

Colorado Birds

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly



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Front Cover

Iceland Gull at Cherry Creek Reservoir (see p. 147). Bill Schmoker took this photo on 12 Feb 2005.

CFO BOARD MINUTES

Lisa Edwards, Secretary

The regular quarterly meeting was held April 23 at 11:09 A.M. Board members present were President Peter Gent; Secretary Lisa Edwards; Treasurer David Waltman, and Directors Doug Faulkner, Tom McConnell, Mark Peterson, and Bill Schmoker. Vice President Norm Lewis and Directors Cheryl Day, Rachel Hopper, and Larry Semo sent their regrets. The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Things are running well and the convention planning is well in hand.

TREASURER'S REPORT

CFO's current assets are \$38,822.11. The treasurer's report was approved.

COLORADO BIRDS

The April issue is at the printers, it is full at 56 pages. A *News from the Field* editor is needed for the spring and summer reports.

CBRC

Year 2003 records are currently being voted on. They may be published in the July issue.

FIELD TRIPS

The Feather Tracts presentation by Tony Leukering was well received. Over 35 people attended the seminar. The list of field trips on the website is up-to-date.

PROJECT FUND

Youth Scholarship Fund - The scholarship for Elise Becker of Colorado Springs to attend a Victor Emmanuel birding camp was approved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Discussion was held about possible candidates to fill the vacancies that the Board will have due to several Board members' terms expiring at the 2005 convention.

The slate of officers to be presented to the general membership in May is:

President: Norm Lewis

Vice President: Bill Schmoker

Secretary: Lisa Edwards

Treasurer: David Waltman

New/Up for Re-election Directors: Maggie Boswell, Glenn Walbek, and Cheryl Day

AWARDS

Tom McConnell reported that all the plaques are completed for the convention and he will bring them to La Junta.

2005 CONVENTION

The convention will run Friday, May 13, to Sunday, May 15. The convention activities will be held at Otero Junior College. Brian Wheeler, author of numerous books on North American raptors, will be the speaker. We need to limit size of each group under a field trip leader to 20 including the leaders and possibly set up the more popular trips as bid trips in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) 2006 Convention - Bill Schmoker will contact Western Field Ornithologists about their continued interest in a joint meeting/convention for 2006.
- 2) Convention field trips - We will consider moving registrations to Thursday evenings for future conventions as the Friday field trips gain in popularity.
- 3) E-Bird - Chris Wood would like to make a presentation to the Board at the August meeting concerning Cornell's E-Bird program.
- 4) Pamphlet style checklist - The Board will consider updating the checklist for the 2006 CFO convention.

A motion was made and seconded to thank Peter Gent for stepping in as President three years ago and his generous contribution of time and dedication to Colorado Field Ornithologists.

The next CFO Board meeting will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2005 in El Paso County at 11:00 A.M.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 2:50 P.M.



STEWARDSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT LETTER TO CFO

June 10, 2005

To the CFO Committee:

I would like to thank the CFO committee for the plaque that I received from Rich Levad on June 1, 2005. I was truly surprised and honored to receive this plaque.

The Black Swifts of Box Canyon are indeed an interesting, wonderful bird to observe and I hope that I have added some knowledge and understanding to others of this beautiful bird and their life.

I feel so lucky to have this opportunity and hope that I can continue with the observations and taking notes for many more years. It really is a Labor of Love!

Thank you so much for this plaque.

Sincerely,

Sue E. Hirshman
of Ouray, CO.

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*.

BIRDING AT BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK

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Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP) is a large park of approximately 2,600 acres just east of the hogback near the town of Morrison. It is operated by the city of Lakewood and a park pass (daily or seasonal) is required to enter the park. An excellent multiple-use Travel Map and a Bird Checklist (over 160 species) are available at the entrance or at the Visitor's Center (opens at 9:00 A.M. daily, closed Mondays). The park is well-marked with signs that correspond to the Trail Map. The description of trails and landmarks in the article correspond to those on the Trail Map.

There are miles of riparian trails along Bear and Turkey creeks, both which empty into Bear Creek Reservoir. The reservoir is approximately 110 surface acres with an average depth of 20 feet, a maximum depth of 35 feet and shallow areas along the west side where the two creeks empty into the reservoir. Much of the park is shortgrass prairie dotted with prairie dog towns and a scattering of trees, shrubs, and power lines which serve as perches for raptors. The north portion of the park encompasses hilly shortgrass prairie intersected by marshy ravines. There is also a trail around the reservoir which can be great for birding.

