

**Subject: PUEBLO FALL BIRD COUNT RESULTS – Sept. 2017**

The 22nd annual Pueblo County Fall Count was held 9-16-17. 14 birders in up to 10 parties tallied 152 species.

The Greenhorn Valley team was delighted by the long present nesting Eastern Phoebes near junction of Cedarwood & Abbey Rds. But we were somewhat puzzled by the persistent "FEE-BEE" calls of the male in mid-September. Research revealed that these birds often double clutch, & sometimes try for a 3rd brood. Does breeding behavior in Fall indicate hopes of a 3rd clutch & a long Indian summer? We finished the day at Stem Beach with an adult Peregrine Falcon & were wowed by 3 Sabine's Gulls with dark heads of adults, but dark tail bands of younger ones, suggesting 2nd cycle birds hatched in 2016. Most sightings in Colorado are paler headed juveniles.

You can bet on birders at Chico Basin Ranch turning up good migrants, & again the area did not disappoint. Aaron Shipe spotted a Philadelphia Vireo & Magnolia Warbler at this valuable County resource partnered with the Nature Conservancy & other conservation groups. Rick Clawges tallied one of 4 Peregrine Falcons sighted, each found by 4 separate teams--an encouraging count of this once rare endangered species. Pinyon Jays are declining in parts of their range, so 32 birds counted by Margie Joy in Pueblo West were welcome news. Brandon Percival & Van Truan recorded an early arriving Lesser Black-backed Gull at Pueblo Reservoir, 1st of the season for this now regular winter area resident. Barbara Lockard spotted the only Catbird on her productive route north & east of Pueblo, & Mark Yaeger found the only Green Heron on the Count.

These Counts are sponsored by the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society, and organized & compiled with the help of Brandon Percival. All birds sighted are entered in the e-bird/International Migratory Bird Day data base at <[www.birdday.org](http://www.birdday.org)> To receive a complete list of birds seen on this year's Fall Count, please respond to this message.

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