

NO. 15

MARCH 1973

the

Colorado Field Ornithologist



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COVER PHOTO: Adult female Blue-throated Hummingbird, 26 August 1972,
at Squirrel Roost, Rock Creek Park, Colorado Springs, El
Paso County, Colorado. Photographed by Dominic A. Bartol, Jr.

YOU ARE INVITED

TO: 11th Annual Convention of the Colorado Field Ornithologists
 HOST: The Durango Bird Club
 DATES: May 19 and 20, 1973
 PLACE: Strater Hotel, 699 Main Avenue, Durango, Colorado 81301
 PROGRAM: Saturday, May 19

10:00 - 12:00 Registration in the Lobby of the Strater Hotel
 1:30 - 4:00 Scientific Session
 4:00 - 5:30 Open Business Meeting
 6:00 - 6:30 Cash Bar
 6:30 - --- Banquet, Strater Hotel, to be followed by a program
 (will be announced)

PROGRAM: Sunday, May 20

7:00 - 11:00 Field Trips (see following sheet)
 11:00 - --- Box Lunch at Junction Creek Camp Ground
 (please make reservations)

PARKING: Strater Parking Lot

ACCOMODATIONS: Strater Hotel
 Motel or Camp ground of your choice

 DETACH AND MAIL THIS RESERVATION FORM

NAME(S) _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I enclose:

Registration	\$1.50	for _____	persons	\$ _____
Banquet	\$4.75	for _____	persons	\$ _____
Box Lunch	\$2.00	for _____	persons	\$ _____
Total Enclosed				\$ _____

Checks payable to: Durango Bird Club
 Mail to: Mrs. Maynard Fox
 53 Rio Vista Circle
 Durango, Colorado 81301

WARNING !!! Mail service to Durango is slow. Reservations should be mailed by May 1, 1973.

Frontier Airlines has three daily flights to Durango--the airport is about 16 miles from town--CHECK BOX and designate date and time of arrival if you would like transportation to town.

Date _____ Flight Arrival _____

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday Morning, May 19:

(1) Fort Lewis College

- A. Bird's-eye view of Durango and Animas Valley
- B. Tour of Southwest Center
- C. Possible birds (Juniper-Pinyon): Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Pinyon Jay, Black-throated Gray Warbler

(2) River Hike

Park at State Fish Hatchery and hike north (up river)
Possible birds: Dipper, Lazuli Bunting, migrating Warblers

Sunday Morning, May 20:

(1) Animas Valley

Led by Florence Whiteman
Scrub Oak-Pine hillsides and river flood plain
Possible birds: Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Western Tanager, Band-tailed Pigeon

(2) La Posta Road

Led by Tom Frizell
Juniper-Pinyon-Sage, with river bottom
Possible birds: Sage Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Plain Titmouse, Bewick's Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

(3) Junction Creek

Led by Dr. Preston Somers
Pine forest with Aspen-Spruce (Barne's Mountain), 6,500' to 9,500' elevation; higher if snow and time permits
Possible birds: Grace's Warbler, Williamson's Sapsucker, Pine Grosbeak, hawks

DETACH AND MAIL THIS RESERVATION FORM

NAME(S) _____

On Sunday Morning, I will attend: Trip 1 _____ Trip 2 _____ Trip 3 _____

On this trip: I will have room for _____ persons in my car.
I would need a ride _____

February 11, 1973

Letter to the Editor:

Concerning the objections to my recent article on field identification raised by Allegra Collister in a "Letter to the Editor" in Colo. Field Orn. 14, I have the following comments:

(1) My reasoning in asking that no one report a flicker as a Yellow-shafted unless all the head pattern characters are noted whereas I made no such demands on the reporting standards for Red-shafteds was that pure Red-shafteds are abundant, at least in the western two-thirds of Colorado, and pure Yellow-shafteds are rare anywhere in the state; thus seeing a yellow-winged flicker and recording it as Yellow-shafted is a much more serious error than seeing a red-winged flicker and recording it as Red-shafted without seeing the head pattern.

(2) I did not mean to imply that Tennessee Warblers were abundant in Colorado - my point was that very few people examine their fall Orange-crowned Warblers to check for Tennessees, and thus I'm sure that Tennessees are reported less frequently than they should be. As for the rarity of Tennessee Warblers in the Western USA as indicated by banding data, the figures given by Mrs. Collister are meaningless without the accompanying figures for Orange-crowns banded in fall; for instance, although no Tennessees were banded in Colorado or Wyoming in 1972, only 28 Orange-crowns were banded (Western Bird Bander 47 (1971):25), and I would guess over half of these were banded in the spring. Thus with so few Orange-crowns banded, one would not expect any Tennessee records.

(3) Mrs. Collister states "there is little possibility of error in identification (or confusion) when the birds are seen at fairly close range, or better yet, examined in the hand" (although she states she has only banded four Tennessee Warblers in her long banding history, and it is not stated whether those were spring or fall birds). I have just examined hundreds of fall specimens of each species in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, and have found a number of individuals of each species which could easily be confused with the other in the hand, not to mention the field. Although Tennessees are usually paler-bellied and have stronger, yellower eyelines and a faint wing-bar, there are greenish-bellied individuals with indistinct eye-lines which can be visually separated from the Orange-crowned with certainty only by the white undertail coverts.

Concerning Ronald Ryder's observation that Ring-billed Gulls have yellow, not dark, eyes, I apologize for the error and I'm grateful for its rectification. When writing that section, I was considering gulls at a distance, and it seems to me that whereas the pale eye of the Herring Gull can be seen from quite a distance, Ring-billed Gull eyes look dark except at close range, perhaps because the Ring-billed is so much smaller in overall body size. I would appreciate hearing from others on that point.

Van Remsen
Dept of Zoology
Univ. of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

Jack Reddall, Chairman
CFO Official Records Committee
4450 South Alton Street
Englewood, Colorado 80110

During the past twenty-five years, there has been a substantial increase in the number of field observers. With the improvements in modern field techniques, much information concerning range extensions, population dynamics, incursions and extra-limital occurrences of birds has accumulated. Much of this data is based on sight reports, and some too, on photographic evidence. The scientific acceptability of sight reports, particularly of extra-limital birds, has long perplexed ornithologists because most such records usually lack substantiating documentation. Consequently, most serious ornithologists ignore such records. Some sight records are undoubtedly correct and, if properly documented, could constitute a valuable source of distributional data. Erroneous records appearing in print seriously confuse the problem and perpetuate the accumulation of inaccurate data. The problem most distributional workers face is differentiating the good from the bad.

On May 20, 1972, the Colorado Field Ornithologists established the Official Records Committee to review and pass judgment on all sight observations of unusual or rare species as well as species being reported for the first time within the State of Colorado. The Committee currently consists of Jack Reddall, Chairman (Englewood), Bill Davis (Tucson, Arizona), Dave Griffiths (Pueblo), Paul Julian (Boulder), Hugh Kingery (Denver), Thompson Marsh (Denver) and Kip Stransky (Durango). It is hoped that all records of rarities found in Colorado will be submitted to the Committee, which will review each report individually. All records, along with editorial comments when deemed pertinent, will appear in the Colorado Field Ornithologist on a periodic basis. Researchers utilizing these records can be assured that they have been thoroughly reviewed and that documenting evidence is on file.

In order to properly document an observation, a detailed description along with other pertinent data should be submitted to the Chairman of the Official Records Committee in care of:

Mr. Jack Reddall
4450 South Alton Street
Englewood, Colorado 80110

The format for submitting documentation is outlined on the attached form entitled, "Verifying Documentation of an Unusual Record". This form (or format) is required for all rare or unusual records. For any species suspected of being recorded for the first time in Colorado, please notify the Chairman at the address shown above who will provide the necessary documentary forms for the observer to fill out. An Official State List of the Birds of Colorado is currently being compiled by the Committee and will be available for distribution within the next few months.

