

FIELD REPORT

COLORADO GROUSE

APRIL 1–11, 2022



Greater Prairie-Chicken in full display © Brian Gibbons

LEADERS: BRIAN GIBBONS & ERIK BRUHNKE
LIST COMPILED BY: BRIAN GIBBONS

VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM



Male Lesser Prairie-Chicken displaying in Kansas © Brian Gibbons

A white bird under blue skies started our birding adventure, which ended ten days later with brown skies in the Mile High City, following our amazing circumnavigation of Colorado with a dip into the farmland and prairies of Kansas. We experienced one of the greatest temperature spreads that I remember on our Grouse tour, from thirteen degrees while admiring a hooting Dusky Grouse to eighty-six degrees one blustery afternoon in Kansas, where our local host declared, “It hasn’t been this windy since . . . yesterday!” A few owls, a couple of longspurs, and other fine avian creatures enthralled us



Loveland Pass, Realm of the White-tailed Ptarmigan © Brian Gibbons

nearly every day. As usual, the Gunnison Sage-Grouse was very distant, but we could see the distinctive filoplume flop that reminds me of a black toupee coming loose from the back of a man’s head as he throws his head forward. In contrast, the Greater and Lesser prairie-chickens were practically underfoot as they tried in vain to impress the females casually strolling through the leks.

Fueled by an amazing breakfast at Main Street Restaurant in Idaho Springs, we started our birding at 11,990 feet at Loveland Pass. Clear skies and lighter than normal winds—for 12,000 feet—gave



This stunning White-tailed Ptarmigan was our first grouse of the tour © Mel Senac

us all the advantages we needed for our ptarmigan hunt. Before long, Dean called, “I’ve got one!”

Indeed, the male White-tailed Ptarmigan in his nearly immaculate winter garb was winging his way right past us. He landed on an equally immaculate snowbank with his tail cocked and then trotted up and over a ridge to disappear before our astonished eyes. What a glorious sighting and a wonderful way to start the tour. In the Silverthorne area we pursued more high elevation birds at some area feeders. We were thrilled to see three gorgeous species of Rosy-Finches before we had to tear ourselves away to continue the long drive through some spectacular scenery of the Colorado Rockies with spruce and fir punctuating the clear blue skies.



Mountain scenery abounds in Colorado, Monarch Pass © Brian Gibbons

Leadville, the highest incorporated town in the US, is home to a historic Opera House that beckoned to a lost era when money flowed into the high-country mining area. Now they mine money in the high country. Buena Vista, with its towering gnarly cottonwoods, gave us a very sedate Lewis's Woodpecker. Atypical woodpecker that it is, it sat silently with its beautiful plumage of rosy-pink, red, and motor oil fading to black. We weaved our way over passes and down elegant river valleys woven with willow buds of a dozen colors. Finally, we arrived in Gunnison after a couple of sightings of Clark's Nutcracker and little else. We were set for our first lek in the frigid Gunnison Valley, home to the eponymous Sage-Grouse on everybody's wanted list. The next morning, the birds were there, very distant, but they were strutting and showing off for the females that were wandering through the lek. After a while they relocated to a distant ridge, where we could actually see the black toupee-flop of the thick filoplumes as

the males threw their heads forward while their fanned spiky tails caught the morning sun. The drive back to town produced our first Prairie Falcon and a pile of waterfowl with some Sandhill Cranes.



Golden-mantled Ground-Squirrel at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park © Brian Gibbons

The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park failed to produce our hoped-for Dusky Grouse, but we enjoyed many sightings like Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, White-throated Swift, Spotted Towhee, Townsend's Solitaire, and a lovely pair of Mountain Bluebirds. Next, we were off to Grand Junction where we would explore the red sandstone beauty of the Colorado National Monument. The winds were set loose this day, and we were lucky to net a single Juniper Titmouse sighting and a few Pinyon Jays among the windswept vistas. A highlight for me was standing on the edge and letting the fifty-mile per hour gusts push us around while



