



DIRECTIONS: From US Highway 50 (otherwise known as Royal Gorge Blvd.) and 9th Street in Canon City, go west 1.2 miles to Tunnel Drive, which is the first left turn after US 50 curves around to the north at the penitentiary. Proceed west 0.7 mile on Tunnel Drive, staying on the lower road. There is an iron gate at the end of the road, and a parking area just uphill to the right.

One of the best spots to find the Rufous-crowned Sparrow is to walk west along the river (going around the iron gate). A few hundred feet ahead, you will come to a brick building, which is hidden from the starting point by a cliff on the north side. The hillsides, boulders, and brush and grasses in the general vicinity of the building are all good places for the sparrow to hide.

The other option is to walk up the trailhead, which cuts a fairly steep switchback and then goes west/upriver, although at a higher altitude. The trail is about one mile long, ending with several larger boulders across it. Rufous-crowned Sparrows have also been seen within the last quarter-mile of the trail, both uphill and downhill.

Other birds that are fairly easy to find in the area include Canyon Towhee (almost guaranteed), Rock Wren, and Canyon Wren. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker was reported there also in December 1998. Reports of sightings from the Tunnel Drive area are welcome; please send your reports to Jim and Rosie Watts, 518 A St., Penrose, CO 81240; 719/372-6679.