BCLP is too large to be birded all in one day. I will describe some of the best birding areas I have discovered while birding the park on a regular basis over the past two years.

Neotropical Migrants - Spring and Fall

Drive the road past the Visitor Center and stables to the parking lot above Pelican Point. Park in the southeast corner of the lot, then walk along the edge of the grassy area on the east and north sides checking for sparrows and open country birds. Lincoln's Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, shrikes, bluebirds, and Sage Thrasher have all been spotted in this area. As you approach the shelter and beginning of the Fitness Loop, check the trees and bushes for any number of birds. This is the "birdiest spot" in the park just after sunrise during migration. Some of the more unusual migrants spotted near this area include Bobolink (17 May 2004), numerous flycatchers, kingbirds, an Eastern Phoebe (16 May 2004, 4 Oct 2004), and a variety of warblers, including a Worm-eating Warbler on 2 Oct 2004.

At this point you have several options, all which offer good birding:

- 1) Take the Cottonwood Trail along the west side of the lake and follow it west along Bear Creek,
- 2) go south across the road and bird the area between the road and Turkey Creek, or
- 3) bird the west side of the lake around to the southwest corner of the lake.

The Cottonwood Trail is the longest and goes through a variety of habitats. One can expect to see and hear Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat all singing to establish their territories in late May. Gray Catbird can be seen as you reach the Fitness Loop between Stations 8 and 10. The area where the Owl Trail meets the Fitness Loop (Owl Post #10, Fitness Station #10) is often a "birdy area". American Kestrels nest in the vicinity and a variety of birds abound along the hillside as you take the horse trail beneath the hillside back to Fitness Station #8. From here, you can follow the road back from Fitness Station #8 to the beginning of the fitness trail, which is where you started. Lazuli Bunting has occurred in the area south of the road between Fitness Stations 5 and 7. Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks also frequent this area. Red-eyed Vireos were spotted here on 13 Aug 2004 and 10 Sept 2004 and a pair of Cassin's Sparrows were spotted on 22 Aug 2004.

If you choose to head south across the road towards Turkey Creek, make sure to check the small trees and bushes below the road and west of the big cottonwood. This has also proven to be another "birdy area" on a regular basis with a variety of warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Green-tailed Towhee, and Hermit Thrush. Continue up the trail to Turkey Creek, and follow Turkey Creek east back towards the lake. In the spring, there is either a Red-tailed Hawk or Great Horned Owl using the nest directly above the trail among the big cottonwoods. When you reach the spot where the trail crosses Turkey Creek, you can either cross the creek and bird the southwest corner of the lake or head back towards Pelican Point and the parking lot. The little cove on the southwest corner of the lake often holds some real treasures. Franklin's Gull, White-faced Ibis, Black-crowned Night-Heron along with Blue and Cinnamon teals are among the interesting migrants observed in this area. There are often some warblers in the small trees along the shore of the lake.

If you choose to bird the western edge of the lake, take the trail to the lake from the northeast corner of the parking lot. There is a good overlook where you can observe the small bay to the north. Often you can find American White

Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, and Ring-billed Gull in this area. Then work your way along the lake past Pelican Point and back toward Turkey Creek. Besides your usual array of ducks, on occasion one can see Eared and Western grebes, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, both Common and Barrow's goldeneyes, and Hooded Merganser. Osprey have been seen using the lake during the month of April. This is also the area where the Ancient Murrelet (8 Nov 2004) was seen among a variety of duck species.

Riparian Woodlands - Year-round Birding

The trails along the creek offer good birding any time of the year. There are trails along both sides of the two creeks so one has plenty of options.

Owl Trail - Park at Skunk Hollow, then follow the Owl Creek Trail east along Bear Creek. The area near owl post #4 is worth checking carefully as some years there have been American Redstarts in the area. The area near owl post #10 where the trails meets the fitness trail is another good spot where one can find some varieties.

North side of Bear Creek - When you come into the park, take the North Road and drive to the boat launch parking lot. The area around the boat launch area can be good birding, as well as the area around Muskrat Meadows as you follow Bear Creek to the west. A Winter Wren was observed near the oxbow by Muskrat Meadows in February 2003. When you reach the footbridge, go ahead and cross it and then follow the owl trail in either direction.

Turkey Creek - When birding Turkey Creek, always check the area south of the small pond carefully. Soras wintered here in the winter of 2004-05.