Colorado National Monument © Brian Gibbons

a Peregrine swooshed past. The windy drive over to Steamboat Springs was a wrestling match with the wind. We made an effort to find a Dusky Grouse in the wind, but a distant flushed bird was all we could muster. The next morning, our coldest at thirteen degrees, was also calm and allowed Erik to spot a bird flying to the road for us to enjoy as it filled its gizzard with grit. He hooted, strolled, and puffed his burgundy air sacs for us before fading back into the sagebrush and oaks of California Park Road. On the way back to Steamboat we hunted for Sharp-tailed Grouse; while we discovered several birds, they seemed to be done displaying for the day, so we contented ourselves with watching them chase each other around a snow patch and disappear with their excellent camouflage.



We finally caught up with this male Dusky Grouse near Hayden, Colorado © Brian Gibbons

Another search of the high spruce fir forests yielded little in the way of new sightings, but we did see a few Rough-legged Hawks on our way to Walden in North Park, our final night in the high country. I love the rolling sagebrush sea that is home to the massive Greater Sage-Grouse. But before we would bundle up for another 5 AM departure, we would try our hand at the most challenging owl in the Lower 48. Several people joined Erik and me on the hunt for the Boreal Owl. The winds were not as calm as I had hoped, but we stopped a dozen times where cleared pullouts allowed, playing tape and listening to the winds whistling through the pines and the silence. We made it all the way to Cameron Pass and started down with a few more stops before quitting to get a little rest before an early departure. Our last stop rewarded us with a distant owl calling, but it wouldn't come closer. We drove down the road and listened—still distant but still calling. We drove a little more and, to our astonishment, the bird was



Greater Sage-Grouse displaying after returning to the lek post eagle flush © Brian Gibbons

calling nearby. But that's all it did; it called and called and called. Then a second bird called, but we couldn't catch sight of them. After twenty minutes in sub-freezing temps and a short night, we had to give up. But before we did, I tried scampering up a hill, and to my surprise the snow wasn't too deep and the bird sounded closer. A few seconds of scanning with the light produced a beautiful Boreal Owl! Erik was able to scope it from the highway, and everyone got lifer looks—our fingers and toes weren't frozen anymore. Sleep beckoned.



Brown-capped Rosy-Finch near Gould, CO © Brian Gibbons

Another early start under a frigid starry sky. First, we could just make out the white blobs of the inflated chests of male Greater-Sage Grouse; slowly the light grew. I knew we were in for an amazing show when we could make out forty females encircling a trio of strutting males. Then disaster: nearly eighty birds flushed a half-hour before sunrise. Seconds later the perpetrator glided through—Golden Eagle. After a few tense minutes, a few males filtered back in and started displaying, much to my relief. They put on a good show for us, but I can't help imagine watching thirty puffed-

up males and forty females who knew who was the best in show. Walden Reservoir was just starting to melt, and the waterfowl show was spectacular; ducks, geese, pelicans, and a couple of Killdeer enlivened the icy landscape. Canvasback, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, and Bufflehead were some of the divers.

Dabblers were well-represented too, with American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, and Gadwall all tallied. Bald and Golden eagles cruised around the lake. As we departed the rolling sagebrush hills of North Park, we visited a couple of feeders including Moose Visitor Center in the cleverly named State Forest State Park. A few Brown-capped Rosy-Finches, Cassin's Finches, Evening Grosbeaks, and a couple of nuthatches fattened our list with great photo opportunities.



Evening Grosbeak © Brian Gibbons

Ironically, our third and final location for American Three-toed Woodpeckers failed to produce one. We did, however, enjoy scope views of a singing American Dipper in a picturesque stream. We wound our way down Poudre Canyon with spectacular—and distressing—scenery. Three large fires in the area over the last decade have decimated huge swaths of forest.