The Committee is most anxious therefore, to receive documentation on the species listed below which are considered rare or unusual in Colorado. The Committee will also accept documented reports of species considered rare or unusual in one part of the state but not necessarily so in another (e.g. - "Western Slope" vs. "Eastern High Plains"). It will depend upon the judgment of the Chairman which reports of this nature will be circulated through the Committee. Good photographs, preferably in color, are always welcome with the documented report. Any negatives submitted will be processed and returned.

1. Yellow-billed Loon
2. Arctic Loon
3. Red-throated Loon
4. Brown Pelican
5. Olivaceous Cormorant
6. Anhinga
7. Little Blue Heron
8. Cattle Egret
9. Reddish Egret
10. Louisiana Heron
11. Wood Ibis
12. Glossy Ibis
13. White Ibis
14. Roseate Spoonbill
15. Trumpeter Swan
16. Brant
17. Black Brant
18. Blue Goose
19. Ross' Goose
20. Mexican Duck
21. Black Duck
22. Mottled Duck
23. European Widgeon
24. Harlequin Duck
25. Common Eider
26. Surf Scoter
27. Common Scoter
28. Black Vulture
29. Swallow-tailed Kite
30. Red-shouldered Hawk
31. Harris' Hawk
32. Caracara
33. Gyrfalcon
34. Spruce Grouse
35. Ruffed Grouse
36. Whooping Crane
37. Yellow Rail
38. Black Rail
39. Purple Gallinule
40. Common Gallinule
41. Piping Plover
42. American Golden Plover
43. Ruddy Turnstone
44. American Woodcock
45. Eskimo Curlew
46. Knot
47. Short-billed Dowitcher
48. Hudsonian Godwit
49. Red Phalarope
50. Pomarine Jaeger
51. Parasitic Jaeger
52. Long-tailed Jaeger
53. Iceland Gull
54. Western Gull
55. Laughing Gull
56. Ivory Gull
57. Black-legged Kittiwake
58. Common Tern
59. Arctic Tern
60. Ancient Murrelet
61. White-winged Dove
62. Ground Dove
63. Inca Dove
64. Black-billed Cuckoo
65. Snowy Owl
66. Barred Owl
67. Spotted Owl
68. Boreal Owl
69. Whip-poor-will
70. Lesser Nighthawk
71. Rivoli's Hummingbird
72. Blue-throated Hummingbird
73. Pileated Woodpecker
74. Great Crested Flycatcher
75. Olivaceous Flycatcher
76. Black Phoebe
77. Eastern Wood Pewee
78. Purple Martin
79. Carolina Wren
80. Short-billed Marsh Wren

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 81. Long-billed Thrasher | 100. Yellow-throated Warbler |
| 82. Bendire's Thrasher | 101. Bay-breasted Warbler |
| 83. Varied Thrush | 102. Blackpoll Warbler |
| 84. Gray-cheeked Thrush | 103. Pine Warbler |
| 85. Wheatear | 104. Connecticut Warbler |
| 86. Sprague's Pipit | 105. Hooded Warbler |
| 87. Phainopepla | 106. Canada Warbler |
| 88. Yellow-throated Vireo | 107. Painted Redstart |
| 89. Philadelphia Vireo | 108. Eastern Meadowlark |
| 90. Prothonotary Warbler | 109. Hooded Oriole |
| 91. Swainson's Warbler | 110. Scott's Oriole |
| 92. Worm-eating Warbler | 111. Hepatic Tanager |
| 93. Golden-winged Warbler | 112. Summer Tanager |
| 94. Lucy's Warbler | 113. Painted Bunting |
| 95. Cape May Warbler | 114. Purple Finch |
| 96. Black-throated Blue Warbler | 115. Le Conte's Sparrow |
| 97. Black-throated Green Warbler | 116. Sharp-tailed Sparrow |
| 98. Cerulean Warbler | 117. Field Sparrow |
| 99. Blackburnian Warbler | 118. Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| | 119. Snow Bunting |

NOTE: The CFO Official Records Committee will periodically review this list and make additions and deletions as is deemed necessary. All species listed here are currently accepted as valid for the Official State Bird List. However, based upon further investigations and subsequent rulings by the Committee, some of these species may be found invalid for Colorado and ultimately dropped from the Official State Bird List.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: _____ | _____ 2. Number: _____
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

3. Location: _____

4. Date(s): _____ 5. Time bird seen: _____ to _____

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):

7. Description of voice, if heard:

8. Description of behavior:

9. Habitat - general:
 specific:

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:

11. Distance (how measured?):

12. Optical equipment:

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare?

16. Other observers:

17. Did others agree with your identification?

18. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation:

20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

_____ Street Address: _____
Signature

Date Prepared: _____ City and State: _____

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)

REPORTS FROM THE CFO OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

Jack Reddall, Chairman
CFO Official Records Committee
4450 South Alton Street
Englewood, Colorado 80110

GRAY HAWK - - - - Buteo nitidus

The CFO Official Records Committee has examined the documentation submitted to substantiate the sighting of a Gray Hawk at the foot of Lookout Mountain in Jefferson County on the morning of April 24, 1972. A single bird was reportedly observed for approximately thirty minutes by a lone observer. After reviewing the data submitted by this observer the CFO Official Records Committee has ruled that this sighting is invalid due to the extreme lack of detailed information to support the presence of a species so far from its normal range. Therefore, as of this date, the Gray Hawk is not considered a valid species for the state of Colorado.

Chairman's comment:

It is very disconcerting when sight reports for new or rare and unusual species are received with limited documentation and brief descriptions. This is particularly unfortunate when, as in this case, the observer who made the report is regarded by many as a very competent field man. However, it must be stressed that the CFO Official Records Committee can only work from the details as they are received from the observer. If these details are very brief and do not include key field marks, then the Committee has no choice but to find as they did in this case irrespective of the competence of the observer. It is hoped that as we gain more experience in dealing with sight reports, both as observers and Committee members, that we will become more proficient in reporting (and of course first and foremost - studying) what we observe in the field. The more details that are presented of what was actually seen in the field, the greater the chance that the record will be accepted.

December 9, 1972

Editor's Note: Record of this sighting was published in The Lark Bunting,
7 (8):5, May 1972.

CASPIAN TERN - - - - Hydroprogne caspia

The Check-List of the Birds of the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge issued June 1970 lists the Caspian Tern as "rare" in spring and fall. This, so far as can be determined is the only report of this species occurring within the state of Colorado. Unfortunately, there is no quantitative data provided as to what constitutes "rare" when compared to the other listed glossary of abundance, i.e., "occasional", "uncommon", "common" and "abundant". Regrettably, most national wildlife refuge check-lists throughout the United States suffer from this malady.

Mr. Dave Griffiths, CFO Official Records Committee member from Pueblo contacted the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge regarding the occurrence of Caspian Terns and received the following reply from Mr. Charles R. Bryant:

"We have researched our records for the Caspian Tern observations and found only one observation. This was two birds observed on April 27, 1958, and were noted again on April 31 (30), 1958. Our records do not indicate who made the observation."

Based on the foregoing, the Chairman of the Official Records Committee had no choice but to rule this record unsatisfactory. Without adequate documentation, the Official Records Committee had nothing with which to make a judgment. As of this date the Caspian Tern is not considered a valid species for the state of Colorado.

Chairman's comment:

Although this record cannot be accepted, the occurrence of Caspian Terns in Colorado is to be expected any year now. They have been recorded several times in adjoining states and it is only a matter of time before a valid, well-documented report will be submitted.

November 22, 1972

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD - - - - Selasphorus sasin

The CFO Official Records Committee has reviewed the documentation submitted with respect to the report of an occurrence of an Allen's Hummingbird in the Colorado Springs area from July 30, 1972 off and on until September 5, 1972. The CFO Official Records Committee has ruled that this report of the Allen's Hummingbird is unsatisfactory due to the great difficulty of field separation of this species and the Rufous Hummingbird which it greatly resembles. The submitted documentation was unfortunately not convincing enough for the Committee to accept the occurrence of this species which enjoys an extremely limited range in California (and possibly Oregon and Washington?). Therefore, the Allen's Hummingbird remains an invalid species for the state of Colorado.

