
Journal of the

Colorado Field Ornithologists

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly

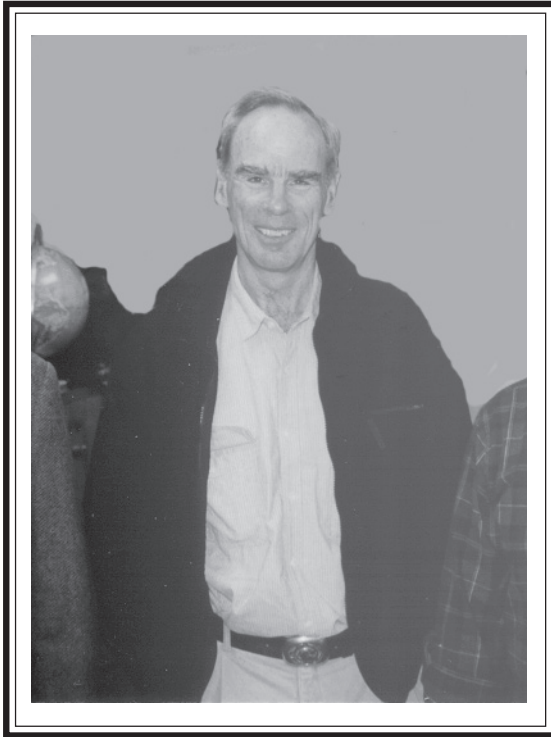


TABLE OF CONTENTS

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR.....	126
A LETTER FROM OUTGOING CFO PRESIDENT LEON BRIGHT.....	127
UPCOMING CFO FIELD TRIPS.....	127
CFO BOARD MEETING MINUTES.....	128
BIRDS OF LONE DOME STATE WILDLIFE AREA AND DOLORES RIVER CORRIDOR....	130
<i>Doug Faulkner</i>	
OWL PROWL 2000.....	144
<i>Rich Levad</i>	
COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' CONVENTION 2000 PAPERS SESSION ABSTRACTS:	
CATTLE EGRET: RANGE EXPANSION, MOVEMENTS, AND POPULATION	
TRENDS.....	145
<i>Ronald A. Ryder</i>	
BREEDING DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT UTILIZATION OF GRAY AND	
PLUMBEOUS VIREOS AT COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT....	146
<i>Glenn Giroir</i>	
MONITORING COLORADO'S BIRDS.....	147
<i>Tony Leukering</i>	
BOREAL OWL NEST BOX STUDY: GRAND MESA, UNCOMPAGRE, AND	
GUNNISON NATIONAL FORESTS.....	148
<i>Thomas M. Holland</i>	
SOME ASPECTS OF THE NESTING ECOLOGY OF GRACE'S WARBLER IN	
SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO.....	149
<i>Scott Hutchings</i>	
BOB RIGHTER: THE ACCOMPLISHED AMATEUR—RECIPIENT OF RONALD A. RYDER	
AWARD.....	150
<i>Patty Echelmeyer, Lynn Willcockson, and David Pantle</i>	
A FLEDGLING LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE IMPALED ON CHOLLA.....	159
<i>Scott Hutchings</i>	
CONSERVATION FOCUS: MODELING THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON	
THE SUMMER DISTRIBUTIONS OF COLORADO'S NONGAME BIRDS.....	160
<i>Jeff Price</i>	
REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 1998 RECORDS.....	168
<i>Bill Lisowski</i>	
NEWS FROM THE FIELD: THE WINTER 1999-2000 REPORT (DEC-FEB).....	186
<i>Peter R. Gent</i>	

Cover photo: Bob Righter, this year's recipient of the Ronald A. Ryder award. An article about Bob appears on page 150 of this issue. Photo by David Pantle.

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Scott W. Gillihan

I was quite pleased with the volume of submissions that I received over the past three months. However, it's easy for the flood to dwindle to a trickle. In an effort to maintain the flow of articles, I have contacted ornithology faculty at colleges and universities in Colorado, Wyoming, and Kansas, requesting that they encourage their students to submit scientific manuscripts. I've also been leaning on friends and colleagues for submissions. Now I'm going to lean on you: send me your articles, notes, and ideas! The next time you see something interesting or unusual, jot it down and send it to me. *JCFO* will be publishing more articles of interest to birders, but only if you submit them! Suggested topics for articles include:

- Natural history (behavior, ecology, breeding, etc.)
- Identification (let's tackle some of those vexing ID problems)
- Little-known but top-notch birding sites
- Birding skills (learning songs, the fine art of pishing, etc.)
- Species accounts (especially for Colorado specialties)
- Anything else that expands our knowledge and enjoyment of birds

Finally, as always, I need quality photographs and illustrations.

—SWG

By the way, the very nice Upland Sandpiper photo on page 124 of the April issue was taken by Joe Roller. My apologies for failing to credit him.

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.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

As my term has ended as President of CFO, I wish to thank the Board for their excellent cooperation and support during the last two years. Since our new President, Mark Janos, will be working with essentially the same board as I did last year, I know he will be able to count on their help in guiding the organization as we head toward unknown future horizons. Mark's own extensive experience with Colorado birds and birding will ensure wise direction for our group.

This experience as CFO President has allowed me to make many new friends among the Colorado birding community. Together we can enhance the quality of life for both us and for those feathered creatures that hold our fascination. I look forward to maintaining these friendships established during my turn at the helm.

Cordially,
Leon Bright

UPCOMING CFO FIELD TRIPS

6 August 2000 (Sunday)

Grand Valley Hummingbirds

Time: 6:00 p.m. until dark

Place: 3412 C Road, East Orchard Mesa/Palisade

Contact: Steve and Debbie Bouricius 970-434-5918 or Bourici@gj.net

Join us for an evening with the hummingbirds! If conditions are right, we will work on identification of the four species which frequent the Grand Valley, including resident Black-chinned, and migrant Broad-tailed, Rufous, and Calliope, as well as tips on separating females from immatures. We'll tour the hummingbird gardens, search for nests in an orchard, and share information about their biology, behavior and distribution. Also covered will be feeder placement and maintenance. Steve and Debbie hope to inspire others about the possibilities of transforming a barren site into a haven for hummers through plantings for food and shelter.

Bring chairs, hats, binoculars, field guides, and patience. Please do not wear white or bright clothing.

CFO BOARD MEETING MINUTES **8 APRIL 2000**

(Minutes condensed for the *JCFO*)

Leon Bright presiding.

President's Report

Leon Bright thanked everyone for their cooperation during his term.

Treasurer's Report

Net assets are currently \$21,581.47. BB Hahn received a thank you letter from Duane Nelson for the funding of the plover and tern recovery programs.

Colorado Bird Records Committee

1998 summary is complete and will be published in the July Journal. The species review list will be edited this spring. Joe Mammoser and John Rawinski will be asked to serve second terms on the committee.

Journal Editor

Scott Gillihan has drafted a notice to graduate and undergraduate students regarding Journal submissions and will send it to all the biology professors in the state. Natural history articles, photographs, and high-quality drawings from CFO members and non-members are welcomed for inclusion in upcoming issues.

Membership

Current membership stands at 388 as of 4-8-00. A one-time label exchange with ABA was approved and will be used for a membership drive.

Website

The change to HostPro.com which gives CFO a domain name has been made. The site has also been added to Internet Search Engines.

On-line store

CFO will participate in Thayer's on-line nature store.

Plaques for landowners

Member Joe Roller has suggested that the CFO recognize landowners who perform outstanding services to Colorado birders. Recognition will be in the form of plaques using funds donated to CFO specifically for this purpose.

Memorandum of Understanding

The board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Journal Editor specifying the responsibilities of the Editor and CFO, the length of the Editor's tenure, and the honorarium amounts.

2001 Convention Site

Pueblo was selected as the convention site with dates to be determined at the next board meeting.
annual conventions.



**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:
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.kl2.co.us



Colorado Bird Observatory Occasional Paper Number 5

BIRDS OF LONE DOME STATE WILDLIFE AREA AND DOLORES RIVER CORRIDOR

Doug Faulkner
Colorado Bird Observatory
13401 Piccadilly Road
Brighton, CO 80601

ABSTRACT—Colorado Bird Observatory operated two constant-effort bird-banding stations (i.e. MAPS) from 24 May-1 Aug 1996 and conducted roadside point counts in June 1996 and 1997 along the Dolores River near the Lone Dome State Wildlife Area (37° 39', 108°40') in southwest Dolores County and northwest Montezuma County, Colorado. The 1996 banding captures consisted of 350 individuals of 36 species while point counts registered 1781 individuals of 81 species. A total of 491 individuals of 49 species was detected on point counts in 1997. Overall, CBO personnel observed a total of 102 species in the area. Breeding evidence was obtained for 38 species. To my knowledge, this is the first systematic ornithological survey to be completed in this area of Colorado.

Introduction

Lone Dome State Wildlife Area (LDSWA) is located in southwest Dolores County about eight miles northeast of the town of Pleasantview. It is associated with the Dolores River riparian corridor which extends northwest for 11 miles (17.6 kilometers) from the McPhee Dam, at an average elevation of about 7380 feet (2250 meters). The dominant habitat is riparian consisting of a cottonwood overstory (*Populus* sp.) with a willow (*Salix* sp.) and Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*) understory. Pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*), with an oak understory, dominate the canyon walls. This area receives very little use except by fishermen and "escaped" cattle from nearby ranches. Thus, it is a relatively undisturbed riparian corridor. Water flow down the Dolores River is regulated through the McPhee Dam, so average water levels may vary between years.

This region of the state probably receives less attention from the birding community than most other parts (second only to the northwest corner of the state). Alan Versaw spent five years in Montezuma County (1987–92) and published a bird list for the county (Versaw 1995). Aside from Alan's bird list and, more recently, data from the Breeding Bird Atlas (Kingery 1998) (hereafter BBA), little is known about the area. This is particularly true of LDSWA, which has not attracted many birders, unlike other sites in southwestern Colorado, such as Mesa Verde National Park, McPhee Reservoir, or the Durango area. As part of its statewide monitoring project, Colorado Bird Observatory (CBO) surveyed the riparian habitat along the Dolores River using three techniques: banding stations, point counts, and nest searching.

Methods

I, along with volunteers and CBO seasonal field technicians, operated two constant-effort bird-banding stations from 24 May to 1 Aug 1996. Operation of the banding stations was alternated daily, with approximately two to three visits per week to each site. Banding stations and nest searching followed standard procedures (Ralph et al. 1993). A total of 214 point counts were completed from 5–12 June 1996. In 1997, banding operations were suspended due to high water levels in the riparian corridor. Seventy-three point counts were done in 1997, but only on 9 June. Point counts for both years were conducted on Road 504, since it was mostly adjacent to the riparian habitat and points could be easily relocated (i.e., the exact point could be repeated the next year). These counts were done for a period of 5 minutes with inter-point distances being randomly selected between 200 and 250 meters. Only birds within 100 meters of the observer were counted.

Results

I observed a total of 102 species, of which 28 were confirmed as local breeders and another 10 as possible or probable breeders using Breeding Bird Atlas protocol (Kingery 1998). Because point counts were not centered within the riparian corridor, but alongside it, species more commonly found in mountain shrub or pinyon-juniper than in the riparian zone were frequently detected. The ten most common species on point counts, from most to least abundant, were House Wren (scientific names in Appendix A), Spotted Towhee, American Robin, Yellow Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Song Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Chipping Sparrow, Steller's Jay, and Virginia's Warbler. Surprisingly, I did not capture any Steller's Jays, American Robins, or Chipping Sparrows at the banding stations. Despite not being among the most numerous species on point counts, Yellow-breasted Chat was the second-most captured species (after Spotted Towhee).

Accounts of Unusual Species:

Sora - George Armistead detected an individual calling during a point count on 9 June 1997. Andrews and Righter (1992) (hereafter A&R) depict this species' local range as a small ellipse centered in Montezuma County, but not nearing the Dolores County border. BBA atlasers reported possible or confirmed breeding in three blocks near the block containing LDSWA.

Western Screech-Owl - Brian Sullivan heard an individual during a point count on 11 June 1996. This species is present in Montezuma County, but is not very common (A. Versaw, pers. com.) and mostly along the county's east-central border with La Plata County (A&R) and north of Cortez (BBA). In southwestern Colorado, Western Screech-Owls nest in lowland cottonwood riparian zones, farmsteads, and stands of mature pinyon-juniper. Reports have stemmed from the lower La Plata, Mancos, and Dolores rivers, the farmlands around Cortez, and pinyon-juniper woodlands near Red Mesa (R. Levad, pers. com.). Western Screech-Owl-like calls outside of normal range/habitat should be visually confirmed as they are sometimes confused with the winnowing of Common Snipe. LDSWA may provide suitable habitat for nesting.

Cedar Waxwing - This species was detected on point counts from 10-12 June 1996 (total of five individuals) and 9 June 1997 (four individuals). Tony Leukering and Kip Stransky provided an incidental sighting of six birds below the dam in June 1996. Neither A&R nor BBA show records for this species at this location. However, A&R map a disjunct range in eastern Montezuma and western La Plata counties, with probable breeding in central Montezuma County.

Trail's Flycatcher complex - This complex is made up of two very similar-looking *Empidonax* species, Willow (*E. trailli*) and Alder (*E. alnorum*) flycatchers, which were once considered a single species. I banded seven individuals of this complex (four on May 24 and three on May 28), however the morphological measurements I obtained did not identify the species, and none showed breeding condition (brood patch or enlarged cloaca). Two individuals were positively identified by song as Willow Flycatchers during point counts on 10 and 11 June 1996 by Brian Sullivan. This date for singing males indicates possible breeding in the area. Because of the geographical location (low elevation in southwest Colorado near the New Mexico border), the possibility that these are of the Southwestern subspecies (*E. t. extimus*) exists (Unitt 1987). If so, this would extend its range northward and provide recent evidence of the occurrence of this subspecies in Colorado.

Gray Catbird - I banded ten individuals in 1996, with five exhibiting breeding condition (two male, three female) caught 7–29 July. I also caught two hatch-year birds, one on 28 July and the other on 31 July. They were probably locally-produced though this cannot be confirmed. A&R do not show this species occurring in either Dolores or Montezuma counties. BBA atlasers confirmed breeding in a block just east of LDSWA. Versaw (1995) considers this species to be uncommon in Montezuma County. My data suggest that this site contains numerous breeding pairs and may be one of the most reliable spots to find them in southwest Colorado.

Black-and-white Warbler - Brian Sullivan detected a singing male on a point count on 9 June 1996. A&R regard this species as a casual migrant on the West Slope with records from the Grand Junction and Durango areas. This is the first documented record for Montezuma County.

Ovenbird - I banded an adult on 17 June 1996. Both A&R and BBA show this species occurring only along the Front Range or in the eastern plains, thus this would be the first documented occurrence of this species on the West Slope. Second-year female warblers (migrating north for the first time) typically migrate later than males or older females, thus the seemingly-late date is not entirely unusual for a migrant (T. Leukering, pers. com.).

Northern Cardinal - Brian Sullivan observed an adult male singing during a point count on 11 June 1996. A&R show one record for the West Slope, though there is some debate regarding its origin (Davis 1969). This would constitute the second record for the West Slope. This species is a resident of southern New Mexico and Arizona and occurs in eastern Colorado, thus it is not entirely unexpected in southwestern Colorado.

Indigo Bunting - I banded two males, one each on 28 May and 17 June, the former having an enlarged cloacal protuberance, evidence of local breeding. Three individuals were also detected on point counts that same year, but none was observed in 1997. A&R reports the only confirmed breeding for the West Slope in Durango, La Plata County; however, it does show summer non-breeding symbols for the area near LDSWA. Alan Versaw (pers. com.) considered this species just beginning to move into the area when he left in 1992.

Summary

LDSWA and the Dolores River corridor contain a relatively undisturbed 11-mile (17.6-km) section of riparian habitat. During CBO's two-year study of this area, several species were detected that provided breeding information, range extensions, or new records for southwest Colorado. This suggests that the

area may serve as an important local breeding area for species not commonly found elsewhere in Montezuma or Dolores counties and as a “migrant trap” for vagrants. Further research and increased coverage by birders may shed more light onto the value of this area.

Directions: In the town of Pleasantview (DeLorme Mapping 1991: p. 74 D2) turn east onto Road CC. Take the first left (less than 1 mile) for 3.5 miles to the Lone Dome State Wildlife Area sign, turn east at the sign and follow the road for 4 miles. Road 504 parallels the Dolores River through LDSWA and adjacent U.S. Forest Service land to the McPhee Dam. There are two U.S. Forest Service campgrounds along Road 504.

