

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS NEWSLETTER

No. 3, March 1, 1971

1970 Christmas Counts

Boulder (Bo) Jan. 2, 1971. Paul Julian, reporter. Snow fog, 16-22°F. 66 spp., 7,969 individuals.

Durango (Du) Jan. 2, 1971. Oppie Reames, reporter. 16 observers in 4 parties. David Bishop, Fred Blackburn, Bob Boucher, Ruth Boucher, Mary Duthie, Elva Fox, Ronnie Gaines, Gloria Holt, Allan Nelson, Mrs. Carroll Peterson, Oppie Reames, Richard Stransky, Mrs. James West, Florence Whiteman, Dr. Howard Winkler, Peggy Winkler. Overcast with snow in the afternoon, 17-25°F. 55 spp., 4,298 individuals.

Fort Collins (FC) Jan. 2, 1971. Ron Ryder, compiler. 27 observers in 13 parties. Fred Alyea, Mary and Tom Barber, Richard Barchet, Clait Braun, Terry Cole, Gerald Craig, Phil Creighton, Alex and June Cringan, Gilbert and Jean Findlay, Dale and Marilyn Hein, Fred Hermann, Dave Lupton, Richard Olendorff, Marjorie Rhoades, Ronald and Audrey Ryder, Mrs. Herbert Schweizer, Björn Söderback, Bonnie Staley, Mark Strong, Dave Swift, John and Kathy Wagner. Snowed all day, 8-15" of snow on the ground, 15-21°F. 72 spp., 28,739 individuals.

Grand Junction (GJ) Dec. 27, 1970. Lorna Gustafson, reporter. 17 observers in 6 parties. Glen Arnold, Roydean Arnold, Wayne Costo, W. A. Davis, Merritt Dismant, Sue Dismant, Terry Dismant, Charles Ela, Lucy Ela, Lorna Gustafson, Robert Gustafson, Ivan Kladder, Nyla Kladder, Edgar Muhr, Cliff Sawtelle, Shirley Sawtelle, Helen Traylor. Clear, 14-39°F. 64 spp., 18,531 individuals.

Gunnison (Gu) Dec. 27, 1970. Sidney Hyde, reporter. 12 observers in 3 parties. Kenneth DeBoer, Richard Drummond, Leslie Harriss, Paul Harriss, Tom Harriss, A. S. Hyde, Betty Hyde, Mary Marquardt, Richard Marquardt, Donald Radovich, Sheryl Radovich, Geneva Williams. Snow flurries at start, clearing, 10-20°F. 49 spp., 1,629 individuals.

Hotchkiss (Ho) Dec. 29, 1970. Theo Colborn, reporter. 3 observers in 1 party. Edith Blide, Theo Colborn, W. A. Davis. Clear. 62 spp., 3,815 individuals.

Lake Isabell (LI) - 30 mi. SW of Pueblo. Jan. 2, 1971. Van Truan, reporter. 10 observers in 4 parties. Snowing hard all day. 27 spp., 999 individuals.

McCoy (McC) Dec. 27, 1970. Margaret Ewing, reporter. One party of three. Clark Ewing, Kenneth Ewing, Margaret Ewing. Clear turning to cloudy, 20-40°F. 18 spp., 219 individuals.

Nunn (Nu) Dec. 31, 1970. Clait Braun, compiler. 21 observers in 8 parties. Clait Braun, Mrs. C. Vernon Cole, Mrs. Allegra Collister, G. R. Craig, Phil Creighton, Randy Denney, Atheline Engel, Christine Enright, Kitty Enright, John Flavin, Gilbert Findlay, Dorothy Haddad, David W. Lupton,

Gary Robinson, Ronald A. Ryder, Björn Söderbäck, Ron Stanek, Mark Strong, Dave Swift, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wilcox. Partly cloudy, windy, 30-50°F. 17 spp., 6,626 individuals.

Pikes Peak (PP) Dec. 31, 1970. Hugh Kingery, reporter. 28 observers. Generally fair. 43 spp., 1,663 individuals.

Pueblo (Pu) Dec. 22, 1970. Van Truan, reporter. 19 observers in 5 parties. 80 spp., 20,030 individuals.

