

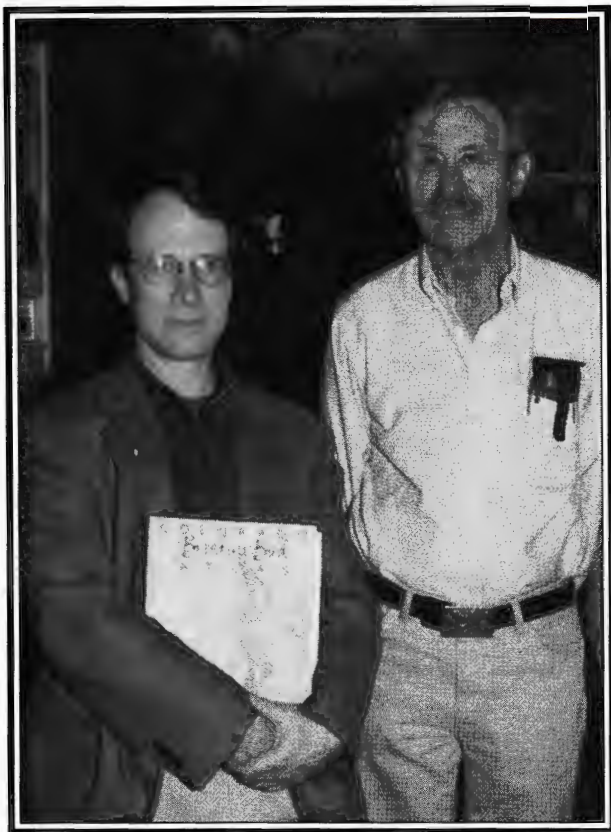
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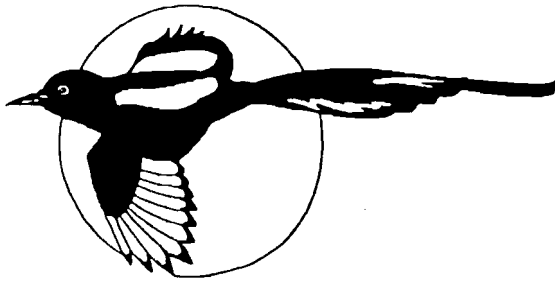
*Journal of the*

# *Colorado Field Ornithologists*

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly

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## PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

**HUGH E. KINGERY AND RADEAUX:** Knowing that Hugh Kingery (Editor of the *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas*) would be on the east coast May 22, when he would be presented with the Ronald A. Ryder award via teleconference during the Colorado Field Ornithologists' convention, Alan Versaw snapped this shot of Hugh and Radeaux (Illustrator of the *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas*) at the *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* signing party in February 1999.

*Alan Versaw*.....Front Cover

**WHITE-FACED IBISES:** Kim Potter sketched these White-faced Ibises--an adult and an immature bird--with pen and ink. Kim is a biologist with the White River National Forest in Colorado.

*Kim Potter*.....165

**WOOD DUCK PAIR:** Isa Paulsen, colored-pencil artist extraordinaire, sketched this pair of Wood Ducks. Isa attends high school in Lamar, Colorado, and she has won numerous awards for her artwork.

*Isa Paulsen*.....168

**Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas SIGNING PARTY:** At the *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* signing party in February 1999, a willing bystander agreed to take this photograph of those who attended. From left to right, front row: Coen Dexter, David Pantle, Radeaux (Illustrator); middle row: Rich Levad, Jim Sedgwick, Roberta Winn, Alan Versaw; back row: Dick Roth, David Leatherman, Hugh Kingery (Editor), Beth Dillon, Bev Baker, John Toolen, Stephanie Jones, Mike Carter, Duane Nelson, Cynthia Melcher.

*Anonymous*.....171

**NORTHERN HARRIER:** Urling and Hugh Kingery found this Northern Harrier entrapped in the guy wires of a radio tower on Boone Road, Pueblo County, about 10 miles south of the Pueblo/El Paso County line. The bird hung suspended from one of its wings, which was entangled in the guy wires. It appeared that the sudden stop from hitting the wires caused the bird's neck to break.

*Hugh Kingery*.....175

**WOOD DUCK EATING A RUSSIAN-OLIVE FRUIT:** Using pen and ink, David Leatherman sketched this Wood Duck eating the fruit of a Russian-olive to accompany his article documenting this feeding behavior (see page 177). David is an entomologist with the Colorado State Forest Service.

*David Leatherman*.....176

**HOODED MERGANSER:** Brendan O'Rourke photographed this Hooded Merganser in New Buffalo, Michigan, in January 1998.

*Brendan O'Rourke*.....183

## UPCOMING CFO FIELD TRIPS

**Tuesday-Wednesday, 27-28 July 1999 -- Shorebirds & Terns.** Join Duane Nelson to search for Piping Plovers, Least Terns, & other shorebirds in southeastern Colorado. At 9:00 a.m. on the 27th, meet Duane at the Hasty Campground -- John Martin Reservoir. Just before the campground's pay station, turn right and go 100' to a trailer. Call Duane (weekends) by 20 July: 303/816-9620.

**Saturday, 7 August 1999 -- Hummin' in Grand Valley.** Join Steve & Debbie Bouricius at 6:00 p.m. for a hummingbird evening! Pending conditions, the group will work on ID (with tips on females vs. immatures) of Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, Rufous, and Calliope. Tour hummingbird gardens, search for nests, & discuss hummer ecology/behavior/feeder topics. Learn how to transform a barren site into a hummer haven. Bring chairs/sunscreen/hats/binoculars/field guides/patience. Please do not wear white or bright-colored clothing. Call Steve by 31 July: 970/434-5918.

**Saturday, 11 September 1999 -- From Cranes to Warblers.** Join the Rawinskis to explore the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge area. Sandhill Cranes & rare migrants are likely to be present. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Monte Vista refuge headquarters, 6 miles south of Monte Vista on Highway 15. Call the Rawinskis by 4 September: 719/852-3830.

**Sunday, 26 September 1999 -- Fall Migration, SE Colorado Style.** Join Brandon Percival to scope out southeastern Colorado's migrant traps & shorelines for birds pausing on their fall migrations. Pueblo, the western Arkansas Valley, & other locations (to be determined by the birds) will be covered. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Red Caboose in the K-Mart parking lot just off of I-25 in Pueblo. Call Brandon by 19 September: 719/547-3722.

**Early Fall 1999 -- Sprague's Pipit Sweep.** Join Norm Erthal & Joey Kellner to search for migrating Sprague's Pipits. Norm will set the trip date during the last week of September to take advantage of the best possible weather. Please call Norm in the last week of September: 303/424-6747.

\*\*\*\*\*

### NOTICE TO FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Please contact the field trip leader at least one week in advance if you intend to participate. Trips often go where the number of participants must be limited or where we must provide notice of how many participants there will be. Contacting the leader in advance also helps him/her plan the best possible trip, ensures that you know where/when to meet, what to bring, etc. Please arrive no later than the scheduled meeting time; leaders may not be able to delay departure for late arrivals. Carpool drivers should inform passengers of their schedule prior to departure to avoid scheduling conflicts. Leaders will make every effort to keep the group together, and drivers should make every effort to stay with the group.

**Records Sought**  
**for a New Check-List of**  
***Birds in Western Colorado:***  
***Plateau and Mesa Country***

A new annotated check-list, to be published by the year 2001, will focus on the status and distribution of birds in western Colorado. Bar graphs depicting seasonal occurrence and exquisite art work by Don Radovich will be included. If you, or anyone you know, has unpublished records of birds from western Colorado to include in this new check-list, please send them to any of the individuals listed below:

Bob Righter (check-list Editor), 2358 Fillmore, Denver, Colorado 80210

Rich Levad (check-list Author), 2924 Ronda Lee Rd., Grand Junction, Colorado 81503

Coen Dexter (check-list Author), 135 Sunset Cir., Palisade, Colorado 81526

Kim Potter (check-list Author), 440 E. 7th St., Rifle, Colorado 81650

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS\*  
 MISSION STATEMENT

The Colorado Field Ornithologists exists to:

- promote the field study, conservation, and enjoyment of Colorado Birds;
- review sightings of rare birds through the Colorado Bird Records Committee and maintain the authoritative list of Colorado birds;
- publish the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*;
- and conduct field trips and workshops, and hold annual conventions.

**CFO WEBSITE**

We invite you to browse the Colorado Field Ornithologists' website. If you don't own a computer, check your local library or ask one of the reference librarians to help you. Keep checking back, because new items and changes appear regularly on our website. The Internet "address" for the CFO website is: <http://www.frii.com/~hopko>

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
FOR THE RONALD A. RYDER AWARD  
FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO  
COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGY**

\*\*\*\*\*

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

1. For distinguished service to the Colorado Field Ornithologists and its goals.
2. For scholarly contributions to the Colorado Field Ornithologists and to Colorado field ornithology.
3. For sharing knowledge of Colorado field ornithology with the people of Colorado.

**NOMINATION & SELECTION PROCESS**

1. The Award will be given every year.
2. Only living persons may be nominated.
3. Nominations may be made by the membership at large.
4. The Board selects and approves an awardee for announcement at the Annual Colorado Field Ornithologists' Convention.
5. The Award will be a plaque designed to match the original plaque given to Dr. Ronald A. Ryder.
6. Nominations should be submitted in writing to the Award Committee Chairperson on or before February 1 to be considered by the Colorado Field Ornithologists' Board of Directors.

\*\*\*\*\*

Submit nominations to Award Committee Chair:

Rich Levad, 2924 Ronda Lee Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81503  
970/242-3979; levadgj@mesa.k12.co.us

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Tony Leukering, Peter Gent, Bill Lisowsky and I have concurred that we need membership input with regards to the PROCESS and FORMAT we should use for submitting the three different (but often related) sets of information pertaining to observations of birds in Colorado:

seasonal reports of birds--both common and unusual--published in the NEWS FROM THE FIELD column in the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*; observations of rare occurrences of birds in Colorado submitted to the Records Committee (RC) of the Colorado Field Ornithologists; and observations of birds reported in the regional column of the American Birding Association's *Field Notes*.