Dawn on the prairie of eastern Colorado © Brian Gibbons

We got lucky again with light winds for our birding out in the shortgrass prairie of Pawnee National Grassland. A chilly clear morning warmed quickly as we enjoyed a few Mountain Plovers near the tiny town of Briggsdale. Then we were off to hunt longspurs in the rolling prairie to our north. For most of our drive, Horned Larks were the only birds we could find. Then the lovely song of Western Meadowlarks filtered in through our open windows and, finally, a few striking Chestnut-collared Longspurs turned up: black chest, straw-colored cheeks, and the namesake chestnut collar. Still seeking Thick-billed Longspurs, we worked our way to a picnic ground where we continued to relish the minimal winds, which is rarely the case in the prairie. After a quick picnic lunch, we made our way to Wray in northeast Colorado. The rolling grass-covered sandhills are home to the Greater Prairie-Chicken.

Same drill—early start to get to the lek so that we don’t disturb the birds. After watching the eastern sky lighten, we were treated to a wonderful pastel sunrise before we heard the cooing of the Greater Prairie-Chickens. We were parked right in the middle of the lek, and birds surrounded us. Cooing,

cackling, hooting, and screeches emanated from the males as a few females blithely strolled through, paying little attention to the males that were falling all over themselves to impress the girls. Eventually, after a great show, the females wandered off, and we called it a morning. A quick breakfast and more birding followed. We had a good showing of ducks at Stalker Lake State Wildlife Area, where a Trumpeter Swan surprised us. The lure of a second longspur pulled us away from Wray. Some great shared information led us to a field that hosted hundreds of longspurs including a few Thick-billeds, which were new for us. We scoped these birds for a while before Kansas tugged us away for our final grouse, the declining Lesser Prairie-Chicken.



Greater Prairie-Chicken in full display © Brian Gibbons

While we had endured some wind, the Kansas wind was something special. We woke up in the dark to a howling wind that swirled dust in the parking lot and tattered the flag flying over the bank in Scott City. We arrived at the Hoeme Ranch in the dark but with a paling sky. Settled into a couple of blinds and an old school bus, we waited in the wind. Fortunately, the Lesser Prairie-Chickens didn't mind a bit, as we witnessed more than a dozen males popping, stomping, and cackling on the lek right in front of us. Their brick-red air sacs and smaller and paler bodies, as well as their vocalizations, differentiated these birds from the Greaters we had seen the morning before. The wind even laid down a little for us; that's not to say that it stopped, but we could easily hear the birds in their displays. A Ferruginous Hawk spotted by some in our group reminded us that our work was not done, despite a clean sweep of our native grouse. The Hoeme Ranch also had several Burrowing Owls we could admire before we headed back to Scott for our bags and the return to Denver. Back in Colorado, we found a hawk spot on the local prairie-dog town near Sheridan Lake. Our first Swainson's Hawk was dining on a Black-tailed Prairie-Dog as alarming

prairie-dogs looked on in horror. Also in this field were a Rough-legged Hawk and a few Northern Harriers, and our only Chihuahuan Raven. Our final birding was in an area for longspurs, and before long we had spotted a few swirling flocks of hundreds of Thick-billed Longspurs and improved our views of these shortgrass prairie dwellers. One more weather event was in store for us; a good old-fashioned dust storm greeted us east of Denver with brown skies and wicked winds.



Lesser Prairie-Chickens displaying in Kansas © Brian Gibbons

Thanks for traveling with VENT. I look forward to our next birding adventure, wherever in the world that might be. -Brian Gibbons

ITINERARY

2 April – Loveland Pass, Silverthorne, Buena Vista, Monarch Pass, Gunnison

3 April – Waunita Hot Springs lek, Monarch Pass, Gunnison Cemetery, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Montrose

4 April – Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Montrose Farms Sheep Farm, Fruitgrowers Reservoir, Grand Junction

5 April – Colorado National Monument Rim Rock Drive, California Park Road, Steamboat Springs

6 April – California Park Road at a chilly 13 degrees, Routt County birding, Rabbit Ears Pass, North Park birding at Walden Reservoir, Cameron Pass owling, Walden

7 April – Coalmont lek, Walden Reservoir, Gould Cabins, Moose Visitor Center, Cameron Pass, Poudre Canyon, Fort Collins

8 April – Pawnee National Grassland, Crow Valley Campground, Wray

9 April – Greater Prairie-Chickens near Wray, Wray State Fish Hatchery, Stalker Lake State Wildlife Area, Yuma County Road 7 for longspurs, Scott City, Kansas