Chairman's comment:

This type of report is extremely difficult for the CFO Official Records Committee to deal with. Because there are great variations amongst the two regular and fairly common Colorado hummingbirds (Broad-tailed and Rufous) particularly with the mixtures of females and immatures, both in size and plumages, it is practically impossible to accept a sight report of such a species with so limited a range as the Allen's Hummingbird in our state. It unquestionably would take an expert who is thoroughly familiar with the Allen's Hummingbird before an acceptance could be considered. Even then, the only acceptable evidence would be the collection of a specimen duly examined and identified by someone thoroughly familiar with western hummingbirds. Irrespective of what most of the popular field guides depict, the green back of the Allen's Hummingbird is not always a diagnostic field mark in separating this species from the Rufous Hummingbird. In the hand, an examination of the tail feathers is one of the key diagnostic marks. In the Rufous Hummingbird the middle tail feather is broad, pointed at tip; the second tail feather from the middle is deeply notched on inner web, situated on outer web. The Allen's Hummingbird on the other hand displays two very narrow outer tail feathers; the second tail feather from the middle is without notch or sinuation; the outer tail feather is much less than .10 inch wide. Possibly what we need in this case are some extremely sharp-eyed Colorado observers!

December 28, 1972

S. rufus maleS. sasin male

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - - - - Lampornis clemenciae

The CFO Official Records Committee has reviewed the documentation along with numerous black and white photographs of the Blue-throated Hummingbird reported from the Colorado Springs area during the summer months of 1972. Based primarily on an examination of these photographs taken and submitted by Mr. Dominic A. Bartol, Jr. of 2718 North Prospect, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907, the Committee has ruled to accept this species (a female) as the first authentic record* of the Blue-throated Hummingbird occurring in Colorado and has approved its addition to the official state list of the birds of Colorado.

According to information received from Mr. Bartol, "an unusual Hummer, possibly a Rivoli's (Hummingbird)" was observed about 7:00 P.M. on June 29, 1972, by Miss Bernhardina Johnson at her kitchen window feeder, Lytle-Star Route, Colorado Springs. The same bird (evidently) was seen again by Miss Johnson on the following evening, June 30, about 7:00 P.M. Mr. and Mrs. Bartol unsuccessfully attempted to observe the bird during the ensuing three weeks. Then, about 6:30 P.M. on July 29, 1972, the bird reappeared at Miss Johnson's feeder and she notified the Bartol's immediately. Mr. and Mrs. Bartol managed to observe the bird (a female) on the afternoon of July 30 when Mr. Bartol was able to obtain a number of excellent black and white and color photographs. Several other observers reportedly were able to view this bird as follows:

- July 30 - 4:00 P.M. until 5:30 P.M. (Lindts)
- July 31 - From late afternoon until dark (Johnson)
- August 1 - 6:45 P.M. (Johnson/Bartols)
- August 2 - 10:00 A.M. and again at 12:00 Noon, then intermittently until 7:30 P.M. (Johnson and Dr. Wilfred Powell and daughter Evelyn D. Powell, Box 2217, University Station, Enid, Oklahoma 73701)
- August 3 - 9:00 A.M., 12:00 Noon and 6:30 P.M. (Johnson/Bartols); and at 7:30 P.M. (Johnson)
- August 4 - 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. (Johnson/Bartols) NOTE: On this date Mr. Bartol reports, "Several dozen black and white photos as well as color photos taken by DAB. Also, DAB and Johnson saw both adult and immature sitting alongside each other on one of the several favorite perches. DAB unable to photo both adult and immature at the same time". Mr. Bartol further reports, "additionally, Mrs. Merlyn Heimbecker and daughter Carlyn, Rock Creek Park, Colorado saw adult and immature".

*Editor's Note: The 1970 sightings reported by Winston W. Brockner, "Blue-throated Hummingbird in Colorado", Colorado Field Ornithologist, 9:27-28, July 1971 must be considered invalid. See pages 20-21 of this issue of the Colorado Field Ornithologist and American Birds, 26 (5):885, October 1972 for further comments on the 1972 sightings.

It is unclear from Mr. Bartol's report whether Miss Johnson and the Heinbeckers are neighbors and possibly could have seen the same bird. Furthermore, since no details regarding the alleged sighting of an immature were provided, the Official Records Committee could not accept this report. One Official Records Committee member, Dr. Paul Julian of Boulder did question one or two of Mr. Bartol's photographs suggesting that possibly the bird pictured might have been an immature since the photograph did not reveal the white-tipped rectrices. However, Dr. Julian quickly points out that Bent says the white-tipped rectrices are present in birds of all ages and thus dismisses the probability of an immature unless more specific detail is furnished.

November 26, 1972

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WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD - - - - Hylocharis leucotis

The only reference to the White-eared Hummingbird occurring in Colorado comes from Dr. William A. Davis' Birds in Western Colorado (1969) page 22. This report refers to a female seen and sketched on Grand Mesa, July 23, 1963, by several observers. The Chairman, CFO Official Records Committee contacted the author regarding this report and, in a letter dated October 29, 1972, Dr. Davis wrote:

"The White-eared Hummingbird is another story; but should probably be on a hypothetical list if we have one. (We don't as yet - Chairman). It was seen by Lucy Ela, who is reliable and honest and three other experienced women. She (Ela) gave me a sketch and description; is sure of her identification. Unfortunately the sketch and description are lost."

The Chairman mentioned this to Mr. Harold Holt and Mr. Holt said he recalls seeing the aforementioned sketch and details some time ago, but didn't know their whereabouts today. In view of the fact that the documentation is evidently no longer available for Official Records Committee inspection, this report must be ruled unsatisfactory. Therefore, as of this date the White-eared Hummingbird is not considered a valid species for Colorado.

Chairman's comment:

Field separation of female White-eared Hummingbirds and females of other western hummingbirds (particularly the Broad-billed Hummingbird) is often extremely difficult, even under the most ideal conditions. Great caution must be exercised when identifying female hummingbirds. Some, in fact, are indistinguishable in the field. Should anyone know the whereabouts of the documents submitted by Lucy Ela, please contact the Chairman of the Official Records Committee.

November 22, 1972

GILDED FLICKER - - - - Colaptes chrysoides

The CFO Official Records Committee has reviewed all available documentation with accompanying photographs (black and white) surrounding the now much publicized report of a Gilded Flicker in the Colorado Springs area during the 1970 Christmas Bird Count. The initial report without substantiation was accepted and published in American Birds (The Seventy-First Christmas Bird Count, April 1971, Volume 25, Number 2, page 450) and subsequently retracted by American Birds (The Seventy-Second Christmas Bird Count, April 1972, Volume 26, Number 2, page 145). Considerable correspondence was generated by several Colorado birders regarding the validity of this record, much of which has appeared in print in the "Letters to the Editor" column of the Colorado Field Ornithologist (see issues Number 11, pages 2 and 3; Number 12, pages 2 through 7; and Number 13, page 2). The Official Records Committee has ruled that the Gilded Flicker report is unsatisfactory due to the acute problem of field separation between this species and the many hybrid flickers frequenting the Colorado Springs area. The written documentation along with the photographic evidence was not convincing enough to support such a tricky identification. Therefore, the Gilded Flicker record is rejected and this species is not as of this date considered a valid species for the state of Colorado.

November 22, 1972

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BLACK PHOEBE - - - - Sayornis nigricans

The CFO Official Records Committee has reviewed the documentation along with four clear, recognizable color photographs of the Black Phoebe reported from the Pueblo area during the spring and summer months of 1972. Written documentation was supplied by Claire A. Griffiths and Donna M. Bregenzer both of Pueblo. The color photographs were taken and submitted by Michael Schultz of Security. Based upon the information presented, the Committee has ruled to accept this species as the first authentic record of an occurrence in Colorado, and has approved its addition to the official state list of the birds of Colorado.