One idea is to develop a form for submitting observations to the NEWS FROM THE FIELD editor, which would make that person's job much, much easier. In some cases the same record should be submitted to all three "outlets" listed above, and in those cases it might make sense instead to simply send copies of the RC report to the editor of NEWS FROM THE FIELD and to the regional editor of *Field Notes*. We envision that you could submit your reports electronically or via surface mail. If you have thoughts or ideas about how you think these should processes work, please send your comments to me (contact information on inside of front cover), and I will forward them to the other people involved.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

If you have **field reports for spring (March-May) or summer (June & July)**, please send them to **Tony Leukering at: Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Piccadilly Road, Brighton, Colorado 80601; or e-mail them to Tony at: CBOTrends@aol.com**. Later in the year, when you have **field reports for fall (August-November) and winter (December-February)**, please send them to **Peter Gent at: 55 South 35th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80303; or e-mail them to Peter at gent@ucar.edu**. Remember, to ensure that your reports go into the *News from the Field* column, you must send them directly to the appropriate column editor as soon as the reporting period ends. Please do not expect the editors to glean reports from COBIRDS; it is not efficient, nor is it accurate, for collecting and organizing information.

Finally, if you plan to submit materials to the *Journal*, PLEASE read the Instructions to Contributors on the inside of the back cover of the *Journal*. They include deadline dates and other important information that is subject to change. Thanks!!

Best,  
Cynthia Melcher





**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' CONVENTION 1999****Hugh E. Kingery  
Receives Ronald A. Ryder Award**

Richard Levad  
2924 Ronda Lee Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81503  
970/242-3979; levadgj@mesa.k12.co.us

In its mission statement, the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) states that it endeavors to "promote the field study, conservation, and enjoyment of Colorado birds," and CFO presents its Ronald A. Ryder Award to honor individuals who have provided distinguished service in advancing our mission. It particularly recognizes service to the Colorado Field Ornithologists organization, outstanding scholarly contributions to field ornithology, and sharing knowledge of birds with the people of Colorado. It took virtually no deliberation to determine this year's recipient because all of the nomination letters named the same person. This unanimity stemmed from the recent publication of the *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas*, which confirmed that no one has contributed more toward CFO's mission over the past three decades than its mastermind, Hugh E. Kingery.

Anyone who takes even the first steps toward a knowledge of Colorado birds soon recognizes Hugh's name, for he has authored dozens of publications dealing with them. One of the letters nominating Hugh for this award notes that, "By a rough count he has published 47 notes/articles in the *C.F.O. Journal*, 7 studies in *Audubon Field Notes*, and 14 in *American Birds*." For nearly a quarter century--from 1972 to 1995--Hugh served as the Rocky Mountain Regional Editor of *American Birds*, four times each year providing that publication with clear analyses and gracefully written summaries of the bird and birding activities in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada.

Hugh's interest in birds and natural history began early. When still a student at Denver East High School, he paid a visit to Dick Beidleman at the University of Colorado to talk about birds. While studying for his bachelor's degree in zoology at Cornell University, Hugh worked summers as a ranger naturalist at Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone national parks.

After his graduation from Cornell, Hugh served four years in the U.S. Air Force, and then he held administrative positions with IBM Corporation in Colorado Springs, Denver, and Los Angeles for another four years. His interest in birding continued through those years, when he first served as compiler for

a Christmas Bird Count (CBC) during his stint in Los Angeles. Since then he has compiled the Denver, Denver Urban, Pikes Peak, Black Forest, and Lyons CBCs.

In 1962, Hugh returned to Colorado to study law formally and birds informally. After receiving his law degree from Denver University in 1965, he accepted a position as a staff lawyer for Husky Oil Company, where he worked for the next 21 years. During that period, he emerged as a leader in the Colorado ornithological community. As a birder with exceptional field-identification and bird-locating skills, Hugh has contributed a long list of discoveries to the body of knowledge of our state's birds. He participated in finding the first Colorado records of Prairie Warbler (with Paul Julian) and White-eyed Vireo (with Bob Andrews), and his was the second observation of the first record of Blue-winged Warbler (found by Bill Brockner). He had the second state record of Scott's Oriole, the first Colorado breeding record of Curve-billed Thrasher (with Lesley Julian), and the first record of cowbird parasitism of a Cassin's Sparrow nest (with Paul Julian).

Hugh has shared selflessly his birding skills and enthusiasm for birds since early in his career. He began teaching beginning birdwatching classes in the 1970s, and he continues to teach those classes three decades later. A large portion of Colorado's best birders testify that Hugh set them on their way to a life-long love of birds and birding.

While pursuing a full-time law career through the 1970s and 1980s, Hugh also managed to make full-time contributions to ornithology and conservation in Colorado. Besides his position as Regional Editor with *American Birds*, Hugh edited three editions of the *Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong Study*, and he served as editor of the *CFO Journal* for three years (1975-1978). Hugh's expertise with birds and with words received national recognition in 1996 when the Academy of Natural Sciences and the American Ornithologists' Union published his American Dipper species account for their prestigious *Birds of North America* series. He filled board membership positions for the Colorado Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the Colorado Open Space Council, and the Rocky Mountain Center on the Environment. He also served terms as president of the Denver Field Ornithologists and the Denver Audubon Society.

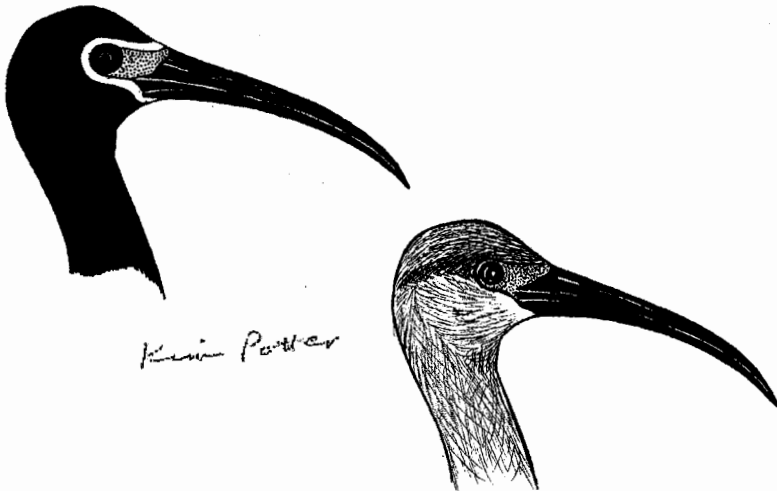
Concurrently with his professional duties and his bird-related activities, Hugh has maintained another love—Colorado's mountains. By 1957, he had climbed all of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks, and he has led nearly as many hikes, backpacking trips, and outings for the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) as he has led field trips for birders. He has contributed numerous articles to CMC's publication, *Trail and Timberline*, filled two terms as editor of that publication, and served a term as CMC's president (1973-1974). In 1989, CMC commissioned Hugh to write the history of the club, which he published that

year under the title *The Colorado Mountain Club: The First 75 Years of a Highly Individual Corporation.*"

In 1987, Hugh retired from his law practice and launched his crowning achievement (which led one of its participants to dub him, without a hint of irony, King Hughery)—the *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* project. The project involved 1,170 field workers; 4,515 field cards; 73,486 hours of field work; and 649,433 miles of travel. This gargantuan effort culminated in late 1998 with publication of THE Atlas—a volume that outstrips all other previous breeding bird atlases by any measure of quality. Under Hugh's unflagging leadership, the Colorado Bird Atlas Partnership, as Chandler Robbins wrote, "...has successfully designed and completed one of the most challenging ornithological field projects ever undertaken on this continent."

The Atlas's success stems largely from Hugh's infectious enthusiasm, a quality mentioned in each of the letters nominating Hugh for this award. He finds the smallest discoveries "marvelous" and "amazing," and he has impressed all of us who know him with his almost child-like capacity for wonder at—and joy in—nature and the world of birds. His enthusiasm, the energy it generates, and the accomplishments that have followed it make Hugh a most fitting recipient of this year's Ronald A. Ryder Award.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because Hugh was unable to attend the CFO convention (his daughter was graduating from college), the Ronald A. Ryder Award was presented to him via teleconference during the convention banquet.



Adult (upper sketch) and Immature (lower sketch) White-faced Ibises  
by Kim Potter

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' CONVENTION 1999 PAPERS SESSION ABSTRACTS

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### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PERCH GUARDS TO PREVENT RAPTOR ELECTROCUTIONS

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*Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 1996* (APLIC 1996) provides a wide range of engineering options to mitigate many electrocution problems. Although there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that many of these measures are effective, studies have not been published to document their effectiveness or durability. This paper evaluates perch guards (Pacer Industries' "Eagle Guard") used to retrofit a six-mile stretch of power line that killed a total of 33 Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) near Thermopolis, Wyoming. We recorded only one fresh mortality along the retrofitted line. This mortality was under a three-phase tangent structure with a perch guard that was knocked out of its vertical position to a horizontal position. This was the only improperly positioned perch guard. Given only one recent raptor mortality along the line, and evidence of raptor usage, we believe that this type of perch guard is effective in preventing most bird electrocutions. Although a number of products have been recommended to address raptor electrocutions on power lines (APLIC 1996), research is needed to replicate this study and to validate other products that may reduce hazards to raptors.

#### Literature Cited

APLIC (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee). 1996. *Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 1996*. Edison Electric Institute/Raptor Research Foundation, Washington, D.C. 125 pages.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The full paper summarized in the abstract above will appear in the October 1999 issue of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*.

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**HAWKS, PRAIRIE DOGS, AND SUBDIVISIONS:  
WINTERING RAPTOR POPULATION TRENDS  
IN BOULDER COUNTY**

Stephen Jones (presenter), Holly Devaul, Randy Gietzen,  
and Richard McKee

Boulder County Nature Association, P.O. Box 493, Boulder Colorado 80306

We counted wintering raptors from 1983-1999 along five 20- to 50-km survey routes located on the plains of Boulder County. Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Ferruginous Hawks (*Buteo regalis*), and Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) congregated around active black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) colonies and competed for captured prey. During epizootics of sylvatic plague, which killed a majority of the prairie dogs within the study area during 1986-1987 and again during 1993-1994, numbers of Bald Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, and Red-tailed Hawks declined sharply.