Red Feather Lakes (RF) Jan. 1, 1971. Gustav Swanson, compiler. 18 observers, 3 in one party by auto and afoot, 15 others in 7 parties recording at feeding stations. Ed and Maxine Allen, Ruth and Clark Anderson, Joe and Marg Bickhaus, Alma and Cecil Howard, Mabel and Wilson Ingalls, Art and Virginia Jansen, Bert and Kathy Morisette, R. Dale Sanders, Evadene and Gustav Swanson, Rose Worth. 13 spp., 372 individuals.

Rocky Mountain National Park (RM) Dec. 23, 1970. Ron Ryder, compiler. 17 observers in 7 parties. Clait Braun, Terry Cole, Allegra Collister, Phil Creighton, Ruth Deffenbaugh, David Ferguson, Jim Harvey, Ed Kautz, David Kenvin, Mrs. Bert Patterson, Warner Reeser, Ron and Audrey Ryder, Jim Smith, Mark Strong, Al White, Joe and Barbara Wilcox. Wind extreme, 40-75 m.p.h., -10 to 28°F. 39 spp., 528 individuals.

Denver (Den) Taken from the Monthly Report of Field Observations of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Vol. 6, No. 4, January 1971, for comparison. 102 participants in 11 areas, as well as 20 feeders. 100 spp.

#### Comments on the Christmas Counts

by W. A. Davis

Receipt of the Christmas counts was most interesting. I am grateful for many friendly letters which came with them. However, I found two problems on this my first compilation. There was no uniformity to the report forms, though all followed the format of "Audubon Field Notes" in general. Perhaps standard checklists, as used by some, would solve this. There was also apparent confusion as to whether Rock Doves should be counted. More important, I failed to ask for details of the observation on the unusual records. A few people did include these, and the Denver report to A.F.N. had seven pages of details. But there are several unusual records on other counts for which I would have liked to have had details by which the identification was made. For this compilation I have simply accepted all reports as received. The problem of verification and acceptance of unusual sight records will probably come up at the Annual Meeting in May.

The following details on unusual records are from letters or personal contact. Barn Owl (FC) - Seen by John Wagner, who has studied the species this spring and summer. He flushed the bird at less than 20 yards and clearly saw the light-colored breast and heart-shaped face with 7 x 35 binoculars. Loggerhead Shrike (FC) - Mrs. Staley saw both Northern and Loggerhead Shrikes during the day. Her identifications were verified by Mrs. Terry Cole. They used a 15 - 60X B&L scope mounted on a car window. Green Heron (Gu) - at the

Colorado Christmas

Counts, 1970

	Bo	Du	FC	GJ	Gu	Ho	LI	McC	Nu	PP	Pu	RF	RM	Den
Common Loon														1
Horned Grebe	1													
Western Grebe											1			
Pied-billed Grebe						1					3			
Great Blue Heron	2					5					2			12
Green Heron					1									
Whistling Swan				1										
Mute Swan														6
Canada Goose	1505		18,146								656			1776
White-fronted Goose			6											
Snow Goose	1		2											
Mallard	3968	52	1534	95	60	72		3			3496		38	1518
Gadwall			7	5	6	21					1			117
Pintail	20		4	5		2					41			42
Green-winged Teal	4		14	27	35	7					2			55
American Widgeon	3		404	46		10					52			355
Shoveler						1					1			22
Wood Duck														20
Redhead			6	8		1					3			161
Ring-necked Duck	9	3				120					5			235
Canvasback				3		19					1			7
Lesser Scaup			4	2		52					4			28
Greater Scaup														3
Common Goldeneye	8	131	150	25	5	17		6			56		20	163
Barrow's Goldeneye													3	
Bufflehead			1			4								16
Oldsquaw											1			2
Ruddy Duck						1					5			1
Hooded Merganser											1			10
Common Merganser	80	19	51	9	5	20					22		17	204
Red-breasted Merganser											1			1
Goshawk										1			1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	2	1								1			2
Cooper's Hawk		1	1	2							1			2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	5	1	8	1	4		1	1	1	23			16
Harlan's Hawk														2
Swainson's Hawk					1									
Rough-legged Hawk	6	1	6		6	1			18	2	15	1		23
Ferruginous Hawk			1						3		6			
Golden Eagle				2	1	3		1	20		8			6