An excellent and detailed account of the appearance of the Black Phoebe in the Pueblo area was submitted by Jerry C. Ligon and David A. Griffiths and published in the Colorado Field Ornithologist, September 1972, No. 13, pages 3 and 4.

All documentation and color photographs are on file with the Official Records Committee.

January 20, 1973

Editor's Note: See American Birds, 26 (5):285, October 1972 for additional information and photographs regarding this report.

BEARDLESS FLYCATCHER - - - - Camptostoma imberbe

There are three reports* of the Beardless Flycatcher occurring in Colorado as follows:

Sight records on June 10, 1962 and April 23, 1963, both from Mesa County. One allegedly caught and banded at Colorado National Monument on September 15, 1964.

The Chairman of the Official Records Committee contacted Dr. William A. Davis who provided the following information regarding these reports:

"The Beardless Flycatcher is definitely dropped as a Colorado record . . . (observers) would or could not back them (reports) at all."

As of this date the Beardless Flycatcher is considered an invalid species for the state of Colorado.

November 22, 1972

*Editor's Note: See William A. Davis' Birds in Western Colorado (1969), p. 25 for original reports and William A. Davis' "Additions and Corrections to 'Birds in Western Colorado'"; Colorado Field Ornithologist, 8:32, Summer 1970 for a retraction of the reports.

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WHITE-EYED VIREO - - - - Vireo griseus

The CFO Official Records Committee has examined the documentation submitted to substantiate the sighting of a White-eyed Vireo in Bear Canyon, South Boulder, Colorado. A single bird was seen and reported by three observers on May 11, 12 and 14, 1972. After reviewing the information submitted to verify this sight report, the CFO Official Records Committee has ruled that it be rejected. As of this date the White-eyed Vireo is not considered as a valid species occurring within the state of Colorado. While the documentation received from the three observers was quite good and complete, a majority of the Committee members expressed concern over the question of the exact coloration of the eye which was reported as ranging from white to gray to brown. Because of this problem with the description and the fact that at no time was the bird heard to sing (which certainly would have been a convincing mark - Chairman), the Committee felt it had to turn down the report.

December 9, 1972

Editor's Note: See Paul Julian's "White-eyed Vireo" in The Lark Bunting, 7 (9):5, June 1972 for the original report of the above sightings, and David W. Lupton's "Colorado Spring Count for 1972", Colorado Field Ornithologist, 13:8, September 1972 for an additional sighting report of this species on the Boulder Spring Count, May 13, 1972. These sightings are also mentioned in American Birds, 26 (4):790, September 1972.

ACCIDENTAL AND OCCASIONAL BIRD SPECIES RECORDED FROM COLORADO

David W. Lupton
Colorado State University Libraries
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

The American Birding Association provides the following guidelines for determining Accidental and Occasional status of bird species that have been recorded for any given state within the United States: ACCIDENTAL = species that have occurred only 1 or 2 times since and including 1920 or in any 50 year period of recent history (since 1800?). In the list below, 1920 has been chosen as the beginning date. OCCASIONAL = species that have occurred 3 to 5 times since 1920 or 6 to 9 times since 1920 but only 1 time or not at all in the past 10 years.

In order to determine which bird species recorded from Colorado between 1920 and December 31, 1972 fall into these two categories, the following list has been prepared. Since details regarding the geographical location within Colorado for each record are readily available in the published sources mentioned below, only the dates for each record are cited. The writer encourages all readers to report to Mr. Jack Reddall, Chairman, Colorado Field Ornithologists Official Records Committee, all corrections and additional records that have occurred since 1920 (from unpublished personal notes and records, overlooked published reports, and previously unrecorded museum specimens). The writer is solely responsible for the following compilation and in no way intends to violate the structure, procedures, or decisions of the CFO Official Records Committee. This article is intended to assist the reader in identifying known records to date as they concern certain bird species recorded from Colorado.

The dates of occurrence for each species in Colorado have been obtained from "Birds of Colorado", Bailey and Niedrach, 1965; "Pictorial Checklist of Colorado Birds", Bailey and Niedrach, 1967; "Birds in Western Colorado", Davis, 1969; "Birds of Rocky Mountain National Park", Collister, 1970; Aikorns; American Birds; Audubon Field Notes; Colorado Field Ornithologist; Lark Bunting; Linnett Lines; Monthly Report of Field Observations of the Denver Field Ornithologists; and the Ptarmigan.

Only species accepted by the Colorado Field Ornithologists Records Committee as valid species on the Colorado state list are included in the following compilation. The designations "Accidental" or "Occasional" are used only in the context defined by the American Birding Association and do not represent status as defined by the CFO Official Records Committee.

"Accidental" species that have been reported from Colorado prior to 1920 only are the following: Brown Pelican, Olivaceous Cormorant, Reddish Egret, Spruce Grouse, Yellow Rail, Purple Gallinule, Eskimo Curlew, Western Gull, Arctic Tern, Wheatear and Lucy's Warbler. Recorded dates for these species are not listed below.

Species reported for Colorado in the literature that have either been rejected by the CFO Official Records Committee or are currently under consideration and are pending final decision are the following: Gray Hawk (rejected), Ruff, Caspian Tern (rejected), Anna's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird (rejected), Buff-bellied Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird (rejected), Gilded Flicker (rejected), Beardless Flycatcher (rejected), Black-eared Bushtit, Cactus Wren, White-eyed Vireo (rejected), Blue-winged Warbler, Olive Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Boat-tailed Grackle, Hoary Redpoll, and Smith's Longspur.

Species listed by the CFO Official Records Committee as rare or unusual in Colorado (needing documentation) and which are not accounted for in this article are considered to be "Rare" by American Birding Association definition (the species have been recorded 6-35 times in Colorado since 1920).

- Yellow-billed Loon: Accidental - Nov. 7, 1922 (specimen).
 Arctic Loon: Accidental - Nov. 3, 1955 and Nov. 8-13, 1972 (sight records).
 Anhinga: Accidental - Sept. 1927 and Sept. 24, 1931 (specimens).
 Louisiana Heron: Occasional - May 18, 1963 and April 23-May 2, 1970 (sight records); July 25-Aug. 17, 1971 (photograph).
 Wood Ibis: Accidental - July 25, 1934 (specimen) and May 28, 1964 (sight record).
 *Glossy Ibis: Accidental (?) - Bailey and Niedrach, 1965 state that "all [sight] records are open to question". Accordingly, although there are several sightings listed since 1920 in the literature, this writer regards this species as "Accidental" until either further specimens and/or other indisputable evidence of occurrence in Colorado is obtained. One specimen, dated May 22, 1916, identified as this species has been obtained in Colorado.

*Editor's Note: The following note concerning the identification of White-faced/Glossy Ibis in the field appears in L(ouisiana) O(rnithological) S(ociety) News No. 59, 2 April 1971, p. 2:

WHITE-FACED/GLOSSY IBISES

The problem of distinguishing in the field the two species of ibis of the genus Plegadis has bothered a whole host of bird students. The problem is especially acute in Louisiana (primarily southeastern La.) since only here do the two species occur together. The field marks given below must be used with extreme care, especially in the case of immature birds, which it is usually best not to try to identify. The birds must be seen at close range in good light in order that there be any chance of satisfactory identification. Most dark ibises will necessarily go into the records simply as Plegadis (sp.).

Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)--Bare skin of lores bluish to slatish black, legs dark. Bare skin behind eye bordering facial feathering bluish to slate sometimes appearing whitish, thus giving a "white-faced" look. This has led to misidentifications. Iris dark, legs dark brown, to blackish in immatures.