Urban development and poisoning of prairie dogs have reduced wintering-raptor habitat throughout eastern Boulder County. Bald Eagles and Ferruginous Hawks seem most affected by this habitat loss. From 1993-1999, when urban development proceeded most rapidly, numbers of Bald Eagles and Ferruginous Hawks declined by more than 70%, whereas numbers of Northern Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*), Red-tailed Hawks, and American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) increased. Ferruginous Hawk numbers declined even in the most rural areas of Boulder County. We attribute this decline in part to the recent proliferation of "prairie mansions" and rural subdivisions, which fragment raptor-foraging habitat. Conserving wintering habitat for Bald Eagles and Ferruginous Hawks will require maintaining large and geographically separated prairie dog colonies and large areas of unfragmented open space.

\*\*\*\*\*

Wood Duck Pair  
by Isa Paulsen



## WOOD DUCKS IN COLORADO

Judy Scherpelz  
Rocky Mountain Raptor Program  
Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523  
907/491-0398; jscherpe@vth.colostate.edu

The Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), typically a species of the southern lowlands in hardwood timber, has recently moved into Colorado in response to changing water regimes and habitat-management practices. Wood Duck populations have increased in natural wetland and urban areas in response to the increase in nesting habitat from the aging of cottonwood stands, which provide nesting cavities, and from nest box programs implemented in various areas. The changes in habitat are self-limiting because regeneration of cottonwoods is limited. Future populations of Wood Ducks in Colorado may be severely limited or totally dependent on nest box programs.

## **AVIAN INTERACTIONS WITH POWER ASSETS IN TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA: AN OVERVIEW**

Jo Hess

Environmental Services Department, Hydro-Electric Corporation  
4 Elizabeth Street, Room 5004, Hobart, Tasmania 7000 Australia

The issue of avian interactions with power assets is a globally recognized problem; more than 20 years of major research programs have been conducted to investigate causes and mitigation. In Australia, the issue has only just begun to receive public recognition. In 1996, the Tasmanian power authority, then known as the Hydro-Electric Corporation, entered into a joint initiative with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and the Australasian Raptor Association. The "Bird Mortality with Power Assets Project" was set up to investigate collision and electrocution impacts to threatened species and other native birds. Tasmania has a rich and unique island environment that supports over 200 species of native and migratory birds, many of which are endemics.

Investigations revealed that large birds, such as the endangered Wedge-tailed Eagle, were at risk of electrocution along powerlines due to their perching behaviors and the electrical clearances. These results paralleled those in studies conducted on similar species overseas. However, a smaller species, the endangered Grey Goshawk, was also at risk of electrocution due to its behavior, the proximity of powerlines to its habitat, and the electrical clearances. In addition, there is growing evidence that collisions with powerlines may also impact large raptors. Overall, it became evident that causes of avian interactions with power assets and mitigation were quite complex and unique to a number of species.

An Avian Action Plan and procedures were developed and implemented to document incidents and mitigation in a systematic and rigorous fashion. Technical innovations have been developed to help analyze "hotspots" of bird/power asset interaction problems. An active mitigation program is underway to test mitigation developed both in Tasmania and overseas (adapted for Tasmanian conditions).

The project has survived the disaggregation of the power authority into three separate companies responsible for generation, transmission, distribution, and retail of electricity. It is still the only program of its kind in the Australian Electricity Industry, and it has contributed positively to raising public awareness of the problem across the country. It is an example of how a business can



implement a proactive, cost-effective, and practical environmental program and begin to see effective outcomes in a short period of time. Importantly, the program is achieving its two primary objectives: to reduce power asset-caused mortality of threatened and other native avian species, and to improve power supply reliability through reduction of bird-caused outages.

\*\*\*\*\*

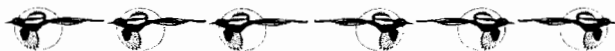
## USING THE MOLT OF FLIGHT AND TAIL FEATHERS IN RAPTOR IDENTIFICATION

William S. Clark

Raptours, P.O. Box 1191, Annandale, Virginia 22002

703/642-2386

Raptors, like other birds, undergo an annual molt to replace their feathers. The sequence of replacement of flight feathers, particularly secondaries, in the post-juvenile molt is regular, with molt initiated at certain feathers (called "molt centers"). Tail molt also generally occurs in a sequence, but there are many exceptions and sequences vary; for example, molt centers of falconid and accipitrid raptors are different. For many raptors, the length and shape of the tips of secondaries differ between juvenile and subsequent plumages. In some larger species [e.g., Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)], the molt of flight feathers is not complete; the resulting differences in the lengths of secondaries can facilitate correct age assessment of birds with immature plumages (i.e., juvenile, basic I, and basic II).





The *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* Signing Party: Hugh Kingery (Editor), Radeaux (Illustrator), and most of the Species-Account Authors  
by Alan Versaw



### **THE COLORADO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS: A REVIEW**

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Over the past 25 years, interest in birds, birdwatching, and information on wild birds has exploded. It is, therefore, no surprise that so many states have initiated breeding bird atlas projects during the past decade.

For some time, researchers have found changes, sometimes radical, among bird communities of selected environments. Attempts have been made to find some use for the massive data sets acquired through Christmas Bird Counts and the temporal “snapshots” of migration taken by the “recent” North American Migration Count. The Breeding Bird Survey has probably been the most scientifically valid and comprehensive attempt to document changes in breeding bird populations across the United States and Canada.

The more we learn about the birds in our states, however, the more we realize how much we do not know. Breeding bird atlas projects are attempts to conduct

methodical surveys of breeding-bird populations on a state by state basis. The atlases provide opportunities to survey entire states and determine whether many of our often-held beliefs about breeding populations are correct, to prove or disprove various theories, and to establish very important baseline data to which future surveys can be compared. I will not be so bold as to say that the recently published *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* is "the" model of how all atlases should be done, but it is a very fine example of what can--and should--be done!

Based on its presentation alone, the atlas is a fine book that anyone interested in birds of Colorado, or surrounding states, would be pleased to have in their library. From cover to cover, the illustrations are elegant in both their simplicity and their detail. I am a words- and numbers-oriented writer and editor, thus the presence or absence of illustrations and photos often make little difference to me. Yet, I found that the wonderful illustrations of every breeding bird, plus the illustrations used on the cover and in transitions throughout the book, were wonderful assets!

When you pick up a copy of the atlas, avoid the temptation to skip right to the species accounts. The introductory section contains a wealth of information, including outstanding detail about the organization and methodology of the atlas project. Biases and limitations are discussed at length, and potential weaknesses in the data are acknowledged bravely. There is a wonderful section of color pictures that show the diversity of habitats in Colorado. Following that is a detailed description of the Colorado environment and the various habitats/ecosystems that were encountered during the atlas project. The strength of most atlas projects are the volunteers involved in data collection, and the *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* lists all the volunteers that were involved. There is also a nice account of the history of Colorado ornithologists, although I felt that this section was too brief and would like to have seen it expanded.

The *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas'* editor, Hugh E. Kingery, and the numerous species account authors (31) must be commended for the excellent uniformity and continuity among accounts and authors. Each account was allotted two facing pages, with one half of one page dedicated to a map showing the species' distribution and evidence of breeding. The sections on habitat, breeding, and distribution flow nicely and are interspersed with charts and tables that enrich the text with brief synopses of where each species was found, confirmation of breeding, and breeding phenology.

The map work of Don Schrupp of the Colorado Division of Wildlife was outstanding. The maps add to each species account without drawing undue

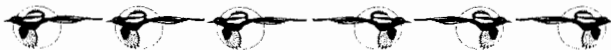
attention away from the rest of the account. For the rare and endangered species, the maps were “masked” to show the general location and breeding status within Colorado while simultaneously protecting the specific block locations of these species. I commend and applaud this approach, yet I am saddened that such caution must be taken.

The atlas is not perfect in its production. A handful of minor errors crept in, although in every case I found that these were only minor inconveniences. In an undertaking of this size, a few minor errors are bound to occur and do not detract from the outstanding quality of this atlas.

Several challenges will arise from this project. Obviously, the first one on many minds is, “When do we do it again?” A reasonable answer needs to be determined, and then the planning process should be initiated. Secondly, in the foreword, Chandler S. Robbins mentions the Internet and the importance of having the data being readily available through that medium. To me, the real challenge is not *whether* the information should be available, but *how* to make it available on the Internet. The steering committee (not only for Colorado, but for other states as well) needs to address this question.

With the rapid development and changes in information storage, delivery, and retrieval, we are approaching an era when comprehensive data, such as that from the *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* project, can be compiled by state, region, or the nation. This can give policy makers nearly instant access to information that they will need to protect species, ecosystems, and the planet. In an era when common sense is not so common and every decision must be backed with “scientific evidence,” these atlas projects must be completed, repeated on a reasonable basis, and the results must be kept in front of local, state, and national policy makers.

Everyone who was involved in the *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* should be proud of the project and this book. It was a pure pleasure to read, digest, and re-read this book. I shall refer to it often in coming years as I need information on the status of different species or simply for planning trips and vacations. This book needs to be in the library of any serious birder and ornithologist living in or near to Colorado.



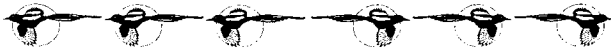
## NORTHERN HARRIER KILLED AT RADIO TOWER

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This note reports on a hazard to birds—the guy wires that anchor tall towers. On 13 February 1999, we drove along Boone Road in Pueblo County. About 10 miles south of the Pueblo/El Paso County line, a radio tower rises 100-plus feet (30.5 meters) above the extensive grassland. There, we noticed a male Northern Harrier suspended by his wing, which had become caught between two of the tower's guy wires. The bird appeared to have a broken neck.