Acknowledgements

I thank everyone involved with the project, in particular, George Armistead, Justin Ellenberger, Grace Hubenthal, Scott Hutchings, Tony Leukering, Jeanette Morss, Kip Stransky, and Brian Sullivan. Also, thanks to Alan Versaw for providing species information for Montezuma County. Thanks to Rich Levad for his contribution to the Western Screech-Owl account. This manuscript benefitted greatly from comments by Mike Carter, Scott Gillihan, Scott Hutchings, Tony Leukering, and Tammy VerCauteren. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (Durango office) provided logistical support (particularly Kip Stransky) and housing, U.S. Forest Service donated the use of a campground, and Bureau of Land Management provided a trailer. This project was funded by the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund through the Colorado Division of Wildlife (contract #2145-96).

Literature Cited

- Andrews, R. and R. Righter. 1992. Colorado Birds: A Reference to their Distribution and Habitat. Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, CO.
- Davis, W.A. 1969. Birds in western Colorado. Colorado Field Ornithologists, Boulder, CO.
- DeLorme Mapping. 1991. Colorado Atlas and Gazetteer. DeLorme Mapping, Freeport, ME.
- Kingery, H. 1998. Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas. Colorado Bird Atlas Partnership, Denver, CO.
- Ralph, C.J., G.R. Geupel, P. Pyle, T.E. Martin, and D.F. DeSante. 1993. Handbook of field methods for monitoring landbirds. USDA General Technical Report PSW-GTR-144.
- Unitt, P. 1987. *Empidonax traillii extimus*: an endangered subspecies. *Western Birds* 18:137–162.
- Versaw, A. 1995. Montezuma county birdlist. *C.F.O. Journal* 29:113–121.

Appendix 1. Species and numbers of individuals detected at Lone Dome State Wildlife Area in 1996 and 1997; banding was done only in 1996 (24 May-1 Aug) (see text for further details on methods). Species seen in the area, but not recorded by either survey method, are denoted as incidental observations (IO) in the "# banded" column. The "Breeding evidence" column refers to species for which breeding evidence was obtained: X=singing male; M=multiple singing males; V=visiting possible nest site; PE=physiological evidence; UN=used nest; FL=dependent fledging; ON=occupied nest; CF=adult carrying food; NE=nest with eggs; NY=nest with young; see Kingery (1998) for details.

Species	Scientific name	# banded	# on point counts		Breeding evidence
			1996	1997	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	IO			
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		1		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		3		
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		8		
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	IO			
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	IO			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>		2		
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>		1		

Appendix 1, cont'd

Species	Scientific name	# banded	# on point counts			Breeding evidence
			1996	1997		
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		3			
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		3			
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>		3			
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	10				
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>			1		X
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	10				
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	10				FL
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>		78	15		NY
Western Screech-Owl	<i>Otus kennicottii</i>		1			X
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>		2			
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	10				

White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	10			
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	6	1	NE	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>	6	3		
Calliope Hummingbird	<i>Stellula calliope</i>				IO
Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>				IO
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	1			
Lewis's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	3			
Williamson's Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>				IO
Red-naped Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>	6		V	
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	8			
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	7	2	PE	
Northern (red-shafted) Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	1	28	5	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus borealis</i>	3			
Western Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	53	20		M

Appendix 1, cont'd

Species	Scientific name	# banded	# on point counts		Breeding evidence
			1996	1997	
Willow Flycatcher ¹	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>		2		X
Traill's Flycatcher ¹	<i>Empidonax traillii/alnorum</i>	7			
Hammond's Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax hammondi</i>	2	4	2	
Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	19	45	2	PE
Cordilleran Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>		17	2	
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	10			
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>		2		
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	10			
Plumbeous Vireo	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>	3	60	10	M
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	24	79	34	PE
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>		77	1	

Western Scrub-Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californicus</i>	2	13	4	
Clark's Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga colombiana</i>		1		
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		15	4	ON
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>		12	6	
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		3		
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	8	66	3	ON
N. Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>		5	2	
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	13	5	3	PE
Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>	1	37		
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	15	4	1	UN
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>		1		
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	1	28	2	
Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>		10		
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>		8	10	V

Appendix 1, cont'd

Species	Scientific name	# banded	# on point counts		Breeding evidence
			1996	1997	
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	24	123	43	PE
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	1	37	2	
Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>		7	1	
Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	10			
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>		1		
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>		11		
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>		110	38	CF
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	10	3	2	PE
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottus</i>		2		
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		4	1	
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>		5	4	

Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	1	15		
Virginia's Warbler	<i>Vermivora virginiae</i>	24	66	11	PE
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>		18		
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>		1		
Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>	4	7	2	PE
Grace's Warbler	<i>Dendroica graciae</i>		54		M
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	29	58	59	PE
MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>	13	29	3	PE
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	14		1	
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	1			
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>			1	
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	32	26	24	PE
Western Tanager	<i>Pitanga ludoviciana</i>	1	7		
Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>	1	41	2	

Appendix 1, cont'd

Species	Scientific name	# banded	# on point counts		Breeding evidence
			1996	1997	
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	39	133	20	PE
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>		64	17	M
Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	5			PE
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	26	47	49	PE
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>		1		X
Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	13	52	10	PE
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Guiraca caerulea</i>	1	1	2	
Lazuli Bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>	6	11	43	PE
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	2	3		PE
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>		6	6	
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>		3		

Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	29		
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	1	20	3
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	1	36	10 UN
Cassin's Finch	<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>		2	
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	10		
Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>		10	1
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>			1
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	4	8	PE

¹Separation of the two species comprising the Traill's Flycatcher complex (Willow and Alder flycatchers) is difficult and banding measurements did not preclude either species. However, two singing individuals were identified as Willow Flycatchers during point counts in 1997.

OWL PROWL 2000

Rich Levad

On April 1, about 50 participants attended the annual Owl Prowl, a joint trip of CFO and Grand Valley Audubon Society, and saw five species of owls. A Northern Saw-whet peered from its nest box at what must have been an amazing sight on a sunny Saturday afternoon—fifty human beings peering back at it from only 30 feet away. A Great Horned Owl sat high on its nest at a farmyard north of Loma as the same folks lined up their scopes at her. A Western Screech-Owl snoozed unconcernedly in its roost hole at the CSU experimental farm north of Fruita for the folks, and a couple of miles down the road a Barn Owl peeked from its burrow in the clay bank of an arroyo as the group zoomed in on it with their scopes. At dusk, the group glimpsed a pair of Long-eared Owls as they slipped out of a tamarisk copse south of Grand Junction for the evening's hunting.

Burrowing Owls were conspicuous by their absences. GVAS members had checked more than a dozen sites that have had owls in recent years and turned up none. The numbers of this Colorado Threatened Species seem to have fallen precipitously in west-central Colorado during the past two or three years.



CFO WEBSITE

We invite you to browse the Colorado Field Ornithologists' website. If you don't own a computer, check your local library. Visit the site regularly, because new items and changes appear frequently. The Internet address is:

<http://www.cfo-link.org>

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' CONVENTION 2000 PAPERS SESSION ABSTRACTS

CATTLE EGRET: RANGE EXPANSION, MOVEMENTS, AND POPULATION TRENDS

Ronald A. Ryder
Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1474
970-482-8089

The Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) is a relative newcomer from Africa by way of South America, reaching North America in the early 1950s. In Colorado, the first recorded sighting was near Denver in 1964; the first known nestings were in the South Platte Valley and the San Luis Valley, both in 1977. In Wyoming, the species was first sighted near Casper in 1978, and the first nesting recorded at Hutton Lake National Wildlife Refuge west of Laramie in 1996. Similar dates for other western states are: Utah, 1963 & 1968; Idaho, 1971 & 1978; Arizona, 1967 & 1993; New Mexico, 1963 & 1972; Nevada, 1973 & 1980; California, 1962 & 1970; Oregon, 1965 & 1982.

West of the Mississippi, Cattle Egrets now nest from California to Louisiana and north to Minnesota and Saskatchewan. They have been sighted as far north as 60°N latitude in the Northwest Territories in 1971 and in southern Alaska in 1981. No nesting has yet been observed in Washington, Alaska, British Columbia, Manitoba, Alberta, or the Northwest Territories. In Colorado, Cattle Egrets mainly nest in the San Luis Valley, with smaller numbers in the Arkansas River and South Platte drainages.

Most western Cattle Egrets migrate to Mexico and as far south as Panama to winter, although some remain in Florida, California, Texas, and Louisiana. After considerable expansion in range and increase in numbers 1950-1990, now populations seem to have leveled, or even decreased in some areas.



CFO Convention Papers Abstracts, cont'd

**BREEDING DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT UTILIZATION OF
GRAY AND PLUMBEOUS VIREOS AT
COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Glenn Giroir
Colorado Bird Observatory
13401 Piccadilly Road
Brighton, CO 80601

As part of a cooperative project developed and managed by the Colorado Bird Observatory and the National Park Service, I studied the breeding distribution and habitat utilization of Gray (*Vireo vicinior*) and Plumbeous (*Vireo plumbeus*) vireos at Colorado National Monument, in western Colorado, where both species utilized piñon-juniper woodland composed of stands of piñon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*). I conducted a systematic ground search on the Colorado National Monument (91km²) from 15 May to 30 June 1999, and found 160 Gray Vireo and 49 Plumbeous Vireo breeding territories. To describe habitat utilization of the two species, I sampled 23 habitat variables within territories of Gray (N=30) and Plumbeous (N=30) vireos and within randomly-selected vegetation plots (N=30). Univariate analyses identified eight variables—elevation, deciduous shrub density, juniper density, juniper height, juniper crown width, piñon density, piñon height, and piñon crown width—as significantly different ($P<0.05$) among Gray Vireo, Plumbeous Vireo, and random habitats. Multivariate analyses identified five of these variables—deciduous shrub density, juniper density, juniper crown width, piñon density, and piñon crown width—as useful in discriminating among Gray Vireo, Plumbeous Vireo, and random habitats. Gray Vireo habitat was associated with open, juniper-dominated woodland and high densities of deciduous shrubs. Plumbeous Vireo habitat was associated with closed, piñon-dominated woodland and low densities of deciduous shrubs, and Random habitat was associated with closed, juniper-dominated woodland with little shrub understory.



CFO Convention Papers Abstracts, cont'd

MONITORING COLORADO'S BIRDS

Tony Leukering
Colorado Bird Observatory
13401 Picadilly Road
Brighton, CO 80601

In conjunction with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Bird Observatory (CBO) has established a statewide, long-term, bird-monitoring project called *Monitoring Colorado's Birds (MCB)*. This project is designed to obtain estimates of population trends over the long term for each of Colorado's breeding bird species in order to be able to detect serious negative trends before populations decline enough to warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act.

The primary method that CBO employs to obtain population data is to conduct 30 transects (utilizing distance estimation) in each major habitat in the state. The 30 transects for each habitat are randomly-allocated throughout the state. Every year, CBO conducts every transect (in 2000, 420 transects will be completed) and analyzes the data to determine density estimates for each species detected in sufficient quantity. These densities will then be compared from year to year.

There is a large number of species that are not detected on transects in sufficient quantity to provide robust results, mostly colonial breeders and species found either in very low densities and/or in very small portions of the state. For these species, we have initiated focused efforts to count these species at all known breeding sites. To be successful in this aspect of the project, we will need all the assistance that we can muster, as we do not have the time, manpower, or funding to enable us to visit every breeding site of every species in a given year. Therefore, we are requesting help from birders, biologists, land-owners, and anyone else with an interest to volunteer any knowledge of breeding locations and, particularly, to volunteer to visit and count certain species at these locations. To provide information or to volunteer, please contact CBO at 303-659-4348.



CFO Convention Papers Abstracts, cont'd

BOREAL OWL NEST BOX STUDY: GRAND MESA, UNCOMPAHGRE, AND GUNNISON NATIONAL FORESTS

Thomas M. Holland
Forest Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Forest Service

The Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) nests in tree cavities in mature spruce-fir, lodgepole pine, or adjacent mixed aspen-conifer forests. The boreal owl nest box program was undertaken by the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests to provide data on the distribution of boreal owls on these Forests. Prior to this undertaking only six documented nests were known for the State of Colorado, all in the north-central part of the state near the Wyoming border. Objectives of the study included: document possible boreal owl nesting on the Forests; provide a method to monitor long-term population trends; determine the population viability of Boreal and other small forest owls on the Forests; provide data on habitat preferences; and provide biological data on the species.

Four hundred nesting boxes suitable for nesting by Boreal Owls were placed on the Forests in the fall of 1992. Two hundred boxes were placed on Grand Mesa, 100 on the Uncompahgre Plateau, 50 in the Owl Creek Pass area and 50 in the Lone Cone area. In the first year a total of 16 active boreal owl nests were recorded, far exceeding the six previously known nests recorded for the state. Since 1992 owl nesting activity has been monitored annually by the Forest Service and in recent years volunteers have assisted in the effort. Other results of the monitoring project include: documented nesting of Saw-whet and Flammulated owls; data on clutch size and fledging dates; limited telemetry data; food habits; etc. Over 100 Boreal Owl young and adults have been banded on the project thus far.



CFO Convention Papers Abstracts, cont'd

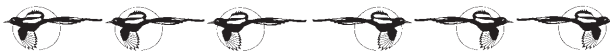
**SOME ASPECTS OF THE NESTING ECOLOGY OF
GRACE'S WARBLER IN SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO**

Scott Hutchings
Colorado Bird Observatory
13401 Piccadilly Road
Brighton, CO 80601

Eminent ornithologists of our time have described Grace's Warbler (*Dendroica graciae*) as "one of the least understood of all the widespread North American wood warblers" (Phillips and Webster 1961). Despite having a widespread breeding range, from southwestern U.S. to Guatemala, and being described over a century ago, most aspects of Grace's Warbler's life history remain unknown. During the summer of 1998, I found three Grace's Warbler nests in southwestern Colorado, studied behaviors at nests, and documented new information regarding the breeding biology and nest placement of this species. Nests averaged 29.3 ft (8.93 m) above the ground in ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and were placed at the tips of limbs well concealed by pine needles. Grace's Warbler exhibits site fidelity and is single-brooded at the site.

Literature Cited

Phillips, A. R., and J. D. Webster. 1961. Grace's Warbler in Mexico. *Auk* 78:551-553.



The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology made a gift of several sets of *Bird Songs of the Rocky Mountain States and Provinces* to CFO for use as door prizes at our 2000 Convention in Grand Junction. CFO express our sincere appreciation to the Lab for their generosity.

BOB RICHTER: THE ACCOMPLISHED AMATEUR— RECIPIENT OF RONALD A. RYDER AWARD

Patty Echelmeyer, 2695 Newland Street, Denver, Co 80214
Lynn Willcockson, 2698 S. Niagara Street, Denver, CO 80224
David Pantle, 1826 Flora Court, Canon City, CO 81212-4577

Skilled amateur ornithologists collect and share much of what is known about birds. The label “amateur” defines them as performing this labor because they find it personally rewarding, and not as a way of gaining regular compensation. An amateur may attain a level of expertise in identifying birds, and knowing their distribution, higher than that of many professional ornithologists, who may be tied to classrooms and museums.

Bob Richter, of Denver, is one of these skilled amateur ornithologists. He made a major contribution to knowledge of birds in Colorado as co-author with Bob Andrews of the book published by the Denver Museum of Natural History in 1992, *Colorado Birds: A Reference to Their Distribution and Habitat*. In 1999, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology released its comprehensive recordings, *Bird Songs of the Rocky Mountain States and Provinces*, for which Bob was the senior editor. Bob has assisted birders in many other ways, including leading a large number of out-of-state field trips and writing many articles for *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*. Bob’s story can inspire us to strive more diligently to make our contributions to the study and conservation of birds.

At the Annual Colorado Field Ornithologists’ Convention on May 27, 2000, Bob’s service and contributions were recognized by awarding to him the Ronald A. Ryder Award for Distinguished Service to Colorado Field Ornithology. By happy coincidence, the three authors were previously preparing this article about Bob. Once we learned that Bob would receive the Award, we agreed that publication be delayed a few months so that this special Award could be included.

Getting Started With Birds

Bob was a businessman, a manufacturer’s representative, for whom life at age 37 wasn’t fun at the moment. He lived alone on the 25th floor of a high-rise apartment building in downtown Denver, suffered from a bad back, and walking and standing produced constant pain. His mother, who lived in New York, knowing that Bob needed a change of outlook, invited him to go on a bird tour to Mexico with her and his father. The tour was a huge success, great fun

for Bob and the others. Skilled bird guides for Victor Emanuel showed them dazzling birds near Catemaco, Mexico, along the Gulf coast of Veracruz.

When Bob returned, he followed the typical progression. He purchased a bird book and binoculars and located the local bird club. This was the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), the most active club in the Americas, which sponsored field trips every Saturday and Sunday. Bob attended a field trip and found the group of birders to be warm and friendly. He attended more field trips, and on each enjoyed the same kind of welcome. He attributes this camaraderie to Ruth Wheeler, a charming woman who organized many of the trips. Bob joined DFO in August 1976, and was quickly exposed to good birders, such as Jack Reddall and Thompson Marsh. His interest was “starting to gallop.”