White-faced Ibis (Plegadis chihi)--Bare skin of lores reddish or reddish brown, legs reddish. Narrow white margin to feathers behind eye in breeding season. Lack of this white border should never be taken as proof that the bird is a Glossy. Iris red. In immatures the legs are black and the color of the lores may be unreliable, but first winter birds may be distinguished by the color of the lores. Except in southeastern Louisiana, the identification of a dark ibis as a Glossy is suspect and should be made only with great care.

- Roseate Spoonbill: Accidental - May 24, 1938 (sight record).
Trumpeter Swan: Accidental - March 18-19, 1971 (sight record).
Brant: Accidental - Jan. 16, 1964 (trapped and photographed).
Black Brant: Occasional - Nov. or Dec. 1954 and Oct. 25, 1956 (specimens);
Feb. 5-22, 1966 and Nov. 30-Dec. 7, 1968 (photographs).
Mottled Duck: Accidental - Feb. 9, 1937 (sight record) and Sept. 18, 1962
(specimen). Bailey and Niedrach, 1965, state that "although lighter
than the Black Duck, the general similarity of the two makes sight
records for a Mottled Duck very unsatisfactory".
Common Eider: Accidental - Feb. 25, 1932 (sight record). Dick Ryan's article
"A Guide to North American Waterfowl Escapes", Birding, 4(4), July-Aug.
1972:195-160 states that the Common Eider, Brant (both species), Mottled
Duck, and European Widgeon, among other species, are "regular but not
abundant in [private waterfowl] collections. Wildness is open to greater
or lesser doubt depending on closeness of breeding range to point of
observation in wild state."
Common Scoter: Occasional - Oct. 18, 1925 and Nov. 24, 1960 (specimens);
Oct. 26-28, 1969 (photographed).
Black Vulture: Occasional - May 27, 1953; Sept. 19, 1963 and Sept. 14, 1964
(sight records).
Swallow-tailed Kite: Occasional - June 1939; July 2, 1947, and May 30, 1972
(sight records).
Harris' Hawk: Accidental - Jan. 14, 1963 (sight record).
Caracara: Accidental - April or May 1948 (specimen).
Ruffed Grouse: Accidental - Summer of 1948 and Aug. 15, 1949 (sight records).
Whooping Crane: Occasional - June 20, 1931; 1934; October 13-15, 1941;
October 1942; and October 18, 1965 (all sight records).
Black Rail: Accidental - October 18, 1964 (sight record).
Common Gallinule: Accidental - August 8 and 25, 1939; June 6, 1965 (sight
records).
American Woodcock: Occasional - Sept. 16, 1945 (specimen); April 19, 1959;
Dec. 3, 1959; Nov. 6, 1960; and April 17, 1965 (sight records).
Short-billed Dowitcher: Accidental - July 16, 1938 (specimen). This species
is transient in Colorado and Bailey and Niedrach, 1965, state that
"dowitchers are so similar it is doubtful they could be racially
identified in the field".
Hudsonian Godwit: Occasional - May 22, 1955 (sight record); May 26, 1956
(specimen); June 12, 1969 and May 3, 1970 (sight records); Sept. 6,
1971 (photographed).
Red Phalarope: Occasional - June 27, 1938; May 28, 1959 and April 13-15,
1972 (sight records).
Long-tailed Jaeger: Accidental - May 29, 1963 (photographed).
Iceland Gull: Accidental - April 20, 1938 (specimen); possible sight record
Feb. 5-April 1, 1972.
Laughing Gull: Accidental - Aug. 7 and 27, 1964 and May 29, 1971 (sight records).
Ivory Gull: Accidental - Jan. 2, 1926 (specimen).
Black-legged Kittiwake: Occasional - Nov. 13, 1932 (specimen); Jan. 1-2, 1970
(sight record); March 19-25, 1971 (photographs).
Ancient Murrelet: Accidental - Nov. 28, 1957 and October 14, 1965 (specimens).
White-winged Dove: Occasional - Nov. 23, 1921 (specimen); Aug. 1945; July 3,
1967, and July 11, 1969 (sight records).

- Ground Dove: Accidental - April 25, 1937 and October 12, 1968 (sight records).
Inca Dove: Accidental - May 13, 1961 (sight record).
Barred Owl: Occasional - May 21, 1960; May 16, 1964; May 14, 1966 and May 13, 1967 (all sight records). Bailey and Niedrach, 1965, state that "three [other] observations near the foothills were listed as Barred Owls. . . may have been this species, but probably were Spotted Owls, for all specimens collected in the foothills and adjacent areas east of the Front Range have been the latter. It would be extremely difficult to distinguish between the two in the field, except under the most favorable conditions".
- Whip-poor-will: Accidental - May 23, 1959 and May 13, 1967 (sight records).
Lesser Nighthawk: Accidental - Aug. 25, 1922 (specimen). Bailey and Niedrach, 1965, state "few ornithologists have worked in the southern part of the state, and the species may occur more or less regularly. . .".
- Blue-throated Hummingbird: Accidental - June 29-Aug. 4, 1972 (photograph).
Pileated Woodpecker: Occasional - summer 1958, mid August 1959 and summer 1960 (sight records).
Black Phoebe: Accidental - May 13-Aug. 12, 1972 (photograph).
Long-billed Thrasher: Accidental - Aug. 21, 1949 (sight record).
Bendire's Thrasher: Accidental - June 9, 1970 (sight record).
Phainopepla: Accidental - Aug. 29-30, 1965 (photograph).
Swainson's Warbler: Accidental - Sept. 21, 1963 and Aug. 22, 1964 (sight records).
Cape May Warbler: Occasional - May 20-21, 1953 (sight record); May 10, 1964 (photograph); May 13, 1967; May 10, 1970 and May 13, 1972 (sight records).
Cerulean Warbler: Accidental - Sept. 20, 1936 (specimen), and May 13, 1959 (sight record).
Yellow-throated Warbler: Occasional - June or July 1956 (specimen); June 2, 1957; May 6-9, 1961; May 7, 1972 and May 5-11, 1972 (sight records).
Canada Warbler: Occasional - June 13, 1960; Sept. 23, 1963; June 18, 1967; Ft. Collins Spring Count 1968 and June 22, 1970 (sight records).
Painted Redstart: Occasional - Oct. 25 and Nov. 8, 1958; May 16, 1965; May 26-31, 1967; and May 9, 1969 (sight records).
Eastern Meadowlark: Occasional (?) - Sept. 14, 1948; April 6, 1962; and June 6-8, 1969 in Baca County ("song" records). No specimens. Bailey and Niedrach, 1967, state that there are "numerous questionable records based upon songs".
- Hooded Oriole: Accidental - several weeks in 1959 and May 9-mid June 1960 (sight records).
Scott's Oriole: Accidental - late May-June 1, 1960 (sight record).
Hepatic Tanager: Accidental - May 15, 1956 and July 26, 1959 (sight records).
Purple Finch: Occasional - May 1, 1958; March 13, 1962; May 28, 1964; Dec. 18, 1971 and March 29-April 8, 1972 (sight records).
Leconte's Sparrow: Accidental - May 6, 1952 (specimen) and May 10, 1967 (sight record).
Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Accidental - October 23, 1952 (specimen) and Nov. 24, 1970 (sight record).

1972 RECORDS OF THE BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD IN COLORADO

Dominic A. Bartol, Jr., Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.)
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Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

On June 30, 1972, Miss Bernhardina Johnson, Squirrel Roost, Rock Creek Park, Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado notified my wife, Ellen, that she had at 1830 and 1900 hours, on June 29, 1972, observed a very large hummingbird at her feeders. Mrs. Bartol and I spent the entire day of June 30 - unsuccessfully - at Squirrel Roost endeavoring to see, identify and photograph this bird. In succeeding weeks we returned often - always unsuccessfully.