We surmise that as the harrier coursed along, staring intently at the ground for prey, he had not seen the guy wires and caught his wing between two wires; the resulting sudden stop most likely broke the bird's neck. We base our conclusion on the way in which harriers feed—flying close to the ground and watching intently for prey. They probably notice conspicuous objects like trees, fence posts, power poles, and radio towers, but they probably do not easily see relatively invisible things, such as the guy wires that anchor the tower where we found the harrier.

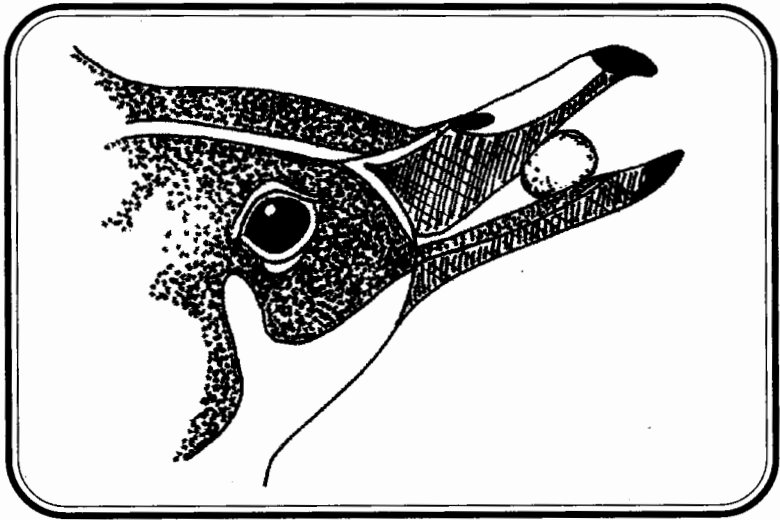
Observers have reported bird mortalities resulting from collisions with television towers from Oklahoma to Florida, and with tall buildings lit at night in New York and other cities, and Whooping Cranes and a number of other species often tangle with power lines. These events most often involve nocturnal migrants. It appears that the Colorado plains harbor yet another hazard, one that affects both migrants and resident birds. This hazard has the potential for claiming its victims during both daylight and nighttime hours.





Northern Harrier Killed at Radio Tower  
by Hugh Kingery

Wood Duck Eating a Russian-olive Fruit  
by Dave Leatherman



**Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*)  
Eating Russian-olive Fruit**

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The Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), perhaps more than any other species of North American waterfowl, includes the fruits and seeds of woody plants in its diet. Oak acorns; seeds of maple, ash, elm and tupelo; wild cherries; pecans and filberts have all been recorded in the Wood Duck's diet (Hepp and Bellrose 1995). In addition, this so-called "omnivore" feeds on various parts of non-woody plants and on aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates. This account describes Wood Ducks feeding on the drupe-like achene (fruit) of Russian-olive (*Eleagnus angustifolia*).

Early in the afternoon of 26 October 1997, as I walked along the Cache La Poudre River Bike Trail in Fort Collins, Larimer County, Colorado, I noticed a small group of Wood Ducks. The birds were swimming near the bank of a small gravel pond in the Seven Lakes area, west of the Poudre River, north of Prospect Road, and east of Timberline Road. Growing along the bank and overhanging the water were several mature Russian-olive trees.

As I tried to count the ducks, one jumped off the water, hovered for three to four seconds in front of a Russian-olive branch, pecked at it few times, then returned to the water. A short while later, two more ducks repeated the same action. The objects of their efforts were the tree's whitish-pink fruits, which hung abundantly from its branches. The ducks' aerial-foraging maneuvers fit the definition of a "sally-hover" (Remsen and Robinson 1990), a feeding technique more typically used by passerine birds. After lifting from the water, one duck hesitated in front of a branch only very briefly and pecked at it just once before landing again on the water; perhaps this action could be classified as a "sally-stall."

Several Wood Ducks also pecked at the surface of the water while swimming under the Russian-olive's branches. The newly fallen fruits of Russian-olives will float, and it seemed possible that the ducks pecking at the water were eating Russian-olive fruits. Still trying to count the ducks, I walked around the lake's south end to get a closer look. From there I could see two female Wood Ducks perched six feet (1.82 meters) above the water in the tree's branches, where they were gleaning attached fruits. A number of other ducks swam around excitedly below the perched ducks and looked up often. It is possible the birds in the tree were inadvertently knocking fruits down to the swimmers. Eventually, the flock of Wood Ducks flushed and I counted 24 birds in the flock. At other times during my walk, I saw three Wood Ducks by themselves and a flock of seven. I do not know whether these 10 birds were part of the big flock, but either way a flock of 24 Wood Ducks is unusual in Colorado.

The day I saw Wood Ducks feeding on Russian-olives was the day after a major blizzard had brought heavy snow, cold temperatures, and strong winds to much of Colorado. A nearby cattail marsh, where I had seen two male Wood Ducks just one week earlier, was frozen. Other local foraging sites regularly used by Wood Ducks were probably frozen as well. Perhaps Russian-olive fruits provided an "emergency" alternative-food source after the storm, although the account that follows suggests otherwise.

From late autumn 1998 through mid February 1999, Michael and Karen Anton observed at least three pairs of Wood Ducks feeding on Russian-olive fruits at their home in the Redlands west of Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado. The Antons also saw individual Wood Ducks flying into Russian-olive trees along the edge of a pond and "beating around in the branches" while other Wood Ducks congregated underneath the trees to consume the fruits that fell. This activity occurred most often between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. Other waterfowl, including Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Ring-necked Ducks (*Anas collaris*), Redheads (*Aythya americana*), American Wigeons (*Anas americana*), Gadwalls

(*Anas strepera*), a Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), and American Coots (*Fulica americana*), also gathered below the trees and may have been eating fallen Russian-olives. These observations were corroborated by birders Ronda Woodward and Richard Levad.

It is not known whether Wood Ducks feeding on Russian-olive fruits derive nutrition from the pulp surrounding the seeds, the seeds, or both. Personal communications with Dr. Dale Hein and Dr. Gene Decker (both with the Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology at Colorado State University, and both of whom have conducted research on Wood Ducks) indicated that although feeding on Russian-olive fruits may be "in character" for Wood Ducks, it may be uncommon, or at least it has not been observed commonly; Martin et al. (1951) do not mention Russian-olives as part of the Wood Duck's diet.

Many more questions are raised by these two observations. How commonly do Wood Ducks feed on Russian-olive fruits? It seems very unlikely that the events described above are unique. Assuming that Wood Ducks feed on the fruits at least occasionally where the two species overlap in range, how important a food source is the Russian-olive? Is the Wood Duck's use of Russian-olive increasing? Given the history of Wood Ducks and Russian-olives in North America, this is quite likely.

The Wood Duck experienced serious declines from the late 1800s to the early 1900s due to excessive harvest and habitat loss. With the passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1918, Wood Duck populations increased until about 1985. Since then, their numbers have remained high and steady. The actual date that Russian-olives were introduced in Colorado is not recorded, but it is described variously as having occurred "during colonial times" and "prior to 1900" (Knopf and Olson 1984, Olson and Knopf 1986), and it was probably introduced on several occasions by different groups of people. Perhaps as important to the Russian-olive's current distribution was its widespread promotion as a conservation plant during the 45 years following the "Dust Bowl" period of the 1930s. Records from the Colorado State Forest Service's tree nursery go back to 1940, when 32,850 Russian-olive seedlings were sold and distributed for plantings in windbreaks and shelterbelts (Randy L. Moench, personal communication). This record represents just one year from one source during a period that exceeded four decades.

Once established, the Russian-olive has great potential for spreading and naturalizing. In Colorado, the "official" date of naturalization listed by Knopf and Olson (1984) is 1954. It is not clear whether that date is a reflection of when naturalization was first investigated or when the species first occurred in



Colorado. Either way, it seems likely that limited naturalization preceded that date because Russian-olive was being planted in the late 1800s and trees as young as three to five years old can bear fruit (Schopmeyer 1974).

The ability of Russian-olive to prosper and spread beyond plantations has resulted in a distinct change of status in recent years. Once the "tree of choice" for conservation plantings, it is now viewed with disfavor in many circles. The major problem with Russian-olive is its aggressive colonization in riparian and other lowland habitats and the coincident suppression of native woody plants at those sites. Several studies have compared bird use of these two forest types, particularly during the breeding season; applying commonly used criteria for assessing bird communities, riparian-corridor habitats dominated by Russian-olive are considered inferior to those dominated primarily by native species like willow (*Salix* spp.) and cottonwood (*Populus* spp.).

Many passerine birds, including American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), and Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), aid in the spread of Russian-olive by ingesting fruits, digesting the pulp, and passing the seeds intact. Is it possible that Wood Ducks also spread Russian-olives? Because they grind most of the seeds in their crops, it seems unlikely that they spread Russian-olive to any significant degree through ingesting the fruits. It is not known, however, whether the foraging activities of Wood Ducks increase and hasten the fall of Russian-olive fruits, and if so, whether this influences when and how many seeds reach suitable germination sites.

The author welcomes comments and additional information on this subject from readers. Of particular interest are reports on Wood Ducks and other waterfowl feeding on Russian-olives.

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## HOODED MERGANSER BREEDING IN COLORADO

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Reports of breeding Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) in Colorado during the Nineteenth Century, although venerable, lack supporting details or corroborating descriptions. Consequently, Bailey and Niedrach (1965) and the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas (Kingery 1998) discounted them.

### A 1996 Breeding Record

In the late 1990s, Catherine Anderson observed Hooded Mergansers for several years in a small pond near Quincy and Colorado Boulevard in Englewood (Arapahoe County). The next morning, she saw a female Hooded Merganser swimming with five ducklings. On the morning of 30 April, she saw them again. Subsequently, she could not find the birds on either that pond or on any other ponds in the vicinity; she surmises that they crossed to the Highline Canal and drifted some distance away.