Bob began to lead field trips, because Ruth asked him. His first was to Bear Creek Lake in August 1980, the next to Cherry Creek Reservoir in October 1980. He continued to suffer from the bad back, and traveled with a “shooting stool,” and was unable to go far from his car. (But when he sat down on his folding seat in a marsh, it sometimes sank into the goo!) Fortunately, with a new outlook on life, and the right amount of fresh air, the back problems began to subside.

Bob went on several more organized bird tours—with Victor Emanuel again to Mexico, to Panama, to Costa Rica, then on several tours with Wings. He met top field ornithologists, including Ted Parker. He began to see how they observed, what their thought processes were when they were viewing, and quickly learned how the birding game could be played. Ted Parker, who led a tour to Oaxaca, Mexico, “was an amazing guy, way above other field ornithologists.” Ted hadn’t been to Mexico for 15 years, but he could tell by the combination of geographic area, elevation, and habitat what a species’ probability was, and therefore what he could expect to find and what to listen for. “Ted could apply this phenomenal birding instinct from the North Pole to the South Pole of the Americas.”

Bob began to accumulate a library, first, field guides. He read the entire Bent series, and was intrigued by the accounts being described.

Life Other than Birding

Bob was born in 1939 and grew up in Bedford Village, a suburb of New York City, in Westchester County. When he was 5, he began to ski in New England. Then Colorado attracted him for college as well as skiing, and he attended the University of Colorado at Boulder for two years. He remained in Colorado, but found it impractical to try to make a living around ski resorts.

Bob and a friend had the initial concept for a new ski area, which the Forest Service suggested was the last undeveloped area in Colorado that made economic sense. This led to development of Copper Mountain. While the project was in its early stages, Bob sold out, in the early 1980s. Thanks to the sale, and the roaring Bull Market, Bob no longer had to worry about where his next meal was coming from. Already an avid birdwatcher, he now was able to devote much of his time to birds.

Life was looking up for Bob. He met Sandy on a Denver Audubon Christmas Count. Sandy called High Kingery to find out which area she should count in, and Hugh, in his infinite wisdom, matched Sandy up with Bob. They have been married for 16 years, and have completed remodeling an old home near the University of Denver. (During our evening interview January 13, 2000, Sandy served us tea, coffee, and pumpkin cookies, guaranteeing that we would say only good things about her husband!)

Expanding Bird Activities

In the early 1980's, Bob became a volunteer at the Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH), dusting off bird specimens. After a year he advanced to filing routine papers! He tried preparation of bird skins but found it not to his liking.

Bob was elected and served as treasurer of DFO 1981–1986, and with Duane Nelson worked on the early stages of setting up a rare bird alert.

He began to take summer field courses on birds and ecology offered by Professor Richard Beidleman at Rocky Mountain National Park. He took the same courses over and over again for several summers. He relished his exposure to Dr. Beidleman, who was a master at presenting biological information to an audience (with such anecdotes as how a Black-billed Magpie from the Lewis and Clark expedition was the first live bird from the West to be displayed in the White House).

Field Trip Leader

Since 1986, more than 100 DFO birders have been grateful to Bob for leading them on week-long trips to major birding hotspots in other states. Bob liked to visit these areas and thought it would be fun to have others join him. In April 1986 he organized and led his first week-long DFO trip to the Upper Texas Coast. Since then, Bob has planned and led more than 20 trips of this sort. Bob has led nine spring trips to the Upper Texas Coast, in recent years alternating these with Southeastern Arizona. In the fall he leads pelagic trips, alternating

between Monterey, California and the Maritimes in Canada. In spring 1998, he co-led a trip to Pt. Pelee.

Bob is an extremely skilled and generous bird guide, who is very familiar with these areas and expert at finding and identifying local specialties. His Texas trips usually produce over 200 species. His May 1999 trip to Arizona tallied 206, including Rufous-winged Sparrow “up close and personal.” Bob does all the planning, makes hotel and van reservations, does most of the driving. He charges no fee, paying his share of expenses, which are divided evenly among the eight persons on a trip. Bob enjoys the “good life” and likes to complete the evening with dinner and drinks in a good local restaurant. (A feature of the Upper Texas Coast trips is buckets of crawfish etouffée at “Al-T’s.”)

He plans to continue to lead these trips, and they have become so popular they frequently are over-subscribed, and winners are selected by lot. (Going on one of Bob’s trips is worth the \$25 annual membership fee for DFO!)

He continues to lead local field trips for DFO. In late June he regularly leads one to Rocky Mountain National Park, attended by 15–20 birders. They see an average of more than 50 species, at least half the time finding the elusive White-tailed Ptarmigan, occasionally spotting Brown-capped Rosy-Finches and Three-toed Woodpeckers, always finding American Pipits.

“Colorado Birds: A Reference to Their Distribution and Habitat”

Frustration in attempting to understand Colorado’s bird distribution led to the creation of this book. Trying to figure out the delineation of a species’ range in Colorado by reading Bailey and Niedrach’s magnificent two volumes, *Birds of Colorado* (1965) was tenuous. When Bob traveled to different parts of the country, he would always carry along that region’s book about birds. Even on trips to Texas, Bob would pack the bags with Oberholser’s two volume *Bird Life of Texas* (1974). Eventually in the spring of 1987, Bob began thinking about producing a book for Colorado that would make the current information about its birds more accessible.

He realized that he needed a senior author and “went no further than asking Bob Andrews,” who was then a teaching assistant at CU Boulder. Bob Righter, Bob Andrews, and Peter Gent had spent a month together four years earlier, looking at birds in Venezuela, and Righter had developed respect for Andrews as a student of birds, and trusted his judgment. He knew Andrews to be one of the most astute people on overall knowledge of birds. Working together “clicked” for the two of them, and they remain very good friends.

Since Bailey and Niedrach's book, the information concerning the status and distribution of birds in Colorado must have quadrupled. Bob and Bob wanted to present all the available information concerning the status and distribution of a species on one convenient page, rather than having that information scattered in different parts of the book, a typical format that was a more cost-effective approach for a prospective publisher. Bob Andrews conducted a library search, collecting stacks of references for them to distill. Andrews, the senior author, did most of the writing, while Righter aided in accumulating myriad records, as well as evaluating their relative importance. Charlie Chase, at the time the assistant chair in the Zoology Department of the DMNH, was involved in the very early conceptual stage of the book, but dropped out to continue work on his doctoral degree at Florida State University.

Righter recruited a teacher at Sandy's school to prepare the maps, and lined up almost 50 peers to review the manuscript. Sandy spent hours working on the Gazetteer.

On one occasion Bob requested that Allen Phillips examine some *Empidonax* flycatchers. When Bob pointed with a pencil to the wing coverts of a particular specimen, the pencil tip mistakenly touched the edge of the feathers, and Phillips immediately grabbed Righter's wrist. Bob was impressed by the level of respect Phillips had for the specimen he was handling and how he would become incensed when he perceived others did not.

Bob persuaded DMNH to be the publisher, convincing staff and a governing committee that this would benefit the museum. The American Birding Association (ABA) took on the difficult task of distribution. To insure that all the information pertaining to a species remained on one separate page, Bob decided to take an equity position in the publication. Within three weeks of publication, ABA presented him with a check that more than covered his initial risk.

The "Bob and Bob Book" quickly became indispensable to birders in Colorado. For each species, one to three maps show specific locations for seasonal distribution. A graph shows seasonal occurrence (some species have multiple graphs for occurrence in different areas of the state). Another shows elevations (some species have multiple graphs for different seasons). The text is very accurate and concise.

Hugh Kingery, editor of *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* (1998), adopted Bob's book as one of five "seminal references to Colorado birds" (p. 600). He described it as: "The most recent standard reference book on Colorado bird

distribution; meticulously researched..”

The book received a very favorable review by Will Russell (founder and managing director of Wings bird tour company) in ABA’s *Birding*, June, 1993, pp. 194–97. Russell’s conclusion was:

“This is a marvelous book; well researched, well organized, well produced, and easy to use once you have mastered the large array of codes and symbols. Congratulations to Bob Andrews and Bob Righter. Every state and province should be so fortunate.”

Additional Major Birding Activities

Bob became intrigued with difficult identification challenges, which he carefully studied. He began to publish articles in the *C.F.O. Journal*, the first in Fall 1988, p. 91, “Some New Information on the Identification of Juvenile and Winter Plumaged Loons with Reference to the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, Second Edition.” Two years later he published “A Discussion of the Juvenile Plumages of *Melospiza* Sparrows as Seen in the Field in the Rocky Mountain Area,” Winter 1990, p. 73. Other identification articles concerned shorebirds, Oct. 1994, p. 171, and Sage Thrasher vs. Bendire’s Thrasher, Jan. 1997, p. 19.

Bob told us that he really likes shorebirds: good marsh scenery, the species look much alike, calls may help identify. “There are many hooks to get you interested.” He published “Shorebird Survey of North Park–Fall 1992” in *C.F.O. Journal*, Jan. 1993, pp. 30–34. This was followed by “The Occurrence of the Short-billed Dowitcher in Colorado and Suggested Criteria for Determining its Presence,” co-authored with Bob Andrews, *C.F.O. Journal* Oct. 1993, pp. 160–162. Another favorite group is the *Ammodramus* sparrows, such as Sharp-tailed Sparrow or Le Conte’s Sparrow. Some, rarely found in Colorado, are colorful, and hide in marshes.

Bob became a member of the Board of Directors of the Colorado Bird Observatory in 1993, and continues to serve at monthly directors’ meetings. He opines that “CBO is on a roll,” conducting excellent projects, such as working with private landowners on “Prairie Partners.”

Bob was an active field worker and author for the *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas*. He covered 18 Atlas blocks, participated in many a block-buster “Rendezvous,” wrote 5 species accounts, served on the Steering Committee, and for three years served as Treasurer. He didn’t select species for the

accounts he wrote—Western Grebe, Clark’s Grebe, Green-tailed Towhee, Lazuli Bunting, and Indigo Bunting—they were just assigned to him by Hugh Kingery. His Atlas blocks included the Town of Vail, where he has a second home, and many blocks on the eastern plains.

Inspired by Dr. Richard Beidleman, Bob became increasingly interested in the history of ornithological discoveries. He has accumulated a large library dealing with this subject. He co-authored with Chris Blakeslee “Bird Species and Subspecies Discovered for Science in Colorado,” *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*, Jan. 1999, pp. 15–34.

Bob uses a room in his home as his office for bird study. His computer is surrounded by cases of ornithology texts. Think of a major bird book—Bob probably has it. Someday his collection may be donated to a natural history institution. He pointed out to us the three-volume set by Alexander F. Skutch, *Life Histories of Central American Birds* (1954, 1960, 1969), which he conceded is now hard to find.

Bird Songs of the Rocky Mountain States and Provinces

These recordings were also inspired out of frustration, because very few recordings were available for birds of our region. Bob made up personal tapes from all of the other available tapes, but found that much was still missing. At a Partners in Flight meeting in Estes Park, Bob met Greg Budney of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Greg suggested that Bob take Cornell’s recording class in the Sierras in California, and Bob did, for 10 days. Bob and Greg got to know one another better during the class, and Bob sent a proposal to Greg for a recording project, which was approved by Cornell Lab.

Bob spent a lot of time at the Cornell Library of Natural Sounds, which has amassed a huge quantity of bird recordings, over 6,000 species. The library is organized by the recorder, not by species. Greg knew which ones to use, especially Geof Keller, who for many years had been one of the best field recorders. (Geof was a medical technician in Oregon, who had previously published an audio guide to birds of southeastern Arizona.) Bob found many great recordings in the archives which had never been published, and a very good technician, Steve Pantle, familiar with the library, helped Bob piece together extracts.

Bob viewed himself mainly as the editor for the final recording product. He visited Cornell two more times, and made the final choices of which recordings to include. He also wrote the first draft of text describing calls, and Greg edited the final version. Bob describes the final audio guide as “a phenomenal display

of vocalization by species.” It was released in 1999 on both CD and cassette (ABA offers each at \$29.95, 3 CDs or 3 double-sided cassettes), with over three hours of listening enjoyment. The audio guide covers 259 species, attempting to provide for each species all of the songs and calls each is known to make. (For example, for *Empidonax* flycatchers, more sounds were presented than had ever been published before.)

Bob made a number of the recordings himself, several of species not previously recorded. He made the first known recording of the Black Swift, recorded at dawn, the result of 150 hours of his efforts, including three weeks over three years at Ouray, Colorado. This is described in “Recording of Black Swift Vocalizations in Ouray, Colorado,” *C.F.O. Journal*, Jan. 1994, pp. 22–23. Also included in the guide are Bob’s tapes of a Northern Pygmy-Owl, the first known recording from the southern Rocky Mountains. This is further reported in “Description of a Northern Pygmy-Owl Vocalization from the Southern Rocky Mountains”, *C.F.O. Journal*, Jan. 1995, pp. 21–23.

Bob carries his recording equipment when he travels. One of his prized recordings is of a Baird’s Sandpiper in the San Luis Valley, its notes picked up by his parabolic reflector microphone only 10 yards away.

Bob made many of the Colorado recordings in the audio guide, including the Band-tailed Pigeon (apparently one of only a few recordings of it in North America), Hammond’s Flycatcher, Cordilleran Flycatcher, and Juniper Titmouse, among others.

In recent months, Bob has presented a number of programs to local bird clubs and Audubon societies about the audio guide. For example, on Nov. 3, 1999, he presented to DFO “Bird Songs of the Rocky Mountain States and Provinces Audio Field Guide,” a combination of recordings, slides, and humorous historical comments. He presented the program again to Arkansas Valley Audubon Society in Pueblo Jan. 14, 2000.

Current Bird Activities

Bob does not do as much bird watching around Denver as he would like, as current projects command too much of his time and attention when he is home. To do sustained birding, he needs to go away! Shortly before our interview he had returned from a four-day birding trip to Texas.

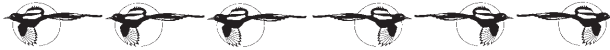
Bob has never been a lister. He doesn’t keep a list of anything, no life list, year list, yard list, nothing. He now regrets this, wishing that he had done more listing over the years. Listing would be fun! Starting a year list is a good

incentive to get out more often for birding. (Bob seldom chase rarities or listens to the rare bird reports either!)

Bob is now working on another book, *Birds of Western Colorado, Plateau and Mesa Country*. He feels that western Colorado is greatly under-appreciated, and this book will present lots of new information about the birds of the region, as well as include a “where to find” section. Bob is the overall editor. Rich Levad is writing the species accounts, Coen Dexter is digging out records, Kim Potter is producing range maps, and Don Radovich will be providing illustrations. He anticipates the book will be published in about two to three years.

Currently, Bob is working on a CBO project with Bob Andrews, Mike Carter, and Tony Leukering: an annotated check-list for the Barr Lake region. Over 100 years of records have been accumulating, representing the only area within the Rocky Mountain States with such an extensive set of bird records.

Bob’s interest in birds has not faded, but has increased over the years. As he has built his knowledge base, he is flooded with more questions. As he gains more of a feel for a bird, he wants to learn yet more, and “more hooks” pull him along—to the benefit of us all!



CFO SUPPORTS ETHICS CODES

The Colorado Field Ornithologists is dedicated to the conservation of avian species and to increasing the public awareness of human impact on birds. As one step toward achieving these goals, the CFO Board has endorsed the American Birding Association’s (ABA) *Birding Code of Ethics* and the Ornithological Council (OC) of North American Ornithological Societies’ *Code of Ethics*. The full text of the ABA *Code* and a synopsis of the OC *Code* can be found in the October 1999 issue of the *JCFO*.



A FLEDGLING LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE IMPALED ON CHOLLA

Scott W. Hutchings
Colorado Bird Observatory
13401 Piccadilly Road
Brighton, CO 80601

While birding at Chico Basin Ranch (Pueblo County) on 18 May 2000, I discovered a Loggerhead Shrike nest at 1600 hrs. The nest was placed in the center of a cholla (*Cylindropuntia imbricata*) that was approximately one meter tall. The nest contained six, well-developed young shrikes, five of which were in the nest and the sixth was perched on its rim. I assumed the young shrikes would fledge in 1–2 days. I returned the following day at 1100 hrs and observed three young shrikes in the nest. Seven meters away, a young shrike still alive, was impaled on the top branch of a cholla approximately 0.25 meters tall. Thorns had pierced the shrike through the body, wings, thigh, and one leg. The shrike was alert, but immobile except for its head and neck. I grasped the shrike in a bander's grip and extracted it from the cholla. Several thorns from the cholla broke off from the cactus and remained stuck in the shrike's body and leg. I removed the thorns, was bitten several times while doing so, and then placed the shrike under a small sagebrush shrub. The shrike quickly hopped under the shrub. I assume the young shrike took its first flight from the nest and suffered a bad landing. The attentiveness of the shrike leads me to believe it was not impaled for an extended period of time and that it had a good chance to recover from its injuries.

