN 21/6.

Pine Siskin *Carduelis pinus* (Tallsiska)
15 at Itasca, MN 23/6, common in Yellowstone and Grand Teton, WY 29/6-2/7, at Sheep
Creek GT, UT 3/7 and in Rocky Mountain NP, CO 6/7.

American Goldfinch *Carduelis tristis* (Guldsiska)

Common in Minnesota, North Dakota and northeastern Wyoming; seen ten days.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (Gråsparv)

Common; seen sixteen days.

If you have any questions contact Robert at the following address:
robert.tuveson@hotmail.com