In February 1997, Mrs. Anderson cleaned out the duck boxes which she maintains on these ponds. In one box she found four eggs: two Wood Duck eggs and two Hooded Merganser eggs. The Collections Manager at the Denver Museum of Natural History, Bill Alther, measured the two Merganser eggs (51.5 x 42 mm and 53.5 x 42 mm), which were smaller than average (Harrison 1978, 1979).

### Historical Reports

Morrison (1888) said this of the Hooded Merganser in Colorado: "It breeds in the state in small numbers, in hollow logs, and trees. Eggs six to twelve. I have found its nest in various northern and southern localities, east of the Rockies, and believe that the largest set of eggs are laid at its most southern breeding point, the smallest at the north. A set taken in northern New Mexico being my largest, while in northern Montana I took the smallest of six eggs."

Bailey and Niedrach (1965) cited Morrison's as the only Colorado breeding report, but noted that it had neither details nor independent confirmation. Accordingly, the *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* (Kingery 1998) did not accept the Hooded Merganser as a confirmed breeding species for Colorado; rather, it cited Mrs. Anderson's record as the first definite nesting record for Colorado.

### Breeding Range

The American Ornithologists' Union (1998) check-list defines the breeding range of the Hooded Merganser as stretching from Nova Scotia to Saskatchewan, south to Georgia and northern Louisiana; in the Great Plains south through the Dakotas to northeastern Texas; and from southeastern Alaska south through British Columbia to northern California; and in the Rocky Mountains from Idaho and western Montana to central New Mexico. As explained below, other sources do not entirely support AOU's (1998) range description for the Rocky Mountain states or southern Great Plains. A perusal of direct sources identifies more or less regular breeding from North Dakota to Texas, but only in the eastern half of each state. In the Rocky Mountains, they breed in the Idaho panhandle and in northwestern Montana, but only rarely south of there.

On the Great Plains, Hooded Mergansers do breed in eastern North Dakota (Johnsgard 1979), eastern South Dakota (three confirmed and nine possible records during the state's breeding bird atlas project; Peterson 1995), eastern Kansas (six records; Thompson and Ely 1989), but Oklahoma has only two breeding records, one in 1977 and one in 1981 (Johnsgard 1979; Joseph Grsybowski, personal communication).

In Texas, documentation includes photographs of a female with young on 1 April 1995 in Upshur County and eggs collected in Fort Bend County. The state also has "...other solid reports from Dallas, Collin, and Lee counties in the past ten years...." (Greg Lasley, personal communication), as determined by biologists for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department when they initially found merganser nests while monitoring nest boxes for Wood Ducks.

In Idaho, Hooded Mergansers breed only in the panhandle (Stephens and Sturts 1991). Montana has breeding records in six latilong blocks in the northwestern corner of the state (Skaar 1980). Wyoming has one old record from the Rock Springs area (Dorn and Dorn 1990), and Utah has none (Behle et al. 1985).

In 1984, Bill Howe confirmed the first breeding record in New Mexico when he saw a female with six to eight downy young at Belen (William H. Howe, personal communication; Hubbard 1984). This record, along with 20 other breeding season observations from 1985-1998 "suggests that the species certainly at least lingers late [in the middle Rio Grande Valley] in some years, and that an occasional pair may nest there in some years...." (Sartor O. Williams, III, personal communication).

### Summary

The 29 April 1996 record described above finally affirms that Hooded Mergansers do breed in Colorado. The increase of recent records in mid-western states suggests the possibility of more breeding records for Colorado.

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Hooded Merganser  
by Brendan O'Rourke

## SAPSUCKERS IN LAMAR, PROWERS COUNTY, COLORADO

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Three species of sapsucker occur in Colorado, Williamson's (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*), Yellow-bellied (*S. varius*), and Red-naped (*S. nuchalis*) (Andrews and Righter 1992). Williamson's and Red-naped sapsuckers breed in Colorado, primarily in coniferous and/or aspen forests in montane areas; apparently, they also occur in these habitats during migration. Both species leave Colorado for the winter (Andrews and Righter 1992). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, however, breeds primarily in the eastern U.S. and northern boreal forests, and it winters from southeastern U.S. south to Panama (American Ornithologists' Union 1998).

Andrews and Righter (1992) described Williamson's Sapsucker in Colorado as a casual migrant on the eastern plains near the foothills in spring and fall, and as accidental on the extreme eastern plains. They also reported the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker's status as occasional in fall and winter in northeastern Colorado, but they stated that its status and distribution were uncertain; they plotted very few occurrences, with all but three found along the northern Front Range from Jefferson and Arapahoe counties north. Lastly, Andrews and Righter (1992) reported only one record of Red-naped Sapsucker on the plains of Colorado; it was a 1936 report from Barr Lake in Adams County. Except for the breeding occurrence of Red-naped Sapsucker in the extreme southwestern corner of Baca County, Andrews and Righter (1992) did not report records of any sapsucker species in Baca or Prowers counties—the two southern-most counties of Colorado on the Kansas line.

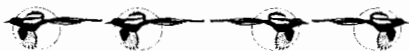
Subsequently, Thompson (1995) published a short note on the occurrence of all three Colorado sapsucker species in Walsh, Baca County. In addition, recent work conducted at Barr Lake by Colorado Bird Observatory has produced five records of Red-naped Sapsucker at that location. All five records occurred in the fall and all were caught and banded (Colorado Bird Observatory, unpublished data). Finally, recent field work in Pueblo City Park has documented Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers over-wintering each year at that location (Mark Yaeger and Brandon Percival, personal communication). Thus, when I found myself driving through Lamar in Prowers County on 2 January 1999 and noticing the large number of conifers planted at the Lamar Cemetery, I decided to investigate in hopes of finding a sapsucker there.

Almost immediately upon my arrival, I noticed a few junipers (*Juniperus* sp.) that sported the tell-tale signs of sapsucker occurrence—rows of neat, round holes, or wells, that sapsuckers drill to access tree sap. I wandered through the cemetery with anticipation, but failed to find any sapsuckers, despite the excellent conditions (i.e., no wind) for hearing the faint tapping of foraging sapsuckers. After about 25 minutes, and having noticed sapsucker wells on many of the junipers, I decided to be thorough about the exploration and count the number of junipers with and without sapsucker wells. [I had decided to count only junipers and ignore the various pines (*Pinus* sp.) present, as I had seen no wells in the pines, and because the wells were very noticeable in the junipers due to their low stature—less than 8 meters (24.7 feet) high.] I counted 101 junipers in the cemetery, 32 of which had at least one row of sapsucker wells. Many of these 32 junipers had numerous rows of wells, while a couple of junipers had much of their trunk surfaces scarred by wells. I also took a quick trip through Willow Creek Park in Lamar [less than two kilometers (1.2 miles) north of the cemetery], which is also landscaped with conifers. At least three junipers there had sapsucker wells.

Although I detected no sapsuckers during these investigations, the presence of sapsucker wells proves that these sites have hosted sapsuckers. Also, the sheer abundance of wells and the various ages of the wells (some partly healed, some fairly fresh) suggest that sapsuckers have been there repeatedly. I believe that the Lamar Cemetery could host sapsuckers regularly, and I suspect that Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is the species most likely to have occurred there. Thompson's (1995) records, however, suggest that the other two species also may occur there. I would extend Thompson's (1995) closing suggestion, "Baca County is a consistent stop for migrating and/or wintering sapsuckers," to include Lamar and any other sites on the eastern plains that have been landscaped with conifer trees.

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## RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE PERTAINING TO COLORADO, No. 5

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If the reader is aware of any paper regarding Colorado birds in journals not reviewed regularly in this section, I would appreciate a reprint or a full citation for the paper so that I may include it in this feature.

Baker, M.C., and M.S. Johnson. 1998. **Allozymic and morphometric comparisons among Indigo and Lazuli buntings and their hybrids.** *Auk* 115:537-542. A study of allopatric and sympatric populations of Indigo and Lazuli buntings from Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, and Iowa showed genetic mixing between the two species. However, previous field studies have shown that hybrids lack fitness and that positive assortative mating occurs where the species co-occur, thus it is recommended that the buntings be retained as two separate species.

Berry, M.E., C.E. Bock. 1998. **Effects of habitat and landscape characteristics on avian breeding distributions in Colorado foothills shrub.** *Southwestern Naturalist* 43:453-461. This study, conducted in Boulder and Jefferson counties, Colorado, showed that bird species breeding in foothills shrublands—a naturally fragmented habitat—may have evolved a tolerance for habitat fragmentation.

Linkhart, B.D., R.T. Reynolds, and R.A. Ryder. 1998. **Home range and habitat of breeding Flammulated Owls in Colorado.** *Wilson Bulletin* 110:342-351. This two-year study, conducted in Teller County, Colorado, showed home ranges of Flammulated Owls as varying from 8.5-24.0 hectares (21-59.3 acres); mean home-range size was 11.1 hectares (27.4 acres) in year one and 18.3 hectares (45.2 acres) in year two. Eighty-one percent of the areas in which male owls foraged intensively consisted of old-growth ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir forest.

Voelker, G., and S. Rohwer. 1998. **Contrasts in scheduling of molt and migration in eastern and western Warbling Vireos.** *Auk* 115:142-155. Eastern and western races of warbling vireos, including birds from Colorado, were handled as separate species in this paper (*Vireo gilvus* and *V. Swainsonii*, respectively). This study revealed that the two species differ with respect to the timing of pre-basic molt and fall migration.





## **NEWS FROM THE FIELD: THE WINTER 1998-1999 REPORT (December - February)**

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The 1998-1999 winter season was very mild, except for the week just before Christmas, which coincided with the first week of Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). Most of the lakes along the northern Front Range were frozen, but they had thawed out by mid January, much earlier than usual. There were not many northern visitors—some Bohemian Waxwings, especially in Fort Collins, and a Common Redpoll or two. However, a number of species that usually migrate south remained through the winter. Lesser Goldfinches were on the Front Range south of Colorado Springs. A Common Grackle spent the winter in Rifle, and a small flock of six grackles was seen regularly at feeders in Georgetown, where they competed for seeds with all three species of rosy-finches, as well as the distinctive Hepburn's race. It was also a very good winter for gulls. There were Great Black-backed and several Lesser Black-backed gulls, Glaucous Gulls in Fort Collins, an Iceland Gull in Pueblo, and Mew Gulls near Longmont.