Colorado Christmas  
Counts, 1970

	Bo	Du	FC	GJ	Gu	Ho	LI	McC	Nu	PP	Pu	RF	RM	Den
Bald Eagle		4		1	1			2			1			1
Marsh Hawk	7	1	7	11	2	11			9	1	17			12
Prairie Falcon				1	1	1			6		1			1
Peregrine Falcon						1								
Pigeon Hawk			2						2					
Sparrow Hawk	3	1	4	33		5					60			16
Blue Grouse														3
White-tailed Ptarmigan													2	
Scaled Quail											90			
Gambel's Quail				26										
Ring-necked Pheasant	16	1	21	16		3					3			54
Chukar	2					1								
American Coot			18	18		9					78			163
Killdeer	13		36	26	8	13					8			54
Common Snipe	5	3	19	2	3	2					12			34
Herring Gull	5		1								9			27
Ring-billed Gull	3		1				1				70			572
Rock Dove		38								6				60
Mourning Dove			2	30		1					2			
Barn Owl			1											
Screech Owl	2		1	1										2
Great Horned Owl	5				2		2	1	12		6			9
Pygmy Owl														1
Long-eared Owl	8										1			5
Short-eared Owl	1				1									
Belted Kingfisher	3	4	13	1	2	6								19
Yellow-shafted Flicker			1											
" Hybrid											1			
Red-shafted Flicker	37	21	58	64	1	11	8			9	100		3	140
Lewis's Woodpecker			1	4		6					3			2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker														1
Hairy Woodpecker	4		5		2					9	1	11	9	35
Downy Woodpecker	5	2	4		2	3	3			3	3		1	25
Northern 3-toed Woodpecker							1							
Say's Phoebe				1										
Horned Lark	150	81	1187	41	129	4	12		6297		1284		12	29
Gray Jay	1									14		3	4	
Blue Jay	4		10								5			10
Steller's Jay	137	8	20		1		29	2		156		49	60	452
Scrub Jay		78		3		2	3	5		66	5			101

Colorado Christmas

Counts, 1970

	Bo	Du	FC	GJ	Gu	Ho	LI	McC	Nu	PP	Pu	RF	RM	Den
Black-billed Magpie	118	279	118	168	131	27	21	15	15	100	224	27	27	788
Common Raven	2	25		17	25	7	4			11	15	8	12	31
Common Crow	6	548	390		26	1	192			122	9			221
Pinyon Jay		153						80		1	4			
Clark's Nutcracker	2		1					3		19		42	16	
Black-capped Chickadee	34	4	28	1	14	6	3	4		25	19		2	315
Mountain Chickadee	46	4	2	6	18		38			375	44	12	118	359
Plain Titmouse		2				3								
Common Bushtit		22		32						13				
White-breasted Nuthatch	12	1			6		3			10		16	23	57
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2		1				6			8			2	21
Pygmy Nuthatch	41		1				10			73		55	59	135
Brown Creeper	8		3	4	2					12			3	33
Dipper	6	15	5		19	1		3		1			5	18
Winter Wren			1								2			1
Bewick's Wren		1		6										
Long-billed Marsh Wren											1			
Canyon Wren										1				6
Rock Wren		1				1								5
Mockingbird	1			2										
Brown Thrasher											1			1
Robin	29	18	18	144		1	23		1	13	582			20
Western Bluebird		26												
Mountain Bluebird							3							
Townsend's Solitaire	2	11	4		2	1	1	1		26	25	1	7	18
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				1										
Golden-crowned Kinglet										1			5	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				9		1								1
Water Pipit				5		1								1
Bohemian Waxwing													8	
Cedar Waxwing				3							3			
Northern Shrike	2	1	3	2	2	1	1		3	1	13	1	1	13
Loggerhead Shrike		3	1	6		4					1			
Starling	256	629	1416	2590	48	489	5	55	27	66	2015		11	1247
Myrtle Warbler														1
Audubon's Warbler				13										
Ovenbird													1	
House Sparrow	103	136	2219	848	5	321	27		95	55	1534		10	710
Western Meadowlark	27	7	38	200	3	19			7		371			151
Red-winged Blackbird	635	63	1593	12,783	185	2002					1883			738