Conservation Focus**MODELING THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE
ON THE SUMMER DISTRIBUTIONS OF COLORADO'S
NONGAME BIRDS**

Jeff Price

Director of Climate Change Impact Studies

American Bird Conservancy

PMB 146

6525 Gunpark Drive, Suite 370

Boulder, CO 80301

The Earth's climate is changing. According to the World Meteorological Organization (1999) the 1990s were the warmest decade and the 1900s the warmest century of the last 1000 years. Of the more than 100 years for which instrument records are available, 1998 was the warmest year on record and 7 of the top 10 warmest years all occurred in the 1990s. Even 1999, largely expected to be cooler than average due to the effects of La Niña, was the 5th warmest year on record and the 21st year in a row where the average global surface temperature was above normal. The annual global mean temperature is now 1.3°F (0.7°C) above those recorded at the beginning of the century. Limited data from other sources indicate the global mean temperature for the 20th century to be at least as warm as any other period since approximately 1400 AD (IPCC 1996).

Compared with pre-industrial times, there have been significant increases in the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O) in the atmosphere (IPCC 1996). This, in turn, has led to an increase in radiative forcing and an enhancement of the natural greenhouse effect. Increases in these greenhouse gases can largely be attributed to human activities including the burning of fossil fuels and land use changes (including deforestation). This information, in part, led to the IPCC (1996) statement that "the balance of evidence suggests that there is a discernable human influence on global climate." The increases in greenhouse gases (past and projected), coupled with the length of time these gasses remain in the atmosphere, are expected to cause a continued increase in global temperatures. Models estimate that the average global temperature, relative to 1990 values, will rise by 3.6°F (range 1.8°F–6.3°F) (2°C; range 1°C–3.5°C) by the year 2100 (IPCC 1996).

The warming in some areas, especially land areas in the Northern Hemisphere, is projected to be even greater. For the western United States, models project an annual average temperature increase of between 7°F and 9.5°F (4.0°C–5.3°C) (VEMAP 2000). Many climate models also project an overall increase in evaporation leading to some increases in precipitation but to declines in soil moisture, possibly leading to lower lake levels and river flows (USEPA 1997).

Climate change could impact Colorado's forests and grasslands. Depending on the climate change model used, preliminary results project that the extent of forests could change little or could decrease by 15%–30% (USEPA 1997). Possible changes include shifts of grasslands into forested areas in western Colorado and a northward expansion of piñon-juniper forests. Overall, montane ecosystems will likely shift upslope, potentially changing the extent of subalpine and alpine vegetation in the state (USEPA 1997).

The greatest impact on wildlife and vegetation may not be from climate change itself, but rather from the rate of change. Given enough time, many species would likely be able to adapt to changes in the climate. However, the current projected rate of warming is thought to be greater than has occurred at any time in the last 10,000 years (IPCC 1996). This rate of change could lead to changes in Colorado's avifauna.

Methods

The summer ranges of birds are often assumed to be tightly linked to particular habitats. This is only partially true. While certain species are usually only found in certain habitats (e.g., Kirtland's Warbler breeding in jack pine forests), others are more flexible in their habitat use. Species found in a particular habitat type throughout their summer range may not be found in apparently equivalent habitat outside of their range. Birds are also limited in their distributions by their physiology and the availability of food. The link between physiology and the winter distributions of many species is well known (Kendeigh 1934, Root 1988a, 1988b). Recent research is also showing that physiology plays a strong role in summer distributions, including influencing habitat use (Dawson 1992, T. Martin, pers. comm.). While habitat selection, food availability, and competition may all play a role in influencing the *local* distribution of a given bird species, looking at a species' overall distribution often yields different results.

To determine how the summer distributions of birds might change, it is first necessary to look at whether there is any association between bird distributions and climate. If an association exists then the 'current' climate can be projected into the future to see how bird distributions might change. I used

logistic regression to develop models of the associations between bird distributions (from Breeding Bird Survey [BBS] data) and 18 climate variables. The climate variables used in these models act as surrogates for the many factors that may limit a species distribution, including physiology, habitat, and food availability. These models were then statistically validated against a separate data set, and then graphically checked to see if the model distribution was similar to a distribution based on a similar data source (Price et al. 1995). The results indicated that the summer distributions of many North American birds can actually be modeled quite well based on climate alone.

The next step was to examine how bird distributions might change in relation to the equilibrium output from the Canadian Climate Center's General Circulation Model (CCC-GCM). The equilibrium output projects how the climate might look once CO₂ has doubled from pre-industrial levels, and estimates what the average climate conditions may be sometime in the next 75 to 100 years. This climate model was chosen because it is one of the standard models used in impact analyses. The differences between the modeled current climate and the modeled future 2xCO₂ climate, both derived from the CCC-GCM2, were applied to the original climate variables used in developing the bird-climate models. The bird distribution models were run using these new, 2xCO₂-derived climate variables. The combined bird-2xCO₂ climate models were then used to create maps of the projected summer distributions of many North American birds (see Figure 1 for an example). A complete explanation of the methods used to develop the models and maps has been published elsewhere (Price 1995, Price in press).

Distributional models and maps have been developed for almost all passerine bird species. While the results of the models cannot be used to look at the fine points of how a given species' distribution might change, they can provide an impression of the direction and potential magnitude of the change. The following list of changes to Colorado's avifauna was prepared by comparing the maps of projected summer bird ranges with the maps and information found in Andrews and Righter (1992).

Results

Species possibly extirpated as summer residents in Colorado: Olive-sided Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Sage Thrasher, Brown Thrasher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Wilson's Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Field Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, McCown's Longspur, Bobolink, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, and Evening

Grosbeak.

Species whose summer range in Colorado may possibly contract: Dusky Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Solitary Vireo*, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Chipping Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin, and American Goldfinch.

Species whose summer range in Colorado may possibly expand: Black Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Chihuahuan Raven, Bewick's Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Cassin's Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Great-tailed Grackle, and Bullock's Oriole.

Species whose future range may include Colorado: Vermilion Flycatcher, Cactus Wren, Pyrrhuloxia, Painted Bunting, and Bronzed Cowbird.

*This analysis was performed before the split of the Solitary Vireo complex.

Discussion

These lists are not all-inclusive, as the results obtained from the models of some species were not adequate to assess how their ranges might change. Nor do the lists include those species whose ranges will likely undergo little change. Finally, these lists are based on the output from a single, commonly used climate model. There are many different models and the results vary between them. While the magnitude of the temperature increase is somewhat similar between models, the projected precipitation changes are often different. The use of output from different climate models may therefore yield somewhat different results. In addition, the geographic scale of these models, like those of the underlying climate change model, is quite coarse. As such, the models are unable to take into account localized topographic changes and the possible existence of suitable microclimates—along rivers, for example. Therefore, some of the species projected to be extirpated from an area may be able to persist if a suitable microclimate is available, especially in higher montane areas, on north-facing slopes, or in riparian areas.

How quickly these distributional changes might occur is unknown. The rate of

change will largely depend on whether the limits to a given species' distribution are more closely linked with climate, vegetation, or some other factor. The rate of change will also likely be tied to the rate of change of the climate itself. If the climate changes relatively slowly, then the species may be able to adapt to the new climate. However, changes could occur relatively quickly. In a pilot study I found that the average latitude of occurrence of 43% of the warblers has already shifted significantly farther north in the last 20 years, by an average distance of greater than 43 miles (70 km). In contrast, only 3 species (6%) were found significantly farther south. In most of the remaining warbler species, the latitudinal change showed a northward trend, but not enough to be statistically significant (Price, unpublished data).

Shifts in the distributions of individual species are only part of the story. It is unlikely that the ranges of coexisting species will shift in concert. Bird communities, as we currently know them, will probably look quite different in the future. As species move, they most likely will face new prey, predators, and competitors. So-called "optimal" habitats may no longer exist, at least in the short term. The potential rates-of-change of birds and the plants that shape their habitats are often quite different. While most birds may be able to respond quickly to a changing climate, the ranges of plants may take from decades to centuries to move (Davis and Zabiniski 1992).

Do changes in bird distributions even matter? Ignoring aesthetic, cultural, and stewardship issues (which are all important), there are still economic and ecological reasons with which to be concerned. For example, watching and feeding wildlife (primarily birds) contributed more than \$792 million to Colorado's economy in 1996 (US DOI 1997). Estimating how changes in bird distributions might affect the economics of watching and feeding birds is difficult. Although some birdwatchers might adjust to changes in distributions and diminished species richness, there could also be changes in the amount of money spent watching wildlife in Colorado as people travel elsewhere to see the birds.

Birds are critical components of their ecosystems. The ecological services provided by birds include, but are not limited to, seed dispersal, plant pollination, and pest control. Their role in the control of economically important insect pests should not be underestimated. Birds have been known to eat up to 98% of the overwintering codling moth larvae in orchards (Kirk et al. 1996) and several species of warblers are thought to be largely responsible for holding down numbers of spruce budworm larvae, eating up to 84% of the non-outbreak larvae (Crawford and Jennings 1989).

In summary, a high probability exists that climate change could cause changes in the distributions of birds. Even a relatively small change in average temperature could impact bird distributions within the state. These changes could occur (and probably are occurring) relatively quickly. While these changes may have some ecological and, possibly, economic effects, the magnitude of these effects is unknown.

Acknowledgments

This study was funded by a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and American Bird Conservancy. The views expressed herein are solely those of the author and do not represent the official opinion of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Literature Cited

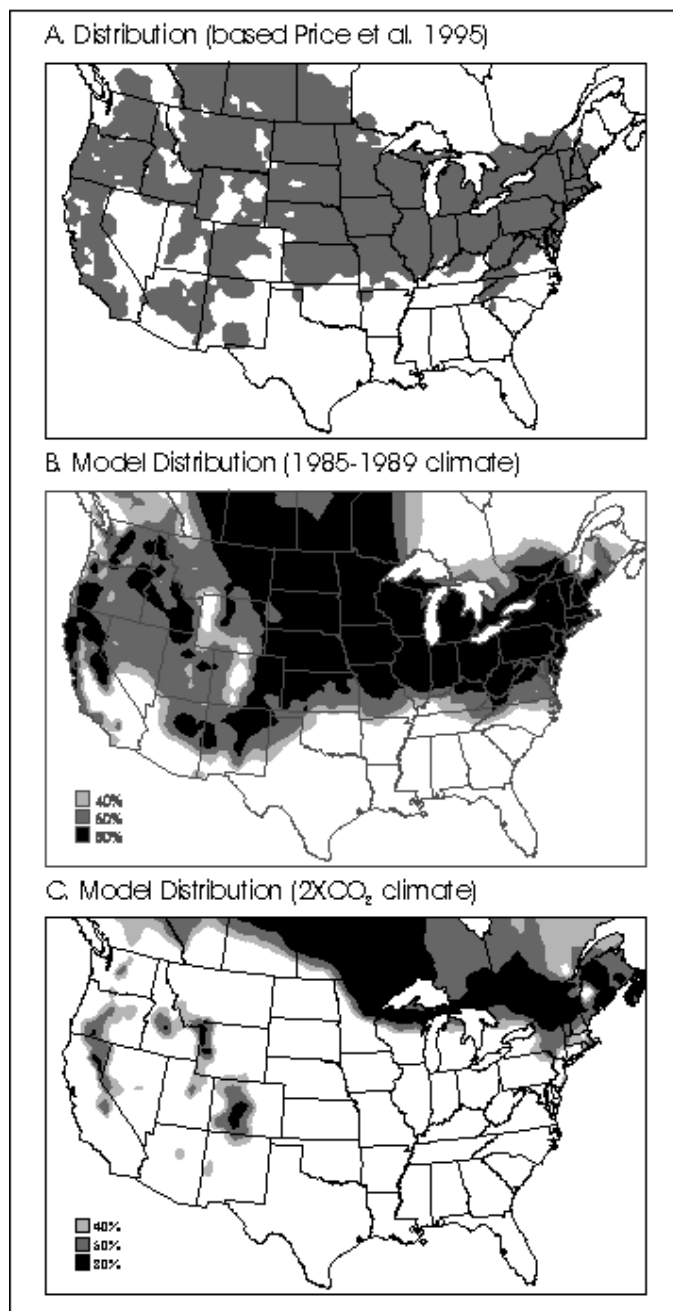
- Andrews, R. and R. Righter. 1992. Colorado Birds. Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, CO.
- Crawford, H.S. and D.T. Jennings. 1989. Predation of birds on spruce budworm *Choristoneura fumiferana*: functional, numerical, and total responses. *Ecology* 70:152–163.
- Davis, M.B. and C. Zabinski. 1992. Changes in geographical range resulting from greenhouse warming: effects on biodiversity in forests. Pp. 297–308 in R. L. Peters and T. E. Lovejoy. Global Warming and Biological Diversity. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT.
- Dawson, W. R. 1992. Physiological responses of animals to higher temperatures. Pp. 158–170 in R. L. Peters and T. E. Lovejoy. Global Warming and Biological Diversity. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT.
- [IPCC] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 1996. Summary for Policymakers. Pp. 3–7 in J.T. Houghton, L.G. Meira Filho, B.A. Callander, N. Harris, A Kattenberg and K. Maskell, eds. Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England.
- Kendeigh, S. C. 1934. The role of environment in the life of birds. *Ecological Monographs* 4:297–417.
- Kirk, D. A., M. D. Evenden and P. Mineau. 1996. Past and current attempts to evaluate the role of birds as predators of insect pests in temperate agriculture. Pp. 175–269 in V. Nolan, Jr. and E. D. Ketterson. *Current Ornithology*, Volume 13. Plenum Press, New York, NY.
- Price, J. T. In press. Potential Impacts of Climate Change on the Summer Distributions of Some North American Grassland Birds. U.S.G.S. Technical Report.
- Price, J. T. 1995. Potential Impacts of Global Climate Change on the Summer

- Distributions of Some North American Grassland Birds. Ph.D. Dissertation, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.
- Price, J., S. Droege and A. Price. 1995. The Summer Atlas of North American Birds. Academic Press, San Diego, CA.
- Root, T. L. 1988a. Environmental factors associated with avian distributional boundaries. *Journal of Biogeography* 15:489–505.
- Root, T. L. 1988b. Energetic constraints on avian distributions and abundances. *Ecology* 69:330–339.
- [USDOI] U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 1997. 1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.
- [USEPA] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 1997. Climate change and Colorado. U.S. EPA Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation report 230-F-97-008f. U.S. EPA, Washington, DC.
- VEMAP. 2000. VEMAP Tables of Means and Variances. Available from: <http://www.cgd.ucar.edu/naco/vemap/vemtab.html>
- World Meteorological Association. 1999. Press release. Available from: <http://www.wmo.ch/web/Press/Press644.html>
-

(Facing page) **Figure 1. A.** Map depicting the distribution of House Wren as detected by the Breeding Bird Survey. This map is based on one in Price et al. (1995). **B.** Map depicting a **model** of the current distribution of House Wren based solely upon the climate of 1985–1989. Scale represents the probability of the species' occurrence, shaded areas depicting the distribution of the species. **C.** Map depicting the possible distribution of House Wren under the doubled CO₂ climate conditions projected by the CCC-GCM. Scale represents the probability of the species' occurrence, shaded areas depicting the distribution of the species.



House Wren



REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 1998 RECORDS

Bill Lisowsky, Chairman
2919 Silverplume Dr.
Fort Collins, CO 80526
ncswpl@aol.com

This report covers the rare bird records reviewed by the Colorado Field Ornithologists Bird Records Committee (hereafter the CBRC or the committee) for 1998. The committee evaluated 161 records of 101 species (including one hybrid) submitted by 71 observers. Twenty-three of the reports were accompanied by photographs, sketches, or field drawings, and two included videotapes. Each of the 161 records has received definitive votes by the CBRC through initial circulation, re-circulation, and consultation, and is presented here. An additional four records that had previously received non-definitive votes (Gyr Falcon 1997-22, Eurasian Collared-Dove 1997-47, Painted Bunting 1997-105 and Purple Finch 1997-108) were resolved per CBRC by-laws at a meeting of the committee and the results are included herein. One hundred thirty-one of the 1998 records were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 81%. The majority of records are birds observed in 1998. Per CBRC bylaws, all "accepted" records received 7-0 or 6-1 votes to accept, either on the initial circulation or on the re-circulation. All records that were "not accepted" received fewer than four votes to accept either on initial circulation or on re-circulation, or more than one "not-accept" vote during the meeting of the committee.

Two species, Curlew Sandpiper and Green Violet-ear are added to the Colorado State list as a result of the 1998 circulation and are published in this report. Other potential first state records (California Condor, White-tailed Kite, Common Ground-Dove, Gilded Flicker, Red-throated Pipit, and Black-chinned Sparrow) were not accepted and are also published in this report. The Colorado State List stands at 465 species following these additions.