Other winter season comments, submitted from David A. Leatherman:

"To me one of the big stories of the season was the wintering of many species that are considered only semi-hardy. These birds are not necessarily very rare, but should be discussed in 'Field Notes.' This was more common in the Pueblo area because that part of the state is warmer. I am sure northern observers would pretty much agree that towhees, kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, thrashers, doves, bluebirds, migratory blackbirds, cormorants, etc. were easier to find this winter than in most. In addition, there were good numbers of Great Blue Herons, Western Meadowlarks, and American Kestrels. There were lots of interesting stories besides the rare birds, including no Cassin's Finches or Evening Grosbeaks, few Pine Siskins, no Crossbills, reduced numbers of Northern Shrikes, more wintering Canvasbacks and Northern Pintails, and a small invasion of Bohemian Waxwings in the Fort Collins area, which began about mid December."

The reader of this report should be aware that some of the sightings were received as written reports from several observers, especially from the Fort Collins area (thanks to David Ely for getting those reports to me). However, many of the sightings were taken from postings to the COBIRDS electronic bulletin board. At this point, I do not know which of the reports of rare and

unusual species have been supported by documentation (a written rare bird report) and sent in to the Colorado Bird Records Committee (RC). In my Field Notes reports, underlined species are those for which the RC requires written documentation. If you need an electronic version of the Rare Bird documentation form, it can be retrieved from the CFO Website at <http://www.frii.com/~hopko/>; if you need a hard copy, please use the one on the inside of this journal's mailer. Documentation should be sent to the RC Chairperson, Bill Lisowsky (address on the form). The RC reviews all reports that it receives, and the outcomes of their deliberations are published in the RC's annual reports in the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*. Thus, sightings of rare species in this report should be thought of as tentative until the RC's Reports are published.

**Abbreviations used:** Co.= county; CFO=Colorado Field Ornithologists; imm.=immature; L.=lake; Res.=reservoir; SWA= State Wildlife Area.

**Pacific Loon:** There was a good number of winter sightings this season, including reports of single birds at Marston Res. in Denver Co. from 12/6-11 (TJ), at Douglas Res. in Larimer Co. on 12/8 (RK), at Chatfield Res. in Jefferson Co. on 12/10 (JK), at Barr L. in Adams Co. from 12/12-18 (JV), and at Pueblo Res. in Pueblo, Co. on 12/12 (BKP, BD, LB, SC, BBH). A maximum of four Pacific Loons were seen at Pueblo Res. in Pueblo Co. from 12/23-2/26 (JK, CLW).

**Yellow-billed Loon:** A very cooperative immature bird, which gave excellent looks to most observers, was at Pueblo Res. in Pueblo Co. from 12/26-2/20 (DQ, JRo, NE).

**Red-necked Grebe:** One was reported from Hamilton Res. in Larimer Co. first from 12/4-5 (WPL) and again from 1/17-2/9 (DAL).

**Eared Grebe:** A very late, lingering flock of 232 was at Barr L. in Adams Co. on 12/5 (TL, JK).

**American White Pelican:** Three individuals lingered through the winter, and some early migrants arrived in late February in southeastern Colorado. The lingering birds were at Cherry Creek Res. in Arapahoe Co. on 12/5-7 (TL, RO, SC, NK), on the Grand Junction CBC in Mesa Co. on 12/20 (CD, RLe), and on the Denver Urban CBC in Denver Co. on 1/1 (HEK).

**Great Egret:** One was on the Grand Junction CBC in Mesa Co. on 12/20 (CD, RLe).

**Cattle Egret:** One stayed just long enough to make it into the winter season; it was found in Penrose in Fremont Co., on 12/1 (J&RW).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Eight were seen on the Denver Urban CBC in Denver Co. on 1/1 (HEK).

**Tundra Swan:** Two were at Chatfield Res. in Jefferson Co. on 12/8 (JBH), five were found on the Boulder CBC in Boulder, Co. on 12/20 (BK), one at L. Meredith in Crowley Co. on 12/21 (MJ, SO), one near Rocky Ford in Otero Co. on 12/21 (BKP, CLW), and one at Great Plains Res. in Kiowa Co. on 2/7-27 (BKP, MJ).

**Trumpeter Swan:** Winter sightings of this species have increased sharply in recent years because of reintroduction efforts. There were six at Baseline Res. in Boulder Co. until the CBC on 12/20 (M&SP, GM), and three were at Pueblo Res. in Pueblo Co. from 1/5-2/6 (BKP, BBH, LB).

**American Black Duck:** Single males were reported at Long Pond in Larimer Co. from 1/6-9 (SJD), and at the Great Plains Res. in Kiowa Co. on 2/7 (MJ, BKP).

**Cinnamon Teal:** A pair was seen at Greeley in Weld Co. on 1/2 (JH). A male was at Ft. Lyon in Bent Co. on 1/29 (BD, BKP, BBH), and another was at Ft. Collins in Larimer Co. on 1/30 (A&JC).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Single males were reported at Ft. Collins in Larimer Co. from 12/14-2/2 (DCE) and at Hart's Basin in Delta Co. on 2/11 (EH).

**Oldsquaw:** Good numbers of reports this winter: one to three at Barr L. in Adams Co. from 12/1-18 (TL), a female at North Poudre Res. in Larimer Co. on 12/4 (WPL), two at Pueblo Res. in Pueblo Co. on 12/7 (BKP), a female at Big Johnson Res. in El Paso Co. from 12/12-16 (BG), one at Milton Res. in Weld Co. on 12/12 (RO), and one at Pueblo Res. in Pueblo Co. on 12/23 (JK, CLW).

**Black Scoter:** A female was at Pueblo Res. in Pueblo Co. on 12/2 (BKP).

**White-winged Scoter:** A female was at Chatfield Res. in Jefferson Co. on 12/1 (JK), and two females were at North Poudre Res. in Larimer Co. on 12/12-19 (DCE).

**Osprey:** One was on the Denver CBC in Denver Co. on 12/19 (DSc).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** An immature was at Chatfield Res. in Jefferson/Douglas Co. from 12/18-1/8 (CLW, JK), and another immature was at Rocky

Ford SWA in Otero Co. from 1/23-31 (BKP).

**Peregrine Falcon:** Four sightings were reported this season, with single birds observed at Rocky Ford SWA in Otero Co. on 12/10 (SO), at Colorado City in Pueblo Co. on 1/2 (DS), on the Denver Urban CBC in Denver Co. on 1/1 (HK), and at Thurston Res. in Prowers Co. on 2/20 (DN).

**Sora:** A lingering bird was found on the Grand Junction CBC in Mesa Co. on 12/20 (CD, RLe), and an early returnee was discovered at Ft. Lyon in Bent Co. on 2/18 (BKP, TD).

**Sandhill Crane:** Unusual sightings this winter were six on the Barr Lake CBC in Adams Co. on 12/26 (SB, MJ), one at Cañon City in Fremont Co. on 1/31 (PG, LM), and eight at Mile High Stadium in Denver Co. on 2/27 (TD).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** One was seen at Boyd L. in Larimer Co. on 12/5 (PS).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** One was at Boulder in Boulder Co. on 12/10 (BK).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Three were seen on the Grand Junction CBC in Mesa Co. on 12/20 (CD, RLe).

**Least Sandpiper:** Four on 12/6 (BKP, MJ) and one on 12/20 (BK, PS, BP) were found at L. Henry in Crowley Co.

**Dunlin:** Two were at L. Henry in Crowley Co. on 12/6 (BKP, MJ), and one was seen at White Rocks in Boulder Co. on the CBC on 12/20 (BK, PS, BP).

**Franklin's Gull:** One early-arrival adult was at L. Henry in Crowley Co. on 2/14-18 (BKP, MJ).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** The last to be seen this winter were five at Pueblo Res. in Pueblo, Co. on 12/23 (JK, CLW).

**Mew Gull:** One second-year bird in basic plumage was at Union Res. in Weld Co. on 12/5 (BP, PS), and another in the same plumage phase was at Jim Hamm Pond in Boulder Co. from 2/27-28 (TL).

**Iceland Gull:** One first-year bird in basic plumage was seen at Valco Ponds in Pueblo, Pueblo Co., from 1/9-10 (RO, DQ, BKP, SC, TD, JR, TL, TD, IS, BM). This sighting represents a potential first record for Colorado if it is accepted by the RC.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** This was a banner winter season for this unusual species in Colorado, with eleven sightings reported. This species certainly seems to be more common, especially in winter. There was a second-year bird

from 12/12-13 (NK, PS) and one adult bird on 12/12 (NK) at L. Loveland in Larimer Co., one adult at Boulder Res. in Boulder Co. on 12/17 (BK, AC, JV), one fourth-year bird at Pueblo Res. in Pueblo Co. from 12/19-1/16 (TL), one adult at Cañon City in Fremont Co. on 12/20 (BKP, CLW, TL), one adult near Rocky Ford in Otero Co. on 12/21 (TL, PG, SB), one second-year bird at Douglas Res. in Larimer Co. from 1/6-9 (SJD), one second-year bird at Valco Ponds in Pueblo Co. on 1/8 (MJ), one adult at Great Plains Res. in Kiowa Co. from 2/7-27 (MJ), one second-year bird at Douglas Res. in Larimer Co. on 2/9 (NK), and one adult at Windsor Res. in Weld Co. on 2/10 (SJD).