On July 29, 1972, Miss Johnson advised "The bird is back". At about 0930 on July 30, 1972 we arrived at Squirrel Roost. While Mrs. Bartol and Miss Johnson knitted and chatted inside the house, I set up a portable blind; a 300mm lens on a motorized remote controlled Nikon F focused on one feeder, and a Leica M3 with Elmarit 135/mm lens focused on a second feeder manually controlled from the blind. For about an hour I closely scanned scrub oak twigs, leaves and pine needles in the area with a Bausch and Lomb telescope (20x eyepiece) and 7 x 35 Jason binoculars. I saw beetles, butterflies, spiders and the usual host of natural wonders in exquisite detail - but no Blue-throated Hummingbird. The ladies called me to lunch at about the time a quiver in a nearby scrub oak caught my eye. Coupled with the realization that the several Rufous Hummingbirds that were about no longer were "zapping" the Broad-tailed Hummingbirds before me, something said, "Watch it. I'm here!"

The quiver was the tail twitch of a large wren-sized hummingbird in deep oak leaf shadow. With the binoculars I clearly saw the "parallel" white lines above and below the eye, clear light gray throat and breast, and the blackish long tail tipped in white. Initially I thought it was the House Wren which I had been photographing in a nearby wren house from its nest building activities through fledging of the young. But no, it was an adult female Blue-throated Hummingbird that had come from "amigo" country to friendly Colorado. I called to the ladies in the house, and quickly Mrs. Bartol and Miss Johnson had 7 x 50 Jason binoculars and a pair of opera glasses surrounding our feisty visitor. Feisty because the Blue-throated Hummingbird would not permit either the Broad-tailed Hummingbirds or Rufous Hummingbirds near any of the three feeders. I witnessed the Blue-throated Hummingbird actually ram a Rufous Hummingbird that, seemingly, was afterward none the worse for wear.

In complete cooperation with a well done, unwritten script, the Blue-throated Hummingbird darted out of the shadows and perched for some moments on a sunlit dead branch for the three of us to closely examine its finery, size and attitude toward other hummingbirds lower on the pecking order. Then as if on cue, the Blue-throated Hummingbird zipped to the feeder about 2 1/2 feet from the positioned Leica, and I snapped off several eyeball to eyeball

portraits (see cover photo). During the lunch which the ladies and I had after the Blue-throated Hummingbird had hers, remote control afforded several additional photos and prolonged observation at close ranges of the Blue-throated Hummingbird's behavior. This bird perched for longer periods than do either the Broad-tailed Hummingbird or the Rufous Hummingbird. Average time perched seemed to be about 12 minutes. Feedings at the syrup feeder were 20 to 25 minutes apart and interspersed with short pursuit flights for what appeared to be flying insects, although that I could not clearly discern.

Other study opportunities occurred, and we determined that the female adult was possibly in the company of an immature male Blue-throated Hummingbird. The adult hummingbird remained in the area through August 27, 1972.

Others who observed the Blue-throated Hummingbird are:

Dr. Alfred and Evelyn D. Powell
Box 2217 University Station
Enid, Oklahoma 73701

Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Lindy and family
1924 Warwick Lane
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

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CORRECTION

Mrs. Helen B. Thurlow has brought the following correction to the attention of the Editor in her article "Sabine's Gull; With a Review of Colorado Records", Colorado Field Ornithologist, 14:12-15, December 1972: page 12, paragraph 4, line 5 should read ... Arctic in both hemispheres, from Wales, Alaska to the Southampton Islands, ... not ... Wales and Alaska....

BIRD FAUNA OF THE VICINITY OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

Todd Keeler-Wolf, Virginia Keeler-Wolf, and William A. Calder, Jr.*

Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Gothic-Crested Butte, Colorado 81224
and

*Department of Biological Sciences (E)
University of Arizona
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The Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory was founded in 1928 in the former mining town of Gothic, Gunnison County, surrounded by the Gunnison National Forest. The elevation of the Laboratory is 9,650 feet. Nearby environments include riparian spruce-fir forests along Copper Creek and the East River, open wet and dry meadows, and slopes of seral aspen forest (dotted with Engelmann Spruce, Subalpine Fir and Douglas Fir which probably pre-date forest fires and timber-cutting in the past). Within a six mile radius are the Washington Gulch National Area and the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness, administered by the U. S. Forest Service, and the Mexican Cut-Galena Mountain Research Preserve, set aside through the assistance of the Nature Conservancy.

A previous check list (H. W. Levi and L. R. Levi, unpubl.) of the avifauna of the Gothic area, derived in part from an earlier list of the late Prof. Hann, has been utilized and revised to include recent additions. We have included observations from the area bounded by the North Fork of the Crystal River to the north, Conundrum Pass on the east, Slate Creek on the west and southwest, and Crested Butte on the south. The elevational range is 9,011 to 13,462 feet, from the meanders of the East River to the summit of Treasury Mountain.

A total of 112 species of birds have been reported here, of which 88 were seen in 1972 by the avian biology class and senior investigators. The 1972 observations included 11 additions and three new breeding records. Five new species, perhaps migrants, were added by Gerald Svendsen in early May. These indicate that many species remain to be discovered in the off-seasons when few researchers and no students are present. Of particular interest in the very early and dry summer of 1972, were the accidental appearance of a male Say's Phoebe which set up territory in late May, calling and singing from several perches for about two weeks, and showing interest in an old Robin nest, to which fresh material was apparently added. It disappeared without ever attracting a female. The first records of egg-laying by the Brown-headed Cowbird and the Black-capped Chickadee in Gothic were obtained in 1972.

We have no quantitative basis for assigning abundance symbols, and rely only upon general impressions, which are certainly open to question. Therefore, the status of each species is tentatively (and subjectively!) indicated by the following letters: VC = very common, C = common, R = rare, VR = very rare, A = accidental, N = nested, W = post breeding wanderer or migrant, 1972 = observed last year.

- American Bittern - R, north of
Crested Butte
- Mallard - C, East River Valley,
(N); 1972
- Pintail - VR, (G. Svendsen, 9 May 72)
- Green-winged Teal - (N); 1972
- Blue-winged Teal - R, (G. Svendsen,
9 May 1972)
- Redhead - VR, (G. Svendsen, 9 May 72)
- Common Merganser - (G. Svendsen,
9 May 1972)
- Goshawk - VR; 1972
- Sharp-shinned Hawk - VR, Washington
Gulch; 1972
- Cooper's Hawk - VR, north of Crested
Butte
- Red-tailed Hawk - C; 1972
- Swainson's Hawk - C; 1972
- Rough-legged Hawk - R, above Crested
Butte; Fravert Basin; 1972
- Ferruginous Hawk - VR, East River
meanders; 1972
- Golden Eagle - C, in high mountains;
1972
- Marsh Hawk - R, meanders and Bellevue
Mt.; 1972
- Peregrine Falcon - A? (pair), (G.
Svendsen, 9 May 1972)
- Sparrow Hawk - C, south of Gothic;
1972
- Blue Grouse - VC, (N); 1972
- White-tailed Ptarmigan - C, above
timberline, (N); 1972
- Wilson's Snipe - C, in wet meadows,
near Kettle Ponds; 1972
- Sora - R, marsh north of Crested
Butte Kettle Ponds, heard; 1972
- Killdeer - Crested Butte and below;
1972
- Spotted Sandpiper - VC, (N); 1972
- Mourning Dove - C, Crested Butte,
wandering higher after breeding;
1972
- Barn Owl - VR
- Screech Owl - VR; 1972
- Great-horned Owl - C, feeding
fledglings at Gothic; 1972
- Pygmy Owl - R
- Long-eared Owl - VR, in conifer-willow
ecotone at base of Snodgrass-
Gothic Mt. saddle; 1972
- Boreal Owl - A, vic. Virginia Mines
(Colorado Field Ornithologist 12:14)
- Saw-whet Owl - R, spruce-fir grove
south of Copper Creek
- Common Nighthawk - R, in valley, very
rarely heard at Gothic; 1972
- White-throated Swift - Gothic Mt.; 1972
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird - VC, (N) (28
nests in Gothic; 1972) male arr.
16 May, female arr. 21 May
(G. Svendsen)
- Rufous Hummingbird - VC, after mid-
July (W); 1972