Other highlights of this report include second accepted records of White Ibis and Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Colorado. Two species that were "split" by the AOU in 1997 and whose review status is still unclear, Blue-headed Vireo and Eastern Towhee, had additional records submitted in 1998. The committee encourages observers to submit all observations of these species for the next few years so a better determination can be made on how often these species occur in the state.

It was encouraging to see some older records that observers had let “slip through the cracks” years ago were being submitted this year. The old adage of “better late than never” is certainly true. As long as you use the original notes you have and only report what you have seen there is no problem with submitting old records. That goes for re-submitting previously non-accepted records too. This year we had several previously reviewed reports come in with clarified information, other observer documentation, or updated reference materials that we considered.

The committee’s membership at the close of the 1998 was: Bill Lisowsky (chairman), Joey Kellner, Tony Leukering, Joe Mammoser, John Rawinski, Chris Wood, and Vic Zerbi. With the endorsement of the CBRC, Karleen Schofield was appointed by the C.F.O. board at the end of 1998 to fill Joey Kellner’s expiring term. Tony Leukering agreed to serve an additional three-year term. Karleen and Tony will serve from 2000-2002.

Committee Functions: All records reviewed by the CBRC are archived at the Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80205-5798. All written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and sound recordings are housed at the Museum and are available for public review. The committee solicits documentation on all species on its review list (Janos 1998), on unusual occurrences by date or location, and on species unrecorded in Colorado.

Please send rare bird documentation and any other committee correspondence either to: Bill Lisowsky, CBRC Chairman, 2919 Silverplume Dr., Ft. Collins, CO 80526; or to the Colorado Field Ornithologists Records Committee, c/o Zoological Collection, Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80205-5798.

Report Format: This report is divided into three parts. Part 1 consists of records that were accepted and Parts 2 and 3 consist of records that were not accepted—either for reasons of identification, questions of natural occurrence, or origin. Species are listed in current A.O.U. taxonomic order (AOU 1998). Within species, records are listed chronologically by first date of occurrence. Included with each accepted record is its location, including county, date(s) of occurrence, the record accession number (note the recently modified format of “four digit year - record number,” e.g. “1998-55”) and the initials of observers who submitted reports. If known, the initials of reporting observers who discovered the bird(s) are underlined. The date span follows the submitted record date(s). Records are sight records unless otherwise

noted. An asterisk (*) prior to a species' name indicates that it is not currently on the CBRC's review list. For species with ten or fewer Colorado records, the number in parentheses following the species' name is the number of records accepted by the CBRC through this reporting period.

Abbreviations used in the report: Co. (County); CBC (Christmas Bird Count); CC (Community College); NP (National Park); Res. (Reservoir); SP (State Park); SWA (State Wildlife Area); WE (Wildlife Easement).

Part 1: RECORDS ACCEPTED:

RED-THROATED LOON - *Gavia stellata*. An immature bird was at Chatfield Res. (Jefferson Co.) on 12/1/95. (BKP; 1998-1)

***PACIFIC LOON** - *Gavia pacifica*. A rare western slope record, one was seen at Confluence Park (Delta Co.) on 12/11/98. (KP; 1998-2)

YELLOW-BILLED LOON - *Gavia adamsii*. A basic-plumaged bird, first located by Dave Quesenberry, was at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) from 12/26/98 through at least 3/18/99. (BKP, MJ; 1998-3)

RED-NECKED GREBE - *Podiceps grisegena*. A first-winter bird was seen at Cherry Creek Res. (Arapahoe Co.) on 10/31/98. (DQ; 1998-4)

LITTLE BLUE HERON - *Egretta caerulea*. A juvenal-plumaged bird was seen in Adams Co. near Lochbuie on 8/1/98. (TL; 1998-6)

TRICOLORED HERON - *Egretta tricolor*. An adult visited Union Res. (Weld Co.) on 5/16/98 to 5/18/98. (PP, TL; 1998-7)

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - *Nyctanassa violacea*. Two records were accepted. An adult in breeding plumage was seen at Valco Ponds (Pueblo Co.) on 3/28/98 (MJ; 1998-8). A bird at Lower Queens Res. (Kiowa Co.) on 9/16/98 was a second year bird. (MJ; 1998-10)

WHITE IBIS - *Eudocimus albus* (2). This extremely rare bird, an adult, is believed to have moved between Bayfield (La Plata Co.) and Blanca Wetlands (Alamosa Co.) during the period of 4/15/98 and 5/5/98. (LA, JK, JRa, LR; JK and JRa photos; 1998-11)

GLOSSY IBIS - *Plegadis falcinellus*. A big year for this species and perhaps indicative of a real trend as five different records were accepted. A breeding-plumaged adult was seen near Lake Meredith (Crowley Co.) during the period of 4/11/98 to 4/19/98. (MJ; 1998-12) For the third time in the past four years, one was seen along Buckley Road (Adams Co.) on 4/18/98. This bird was also an adult in breeding plumage. (RO; 1998-13) On 4/22/98, an adult was seen feeding with White-faced Ibis at Metro Lake near Colorado City (Pueblo Co.). (DSi; 1998-14) Duane Nelson found two other birds at Lower Queens Res. (Kiowa Co.) on 5/

4/98, and then at least one was later re-sighted by others on 5/5/98. (DS; 1998-15) The fifth record from the spring of 1998 was of an adult found on 5/14/98 near Holbrook Res. (Otero Co.). (KS; 1998-16)

TRUMPETER SWAN - *Cygnus buccinator*. This bird offered direct comparison to a Tundra Swan for an extended period of time but the only submitted report of the widely viewed bird at Dodd Res. (Boulder Co.) was on 3/10/98. (LC, photos; NS; 1998-19)

EURASIAN WIGEON - *Anas penelope*. The Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) streak of annual visits continued, though much earlier than previous records, as Dave Leatherman found an eclipse male (same bird as past years?) on 10/19/97. This bird completed its molt to basic plumage as it stayed until at least 2/15/98 at Edora Park and other small ponds in the vicinity. (DAL, DCE, RO, SJD; 1998-20)

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - *Anas rubripes*. The recent trend of numerous sightings continues. A male in alternate plumage was seen at Neenoshe Res. (Kiowa Co.) on 1/25/98. (TL; 1998-21) A female was found at Woods Lake (Weld Co.) on 1/30/98 and re-sighted on 1/31/98. (SJD; 1998-22) An adult female was first noted on 1/25/98 at Bittersweet Park in Greeley (Weld Co.). The bird remained for the better part of a week, with the last report made on 2/1/98. (NK, DS, SJD, JMa, PG, RO; 1998-23)

***SURF SCOTER** - *Melanitta perspicillata*. An adult male was seen and photographed near Monte Vista (Rio Grande Co.) from 5/5/98 to 5/7/98. (JRa, photo; LR; 1998-27)

***WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** - *Melanitta fusca*. A female or immature was seen 12/10/98 at the Colorado River near Dotsero in Eagle Co. (JM; 1998-28)

BLACK SCOTER - *Melanitta nigra*. Barr Lake (Adams Co.) hosted an adult male on 10/18/98. (RO; 1998-29)

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - *Buteo lineatus*. Always a difficult identification problem, two different records were accepted in 1998. An immature was seen at Rocky Ford SWA (Otero Co.) on 3/1/98 (MJ; 1998-33), and a first-summer bird was seen and carefully documented at Gregory Canyon (Boulder Co.) on 5/29/98. (PG; 1998-35)

***BROAD-WINGED HAWK** - *Buteo platypterus*. A dark-morph bird seen 11/7/97 at Barr Lake (Adams Co.) was accepted. (LN; 1998-37)

GYRFALCON - *Falco rusticolus* (7 & 8). A previous submittal was updated and re-routed through the committee with additional documentation. The committee unanimously voted to accept the record of an injured, juvenile bird found near Center (Saguache Co.) on 12/13/97. (JRa, SD; 1997-22) Over 120 observers viewed the bird first found by Dr. Ronald

Ryder at Rawhide Power Plant (Larimer Co.) on 1/18/98, making it perhaps the most widely seen “Gyr” in Colorado. The bird remained until at least early February, thrilling many with acrobatic stoops on Canada Geese. (RAR, SR; SJD, photos; PG; BL, photos; 1998-38)

BLACK RAIL – *Laterallus jamaicensis* (6, 7 & 8). Brandon Percival heard and saw between one and six birds at two different locations during May of 1997. Ft. Lyon Marsh (Bent Co.) and Bent’s Old Fort Marsh (Otero Co.) were sites of a number of singing birds on 5/9/97 and 5/10/97. (BKP; 1998-39) Four birds were heard at Ft. Lyon Marsh (Bent Co.) the following year, on 5/9/98. (BKP; 1998-40) Yet another was heard at Two Buttes Res. on 5/24/98. This was the first accepted record from Baca Co. (BKP; 1998-41)

***UPLAND SANDPIPER** – *Bartramia longicauda*. The record from Meeker (Rio Blanco Co.) of one on 8/10/98 is one of very few from the western slope. (CH; 1998-42)

HUDSONIAN GODWIT – *Limosa haemastica*. A female in first spring or incomplete adult alternate plumage was seen near Lake Cheraw (Otero Co.) on 5/14/98. (BD; 1998-45) A male in alternate plumage was seen on 5/27/98 near Beebe Draw (Weld Co.) (DS; 1998-46)

RUDDY TURNSTONE - *Arenaria interpres*. On 9/11/98, a basic-plumaged adult was seen at Jackson Res. (Morgan Co.). (RO; 1998-47)

RED KNOT - *Calidris canutus*. One found several days earlier by Brandon Percival was still at Prewitt Res. (Washington Co.) on 9/19/98. (TL; 1998-48)

CURLEW SANDPIPER – *Calidris ferruginea*. (1) The exciting first state record of this species was found and identified by Duane Nelson. The bird was an alternate-plumaged female that was seen on 6/30/98 and 7/1/98 at Upper Queens Res. (Kiowa Co.). (DN photos; DS; 1998-49)

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER – *Tryngites subruficollis*. Of the twenty previously accepted records for this species, there is only one that is later than the juvenile bird still present at Prewitt Res. (Washington Co.) on 9/19/98. (TL; 1998-50) John Vanderpoel had originally found two birds there several days before.

LAUGHING GULL - *Larus atricilla*. 1998 was a very good year for this species. One was observed standing among hundreds of other gulls at Lower Latham Res. (Weld Co.) on 8/23/98. (JV; 1998-54) Another one, a second-year bird, was seen at Lake Cheraw (Otero Co.) on 9/13/98. (MJ; 1998-55) The third report came from Rocky Ford sewage ponds, (Otero Co.) of a first-year bird first found by Brandon Percival on 9/26/98. The bird remained until at least 10/11/98. (MJ; 1998-56)

LITTLE GULL - *Larus minutus*. A juvenile bird was reported and carefully

sketched at Prewitt Res. (Washington Co.) on 9/11/98. (RO; 1998-57)

BLACK-HEADED GULL – *Larus ridibundus*. (3) A first-winter bird was seen for nearly 45 minutes at Chatfield Res. (Jefferson Co. and Douglas Co.) on 10/27/97. It was first seen on the water, sleeping, preening and actively looking around. It then flew around to within 40 meters of the discoverer, Chris Wood. (CW; 1998-58)

MEW GULL - *Larus canus*. An adult bird was seen standing on the ice at Valco Ponds (Pueblo Co.) on 12/21/96 during the Pueblo Res. CBC. (BKP; 1998-59) On 12/5/98, a second-basic bird was seen along the shore at Union Res. (Weld Co.) (PS; 1998-60)

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – *Larus fuscus*. This is a species that is definitely becoming more common in Colorado. There were four records in 1998, all within an eight-day period. A second-basic bird was at Lake Loveland (Larimer Co.) on 12/13/98. (PS; 1998-61) During the Pueblo Res. CBC on 12/19/98, Tony Leukering found a Basic IV or Definitive Basic bird at Pueblo Res. (Pueblo Co.) that remained until at least 12/22/98. (TL, MJ; 1998-62) A bird in Definitive Basic, found by Brandon Percival and Chris Wood, was seen during the Penrose CBC on 12/20/98 at Cañon City. (Fremont Co.) (TL; 1998-63) Another adult was seen on the Rocky Ford CBC at a small pond east of Rocky Ford (Otero Co.) on 12/21/98. (TL; 1998-64)

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL – *Larus glaucescens*. (7) A first-winter bird was seen at Valco Ponds (Pueblo Co.) on 1/24/98. (JR; 1998-65)

***GLAUCOUS GULL** – *Larus hyperboreus*. A sub-adult was seen at Lake Loveland (Larimer Co.) on 4/20/98. (NK; 1998-66)

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - *Rissa tridactyla*. This record was originally circulated in 1996 as #23-96-28 but was not accepted by a vote of 3-4 because it was deemed to be incomplete. It was a first-winter bird seen at Hamilton Res. (Larimer Co.) on 11/27/88 through 11/28/88 (year correct) that was re-submitted with additional information and accepted. (DAL, photo; 1998-67)

***LEAST TERN** – *Sterna antillarum*. J. B. Hayes first found this bird well north and west of its normal range, at Chatfield Res. (Douglas Co.) on 7/7/98. It was re-sighted on 7/8/98. (JK; 1998-68)

ANCIENT MURRELET – *Synthliboramphus antiquus*. (4) The well-documented bird that was rescued and rehabilitated in Louisville (Boulder Co.) was accepted. A newspaper article in the **Daily Camera** chronicled its ill-advised landing in a busy intersection early on the morning of 11/1/95, subsequent treatment at the Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Foundation and planned return flight to California. (JH; 1998-69)

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - *Zenaida asiatica*. There were four records

reviewed, a very high number for one year. An adult bird was seen at Two Buttes SWA (Baca Co.) on 5/2/98. (KS; 1998-71) Another bird frequented a feeder near Wiley (Prowers Co.) between 6/7/98 and 6/21/98. (JT, photos; 1998-72) A calling bird was in Greenwood Village (Arapahoe Co.) on 6/24/98. (JR; 1998-73) Suggestive of local breeding, an adult and two grown young were seen on 9/16/98 at Rocky Ford (Otero Co.). (MJ; 1998-74)

INCA DOVE - *Columbina inca*. (7) A single bird was seen in a Colorado Springs backyard (El Paso Co.) on 9/22/98. (AV; 1998-75)

***WESTERN SCREECH-OWL** - *Otus kennicottii*. Good documentation of a very easterly and northerly record submitted from Franktown (Douglas Co.) on 5/19/98 and 5/20/98. (HK, UK; 1998-77)

SNOWY OWL - *Nyctea scandiaca*. (9) A private landowner spotted this bird on 2/14/98 and reported it to local birders who were able to re-locate and photograph it until at least 3/1/98. The bird was near Wiley (Prowers Co.) in a shortgrass prairie, where it favored a crumpled stock tank in that field. (JT, MJ; 1998-78)

LESSER NIGHTHAWK - *Chordeiles acutipennis*. A bird first found by Coen Dexter at the Clifton ponds near Grand Junction (Mesa Co.) was re-sighted on 6/11/98, among some of its "common" relatives. (PL; 1998-79)

GREEN VIOLET-EAR - *Colibri thalassinus*. (1) This amazing first state record frequented a feeder near Durango (La Plata Co.) on 7/25/98 and 7/26/98. The bird gave a "loud clicking sound" each time it approached the feeder, which certainly helped observers spot and document it. This southern vagrant has now been seen in most of the states due north of Texas, and is consistent with a mid-to-late summer dispersal pattern. (MP, photos; 1998-80)

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - *Archilochus colubris*. (2) Ruth Russell banded a sub-adult male near Powderhorn (Gunnison Co.) on a surprisingly late date of 10/1/98 that constitutes only the second accepted record for Colorado. (RR, SRu; 1998-82)

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD - *Calypte anna*. (7) A photographed male showed up at a Franktown (Douglas Co.) feeder on 5/16/98 and stayed until at least 6/6/98. (HD, KD, UK, HK (photos); 1998-84)

ACORN WOODPECKER - *Melanerpes formicivorus*. (4) An older sighting of 2-3 birds near Durango (La Plata Co.) on 6/25/95 was submitted and accepted. (HK, photo; 1998-85) A male was seen in this same area on 6/13/98, and now seems to be resident there. (TL; 1998-86)

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - *Contopus virens*. While birding on 5/23/98 at the Little Washington Work Center of the Comanche National Grassland, (Baca Co.) Dan Svingen heard a familiar though "out-of-

place” bird call that was quickly confirmed by others in the group. (DSv, IS, TL; 1998-88) Bill Tweit was visiting from out of state and heard one call at Sawhill Ponds (Boulder Co.) on 7/30/98, and was able to videotape it the next day and pass the word so others could find it. This bird stayed until at least 8/22/98. (BT, video, PG; 1998-89)