10 April – Hoeme Ranch near Scott City, KS; Sheridan Lake, CO; Arriba, CO; Denver Airport

Waterfowl	Anatidae	
Trumpeter Swan	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	Stalker Lake SWA
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Everywhere
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Quick flyby near Wray
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>	Stalker Lake SWA & Walden Reservoir
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>	Most seen near Walden
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Stalker Lake held the most
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Walden Reservoir
American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>	Walden Reservoir
Wigeon Hybrid	<i>M americana x penelope</i>	Montrose
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Walden Reservoir
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Walden Reservoir
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Walden Reservoir
Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	Walden Reservoir
Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	Walden Reservoir
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Walden Reservoir
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Walden Reservoir
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Fruitgrowers Reservoir & Walden
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Fruitgrowers Reservoir
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Fruitgrowers Reservoir
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Fruitgrowers Reservoir
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Fruitgrowers Reservoir
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Stalker Lake SWA
Pheasants, Grouse & Allies	Phasianidae	
Ring-necked Pheasant (I)	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Plains of Colorado and Kansas
Greater Sage-Grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	Coalmont
Gunnison Sage-Grouse	<i>Centrocercus minimus</i>	Waunita Hot Springs viewing area

White-tailed Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus leucura</i>	Voted Bird of the trip - Loveland Pass
Dusky Grouse	<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>	California Park Road
Sharp-tailed Grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>	Routt County near Steamboat Springs
Greater Prairie-Chicken	<i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>	Wray
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	<i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i>	Hoeme Ranch, Scott City, KS
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Eastern CO & KS
Grebes	Podicipedidae	
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Fruitgrowers Reservoir & Stalker Lake SWA
Pigeons and Doves	Columbidae	
Rock Pigeon (I)	<i>Columba livia</i>	Towns
Eurasian Collared-Dove (I)	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Almost as widespread as Canada Goose
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Common
Swifts	Apodidae	
White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP & CO National Monument
Rails, Gallinules & Coots	Rallidae	
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Common
Cranes	Gruidae	
Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>	Gunnison & Steamboat areas
Plovers and Lapwings	Charadriidae	
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Walden Reservoir
Mountain Plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Briggsdale in Pawnee National Grassland
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	Laridae	
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Walden Reservoir
Cormorants	Phalacrocoracidae	
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	Fruitgrowers Reservoir first
Pelicans	Pelecanidae	
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Walden Reservoir first
Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns	Ardeidae	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Gunnison area first
New World Vultures	Cathartidae	
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Common
Osprey	Pandionidae	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	First three days in mountains
Hawks, Eagles & Kites	Accipitridae	
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Seen 6! Days in the mountains
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	Most numerous on the plains
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Seen 5 days, first in Grand Junction
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Seen 6 days
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Sheridan Lake, CO our final day
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Common
Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Numerous wintering birds still around

Ferruginous Hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Hoeme Ranch & in the prairies our final day
Owls	Strigidae	
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Nesting near Wray
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Hoeme Ranch
Boreal Owl	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Scoped on Cameron Pass!
Woodpeckers	Picidae	
Red-naped Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>	Gunnison Cemetery
Lewis's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Buena Vista
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>	
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates villosus</i>	Best looks at Gould feeders
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Common
Falcons & Caracaras	Falconidae	
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Seen almost daily
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Seen 3 days in the mountains
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Gunnison area first
Tyrant Flycatchers	Tyrannidae	
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Fruitgrowers Reservoir
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	6 days, Gunnison hotel first
Shrikes	Laniidae	
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Prairies our final two days
Crows, Jays & Magpies	Corvidae	
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	Colorado National Monument on a windy day
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	Fairly common in mountains
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	A couple glimpsed
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	<i>Aphelocoma woodhouseii</i>	Buena Vista & Black Canyon
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	Common
Clark's Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	Near Buena Vista & Monarch Pass
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Common
Chihuahuan Raven	<i>Corvus cryptoleucus</i>	Sheridan Lake, CO
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common
Tits, Chickadees, & Titmice	Paridae	
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Mountains
Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>	Mountains, best look at Gould feeders
Juniper Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus ridgwayi</i>	Colorado National Monument in the wind
Larks	Alaudidae	
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Abundant
Swallows	Hirundinidae	
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Gunnison area
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Plains our final day
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	Glimpsed Stalker Lake SWA
Long-tailed Tits	Aegithalidae	
Bushtit	<i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>	Colorado National Monument