Auto Loops

1) Take the North Road from the entrance to Mountain View and up to the dam. Check the area on both sides of the road just east of Muskrat Meadows carefully, as well as the area around the Mountain View parking lot. There is a tall light pole where the road ends to the north of Mountain View. Peregrine and Prairie falcons and American Kestrel have all perched here.

2) Take the road past the Visitor Center to Pelican Point. Good spots include the area north of the road where the power line crosses, the area south of the stables, and the big cottonwood tree on the south side of the road as you approach Pelican Point.

Driving the roads the morning after a winter or spring snow often produces some surprises. I have found White-winged and Slate-colored juncos, as well



Fig. 1. Bear Creek Lake Park trail map.

as Harris's Sparrow. A March snow often produces both Mountain and Western Bluebirds. One can also park at Mountain View parking lot and walk the paved road on the east side of the lake after a storm. A Horned Grebe was observed the entire month of April 2003 along this walk.

North Park Trails - These trails provide hiking opportunities in hilly shortgrass prairie where one can see Vesper Sparrow and Western Meadowlark in abundance. The large marshy areas will have a variety of birds with both Sora and Virginia Rail. Parking at Mountain View and taking the trail up Coyote Gulch will provide access to a nice marsh approximately 0.25 mile north of the road.

A McCown's Longspur was observed on 26 April 2003 and I believe hiking the North Park Trail areas in April/early May and again in mid-late August will provide some surprising grassland sparrows and open country migrants.

Raptors

There are at least 3-4 breeding pairs of Great Horned Owl and 2-3 pairs of Red-tailed Hawk in the park. There were a pair of Swainson's Hawk that established a nest just south of Bear Creek near the Whitetail Picnic Area in 2004. American Kestrel also breeds in the park and I suspect there is a Cooper's Hawk nest or two along the creeks. Bald Eagles can be seen on occasion in the winter and Osprey during the month of April. Northern Harrier, Peregrine and Prairie falcons, as well as Sharp-shinned Hawk have all been seen during migration.

Directions

BCLP is bounded by Morrison Road (CO 8) on the north, Hampden Avenue (Hwy 285) on the south, C-470 on the west, and the Fox Hollow Golf Course on the east. From C-470 and Morrison Road, go east on Morrison Road approximately 0.25 mile to the BCLP entrance on the right.

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 often. The Internet address is:

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

AVIAN COMMUNITY CHANGE ACROSS THE TWENTIETH CENTURY IN THE VICINITY OF GOLDEN, COLORADO

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Abstract—In 1909, Robert Rockwell and Alexander Wetmore devoted eight months to a field survey of the birds in and around the city of Golden, Colorado. Their study is one of the earliest avian community studies for Colorado. This article compares their results with those of a nearly identical survey I conducted during 2004. Although each survey identified over 100 species, the 2004 survey found more species in fewer observer hours. The two surveys combined identified a total of 157 species, and 75 of them (48%) occurred in 1909 and in 2004. Seven species seen in 1909 are no longer found in the Golden vicinity. Thirteen found in 2004 were not present in 1909, thus species richness has increased by six. About half the species found during both surveys occurred in the same ecological zones, but about half also visited a different number of zones in 2004 than they had in 1909. The most significant shift was away from the zone of highest altitude in the study area.

Introduction

Rockwell and Wetmore (R&W) intended their pioneering survey to provide a baseline that naturalists could use in later years to assess the human impact on the then recently created Mountain Parks System, which included the sites (habitats) they surveyed surrounding Golden.

In 2004, I repeated R&W's survey, to compare the avian communities around Golden at dates nearly a century apart. This paper compares R&W's results with mine in two respects, species richness and habitat preference. A few comments on abundance are offered. I focused my study on these questions, which are answered in the results section.

- 1) Which species were found only in 1909, or only in 2004?
 - a. In which zones were they most concentrated at each time?
- 2) Which species were found at both periods of time?
 - a. Which species were found in the same zones?
 - b. Which species were found in different zones?

Study Area

The study area surrounds Golden, extending south about eight miles to Turkey Creek, northwest six miles to Tucker Gulch, southwest five miles to

Genesee Mountain, and east along Clear Creek two or three miles. The entire area covers about 17,000 ha (66 square miles), but the two surveys only examined selected locations within that large area. For example, while R&W made sorties into the foothills as far as 11.26 km (seven miles) west of Golden, and though they referred to birds along Clear Creek at points as much as 9.65 km (six miles) east of Golden, most of their fieldwork focused on a territory within 3.22 km (two miles) of Golden. Only 31 of 99 (31%) site visits ventured beyond that two-mile radius, and 61 (62%) of all site visits were to four favorite locations: Golden, Clear Creek, Chimney Gulch, and Lookout Mountain.

