

Pueblo County 2016 Spring Bird Count Results

Will it ever happen again? 218 species reported in Pueblo County in one day, 5-14-16. Pueblo birders celebrated International Migratory Bird Day(IMBD) big time, blowing out the old record of 202 species in 2010. 26 birders in up to 14 parties + 1 at feeders participated in this historic Count, no doubt the most birds seen in any Colorado County on a single day.

Brandon Percival & Van Truan topped all lists with 160 species, including 4 of 5 Black Rails reported east of Pueblo where this rarity should now be looked for in all large marshy areas in the County; they are being reported in multiple locations here. The Count was also helped by Cornell U.'s "Sapsucker" team which chose Colorado to do its "Big Day." The team scored an owl bonanza with Flam, Saw-whet, Pygmy, & the rarest denizen of the Wet Mtns-- a Spotted Owl! Besides their usual Roadrunners & W. Screech Owl, BB & Bob Hahn contributed the Count's only Black-throated Green Warbler & Long-eared Owl near Colorado City. And if your still not impressed, Margie Joy added 3 Barn Owls just west of Pueblo making a total of 9 species of owls tallied on the Count.

Broad-winged Hawks have been under reported this Spring in the County, so we welcomed reports of them from Leon Bright & Mark Yaeger on the east & west sides of Pueblo. Also in Pueblo was a singing Carolina Wren found by Rick Clawges along the Arkansas River. The Chico Basin team led by Bill Maynard tallied the best variety of shorebirds including Willet & Stilt Sandpiper. Beulah's Mountain Park has become a good place to see Acorn Woodpecker & Grace's Warbler; 2 of the latter were reported by Rich Miller along with Brandon & Van. 105 species tallied by the Greenhorn Valley team included 2 of 8 Eastern Phoebes reported, a Count high. Their whitish under parts & smaller size easily distinguish them from the more common & larger buff-bellied Say's Phoebes. We also added the only Whimbrels for the Count at Stem Beach.

These Counts are sponsored by the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society & organized and compiled with the help of Brandon Percival. Species lists & totals are entered in the ebird/IMBD data base <www.birdday.org> For a complete list of birds seen on this year's blockbuster Count, please respond to this message at silvireo@hotmail.com

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Pueblo County Migration Counts