Nuthatches	Sittidae	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Gould feeders
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	First at Gunnison Cemetery
Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>	Gould feeders
Wrens	Troglodytidae	
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	HO - Colorado National Monument
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	HO - Colorado National Monument
Mockingbirds & Thrashers	Mimidae	
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	Gunnison valley & Pawnee National Grassland
Starlings	Sturnidae	
European Starling (I)	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common
Dippers	Cinclidae	
American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	Best view in Cameron Pass
Thrushes & Allies	Turdidae	
Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	Seen four days in the mountains
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	Black Canyon, good looks
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Common
Old World Sparrows	Passeridae	
House Sparrow (I)	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Common
Finches, Euphonias & Allies	Fringillidae	
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Black Canyon & Gould feeders
Pine Grosbeak	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	Quick flyby at Moose Visitor Center
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	<i>Leucosticte tephrocotis</i>	Silverthorne
Black Rosy-Finch	<i>Leucosticte atrata</i>	Silverthorne
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	<i>Leucosticte australis</i>	Silverthorne & Gould feeders
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Common
Cassin's Finch	<i>Haemorhous cassinii</i>	Best looks at Gould feeders
Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	Quick flyby, RARE, California Park Road
Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>	Silverthorne & Gunnison Cemetery
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	Near Fruitgrowers Reservoir
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	Poudre Park on a feeder
Longspurs & Snow Buntings	Calcariidae	
Chestnut-collared Longspur	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	Pawnee National Grassland & E CO
Thick-billed Longspur	<i>Rhynchophanes mccownii</i>	E CO & near Arriba CO
New World Sparrows	Passerellidae	
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Most numerous at feeders
(Slate-colored Junco)	<i>J. hyemalis/carolinensis</i>	
(Oregon Junco)	<i>J. hyemalis oreganus Group</i>	
(Pink-sided Junco)	<i>J. hyemalis mearnsii</i>	
(Gray-headed Junco)	<i>J. hyemalis caniceps</i>	
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	Near Wray
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	Near Wray

Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	First at Waunita Hot Springs lek
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	Black Canyon of the Gunnison
Troupials & Allies	Icteridae	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Near Montrose
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Common
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	A few sightings
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Near Montrose and Wray CO
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Common
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	Eastern CO and KS
MAMMALS		
Squirrels, Prairie Dogs & Marmots	Sciuridae	
Eastern Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>	
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	
Least Chipmunk	<i>Tamias minimus</i>	
Wyoming Ground-Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus elegans</i>	
Golden-mantled Ground-Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus lateralis</i>	
Rock Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus variegatus</i>	
Black-tailed Prairie-Dog	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	
White-tailed Prairie-Dog	<i>Cynomys leucurus</i>	
Gunnison Prairie-Dog	<i>Cynomys gunnisoni</i>	
Yellow-bellied Marmot	<i>Marmota flaviventris</i>	
Kangaroo Rat	Heteromyidae	
Ord's Kangaroo Rat	<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>	
Porcupines	Erethizonitidae	
North American Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	
Rabbits & Hares	Leporidae	
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	
Desert Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	
Mountain Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus nuttallii</i>	
White-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	
Dogs	Canidae	
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	
Deer	Cervidae	
Moose	<i>Alces alces</i>	
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	
Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	
Elk	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	
Pronghorn	Antilocapridae	
Pronghorn	<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	
Bison, Sheep & Goats	Bovidae	

Bighorn Sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis</i>	



Sandhill prairie in northeast Colorado © Brian Gibbons