- Calliope Hummingbird - VR, (W); 1972
- Rivoli's Hummingbird - (W); (Auk
79:481) A?
- Belted Kingfisher - R
- Red-shafted Flicker - VC, (N); 1972
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - VC, (N);
1972
- Williamson's Sapsucker - R, W?; 1972
- Hairy Woodpecker - R; 1972
- Downy Woodpecker - C; 1972
- Northern Three-toed Woodpecker -
VR, W; 1972
- Say's Phoebe - A; 1972
- Traill's Flycatcher - R, (N); 1972
- Dusky Flycatcher - R, (N)
- Olive-sided Flycatcher - R; C in
higher spruce-fir forests; 1972
- Western Flycatcher - VC, (N); 1972
- Western Wood Peewee - VC, (N); 1972
- Violet-green Swallow - VC, (N); 1972
- Tree Swallow - VC, (N); 1972
- Barn Swallow - R; 1972
- Cliff Swallow - C, nests at Crested
Butte ski area; 1972
- Gray Jay - VC; 1972
- Steller's Jay - R; 1972
- Black-billed Magpie - VC, Crested
Butte Road; 1972
- Common Raven - C; 1972
- Common Crow - (G. Svendsen, 19 May 72)
- Clark's Nutcracker - R, C higher; 1972
- Black-capped Chickadee - R, (N); 1972
- Mountain Chickadee - VC, (N); 1972
- Red-breasted Nuthatch - R, (W), C in
higher coniferous forests; 1972
- Brown Creeper - R; 1972
- Dipper - C, in streams; two nests in
township; 1972
- House Wren - VC, (N); 1972
- Rock Wren - R, western slope of
Gothic Mountain; 1972
- Robin - VC, (N); 1972
- Hermit Thrush - C, coniferous forests
of slopes; 1972
- Swainson's Thrush - C, in riparian
coniferous forests; 1972
- Veery - R
- Western Bluebird - W, north of Crested
Butte; 1972
- Mountain Bluebird - C, (N); 1972
- Townsend's Solitaire - C, on slopes,
(N); 1972
- Golden-crowned Kinglet - C, in spruce-
fir forest; 1972
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet - VC, in spruce-
fir forest; 1972
- Water Pipit - C, above timberline, (N);
1972 flocks in Gothic and East
River Valley in mid to late May

- Loggerhead Shrike - R, Crested Butte Road
- Warbling Vireo - VC, in aspen (N); 1972
- Tennessee Warbler - VR, (W?); 1972
- Orange-crowned Warbler - R, Rustler's Gulch; 1972
- Nashville Warbler - R, Rustler's Gulch and Gothic
- Yellow Warbler - VC, willows; 1972
- Audubon's Warbler - VC, (N); 1972
- MacGillivray's Warbler - C; 1972
- Wilson's Warbler - VC, willows, (N); 1972
- Western Meadowlark - W, Kettle Pond vicinity; 1972
- Yellow-headed Blackbird - marsh north of Crested Butte
- Red-winged Blackbird - VC in meanders, Kettle Ponds, beaver ponds; 1972
- Brewer's Blackbird - VC, in Crested Butte, near Kettle Ponds and meanders of East River, wandering north to feed in meadows and aspens of Gothic after breeding; 1972
- Brown-headed Cowbird - C, (N) egg found in nest of Yellow Warbler; 1972
- Western Tanager - C, (N); 1972
- Black-headed Grosbeak - R
- Lazuli Bunting - C, migrant; 1972
- Evening Grosbeak - R, (W); 1972
- Cassin's Finch - VC, (N); 1972
- House Finch - R, Crested Butte
- Pine Grosbeak - VC, in spruce-fir forests, descending to aspens and meadows of Gothic after breeding; 1972
- Brown-capped Rosy Finch - C, above timberline (N); 1972
- Pine Siskin - VC, in Gothic, (N); 1972
- Red Crossbill - commonly heard, less frequently seen, in tall conifers of Washington Gulch and Mexican Cut areas; 1972
- Green-tailed Towhee - C, (N) in sagebrush of dry hillside meadows; 1972
- Savannah Sparrow - R to C, in fescue grassland near Kettle Ponds; 1972
- Vesper Sparrow - C, (N), south of Gothic in grassland; 1972
- Lark Sparrow - (W) to 11,000'; 1972
- Gray-headed Junco - VC, (N); 1972
- Chipping Sparrow - C; 1972
- White-crowned Sparrow - VC, (N); 1972
- Fox Sparrow - C, in conifer forest wet meadow (willow) ecotones; 1972
- Lincoln's Sparrow - VC, in willows; 1972
- Song Sparrow - C, in willow bottomlands along East River; 1972

We submit this list as a preliminary ornithological survey of the avifauna of the Gothic area, not as a final, definitive, and fully documented report. However, it should convey some idea of the opportunity for study and research at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory. Prospective students and investigators may address inquiries to the Director, Dr. John C. Johnson, Jr. (winter address): Department of Biology, Kansas State College, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762.

Editor's Note: Address correspondence concerning this article to:

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BIRDS IN WESTERN COLORADO

by
William A. Davis

Annotated field list and travel guides for finding
the best birding spots. \$1.75.

Historical Museum and Institute of Western Colorado
4th and Ute, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501.

NOTES FROM THE ROARING FORK WATERSHED

Jerry L. Wooding
Colorado Rocky Mountain School
Carbondale, Colorado 81623

In the fall of 1971 I moved to Carbondale, Colorado where I began my work as a science instructor at the Colorado Rocky Mountain School. I opened a small banding station using Potter traps in December and in April 1972 I began to get data on spring migration in western Colorado. This involved setting mist nets in a riparian community on the Crystal River about one-half mile upstream from its confluence with the Roaring Fork River.

I held a class in ornithology from January through June 1972 and led a seventeen day bird study-backpacking trip through parts of the White River National Forest in August. All of these activities have resulted in a great deal of field time, mostly spent within the watershed of the Roaring Fork River, and have produced several interesting observations.

Foremost among these observations was my discovery on July 11 of a Cedar Waxwing nest. The nest was located about 18 feet up in a cottonwood, almost over-hanging the Crystal River. The three young stood up on the edge of the nest, flapped their wings, and raised a great commotion while being fed. The next day they left the nest. The discovery of the nest was not really surprising to me because I had been seeing Cedar Waxwings regularly and had banded two adults, one on June 6 and one June 10.

On June 9, an immature Black Tern spent the evening feeding at a farm pond near the confluence of the Crystal and Roaring Fork Rivers.

I operated my banding station for 38 days between April 8 and June 12. 1780 net hours were logged and produced 180 birds of 35 species. The following records may be of interest: 14 male and 2 female Audubon's Warblers, 2 male Myrtle Warblers, and one male hybrid Audubon x Myrtle Warbler.*

Although William A. Davis' Birds in Western Colorado (1969) lists the Traill's Flycatcher and the Catbird as "uncommon" and "rare" respectively, I banded 7 Traill's Flycatchers - one pair nested in my study area - and 17 Catbirds. A Catbird nest was found in the study area on July 2, 1972.

Finally, one of the best treats of our backpacking trip was spending ten minutes watching an immature Golden Eagle making practice stoops on an adult Mule Deer!

*Editor's Note: Bailey and Niedrach, "Birds of Colorado" II:685 (1965) make the following statement regarding hybrid Audubon x Myrtle Warblers in Colorado: "There are numerous specimens [of the Audubon's Warbler] in the [Denver] Museum collection from all parts of the state, including many with white and yellow feathers on their throats indicating hybridism."

ADDITIONAL REVISION OF "BIRDS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK"

Allegra Collister
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Longmont, Colorado 80501

GREAT BLUE HERON: Eleven at Lake Estes 24 March 1971 (Warner Reeser and other observers). Has been regarded as rare in recent years.