**Glaucous Gull:** This was a very good season for this species, especially in the Fort Collins area. One adult, one second-year bird, and two first-year birds were found at Horseshoe L., Duck L., Warren L., Boyd L., and L. Loveland, all in Larimer Co., from 1/28-2/22 (SJD). One adult occurred at Jumbo Res. in Sedgwick Co. on 1/30 (BP) and one on 2/20 (SJD), two adults and one first-year bird turned up at Great Plains Res. in Kiowa Co. from 2/7-27 (BKP, MJ), four first-year birds were seen at Windsor Res. in Weld Co. from 2/10-11 (SJD), and two first-year birds were at Bonny Res. in Yuma Co. on 2/27 (DSv).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Once again, this species was recorded a number of times through the winter. One adult was around from 12/23-1/31 (CLW, JK) and one second-year bird appeared on 1/23 (BKP, TD) at Pueblo Res. in Pueblo Co. One adult was at Great Plains Res. in Kiowa Co. from 2/18-27 (BKP, TD), and one first-year bird appeared at L. Henry in Crowley Co. on 2/20 (DSi, DJ).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** This species has increased in number in southeastern Colorado, and has now wandered up to the northern Front Range. Up to 34 were reported at Rocky Ford in Otero Co. throughout the winter season, there were 14 at Campo in Baca Co. from 12/28-2/20 (DSv, IS), and one showed up at Fort Collins in Larimer Co. on 1/8 (RAR).

**Band-tailed Pigeon:** Band-tailed Pigeons were at Green Mt. Falls in Teller Co. on 1/5 (RB), and two were in Teller Co. on 2/22 (JJ).

**Mourning Dove:** A flock of 44 wintered at Ft. Collins in Larimer Co. (DAL).

**Barn Owl:** Four were found on the Grand Junction CBC in Mesa Co. on 12/20 (CD, RLe), one occurred at Rocky Ford SWA in Otero Co. on 12/21 (BKP, CLW), and one was in Baca Co. on 1/1 (TL, DSv).

**Western Screech-Owl:** A very high count of 42 was made on the Grand Junction CBC in Mesa Co. on 12/20 (CD, RLe).

**Snowy Owl:** The only report this winter was of an immature bird found dead in Weld Co. on 1/21 (DW).

**Northern Pygmy-Owl:** One was found above Second Palmer L. in El Paso Co. on 12/6 (BM), another at Rist Canyon in Larimer Co. on 12/31 (NK), one at Glenwood Springs in Garfield Co. on 2/18 (VZ), and two at lower Poudre Canyon in Larimer Co. on 2/27 (SJD, RK, BM).

**Short-eared Owl:** One was reported at Wellington SWA in Larimer Co. from 12/6-1/23 (JR), one was observed in Baca Co. on 1/1 (TL, DSv), one occurred at Barr L. in Adams Co. on 1/10 (TD), and one was noted at L. Cheraw in Otero Co. on 1/26 (DS).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** An adult male lingered from 12/14-2/20 (MY), an immature female stayed on from 1/3-2/28 (NK, PS), and an immature male made a brief stay from 1/4-7 (BKP, PG) at Pueblo City Park in Pueblo Co. One immature appeared at Wellington in Larimer Co. on 1/11 (S&KM), and an immature female was observed at Meadow Park in Lyons, Boulder Co., from 2/16-28 (BK, JV).

**Red-naped Sapsucker:** A female was at Grand Junction in Mesa Co. on 1/24 (RL).

**Williamson's Sapsucker:** Two females and a male were found on 12/26 (MY) and one male was observed on 2/27 (LB) near Westcliffe in Custer Co.

**Say's Phoebe:** There were several reports of this species this winter: one on the Penrose CBC in Fremont Co. on 12/20 (SM); one on the Grand Junction CBC in Mesa Co. on 12/20 (CD, RLe); one at the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo, Pueblo Co., on 1/22 (PHu); one at the Chatfield Arboretum in Jefferson Co. on 2/2 (AB); and a spring migrant at Pueblo Res. in Pueblo Co. on 2/20 (M&SP).

**Bushtit:** This species is very unusual on the extreme eastern plains, yet one was discovered in Baca Co. in December (DSv), and four were at Two Buttes Res. in Baca Co. on 2/8 (DAL).

**Carolina Wren:** . One stayed most of the season at Pueblo in Pueblo Co. from 12/5-2/20 (MT, RT, TT, BKP), one lingered at Boulder in Boulder Co. from 12/15-30 (MW), and one was observed at Pueblo in Pueblo Co. on 12/17 (PHu).

**House Wren:** One was found at Cañon City in Fremont Co. on 12/20 (PHu), and one appeared in Boulder, Boulder Co., on the same day (PH).

**Winter Wren:** One lurked at Belmar Historic Park in Jefferson Co. on 12/2 (KS), one held on at Valco Ponds in Pueblo Co. from 12/7-19 (BKP), two were found at Cañon City in Fremont Co. on 12/20 (BM, PHe, PG, LM), one was observed at Rocky Ford SWA in Otero Co. from 12/29-1/31 (SO), and two were at Colorado City in Pueblo Co. from 1/16-2/28 (DS).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** One lingered at Rocky Ford SWA in Otero Co. from 12/6-13 (BKP, MJ, SO), and one was counted on the Grand Junction CBC in Mesa Co. on 12/20 (CD, RLe).

**Western Bluebird:** Very unusual were four Western Bluebirds in Baca Co. in late December (DSv).

**Hermit Thrush:** One was counted on the Grand Junction CBC in Mesa Co. on 12/20 (CD, RLe), one lingered at Ft. Collins in Larimer Co. from 12/24-26 (DAL), and one was found at Vineland in Pueblo Co. on 1/3 (MJ, TL).

**Varied Thrush:** One was found on the Longmont CBC in Boulder Co. on 12/19, a male appeared at El Dorado Springs in Boulder Co. on 12/20 (MG, JC), and another male was observed at Bonny Res. in Yuma Co. on 1/1 (PG, LM).

**Gray Catbird:** Chatfield Res. in Jefferson Co. hosted one on 12/1 (AB), one lingered at Rocky Ford SWA in Otero Co. from 12/22-28 (CLW, SO), and one showed up at Longmont in Boulder Co. on 1/17 (SF).

**Northern Mockingbird:** One was discovered at Waterton Canyon in Jefferson Co. on 12/8 (AB), one was at Sugar City in Crowley Co. on 12/21 (SO, MJ), and one was found at Lamar in Prowers Co. from 2/7-27 (BKP, MJ, DAL, JT).

**Brown Thrasher:** There were numerous sightings of Brown Thrashers this winter: one at Chicago Creek Road in Clear Creek Co. on 1/23 (SC, BBH), one at Wellington in Larimer Co. from 12/10-25 (S&KM), one at Runyon L. in Pueblo Co. on 12/27 (DS), one on the Douglas County CBC on 12/27 (AB), one at Ft. Collins in Larimer Co. on 1/11 (DAL), one at Ft. Lyon in Bent Co. from 1/23-2/20 (TD, BKP), and one at Two Buttes Res. in Baca Co. on 2/8 (DAL).

**Bohemian Waxwing:** Although this species is unusual along the southern Front Range, there was one near Cañon City in Fremont Co. on 12/20 (BKP, CLW), 20 at Pueblo in Pueblo Co. on 12/31 (BKP, DSm), and 35 at Colorado City in Pueblo Co. on 1/31 (DS).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** An unusual winter record was one at the Denver Botanic Gardens in Denver Co. on 1/20 (DAL).

**Pine Warbler**: One male stayed on at Ft. Collins in Larimer Co. from 12/19-1/14 (BC), and one immature lingered at Boulder in Boulder Co. from 12/20-23 (E&PP).

**American Redstart**: Possibly the first Colorado winter record of this species was a female at Colorado Springs in El Paso Co. from 12/3-4 (WW).

**Common Yellowthroat**: One was at Rocky Ford SWA in Otero Co. on 12/13 (BKP, MJ, SO).

**Northern Cardinal**: One male added color to Rockvale in Fremont Co. on 12/20 (CLW, BKP), and six were found at Ovid in Sedgwick Co. on 2/12 (TD).

**Black-headed Grosbeak**: One male was observed at Manitou Springs in El Paso Co. from 12/20-23 (RS).

**Green-tailed Towhee**: One showed up at Boulder in Boulder Co. on 12/17 (BK, AC), and two hung on at South Platte River Park in Jefferson Co. from 12/19-2/13 (DSc).

**Eastern Towhee**: One female was found at Prewitt Res. in Washington Co. on 2/9 (TD).

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow**: This species was found in a new location, away from its stronghold in the southeastern corner of Colorado, at Cañon City in Fremont Co.; four birds appear to be residents at this location, and were seen regularly from 12/20-2/26 (DS, DJ).

**Field Sparrow**: One was found at Red Rocks Trading Post in Jefferson Co. on 1/23 (GP), and one turned up at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt in Jefferson Co. on 2/22 (TD).

**Lark Bunting**: An unusual winter record was one at Cañon City in Fremont Co. from 12/1-1/25 (BA).

**Savannah Sparrow**: Another unusual winter sighting was one of this species at Ft. Carson in El Paso Co. on 1/12 (RB).

**Fox Sparrow**: Single individuals of the eastern race were at Boulder in Boulder Co. on 12/20 (M&SP) and at Red Rocks Park in Jefferson Co. on 1/2 (SC).

**Lincoln's Sparrow**: One was found at Swallows in Pueblo Co. on 12/19 (PSS, CS), one stayed at Ft. Lyon in Bent Co. from 1/23-2/27 (TD, BKP), and two were observed at Cottonwood Canyon in Baca Co. on 2/20 (DSv, TL).



**White-throated Sparrow:** Sightings away from the eastern plains this winter were one on the Grand Junction CBC in Mesa Co. on 12/20 (CD, RL) and one at Westcliffe in Custer Co. from 12/26-1/10 (DS).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow:** An immature was at Wellington in Larimer Co. from 12/18-2/28 (S&KM).

**McCown's Longspur:** There were several winter records and sightings of early spring migrants. Four were found on the Rocky Ford CBC in Otero and Crowley counties on 12/21 (MJ, TL), five were found on the Kansas border in Baca Co. on 1/1 (DSv, TL), seven were seen at Townsend Res. in El Paso Co. on 1/25 (BM), one turned up at L. Henry in Crowley Co. on 1/31 (MJ), nine were counted at Haymes Res. in El Paso Co. on 2/5 (BM), and five were at Great Plains Res. in Kiowa Co. on 2/25 (BKP, TD).