BLACK PHOEBE - *Sayornis nigricans*. Kim Potter had three different sightings on 3/22/98. One was at Uravan (Montrose Co.) (KP; 1998-90), one was at Calamity Bridge (Montrose Co.; KP; 1998-91), and one was near Gypsum Gap. (San Miguel Co.) (KP; 1998-92) Brandon Percival found one at Valco Ponds (Pueblo Co.) on 4/21/98. (MJ; 1998-93) Two birds, most likely a male and female, were at Big Gypsum Valley Bridge in San Miguel Co. on 7/6/98. (KP; 1998-94)

WHITE-EYED VIREO - *Vireo griseus*. A bird first reported on 5/10/98 at Chatfield SP (Jefferson Co.) was seen by many observers through at least 5/26/98. The bird sang repeatedly and was well seen on several occasions. (DS, DQ, photo; 1998-95)

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - *Vireo flavifrons*. A group of folks spotted this adult bird in breeding plumage at Fort Lyon WE (Bent Co.) on 5/1/98 and 5/2/98. (MJ, DQ; 1998-96)

***CASSIN’S VIREO** – *Vireo cassinii*. It is great that folks continue to submit reports on the Solitary Vireo splits while we try to establish a clear pattern and distribution for the three “new” species. This one was seen at Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver (Adams Co.) on 9/13/98. (UK, HK; 1998-98)

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - *Vireo solitarius*. The most uncommon of the three newly elevated species from the Solitary Vireo split, there are actually very few documented records in the state. Though there are certainly many other observations over the years, the bird seen at Barr Lake (Adams Co.) on 9/12/96 is only the fourth submittal. (TL; 1998-99) The CBRC encourages submission of old records of this form to help build a record of its occurrence in the state.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO – *Vireo philadelphicus*. The first bird of two rare sightings was mixed among a number of eastern vagrants that Mark Janos found at Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) on 9/5/98. (MJ; 1998-100) The second was of a bird that Dave Silverman found west of Pueblo City Park (Pueblo Co.) on 10/1/98. (DSi; 1998-101)

***CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN** – *Corvus cryptoleucus*. An extremely northerly record comes from Boulder (Boulder Co.) on 3/30/98, as a bird was feeding at a platform feeder and seen well. (BM; 1998-102)

CAROLINA WREN - *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. A singing bird found by Dave Silverman was still present near Olive Marsh (Pueblo Co.) on 3/16/98. (CW; 1998-103)

SEDGE WREN – *Cistothorus platensis*. John Prather heard and saw one of these normally secretive birds below the dam at Two Buttes Res. (Baca Co.) on 5/10/98 that others were able to re-find later. (JP, TL, LN; 1998-104)

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - *Catharus minimus*. Three records were received and accepted in 1998. One bird was seen on 5/9/98 at Ft. Lyon (Bent Co.) during the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) convention. (TL; 1998-105) Two other birds were also seen during the convention, at Lake Hasty (Bent Co.) on 5/8 and 5/9/98. (MJ; 1998-106) The third sighting was of one seen moving about on the ground at Crow Valley Campground on the Pawnee National Grassland (Weld Co.) on 5/19/98. (JR; 1998-107)

VARIED THRUSH - *Ixoreus naevius*. For the second time in recent years, one was seen at a Colorado State Forest Service nursery in Fort Collins (Larimer Co.). This reclusive female was first seen during the Fort Collins CBC on 12/20/97 but hung around until at least 1/10/98. (DAL; 1998-108)

PHAINOPEPLA – *Phainopepla nitens*. (9) Rosie Watts saw a male on 6/3/98 in Penrose (Fremont Co.) at the edge of a fish pond/birdbath. (RW; 1998-111) The second report was of a (probable adult) female that was found and photographed by Chris Wood at Prewitt Res. (Washington Co.) as it perched and hawked insects among some cottonwoods below the dam on 7/23/98. It was seen by a number of other birders for several days thereafter with the final reported sighting on 7/26/98. (CW, photos; DS; 1998-110)

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - *Vermivora pinus*. Dave Silverman and Dave Johnson found a female at Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) on the morning of 5/2/98. Others were able to find the bird the next day. (DSi, MJ, RO, DQ; 1998-81) Another record, a male at Lamar CC in Prowers Co. on 5/20/98, was submitted and accepted. (BKP; 1998-112) Joe Mammoser found a male singing along the Cache la Poudre River in Fort Collins on 6/4/98 that was re-located the next day by a birding tour that heard about it from local birders. (PL; 1998-113)

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - *Vermivora chrysoptera*. A male was found by Brandon Percival at Lake Henry (Crowley Co.) on 5/11/98 as it fed and sang in the mid-to-low levels of trees. (CW; 1998-114) Another male (an adult) was seen on 5/16/98 at Alamosa Canyon, near Capulin (Conejos Co.) as it fed in the tops of some cottonwoods. (JRa; 1998-115) The third report was also of an adult male, at Tamarack Ranch (Logan Co.) on 5/19/98. (DSi; 1998-116)

***CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** – *Dendroica pensylvanica*. A breeding-plumaged male was seen actively feeding about 40 feet up in some

aspens near McClure Pass (Pitkin Co.) on 6/18/98. (JBH; 1998-118)

***BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** – *Dendroica caerulescens*. A rare summer record came from Dolores (Montezuma Co.) on 6/28/98. Chris Wood was wandering around town waiting for a co-worker when he heard this bird singing in the distance. (CW; 1998-119) A fall report of another male, on 11/17/98, also came from the west slope at Animas Valley, near Durango (La Plata Co.). (GC; 1998-120)

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - *Dendroica fusca*. A breeding-plumaged male was seen at Boulder (Boulder Co.) on 5/26/98 in a fairly dense ponderosa pine forest as it sang. (BM; 1998-121) Another male was heard singing at Crow Valley Campground (Weld Co.) on 5/26/98. (CW; 1998-122) Brandon Percival found a male at Valco Ponds (Pueblo Co.) on 9/2/98. (MJ; 1998-123)

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER - *Dendroica dominica*. A male was found by Brandon Percival near Fort Lyon (Bent Co.) on 5/16/98. (RO, DQ, photos; 1998-124)

PINE WARBLER - *Dendroica pinus*. It pays to be attentive while you work. At the Washington Work Center in Baca Co. on 6/15/98, Dan Svingen noticed a warbler about 20 feet off the ground in a tree while he was working. It turned out to be an individual of this rare species. (DSv, IS 1998-125)

PRAIRIE WARBLER - *Dendroica discolor*. Always a rare find, a first-year female was seen at Fountain Creek Regional Park (El Paso Co.) between 8/24/98 and 9/5/98. (BBH, RO, DE, DQ, photos; 1998-126)

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - *Dendroica castanea*. A female was seen on 5/16/97 at the Lake Henry grove (Crowley Co.) amid the other exciting migrants. (BKP; 1998-127) Another female, this a first-year bird, was seen on 5/23/97 and 5/24/97 at Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) as it worked through some cottonwoods along Willow Creek. (BKP; 1998-97) A first-fall female was carefully described from Crow Valley Campground (Weld Co.) on 9/5/98. (SJD; 1998-128)

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER - *Protonotaria citrea*. An adult male was found as it sang at Crow Valley Campground (Weld Co.) on 5/26/98. (CW; 1998-129) A report of another male was received of a bird seen on 8/30/98 at Fountain Creek Regional Park (El Paso Co.). (BBH; 1998-130) The third report from 1998 was of a bird that Dave Leatherman found along the Poudre River Trail in Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) on 9/12/98 which remained and was seen again the next day by others. (DAL; 1998-131)

WORM-EATING WARBLER - *Helmitheros vermivorus*. This was a good year for a species that has begun to be recorded on multiple occasions nearly every year now. An actively-feeding bird was seen

as it flitted from the ground to lower tree branches at Bear Creek Park near Colorado Springs (El Paso Co.) on 5/1/98. (JoM; 1998-132) One was seen before and during the CFO convention at the Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) on 5/3/98 and what was probably the same bird was still present as late as May 9th. (DQ, photos; RO, MJ; 1998-133) A second bird that was also reported during this same convention was still present at Lake Hasty (Bent Co.) on 5/8/98. (MJ; 1998-134)

KENTUCKY WARBLER - *Oporornis formosus*. An adult was seen west of the Valco Ponds parking area (Pueblo Co.) on 10/17/96 after it gave itself away with its "chip" note. (BKP; 1998-137) A male was in the Gregory Canyon area in Boulder Co. on 6/7/98, singing its distinctive, loud song. It was still present on 7/31/98 in the same vicinity. (RO, BT; 1998-138)

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - *Oporornis agilis*. (7) An adult male was seen skulking along the creek and through the woodlands behind Lamar CC on 5/16/97. (BKP; 1998-139)

MOURNING WARBLER - *Oporornis philadelphia*. A spring adult was found along railroad tracks near Pueblo (Pueblo Co.) on 5/15/98. (DSi; 1998-140)

***HOODED WARBLER** - *Wilsonia citrina*. A mated pair on a nest with two eggs was monitored and documented at Gregory Canyon (Boulder Co.) between 5/15/98 and 8/1/98 by numerous observers and photographers. (PG, BW photos, BT, RS; 1998-141)

CANADA WARBLER - *Wilsonia canadensis*. On 5/21/98, a female popped up briefly on a currant bush at Crow Valley Campground (Weld Co.) to the delight of two birders. (JF; 1998-142) Brandon Percival found one at Two Buttes Res. (Baca Co.) on 9/4/98, which was seen through 9/7/98. (MJ; 1998-143)

SCARLET TANAGER - *Piranga olivacea*. A female or immature male was found by Brandon Percival during the CFO convention at Ft. Lyon WE (Bent Co.) on 5/8/98 to 5/10/98. (DQ, photos; MJ; 1998-161) On 5/11/98, a male was seen in Lincoln Co. east of Highway 71 on 3V road. (CW; 1998-145) A male was feeding on insects in the treetops in northern Fort Collins (Larimer Co.) on 7/22/98. (RK, AC, BBH; 1998-146)

EASTERN TOWHEE - *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. (4) This is another species for which Colorado has few documented records since the AOU split. This species also presents a tough identification challenge, due mostly to the occurrence of hybrid Eastern x Spotted Towhee individuals in eastern Colorado. Hearing the distinctive vocalizations of this species is an important separation criterion. The bird seen on 5/14/98 at the Julesburg Rest Area (Sedgwick Co.) was heard and

convincingly described. (NK; 1998-148)

***RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW** – *Aimophila ruficeps*. Two out-of-range birds were seen on the Penrose CBC (Fremont Co.) on 12/20/98. (DSi; 1998-150)

BAIRD'S SPARROW – *Ammodramus bairdii*. (8) A large, short-tailed “mouse” that was running down the tracks of a pasture road on the Comanche National Grassland (Baca Co.) turned out to be one of these rare sparrows for Dan Svingen. The bird was seen on 4/17/98, and exhibited its usual “hooked” flight pattern, followed by running through the grass away from the observer. (DSv; 1998-152)

LE CONTE'S SPARROW – *Ammodramus leconteii*. (8) Scott Roederer and Susan Ward found this bird during one of the Estes Park Bird Club field walks at Lake Estes (Larimer Co.) on 4/25/98. A beautiful photo taken by Dick Coe accompanied this carefully written report. (SRo, SW, DC photo; 1998-153)

***HARRIS'S SPARROW** – *Zonotrichia querula*. A very rare summer record was received of a male at Hot Sulphur Springs (Grand Co.) on 6/4/98. (ME; 1998-154)

PAINTED BUNTING – *Passerina ciris*. A female in a very uncommon plumage was seen at Lake Hasty (Bent Co.) on 5/17/97. Rather than the typical green overall, the lower part of the belly was grayish white. This bird was voted on during the 1997 record review but not resolved until accepted by the committee during its 1998 annual meeting. (MJ; 1997-105) A male was seen on the exceptionally early dates of 3/23/98 to 3/26/98, at a backyard feeder in Delta (Delta Co.) with a flock of sparrows. (MZ, SZ; 1998-156) Another adult male, though still very rare, was in a more likely location at Cottonwood Canyon (Baca Co.) on 5/23/98. (PGa; 1998-157)

***BALTIMORE ORIOLE** – *Icterus galbula*. An immature male was very late on 11/1/98, about a half mile from Pueblo City Park (Pueblo Co.) (DSi; 1998-158)

***COMMON REDPOLL** – *Carduelis flammea*. Eleven birds, consisting of adult males, females, and immatures were seen near Grand Junction (Mesa Co.) on 11/2/98. (EM; 1998-160)

Part 2 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable:

BROWN PELICAN – *Pelicanus occidentalis*. An immature bird reported from Pagosa Springs (Archuleta Co.) between 5/28/98 and 5/30/98, was most likely correctly identified but the report was felt to be too sketchy and the record was not accepted by a vote of 1-6 (1998-5).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – *Nyctanassa violacea*. The

submitted report of one from Timnath Res. (Larimer Co.) on 8/11/98 was intriguing, but judged to be incomplete primarily because the observation time was just too brief to completely rule out the possibility of Black-crowned Night-Heron. The vote was 0-7. (1998-9)

GLOSSY IBIS - *Plegadis falcinellus*. The committee struggled with this particularly tough identification challenge with a record from Neesopah (Kiowa Co.) on 7/13/98, before deciding by a re-circulation vote of 2-5 not to accept. (1998-17)

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - *Anas rubripes*. There is always the concern about possible hybridization between this species and Mallard. A bird seen at Little Gaynor Lake (Boulder Co.) on 10/20/98 was especially difficult. Despite careful observation by the observer to determine and eliminate this possibility, the committee debated this record and decided by a re-circulation vote (2-5) to not accept it. (Drawing; 1998-24)

MALLARD "MEXICAN DUCK" – Good documentation and photographs were presented of a bird described as a "hybrid" at Milton Res. (Weld Co.) on 10/10/98. However, the committee voted 2-5 and did not accept the record. (photo; 1998-25)

TUFTED DUCK x SCAUP (hybrid). A report of an adult male frequenting small ponds along the South Platte River in Adams Co. on 3/16/98, was not accepted by a vote of 2-5 (1998-26). Most CBRC members felt that the bird in question was a hybrid but there was much confusion over its parentage.

WHITE-TAILED KITE – *Elanus leucurus*. A very good report was submitted of a bird believed to be this species at Crow Valley Campground (Weld Co.) on 9/11/98. Most of the committee felt that this was a correct identification but there were some important identification points missing. The committee will usually choose to be much more conservative in the case of a potential first state record and voted 3-4 not to accept. (1998-30)

***MISSISSIPPI KITE** – *Ictinia mississippiensis*. An adult bird was briefly seen as it flew over a line of slow-moving traffic on the extremely early date of 3/26/98 near Pueblo (Pueblo Co.). The committee did not agree that all possible similar species were eliminated, and after initial and re-circulation votes were indecisive, it was then discussed at the annual meeting but was not accepted by a final vote of 0-4. (1998-31)

COMMON BLACK-HAWK – *Buteogallus anthracinus*. A record of an adult bird, from Fountain Creek Regional Park (El Paso Co.) on 5/11/98, was not accepted by a vote of 1-6. Unfortunately, the description provided was very brief and similar species were not eliminated. (1998-32)

- RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** – *Buteo lineatus*. The committee always struggles with reports on this species. Of course, so do the birders in the field. A bird seen at Clifton Marsh (Mesa Co.) on 5/9/98 was not accepted 3-4 (1998-34). Likewise, an adult seen on 6/1/98 at Ouray (Ouray Co.) was not accepted by a re-circulation vote of 2-5. (1998-36)
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT** - *Limosa haemastica*. Eight birds were seen in poor viewing conditions 5/8/98 at Little Gaynor L. (Boulder Co.) and one was seen at this same location on 5/10/98 for only 10 seconds. Both reports were felt to be inconclusive and both received 2-5 votes. (1998-43 and 1998-44)
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** – *Limnodromus griseus*. This San Luis Lake SP (Saguache Co.) record on 11/26/98 did not receive a decisive vote on the first round and on re-vote, the committee was unable to eliminate the potential of a Long-billed Dowitcher, and voted 1-6 not to accept it. (1998-51)
- POMARINE JAEGER** - *Stercorarius pomarinus*. A sub-adult bird seen at Huerfano Lake (Pueblo Co.) on 8/30/98 was not accepted by a vote of 1-6 after re-circulation. All jaegers are difficult to separate, and the document provided was excellent, however, the short observation did not rule out all other congeners. (1998-52)
- PARASITIC JAEGER** - *Stercorarius parasiticus*. As in the previous record, the committee also wrestled with the report of a light-morph adult at Chatfield Res. (Douglas Co.) before deciding by a re-circulation vote of 3-4 not to accept it. The report was well written but the observation time on 9/22/98 did not allow full differentiation of needed field marks or separation from similar species. (1998-53)
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** – *Streptopelia decaocto*. After re-circulation and re-voting in 1997, questions remained of a bird seen in Longmont (Boulder Co.) on 11/10/97. The committee met and decided not to accept during its annual meeting as it felt that Ringed Turtle-Dove was not eliminated by the description. (1997-47) By a vote of 3-4, a report from Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) on 9/6/98 was denied because the brief observation did not provide conclusive details. (1998-70)
- GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina*) species** – This species continues to be a “near miss.” A bird seen on 4/14/98 as it crossed in front of a car at Lake Hasty Recreation Area (Bent Co.) was seen too briefly and incompletely for a first state record. The observers suspected this was likely a Common Ground-Dove but did not feel they had seen it well enough to rule out Ruddy-Ground Dove. The vote not to accept was 2-5. (1998-76)
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** - *Archilochus colubris*. A very supportive report was reviewed of a male at Crow Valley Campground

