

The 23rd annual Pueblo County Fall Bird Count (9-15-18)

The 23rd annual Pueblo County Fall Bird Count (9-15-18) was attended by 14 observers in up to 10 parties with one birder at feeders. 159 species were tallied. The Count was probably hurt by hot dry weather reaching the 90s days before & during the Count. But without doubt, the Count's best bird was a Long-tailed Jaeger found by Brandon Percival at Pueblo Reservoir; it's been present for several days. Brandon also spotted 2 somewhat early arriving Lesser Black-backed Gulls, a more common winter resident.

The Greenhorn Valley team also had some interesting birds by way of high numbers. Gib Rokich reported a nice pop of 26 Burrowing Owls on his usual early morning route on Cedarwood Rd. Also surprising were 9 Cattle Egrets we spotted with 4 at Lake Beckwith & 5 at the Metro Lake/Playa. We were all pleased to see lots of water in this Playa which has been dry for the past 10+ years.

Van Truan added 12 species of shorebirds to the Count at Huerfano Lake. A late straggling Mississippi Kite was a good find by Rick Clawges in Pueblo. Barbara Lockard visited a reliable spot for Pinyon Jays & found 20 in Pueblo West. The only Black Phoebe turned up for Leon Bright on the Goodnight River Trail in Pueblo, & Robb Hinds spotted the only Townsend's Warbler at Chico Basin Ranch.

These Migration Counts are sponsored by the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society and organized & compiled with the help of Brandon Percival. All birds reported are entered in the e-bird/Int'l Migratory Bird Day data base <www.birdday.org> To receive a complete list of birds on this year's Count, please respond to this message.

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