OSPREY: Correction - Two pairs nested at Lake Granby, summer of 1970; first verified nesting record from RMNP west slope region (Dr. Ronald A. Ryder); two pairs (probably same birds) nested there in 1971 (Robert Haines) and again in 1972 (Jerry Spangler).

CINNAMON TEAL: Two males, possible several females, at Lake Estes with flock of Green-winged Teal, 24 March 1971 (Warner Reeser); pair observed in June 1972 Shadow Mountain Lake (Jerry Spangler); seldom reported from this area.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON: Flock of 20 at McGregor Ranch near RMNP boundary line north of Estes Park through August, 1972 (Allegra Collister).

MOURNING DOVE: New late date; one on 27 November 1972 at Estes Park (Marian Patterson).

KILLDEER: Early record; 17 March 1971, shore of Lake Estes (Warner Reeser).

HERRING GULL: Seven on Lake Estes 25 December 1972 (Marian Patterson and Warner Reeser).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD: Early record; 22 April 1972, Devils Gulch Road (Mr. and Mrs. Richard Krogh); new late record, 8 October 1972, in Estes Park (Lucille Harrison).

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER: Late record; 19 October 1972 (Marian Patterson).

BLUE JAY: One 20 September 1972, south of Estes Park (Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pohly); a rare visitor in area.

WESTERN BLUEBIRD: Late record; one on 7 November 1972 north of Estes Park (John Douglass).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: First record in RMNP; adult male in bright breeding plumage, 17 June 1970, lower Cub Lake Trail (Edwin C. and Evelyn C. Franks, Robert C. Beason).

YELLOWTHROAT: Unusually common during spring migration 1972; previously regarded as casual in Park region.

INDIGO BUNTING: First record for region; one at feeding station 21 to 26 May 1972, Estes Park (Marian Patterson).

OREGON JUNCO: Late spring record; three 13 May 1972, south of Estes Park (Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pohly).

HARRIS' SPARROW: New early record; one on 8 September 1972 (Marian Patterson), Estes Park; one at feeding station through winter of 1972-1973 (Warner Reeser).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: First Park region records; one 26 April 1972, Estes Park (Marian Patterson); two 18 May 1972, Endovalley Campground, RMNP (Warner Reeser); two on 1972 Christmas Bird Count (Allegra Collister, Warner Reeser).

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BIRDS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

by
Allegra Collister

Publications Department
Denver Museum of Natural History
Denver, Colorado 80206

\$1.00

GOOD MANNERS, GOOD BIRDING

Sam Gadd
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Like many of you, I go into the field for the sounds of nature--bird-song, the wind in the trees, the chorusing of frogs--as much as for the game of bird-listing. If I'm alone, or with one or two friends, the experience is always a joy.

Not so when I'm in the midst of a large field party--a babble of birders, to coin a collective noun.

We halt along the roadside. People pile out of their cars--slam those doors!--and advance on the tour leader, shouting "What've you got? Where is it?" If the leader can be heard above the mob, he may succeed in directing our attention to a bird we've all wanted to see--and hear. But at my elbow someone is already declaiming: "I saw one last year in Arizona. Or was it in Tennessee? No, it was three years ago, when George and I" (Who the hell cares!) In midsentence, the bird has flown. I find myself saying "Please shut up and listen!" A heavy silence, lasting three blessed seconds, follows. On the way back to the car a neophyte birder tells me, dejectedly, "I never did find out what we were supposed to be looking at."

Colorado birders are bad offenders in the Inappropriate Verbalization Dept. If they behaved so crassly while on a field trip with Eastern birders, they'd be tied and gagged and left behind for the vultures.

The mark of the boorish birder is his desire to impress others. He is noisily "with it". Usually he has little information to convey; so he conveys raw ego. He is the bane of serious, well-mannered, knowledgeable people.

Is he entirely to blame? I think not. The real blame lies with the experienced birders themselves. They have failed to lay down the ground rules: the stalker's rule of silence, together with a few other dicta that make all the difference between enjoyment and fiasco.

Every field party should have a firm commander. At the outset he should make the rules quite clear. I'll list ten of them with explanations. (They could be expressed more tersely and mimeographed or printed on cards; then the leader could ask, "Is everyone familiar with the"--naming the club--"rules?" and give copies to the novices and strangers.)

1. The leader informs everyone, at the start, what the first main stop is to be and where the party will be gathering for lunch. Throughout the day he always names the next intended stop. (This may spare him the annoyance of being asked, over and over, "What's this place called?")

2. If you are driving **one** of the cars, you are responsible for the car just behind yours.

- a. If you come to a crossroads or a turnoff, be sure the next car is in sight. If it isn't, wait for it.
- b. Car breakdowns, accidents, and sickness do occur. So does the discovery of a rare bird by people in a car at or near the end of the entourage. If, after a long wait, the car behind yours still hasn't come into view, drive on until the car ahead of yours can be seen; then signal to it--wave something white--until you get a reply. Having stopped that car, turn around and go back in search of the missing car. Meanwhile the signal is carried forward, from car to car, to the tour leader, who will investigate.

3. If the car ahead of yours stops to look at a bird, you stop, too--close behind, and cautiously. Someone in the first car points to the bird and calls back to you: "Sprague's Pipit on the fence," for example. And you pass that word back to the car that has pulled up behind you. Everybody stays in the cars unless the leader gets out.

4. At a main stop or at a brief stop for a general look-around or an unexpected pursuit, the tour leader gets out and beckons to the others. Pull up, get out, walk quietly to him, gather around, and listen to him.

5. Whenever the party is afoot, brief conversations in low tones are appropriate but silence is preferable. (This isn't a social occasion.) For the only permissible full-voiced remarks, see rule 7.

6. If anyone stops walking--to look or to listen--and you're nearby, you stop, too. Don't move until that person has resumed walking.

7. If you see a bird, call it to the attention of the others, tersely and in a strong voice, thus:

- a. Speak your guess as to what it might be, if a name flashes into your mind; do this without hesitation. If you guess wrong, it doesn't matter: we all make mistakes on first call. But if the bird is a rarity and you happen to be right, everyone will have been alerted.
- b. Call out "Flying!" or "Sitting!" Complete the directions with a succinct phrase, such as "sky, high up, overhead" or "below the skyline across the valley" or "going into the brushpile" or "tip of the big spruce" or "on the ground near the fencepost". Sometimes--for a distant waterbird or hawk, perhaps--it's best to give a backsight: "slightly to the right of the farmhouse" or "below the notch in the hill". If the bird is in a tree or a bush, give the quadrant: "top left", "low center". Avoid pointing, which may alarm the bird.

The whole point of rule 7 is this: no one within calling distance of the finder of a bird should ever have to ask "Where?"

8. If the party is spreading out or if you wish to leave the party, tell the person nearest you where you're going. Then, if you don't show up when the party has reassembled, someone will know where you went to break your ankle, suffer snakebite, or conk out with heat-stroke.

9. Reserve an agreed-on sound for summoning others, in case of a good find or when it's time to reassemble. "Yo!" is far-carrying.

10. If you are "shushing" or "squeaking" for a bird, do so in a regular series of four: "ss---ss---ss---ss." Thus, others won't mistake the sound for the notes of a real bird.

End of rules . . . unless you'd like to add one or two. I need only add that these rules apply as well to a party of two as a party of twenty.

One further thought about the gabble problem: Americans are terribly afraid of speaking up when they're being annoyed. Don't be! Let Shakespeare's progression, from the Retort Courteous to the Countercheck Quarrelsome, be your guide. Pointedly ignoring the yakker often suffices; but if he's shown himself to be a complete ass, tell him so. (And no hard feelings, at least on your part, afterward!) You'll be doing everyone a favor--including the bubbly birder, if he hopes to be welcome, ever again, in your good company.

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Australian Seabird Group, Newsletter.

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