(Weld Co.) on 5/21/98. The committee voted on re-circulation not to accept (1-6). The separation of this species from a male Broad-tailed is always a tough call. (1998-83)

GILDED FLICKER – *Colaptes chrysoides*. This potential first state record was extremely well documented, including a well filmed video that showed the bird for long periods of time and at all angles as it fed at a backyard suet feeder near Berthoud (Larimer Co.) between December 1997, and April 1998. The vote not to accept was 0-7 because the committee just could not rule out the possibility of an intergrade Northern Flicker, though most observable characteristics were supportive. (1998-87)

RED-THROATED PIPIT – *Anthus cervinus*. This record was from Rocky Mountain NP (Larimer Co.) of two adult males amidst American Pipits and Horned Larks on the tundra on 6/12/98 but the committee did not feel the identification was definitive. The report did not eliminate breeding-plumaged American Pipits, of which the distinctive Rocky Mountain race is not depicted in most field guides and is quite reddish below. The vote was 0-7 to accept. (1998-109)

***TENNESSEE WARBLER** – *Vermivora peregrina*. The committee definitely haggled over this one, a male seen at Lathrop SP (Huerfano Co.) on 5/8/98. The lingering possibility of this being a similar species and the unusual location resulted in a non-acceptance by a re-circulation vote of 2-5. (1998-117)

***NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** – *Seiurus noveboracensis*. The identification of a bird seen briefly along the Arkansas River in Pueblo Co. on 1/20/98 was likely correct, as all noted points were consistent with this species. However, the committee felt there was still some doubt and given this very unusual date, it was not accepted by a re-circulation vote of 2-5. (1998-135)

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH – *Seiurus motacilla*. A bird of this species was reported from Two Buttes SWA (Baca Co.) on 5/9/98. This was another difficult field identification supported by excellent details, but there were several missing identification points that caused the committee to vote 3-4 not to accept this report. (1998-136)

SCARLETTANAGER – *Piranga olivacea*. Immature and female tanagers are especially difficult to identify and describe. No doubt that is why there are many magazine and journal articles about the challenge. A brief account of a bird seen on 5/11/98 at Lamar CC (Prowers Co.) was felt to be incomplete in its separation from other tanager species, and was not accepted by a vote of 3-4. (1998-144) Another report, from Rocky Mountain Arsenal (Adams Co.) on 9/13/98 was also not accepted by a vote of 3-4 for the same reason. (1998-147)

EASTERN TOWHEE – *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. The lack of any vocalizations being heard left the committee in a quandary on this report, two birds at Tamarack SWA (Logan Co.) on 5/14/98. The committee voted, re-voted, and in the committee meeting finally broke the deadlock by deciding not to accept this suggestive but non-conclusive report. (1998-149)

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW – *Spizella atrogularis*. A potential first state record, the description provided for the bird seen for three consecutive days during mid-May 1998 near Hotchkiss (Delta Co.) was extensive but after review, the committee did not feel it was conclusive and voted 0-7 not to accept. (1998-151)

***NORTHERN CARDINAL** – *Cardinalis cardinalis*. The bird described at Laporte (Larimer Co.) on 6/15/98, was most likely of this species, however the brevity of the report and lack of similar species discussion did not rule out many other potentials. By a vote of 0-7 the record was not accepted. (1998-155)

***BULLOCK'S ORIOLE** – *Icterus bullockii*. This report was voted on three different times, perhaps indicative of the difficulty of separating winter immature orioles. The final vote on an immature male bird seen on 2/24/98 at Jackson Lake SP (Morgan Co.) was taken at the annual committee meeting and resulted in a non-acceptance. (1998-159)

PURPLE FINCH - *Carpodacus purpureus*. All plumages of this species are difficult identification challenges. A carefully-described record of a male near Gould (Jackson Co.) on 10/22/97 carried over from the 1997 package was still “not decisive” after being re-circulated and after much discussion was not accepted by a vote taken at the 1998 committee meeting. (1997-108)

Part 3 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, establishment of introduced population questionable:

CALIFORNIA CONDOR – *Gymnogyps californianus*. The submission of the record from the Lands End Observatory on the Grand Mesa (Mesa Co.) on 8/25/98 is extremely important to the archives of Colorado birds, despite the fact that these were obviously re-introduced birds from Arizona. As these birds hopefully begin to re-inhabit wild areas, records such as this will help track their establishment and perhaps dispersal patterns. (1998-18)

Initialed contributors:

Loretta Annala (LA), Gloria Childress (GC), Dick Coe (DC), Luke Cole (LC), Alex Cringan (AC), Coen Dexter (CD), Bob Dickson (BD), Susan Dieterich (SD), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Howard Dressel (HD), Kathy Dressel (KD),

Michelle Ellis (ME), David Elwonger (DE), David C. Ely (DCE), Joe Fontaine (JF), Peter Gaede (PGa), Peter Gent (PG), Christian Hagen (CH), BB Hahn (BBH), Joe Harrison (JH), JB Hayes (JBH), Mark Janos (MJ), Joey Kellner (JK), Hugh Kingery (HK), Urling Kingery (UK), Rachel Kolokoff (RK), Nick Komar (NK), David Leatherman (DAL), Paul Lehman (PL), Tony Leukering (TL), Rich Levad (RL), Bill Lisowsky (BL), Joe Mammoser (JMa), John Maynard (JoM), E. Bruce McLean (EM), Jack Merchant (JM), Bill Miller (BM), Duane Nelson (DN), Larry Norris (LN), Ric Olson (RO), Brandon Percival (BKP), Marlene Pixler (MP), Peter Plage (PP), Myron Plooster (MP), Suzi Plooster (SP), Kim Potter (KP), Bill Prather (BP), John Prather (JP), David Quesenberry (DQ), Scott Rashid (SR), John Rawinski (JRa), Lisa Rawinski (LR), Jack Reddall (JR), Scott Roederer (SRo), Ruth Russell (RR), Steve Russell (SRu), Ronald A. Ryder (RAR), Karleen Schofield (KS), Dick Schottler (DS), Nancy Shelby (NS), Randy Siebert (RS), David Silverman (DSi), Dan Svingen (DSv), Ila Svingen (IS), Paul Sweet (PS), Janeal Thompson (JT), Bill Tweit (BT), John Vanderpoel (JV), Alan Versaw (AV), Susan Ward (SW), Rosie Watts (RWa), Bruce Webb (BW), Christopher Wood (CW), Michael Zubowicz (MZ), and Shirley Zubowicz (SZ).

Acknowledgments

The Records Committee wishes to thank all the observers who submitted reports for evaluation in 1998. I thank Mark Janos, Tony Leukering and Brandon Percival for helpful comments and additional record information that greatly improved the manuscript.

Literature Cited

American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. Check-list of North American birds. 7th edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington DC.

Literature Referenced

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1997. Forty-first supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American birds. *Auk* 114:542–552.
- American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. Check-list of North American birds. 7th edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington DC.
- Janos, M. 1997. A review of some changes contained in the 41st supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds. *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 31:171–175.
- Janos, M. 1998. Bird species needing documentation when observed in Colorado. *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 32:43–44.
- National Geographic Society. 1999. Field guide to the birds of North America. National Geographic Society, Washington DC.

CFO'S NEW PROJECT FUND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Board of Directors recently formed a new Project Fund Committee—Linda Vidal (Chair), Pearle Sandstrom-Smith, and Jim Chace—for granting funds to individuals/organizations seeking to conduct projects/research that will result in a lasting benefit to Colorado's birds and the habitats upon which they rely. Guidelines for applicants follow:

- A. Applications should contain name, address, and telephone number of the person or organization applying for a grant.
- B. Applications should include a description of the project: what will be done, who will direct the project, who will actually conduct the work, a timetable, and rationale (how does the project support CFO's Mission). CFO grants may be considered "matching funds."
- C. Applications must be submitted by 1 December each year directly to the Project Fund Chair, Linda Vidal, at: 855 Wooden Deer Rd., Carbondale, CO 81623.
- D. Projects must have anticipated start/completion dates.
- E. Applicants must submit a complete budget. Projects should be realistic in terms of cost, volunteer resources, and time required to complete the project.
- F. Travel expenses and purchase of equipment readily available from other sources (e.g., camera, spotting scope, office equipment) generally will not be funded.
- G. After receipt of a grant and completion of the project, the applicant must submit a final written report to the Project Fund Chair. The report should include an accounting of money spent, time donated, etc.
- H. All funds not used will be returned to the CFO Treasurer.

Any additional supporting materials (e.g., brochures, financial reports) that the applicant wishes to send with the grant application should be sent in quadruplicate, one for each of the four Project Fund Committee members.

Each year, applicants will be notified in February, after the winter CFO Board of Directors' meeting, as to whether or not they will receive funds.

BEQUESTS FOR CFO'S PROJECT FUND

THE CFO PROJECT FUND COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS TO REMEMBER THE CFO PROJECT FUND IN THEIR WILLS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LINDA VIDAL AT: 970-704-9950; OR E-MAIL LINDA AT: VIDAL@ROF.NET.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD: WINTER 1999-2000 REPORT (DECEMBER - FEBRUARY)

Peter R. Gent
55 South 35th St, Boulder, CO 80303
gent@ucar.edu

The 1999-2000 winter season was very mild, and there were no outbreaks of really cold weather at all. The minimum temperature recorded at Denver International Airport was 8°F, and in Boulder the temperature never dropped into single figures. As a consequence, the plains reservoirs never froze over completely, so there was plenty of good water bird habitat throughout the season. There have been two main stories this season: there were sightings of many species that usually leave Colorado for warmer climes during winter, and there were several to many sightings of some gull species that, up to now, were considered rather rare in the state. Very few northern birds put in an appearance this winter, but a very cooperative Snowy Owl on the Pawnee National Grasslands gave many observers a real treat.

Among the species seen this winter that usually migrate south were: Baird's Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Burrowing Owl, one of which spent the entire winter, Williamson's Sapsucker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Say's Phoebe, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Green-tailed Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Lark Bunting, and Bullock's Oriole.

This winter there were 9 sightings of Mew Gull, 28 of Lesser Black-backed Gull, and 8 of Great Black-backed Gull. For all three species, this is a large percentage of the total number of previous sightings in Colorado before this winter. This means that either there were a lot more of them here this winter, or that we have all been watching the gull identification videos made by John Vanderpoel and Jon Dunn, and can now identify these birds. The sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gull must involve at least 15 to 20 individuals, so where are they all coming from? It seems likely that there must be a breeding colony away from the East Coast and more to the west; perhaps in the Hudson Bay area of Canada.

Thanks to everyone who mailed or e-mailed me their reports, and especially to Brandon Percival who collected many of the sightings from the CoBirds mailing group. An underlined species means that documentation is desired by the CFO Records Committee; please send rare bird forms, which can be found

inside the mailing cover of the *JCFO* or downloaded from the CFO web site (<http://www.cfo-link.org>), on these species to Bill Lisowsky at ncswpl@aol.com or 2919 Silver Plume Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80526. County names are italicized.

Red-throated Loon: An adult was at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, between 4 and 14 Dec (BKP, m.ob.), and an immature was at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, between 7 and 12 Dec (JBH, DAL, JK).

Pacific Loon: Two were seen at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, during the fall through 1 Feb (BKP, m.ob.), one juvenile was seen at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, on 5 Dec (TL, RL), two were at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, between 5 and 12 Dec (JK, JBH, DAL, m.ob.), and one juvenile was east of the South Platte R., *Adams*, on 23 Dec (TL).

Yellow-billed Loon: An immature bird was at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, between 5 Dec and 19 Feb (MJ, m.ob.).

Red-necked Grebe: One was found in the fall at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, and stayed through 9 Dec (BKP, MJ, m.ob.), and one was seen at Valmont Res., *Boulder*, between 19 Dec and 9 Jan (JV, m.ob.).

Eared Grebe: There was a large congregation of 219 birds at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 18 Dec (TL).

American White Pelican: There were 10 sightings scattered throughout the season, which were all on the Eastern Plains.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: An immature was seen along the Arkansas R. in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, between 12 Dec and 6 Feb (DS, DJ, m.ob.), another immature was at Long Pond, Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, on 12 Dec (RK), an adult was seen in Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, between 6 Dec (DAL, WPL) and 13 Feb (JM), one was seen on the Grand Junction CBC, *Mesa*, on 19 Dec (RL), an adult and a juvenile were seen on the South Platte R. in *Arapahoe* on 1 Jan (TL, DSc, m.ob.), and an immature was seen along Clear Creek, *Denver*, on 4 Feb (KS).

Black Brant: One was seen at Walden Ponds, *Boulder*, on 1 Jan (LK) and 22 Jan (RT), and at Dodd Res., *Boulder*, between 9 and 22 Jan (EP, PPI, m.ob.).

Trumpeter Swan: One was seen at Boulder, *Boulder*, between 11 Dec and 24 Feb (SP, m.ob.), one was seen at McCall L. west of Longmont, *Boulder*, on 19 Dec (JP, BP), and two adults were at Buckingham L. Loveland, *Larimer*, between 5 Jan and 12 Feb (NK, m.ob.) and at Boedecker L. Loveland, *Larimer*, on 16 Feb (BMi).

Tundra Swan: An immature was seen on the Grand Junction CBC, *Mesa*, on 19 Dec (RL), and two immatures were at Highline Res., *Mesa*, on 2 and 3 Jan (RL).

Eurasian Wigeon: Single male birds were seen along the Arkansas R. in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, between 8 Dec and 29 Feb (VAT, PH, m.ob.), and at

Durango, *La Plata*, on 22 Feb (TG).

Surf Scoter: A female was seen at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, between 21 Dec and 9 Jan (BG, m.ob.).

White-winged Scoter: An immature was seen at Shipwreck Pond, *Mesa*, between 23 and 27 Dec (DWr), and an adult was at Clifton Ponds, *Mesa*, on 2 and 3 Jan (RL).

Black Scoter: The immature female found during the fall at Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*, stayed through 11 Dec (MJ, m.ob.).

Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw): There were 14 sightings this season, all from along the Front Range.

Hooded Merganser: 22 were seen at Jerry Creek Res., *Mesa*, on 1 Dec (KP, RL), which is a good sized flock for the West Slope.

Northern Goshawk: Birds seen on the Eastern Plains this season were one at Rocky Ford SWA, *Otero*, on 2 Jan (TD, BKP), one at Castle Rock, *Douglas*, on 5 Jan (RO), and one at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, on 30 Jan (JN).

Red-shouldered Hawk: A juvenile was seen at the South Platte R., *Adams*, between 1 and 8 Jan (TL, DSc), and another juvenile was at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, on 28 Jan (BB).

Gyrfalcon: A juvenile, gray morph was seen south of Fleming, *Logan*, on 11 Jan (NE).

Sandhill Crane: Single individuals were seen near Brighton, *Adams*, on 1 Dec (SH), at Penrose, *Fremont*, between 1 Dec and 25 Feb (RW, m.ob.), at Meeker, *Rio Blanco*, on 4 Dec (DH), and at Canon City, *Fremont*, between 1 Dec and 6 Feb (PAG, BM, PH, LM, m.ob.). However, more impressive were the large flocks on the Western Slope. There were 115 at Delta, *Delta*, on 18 Dec (RL) and 85 there on 23 Jan (RL), and 548 were seen on the Grand Junction CBC, *Mesa*, on 19 Dec (RL).

Baird's Sandpiper: One was seen at L. Holbrook, *Otero*, on the amazing date of 31 Dec (MJ, BKP).

American Woodcock: One was seen on the Longmont CBC, *Boulder*, and subsequently between 18 and 24 Dec (JP, DG, m.ob.).

Pomarine Jaeger: A dark morph juvenile was seen at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, between 1 and 7 Dec (BB, DF, TL, m.ob.), and a similar plumaged bird was at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 4 Dec (MJ, BKP).

Franklin's Gull: An adult in alternate, or summer, plumage was seen at Barr L., *Adams*, on 22 Jan (DF), and at Lochbuie, *Adams/Weld*, between 26 and 30 Jan (TL, DF, BSu, KS, m.ob.).