## Colorado Christmas

Counts, 1970

	Bo	Du	FC	GJ	Gu	Ho	LI	McC	Nu	PP	Pu	RF	RM	Den
Rusty Blackbird														9
Brewer's Blackbird			3	158	1	20					5244			125
Evening Grosbeak	141	142	316	67		7	4			9				106
Cassin's Finch	17	108	11	5						4	1			234
House Finch	163	17	221	242		13				23	585			413
Pine Grosbeak			1		1								3	
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch					334							146		
Black Rosy Finch					8									
Brown-capped Rosy Finch					435					3			3	
Pine Siskin	34	3		64							84			205
American Goldfinch	1	9	30	64		39		15		2	38		1	70
Red Crossbill													6	3
Rufous-sided Towhee		12		1	1	6				16				67
Brown Towhee											8			
Vesper Sparrow					1									
White-winged Junco	4		8				2			15	1		1	49
Slate-colored Junco	61	18	43	7		1				5	57		6	144
Oregon Junco	169	1225	102	334	14	302	350	21		112	287		19	654
Gray-headed Junco	37	305	30	17	1	55	162			137	31		7	351
Tree Sparrow	56	34	323		56				43	7	274		1	338
Field Sparrow											3			
Harris's Sparrow	3	1	2	1									1	9
White-crowned Sparrow	20	6	37	187		3					429			22
Fox Sparrow														6
Lincoln's Sparrow		1												
Swamp Sparrow														2
Song Sparrow	8	12	9	27	11	43	2	1		2	74			182
Lapland Longspur			10		4				67					
TOTAL SPECIES	148													
	66	55	72	64	49	62	27	18	17	43	80	13	39	100

warm springs where it had been first noted on Dec. 13. It was "well seen by Radovich, Marquardt and Hyde - all familiar with the bird in the East." Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (GJ) - seen by Mrs. Ivan Kladder. Though this species usually leaves for the south by November, several were reported in December 1970. Four were found in Hotchkiss by Mrs. Colborn and Mrs. Blide on Dec. 8 and one on Dec. 21. Others were seen in Grand Junction by several observers on several occasions in December, the last being the Christmas Count on Dec. 27. Peregrine Falcon (Ho) - identified as obviously a falcon by its general contours and flight silhouette, about the size of a crow, with all dark blue back, tail and wings and light underparts. When first seen it was perched in a tree about a mile from a flock of ducks. Ovenbird (RM) - observed by Allegra Collister and Warner Reeser at a distance of 10 feet, through a picture window. Had been coming to a feeder since November 21.

#### Unusual Records and Reports

Hooded Merganser A female remained in the Broadmoor Hotel Lake at Colorado Springs from about November 25 to December 22, 1970. Reported by Sam Gadd.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird - Mrs. Mildred Snyder reports that on September 10, while banding birds at Franktown, she saw a hummingbird go to suet in a mesh container. It hovered at the feeder for about 15 seconds, just touching the suet with its bill. She asks, "Could it have been licking at it with its tongue for fat instead of finding a nice fat insect?"

#### Additions to Membership List

Dr. Ward Chadwick, 77 S. Adams St., High Country House, Apt. 902, Denver, Colo. 80209

Lorraine Chappel, 23 Clarkson St., Apt. 1, Denver, Colorado 80218

Dale A. Hein, 1501 Stover St., Ft. Collins, Colo. 80521

Pueblo Audubon Club, c/o Donna Bregenzer, Sec.-Treas., P. O. Box 3306, Pueblo, Colo. 81005

#### Corrections to Membership List

Mrs. Ted Dement, 1041 Talbot Ave., Albany, Calif. 94706

Harold Holt, 449 S. Xavier, Denver, Colo. 80219

Michael P. Schultz, 145 Esther Dr., Security, Colo. 80911

#### Dues Reminder

The C.F.O. Treasurer, Miss Sadie Morrison, 1283 Elizabeth St., Denver, Colo. 80206, will be happy to receive your 1971 dues.

#### More Christmas Counts

Christmas Counts received after the first of February will appear in the next newsletter. Have you sent a copy of your local count to Bill Davis? If not, please send it promptly: Dr. W. A. Davis, 308 Country Club Park, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501.

Annual Meeting, May 22-23

Manitou Experimental Forest will be the site of this year's annual meeting of the Colorado Field Ornithologists, May 22-23. The Aiken Ornithological Society of Colorado Springs and the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station will be hosts.

To reach Manitou Experimental Forest, drive 7 miles north of Woodland Park on Colorado Highway 67 (which goes to Deckers).

For information about accommodations, write Meredith J. Morris, Rocky Mountain Forest & Range Experiment Station, 240 West Prospect, Ft. Collins, Colorado 80521.