**Chestnut-collared Longspur:** As with the McCown's Longspurs, there were several winter records and sightings of early spring migrants. Five hundred were tallied along the Kansas border in Baca Co. on 1/1 (DSv, TL), five occurred along the Lincoln and El Paso Co. line on 2/6 (RB), two males were found at Big Johnson Res. in El Paso Co. on 2/21 (DE), 15 showed up near Upper Queens Res. in Kiowa Co. on 2/21 (TL), and on 2/25 15 more were found at Neesopah Res. in Kiowa Co. (BKP, TD) and 20 were discovered near Thurston Res. in Prowers Co. (BKP, TD).

**Snow Bunting:** There was only a single sighting this season—one in northern Weld Co. on 2/2 (SS, MG).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** There were several reports of this species this winter. One occurred at Locbuie in Adams Co. on 12/2 (TL), one male was found at Wellington in Larimer Co. on 12/19 (NK), one was at L. Meredith in Crowley Co. on 12/21 (MJ), one female was at Loveland in Larimer Co. on 12/26 (NK), four were counted on the Barr Lake CBC in Adams Co. on 12/26 (TL, SB), one was counted on the Pueblo CBC in Pueblo Co. on 12/27 (MY), and two males occurred south of Berthoud in Larimer Co. on 1/1 (DAL, JM).

**Rusty Blackbird:** One turned up at Valco Ponds in Pueblo Co. on 12/17 (BKP), and up to six spent the winter at Runyon L. spillway in Pueblo Co. from 12/26-2/23 (DSi).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** This species continues its rapid range expansion in Colorado, with large numbers seen this winter. Forty-four were seen on the Barr Lake CBC in Adams Co. on 12/26 (TL, SB), eight were at Beebe Draw in Weld Co. on 1/1 (JH), 110 were near Barr L. in Adams Co. on 2/1 (TL, DF), and 55 were near Barr L. in Adams Co. on 2/19 (TL).

**Common Grackle:** This species is unusual in winter in Colorado, yet one spent the entire winter coming to a feeder at Meeker in Rio Blanco Co. from 12/1-2/28 (DH), and up to six were at Georgetown in Clear Creek Co. from 12/27-1/26 (TL, SB).

**Purple Finch:** One female or immature was found at Ft. Collins in Larimer Co. on 1/8 (TD, JR), and another was seen at Coal Creek Canyon in Jefferson Co. from 1/24-27 (PH).

**Common Redpoll:** One stayed at Estes Park in Larimer Co. from 2/11-17 (DB).

**Lesser Goldfinch:** There were numerous reports of this species, which usually is not recorded in Colorado in winter. As many as five occurred at Colorado Springs in El Paso Co. from 12/1-2/28 (AV); three showed up at a different feeder in Colorado Springs on 12/1 (JW); one was at Rocky Ford SWA in Otero Co. on 12/6 (BKP, MJ); eight were detected at Valco Ponds in Pueblo Co. on 12/12 (BKP, BD, LB, BBH, SC); four were counted on the Denver CBC in Denver Co. on 12/19 (DSc) and 29 were counted on the Grand Junction CBC in Mesa Co. on 12/20 (CD, RLe); two were at Cañon City in Fremont Co. on 12/20 (DS, DJ); three were found at Pueblo in Pueblo Co. on 12/31 (BKP, DSm); up to 34 lingered at the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo, Pueblo Co., from 12/31-2/25 (BD); and one was seen at Colorado City in Pueblo Co. on 2/23 (DS).

### Cited Observers

Bob Abbott (BA), David Bolton (DB), Sue Bonfield (SB), Ann Bonnell (AB), Leon Bright (LB), Richard Bunn (RB), Sherry Chapman (SC), Jack Collam (JC), Brian Colon (BC), Andy Cowell (AC), Alex & June Cringan (A&JC), Ruth Carol Cushman (RCC), Jim Dennis (JD), Coen Dexter (CD), Bob Dickson (BD), Todd Dilley (TD), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), David Elwonger (DE), David C. Ely (DCE), Norm Erthal (NE), Doug Faulkner (DF), Steve Frye (SF), Peter Gaede (PG), Merrill Gilfillan (MG), Bob Goycoolea (BG), B.B. Hahn (BBH), David A. Hallock (DAH), Paula Hansley (PH), J. B. Hayes (JBH), Dona Hilkey (DH), Joe Himmel (JH), Evelyn Horn (EH), Paul Hurtado (PHu), Mark Janos (MJ), Dave Johnson (DJ), Jeff Jones (JJ), Bill Kaempfer (BK), Joey Kellner (JK), Hugh E. Kingey (HEK), Rachel Kolokoff (RK), Nick Komar (NK), Ron Lambeth (RL), David A. Leatherman (DAL), William P. Lisowsky (WPL), Tony Leukering (TL), Rich Levad (RLe), Joe Mammoser (JM), Lisa Marchet (LM), Steve & Kathy Martin (S&KM), Gary Matthews (GM), Tom Moran (TM), Bill Maynard (BM), Se Etta Moss (SM), Duane Nelson (DN), Ric Olson (RO), Stan Oswald (SO), Brandon K. Percival (BKP), Eric & Peter Plage (E&PP), Myron & Suzi Plooster (M&SP), Kim Potter (KP), Bill Prather (BP), Scott Rashid (SR), Justin Rink (JR), Joe Roller (JRo), Ron A. Ryder (RAR), Dave Quesenberry (DQ), Ira Sanders (IR), Pearle Sandstorm-Smith (PSS), Rosemary Scaring (RS), Dick Scuttler (DSc), Scott Severs (SS), David Silverman (DS), Cliff Smith (CS), Drew Smith (DSm), Dan Svingen (DSv), Ila Svingen (IS), Paul Sweet (PS), Janel Thompson (JT), Mary Tucey (MT), Richard Tucey (RT), Tim Tucey (TT), John Vanderpoel (JV), Alan Versaw (AV), Glenn Walbek (GW), Susan Ward (SW), Jim & Rosie Watts (J&RW), Duane Weber (DW), Jeff Webster (JW), Walt Wilson (WW), Christopher L. Wood (CLW), Marvin Woolf (MW), Mark Yaeger (MY), Tom Van Zandt (TVZ), Vic Zerbi (VZ).



## INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS OF THE *JOURNAL OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS*

The *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* is devoted to the field study of birds in Colorado. Articles and notes of scientific or general interest are solicited. Consult current issues for appropriate format. **NOTE: full common names of birds should be capitalized; also include the current scientific names of all birds and other taxa (in parentheses) in your abstract and the first time they're mentioned in the body of your manuscript.** The editor will send a more detailed set of instructions upon request. Papers involving formal scientific studies should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections. When possible, tables should be submitted in spreadsheet format; otherwise submit word-processed TABLES (i.e., tabs/spaces not acceptable). Graphics depicting data should be submitted as scanned TIFF images or via hard copy. **All scientific papers are sent out for peer review.** Contributors are encouraged to send electronic versions of their manuscripts and tables via e-mail attachment or on an **IBM-formatted 3.5" floppy diskette; please do not send MAC diskettes (they are not universal); if you use a MAC, save your file to an IBM-formatted disk (they are universal).** Preferred software: WordPerfect (5.0-5.1), MS Word (6.0 or earlier), Quattro Pro (\*.wb2 or earlier), or Excell (6.0 or earlier). **Please include a note with your e-mail attachment or a diskette label indicating which software packages/versions/operating systems/computer type (IBM-PC / MAC) you have used.** Please do not use tabs, outlines, series of spaces, or other similar code in electronic manuscripts (they foul up the layout process); the editor will handle layout details (e.g., hanging indents, fonts, etc.). If you do not submit a hard copy to accompany the electronic copy of your manuscript, please send instructions regarding underlining, outlining, etc. If you send only a hard-copy manuscript, double-space the text (hard copies accompanying electronic copies do not need to be double-spaced); hard-copy manuscripts will not be returned unless requested. Art/photos/data graphics and other graphics: submit black & white or color material, (generally published in black & white); slides or prints are accepted; scanned TIFF (\*.tif) images can be submitted on a 3.5" diskette or CD; include information about photos/art/graphs (what/where/when/whom, medium used, etc.).

After your material is published, disks/art/photos will be returned to you. While art/photos and other materials will receive utmost care, the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO), or any person belonging to CFO, cannot be responsible for materials lost in the mail or other circumstances beyond our control. Non-member authors/photographers/artists will receive a complimentary copy of the *Journal*; CFO-member authors needing an extra (complimentary) copy, or any author needing more than one copy, must let the editor know when materials are submitted. Send manuscripts/photographs/drawings and checks for additional copies of the journal (\$3.00 each; make check out to Colorado Field Ornithologists) to Cynthia Melcher, 4200 North Shields, Fort Collins, CO 80524; or e-mail materials to: [cynthia\\_melcher@usgs.gov](mailto:cynthia_melcher@usgs.gov). Questions? Contact Cynthia Melcher at: 970/484-8373(h), 970/226-9258(w), or send e-mail. **Deadlines for submissions are: December 1 for January issue, March 1 for April issue, May 10 for July issue, and September 1 for October issue. Material received after these dates will be held for publication in future issues.**  
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### HOW TO SUBMIT RECORDS TO THE Colorado Bird Records Committee

Use the standard reporting form on the back of the *Journal* mailer or use an *Audubon Field Notes* Mountain West form, available from Van A. Truan (1901 Court St., Pueblo, CO 81003; phone: 719/543-4744). Standard forms are preferred because completion of all sections helps to ensure that pertinent information is included. If you submit photographs, please send two copies (records are duplicated before being sent to the Records Committee members for review). Send records of rare birds to Bill Lisowsky, Records Committee Chair, 2919 Silverplume Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80526; or send them to Colorado Bird Records Committee, c/o Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver, CO 80205.