Little Gull: The adult in basic, or winter, plumage found in the fall at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, stayed through 6 Feb (BKP, PH, TL, MJ).

Mew Gull: The adult found in the fall at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, stayed through 1 Jan (JBH, DAL, GH), one first basic bird was seen at Pueblo

Res., *Pueblo*, on 10 Dec (BKP, VZ), an adult was at Union Res., *Weld*, on 21 and 22 Dec (JP), one first basic was near Ft. Lupton, *Weld*, on 31 Dec (JV, BK), maybe the same bird was at Barr L., *Adams*, between 13 and 24 Jan (TL, m.ob.) and at Lochbuie, *Weld/Adams*, between 26 and 30 Jan (TL, DF, BSu, MI, KS), one adult along the South Platte R., *Adams*, on 1 Jan (TL, DSc), two adults at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, between 31 Jan and 13 Feb (PH, BKP, m.ob.), a first-alternate bird at L. Henry, *Crowley*, on 12 Feb (MJ), and one adult at Jim Hamm Pond, *Boulder*, on 28 and 29 Feb (DWK). This is an unprecedented number of sightings of this species in Colorado.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: There were 28 reports of this species from all along the Front Range and from reservoirs along the Arkansas River Valley this season. This is an unprecedented number of sightings of this species in Colorado.

Glaucous-winged Gull: One in second-basic plumage was seen at Horseshoe L., *Larimer*, between 28 and 29 Feb (DCE, m.ob.).

Great Black-backed Gull: The adult found during the fall at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, stayed to 9 Feb (BKP, m.ob). One first-basic bird was seen at L. Holbrook, *Otero*, on 20 Dec (VAT), probably the same bird was at L. Henry, *Crowley*, between 31 Dec and 2 Jan (BKP, MJ, TL, GR), a second-basic bird was at L. Loveland, *Larimer*, between 23 and 28 Dec (NK, TL), one first-basic bird was at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 9 Jan (TL, MJ, CLW, DF), one adult was seen at Upper Queens Res., *Kiowa*, on 17 Jan (BKP, MJ), one adult was at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 11 Feb (DAL), one adult was seen at Jumbo Res., *Sedgwick/Logan*, on 21 Feb (FJD, KCF), and finally one first-basic bird was at Horseshoe L., *Larimer*, on 29 Feb (BKP, CLW, RK, TD). This is an unprecedented number of sightings of this species in Colorado.

Glaucous Gull: There were ten reports this season from the Front Range and from John Martin Res., *Bent*.

Black-legged Kittiwake: A juvenile was seen at John Martin Res., *Bent*, between 19 and 22 Jan (CLW, BKP, m.ob.).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Up to twenty were seen in Rocky Ford, *Otero*, between 1 Dec and 29 Feb (m.ob.), 12 were at Springfield, *Baca*, between 17 and 21 Jan (LS, CLW, BKP), four were seen in Lamar, *Prowers*, between 31 Jan and 4 Feb (DAL), and three were at Fowler, *Otero*, on 20 Feb (BKP, LE, JW, RW).

Inca Dove: A pair starting to exhibit nesting behavior were seen at Rocky Ford, *Otero*, between 27 and 29 Feb (SO, m.ob.).

Burrowing Owl: One was very easily and regularly seen at County Line Road and I-25, *Douglas*, between 13 Dec and 20 Feb (UK, HEK, m.ob.), one was at Rocky Mt. Arsenal, *Adams*, on 19 and 20 Feb (LW, TD), and

one was seen at L. Henry, *Crowley*, on 27 Feb (SO).

Snowy Owl: An immature bird was seen about nine miles east of Briggsdale, *Weld*, between 3 and 8 Feb (DM, JH, m.ob.).

Barred Owl: Two were seen in the very southeast corner of *Baca* on the state line with Kansas on 20 Jan (CLW, BKP). If this report is accepted by the Records Committee, it will be only the second documented sighting of this species in Colorado; the first report was in 1897.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: One was regularly seen on the Pawnee National Grasslands, *Weld*, from early Jan to 29 Feb (JM, DCE, m.ob.).

Williamson's Sapsucker: An immature male was seen at Florence Mtn. Park, *Fremont*, on 19 Dec (SB, TL), and a female was seen at Penrose, *Fremont*, on 20 Dec (RW).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: An immature female was seen at Grandview Cemetery, Fort Collins, *Larimer*, between 9 and 16 Dec (JM, DAL) and between 19 and 29 Feb (NK), one was seen on the Pueblo CBC, *Pueblo*, on 26 Dec (MY), and an immature female was at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, between 1 Jan and 29 Feb (BKP, MJ, m.ob.).

Red-naped Sapsucker: One was seen on the Grand Junction CBC, *Mesa*, on 19 Dec (RL), and an immature female was seen at Grand Junction, *Mesa*, between 19 Jan and 17 Feb (LA).

Say's Phoebe: Two were seen on the Grand Junction CBC, *Mesa*, on 19 Dec (RL), one was seen on the Penrose CBC, *Fremont*, on 19 Dec (RW), one was seen on the Hotchkiss CBC, *Delta*, on 1 Jan (CD), two were seen at Grand Junction, *Mesa*, between 28 Jan and 21 Feb (LA), and one was seen at Pueblo West, *Pueblo*, on 29 Feb (BKP).

Western Scrub-Jay: Eastern Plains records this season included two at Lamar, *Prowers*, on 1 Dec (DAL), two at Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo*, on 20 Dec (TL), one at Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, on 30 Dec (JP), and up to six in the Rocky Ford CBC circle, *Otero/Crowley*, between 31 Dec and 29 Feb (MJ, BKP, m.ob.).

Chihuahuan Raven: One was seen on the Penrose CBC, *Fremont*, on 19 Dec (RW), two were at Penrose, *Fremont*, on 21 Dec (TL), six were seen on Rd. M, *Baca*, on 20 and 21 Jan (CLW, BKP), two were at Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, between 1 and 6 Feb (DAL, MJ, BKP).

Juniper Titmouse: One was seen at the unusual location of Springfield Cemetery, *Baca*, on 21 Jan (CLW, BKP).

Carolina Wren: One was seen at Boulder, *Boulder*, between 1 Dec and 29 Feb (BGh), one was at Littleton/Englewood, *Arapahoe*, between 20 Dec and 29 Feb (HEK), one was seen in lower Poudre Canyon, *Larimer*, between 6 and 30 Jan (ETM, RM), and one was singing at Arvada, *Jefferson*, between 26 and 28 Feb (AK, TD).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Two were seen at Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, between 1

and 30 Dec (DAL, m.ob.), one was near the Pueblo Nature Center, *Pueblo*, between 9 Dec and 1 Jan (BKP, m.ob.), three were seen at Swallows, *Pueblo*, on 18 Dec (PSS, CS), and another three were seen at White Rocks, *Boulder*, on 19 Dec (PP, PHa).

Eastern Bluebird: Many more than usual were seen along the Front Range this season, plus 26 of the resident (!) flock were seen on the Grand Junction CBC, *Mesa*, on 19 Dec (RL).

Hermit Thrush: One was seen at Boulder, *Boulder*, between 16 and 19 Dec (BK), one was seen at Walden Ponds, *Boulder*, on 19 Dec (ABr), one was at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, between 21 Dec and 13 Jan (BG, m.ob.), one was at Rocky Ford SWA, *Otero*, between 2 Jan and 26 Feb (BKP, MJ, TD, SO, m.ob.), and one was seen at Westminster, *Adams*, on 8 Jan (NL).

Varied Thrush: A female was regularly seen at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, between 9 Jan and 12 Feb (JNo, m.ob.).

European Starling: The total seen on the Rocky Ford CBC, *Otero/Crowley*, on 2 Jan was a staggering 35,876 (MJ).

Orange-crowned Warbler: One was seen on the Grand Junction CBC, *Mesa*, on 19 Dec (RL).

Pine Warbler: One was seen in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, between 13 and 17 Dec (BC).

Palm Warbler: An individual of the eastern race was seen on the Pueblo CBC, *Pueblo*, on 26 Dec (DS).

Common Yellowthroat: A female was seen at Valco Ponds, *Pueblo*, on 18 Dec (BKP), an immature male was seen on the Pueblo CBC, *Pueblo*, between 26 Dec and 23 Feb (DS), and one male was seen on the Rocky Ford CBC and afterwards in *Otero*, between 2 and 19 Jan (SO, VAT, m.ob.).

Green-tailed Towhee: Two were seen on the Grand Junction CBC, *Mesa*, on 19 Dec (RL).

Eastern Towhee: A male was seen near Gregory Canyon, *Boulder*, between 8 Dec and 6 Jan (MW, BK), another male was seen in Penrose, *Fremont*, between 10 Dec and 29 Feb (JW, RW, BM, m.ob.), and a third male was at Canon City, *Fremont*, on 19 Dec (PAG, BM, PH, LM).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow: Up to three were easily seen near Tunnel Drive in Canon City, *Fremont*, between 19 Dec and 22 Jan (DS, DJ, m.ob.).

Field Sparrow: One was seen at Blende, *Pueblo*, between mid and 26 Dec (DR), and one was seen along the Arkansas River, east of Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, on 1 Jan (BKP, MJ).

Lark Sparrow: One was seen on the Grand Junction CBC, *Mesa*, on 19 Dec (RL).

- Lark Bunting:** One was seen on the Rocky Ford CBC, *Otero*, on 2 Jan (MJ), and three were seen in *Baca* on 6 Feb (MJ, BKP).
- Savannah Sparrow:** At least six were seen near Ft. Lyon, *Bent*, between 3 and 29 Feb (DAL, m.ob.).
- Le Conte's Sparrow:** One was heard at Ft. Lyon, *Bent*, on 21 Jan (CLW), and at least eight were seen near Ft. Lyon, *Bent*, between 3 and 29 Feb (DAL, m.ob.).
- Fox Sparrow:** An individual of the eastern race was seen at Georgetown, *Clear Creek*, on 7 Feb (TD), and another was seen at Boulder, *Boulder*, on 18 Dec (LAG).
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** One was seen at Canon City, *Fremont*, on 19 Dec (PAG, BM, PH), one was seen along the Arkansas River in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 23 Dec (PAG, BKP, MP), one was seen at Valco Ponds, *Pueblo*, on 1 Jan (BKP, MJ), and two were seen near Ft. Lyon, *Bent*, between 10 and 26 Feb (BKP, BBH, m.ob.).
- Swamp Sparrow:** Twelve sightings this season along the Front Range and Arkansas River Valley, plus one at Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, on 1 Dec and again on 1 Feb (DAL).
- White-throated Sparrow:** Seventeen sightings this season, all from the Eastern Plains.
- Harris's Sparrow:** Twenty reports this season from the Eastern Plains, plus one on the Grand Junction CBC, *Mesa*, on 19 Dec (RL), and two adults seen near Gypsum, *Eagle*, on 24 Jan (JMe).
- Golden-crowned Sparrow:** One was seen at Valco Ponds, *Pueblo*, on 23 Dec (BKP, DS_m, PAG, MP).
- McCown's Longspur:** Ten were seen near Walsh, *Baca*, on 20 Jan (CLW, BKP), two were seen in *Baca* on 6 Feb (MJ, BKP), and another two were seen on Weld County Rd. 105, *Weld*, on 12 Feb (SM).
- Chestnut-collared Longspur:** Nine were seen at Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo*, on 20 Dec (TL, DF), and six were seen at Squirrel Creek Rd., *El Paso*, between 25 and 30 Jan (JJ).
- Snow Bunting:** A female was seen at Wolford Mt. Project Rec. Area, *Routt*, on 18 Dec (TH), one was seen at Black Forest, *El Paso*, on 31 Dec (BBH), and another female was seen at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, between 8 and 25 Jan (KS, m.ob.).
- Rusty Blackbird:** Three were seen in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 17 Dec (BKP, m.ob.), four were seen in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 26 Dec (DS), ten were seen at Ft. Lyon, *Bent*, on 28 Jan (MM, GP), and an immature was seen in Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, on 29 Jan (DAL).
- Great-tailed Grackle:** A flock of up to 300 birds was seen on Piccadilly Rd., *Adams*, between 9 Dec and 5 Feb (TL, LS, m.ob.), 20 were seen on the Grand Junction CBC, *Mesa*, on 19 Dec (RL), up to 80 were seen at the

Lake Meredith feedlot, *Crowley*, between 31 Dec and 26 Feb (MJ, BKP, TL, GR), and 125 were seen at Huerfano Res., *Pueblo*, on 22 Feb (DS, DJ).

Bullock's Oriole: A first-year male was seen at Lamar, *Prowers*, on 1 Dec (DAL), an adult male was seen at Brighton, *Adams*, between 1 and 31 Dec (MF, TL, DF), and one was seen on the Denver CBC, *Denver*, on 18 Dec (DN).

Purple Finch: An immature was seen at Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 6 Feb (DS).

Common Redpoll: A female was seen at Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, on 8 Dec (AC), three females were seen at Littleton, *Jefferson*, on 18 Dec (TJ), and eight were seen at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, between 1 Jan and 18 Feb (DAL, m.ob.).

Lesser Goldfinch: Several were reported along the Front Range this season, and quite large numbers wintered on the Western Slope, mostly observed around Grand Junction, *Mesa*.

Observers: Bob Abbott (BA), Doug Allen (DA), Linda Andes-Georges (LAG), Larry Arnold (LA), Bev Baker (BBa), Alan Bell (AB), Sue Bonfield (SB), Leon Bright (LB), Alex Brown (ABr), Bob Brown (BB), Lea Ann Brown (LAB), Chip Clouse (CC), Brian Colon (BC), Alex Cringan (AC), Raymond Davis (RD), C. Day (CD), Florence DeCesare (FDe), Todd Dilley (TD), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ferd and Jo Dirckx (FJD), Lisa Edwards (LE), David Elwonger (DE), David C. Ely (DCE), Norm Erthal (NE), Margaret Faiver (MF), Doug Faulkner (DF), Warren Finch (WF), Joe Fontaine (JF), Ken and Carol Fredericks (KCF), Peter A. Gaede (PAG), Peter Gent (PG), Beverly Gholson (BGh), Dan Gillilan (DG), Gregg Goodrich (GG), Bob Goycoolea (BG), Beverly Guild (BGU), Tony Gurzick (TG), Glenn Hageman (GH), Jeane Hageman (JHa), BB Hahn (BBH), Dave Hallock (DHa), Paula Hansley (PHa), J.B. Hayes (JBH), Thomas Heinrich (TH), Dona Hilkey (DH), Mona Hill (MH), Joe Himmel (JH), Paul Hurtado (PH), Scott Hutchins (SH), Marshall Iliff (MI), Mark Janos (MJ), Dave Johnson (DJ), Jeff Jones (JJ), Tina Jones (TJ), Bill Kaempfer (BK), Joey Kellner (JK), Laurent Kergoat (LK), Amber Kimble (AK), D. W. King (DWK), Hugh E. Kingery (HEK), Urling Kingery (UK), Rachel Kolokoff (RK), Nick Komar (NK), David A. Leatherman (DAL), Tony Leukering (TL), Rich Levad (RL), Norm Lewis (NL), Paula Lisowsky (PL), William P. Lisowsky (WPL), Joe Mammoser (JM), Lisa Marchet (LM), Dick Maxfield (DM), Bill Maynard (BM), Mick McHugh (MM), Jack Merchant (JMe), Steve Messick (SM), Bill Miller (BMi), Judy Miller (JMi), Diana Mullineaux (DMu), Don Mullineaux (DoM), Emily Thurston-Moench (ETM), Randy Moench (RM), Duane Nelson (DN), Jim Newell (JN), Jim Norton (JNo), Ric Olson (RO), Stan Oswald (SO), David Pantle (DP), Linda Paulsen (LP), Brandon K. Percival (BKP), Mark Peterson (MP), Pam Piombino (PP), Galen Pittman (GP), Eric Plage (EP), Peter Plage (PPI), Suzi Plooster (SP), Kim

Potter (KP), Bill Prather (BP), John Prather (JP), Dick Pratt (DPr), David Quesenberry (DQ), John J. Rawinski (JJR), Joe Rigli (JRi), Joe Roller (JR), Dick Roth (DR), Gene Rutherford (GR), Pearle Sandstrom-Smith (PSS), Karleen Schofield (KS), Dick Schottler (DSc), Larry Semo (LS), David Silverman (DS), Clif Smith (CS), Drew Smith (DSm), Debra Sparn (DSp), Bob Spencer (BS), Brian Sullivan (BSu), Richard Trinkner (RT), Van A. Truan (VAT), John Vanderpoel (JV), Alan Versaw (AV), David Waltman (DW), Jim Watts (JW), Rosie Watts (RW), Larry Wilson (LW), Walt Wilson (WW), Margie Winter (MW), Christopher L. Wood (CLW), Dave Wright (DWr), Mark Yaeger (MY), Vic Zerbi (VZ), many observers (m.ob.).