Within the Golden vicinity, R&W described four distribution areas, or districts of similar elevation, geography, vegetation, and other biotic factors. I adopted R&W's four distribution areas, but I called them zones. Zone 1 is the plains well below (to the east of) Golden and Morrison, which is beyond the region studied by either survey. Both surveys focused only on Zones 2-4, and visited the plains occasionally to determine which of the birds in Zones 2-4 also occurred there.

Zone 2 includes the stream banks from just below to well above Golden and Morrison (elev. 5,600-6,280 feet), the lowest meadows (or grasslands) of the foothills, and the slopes of the Table Mountains (elev. 5,550-6,566 feet). Zone 3 embraces the steeper gulches and slopes, as well as the lower ridges and intermediate meadows of the foothills (elev. 5,600-7,200 feet). Zone 4 comprises the highest meadows, the summit of Lookout Mountain, and the ridges just below that summit (elev. 7,200-7,414 feet). Table 1 lists the sites visited by the two surveys in alphabetical order within zones.

R&W noticed that the flora of North and South Table Mountains was often similar to that on the plains. Modern botanical studies confirm similarities to both plains and foothills environments (L. Yeatts, unpubl. data), but because of their close proximity to the nearby foothills, I have placed both Table Mountains in Zone 2 for this study.

There is considerable overlap of habitat types within Zones 2-4. For example, Zone 3 consists of mountain (or foothills) riparian, mountain grassland, semi-desert shrub, scrub oak, mountain (or foothills) shrub, ponderosa pine forest, aspen grove, cliffs, and mixed conifer (Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and spruce-fir in either a woodland or forest setting). Habitat types are based on Kingery (1998). All habitats of Zone 3 extend into at least one other zone. The similarity of habitats in Zone 3 may explain why R&W visited five of the 13 sites in that zone only once.

Table 1. Number of visits and species at sites.

	R&W visits	Foster visits	R&W species	Foster species
Zone 2				
Bear Creek, below Morrison	1	1	18	25
Clear Creek, below Golden	3	3	18	54
Clear Creek, at or above Golden	16	16	33	60
Golden (including Clay Pits)	10	10	29	51
North Table Mountain	1	1	13	26
South Table Mountain	2	2	16	44
Turkey Creek	1	1	9	32
Zone 3				
Chimney Gulch	14	14	57	68
Coon [Apex] Gulch	1	1	11	31
Deadman Gulch	3	-	9	-
JCOS Trails (substitute)	-	3	-	47
Foothills, unspecified locations	8	-	41	-
JCOS Trails (substitute)	-	8	-	75
Guy Gulch	1	-	21	-
Huntsman Gulch (substitute)	-	1	-	21
Indian Gulch	1	-	0*	-
Mt. Galbraith Park (substitute)	-	1	-	16
Lariat Spring	3	3	7	14
Lookout Mtn Reservoir	1	1	4	0
Magpie Gulch	2	-	5	-
Nightbird Gulch (substitute)	-	2	-	44
Mt. Vernon Canyon	4	-	10	-
Apex Trail (substitute)	-	4	-	30
Tucker Gulch	2	1	11	25
Rawhid Trail (substitute)	-	1	-	17
West of Chimney Gulch	6	6	10	53
West of Hogback	1	1	1	8
Zone 4				
Lookout Mountain	18	18	58	48
Total # sites visited	21	21		
Total # site visits	99	99		

* Indian Gulch 16 April 1909 data recorded under Magpie and Tucker Gulches

Sources and Methods

There are three sources for understanding the methods of R&W's survey: 1) their published article (actually written by Rockwell, though Wetmore's name also appears on the title page), 2) Rockwell's field notes at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (Rockwell 1909), and 3) Wetmore's field notes at the Smithsonian Institution (Wetmore 1909).

Rockwell's paper listed the birds R&W saw or collected, indicated the location of birds by zones, and provided general estimates on the abundance of each species. Rockwell's field notes added very little to his published work. Wetmore's field notes contributed precise lists of specimens collected, with dates and locations.

R&W may have missed a few birds that were in the region during 1909, just as I undoubtedly missed some that were present in 2004. Were these birds missed because they were overlooked, or because they were not in the Golden vicinity at the time? To address this question, I located four corrective sources, two for each period, that enabled me to say with confidence that a bird was or was not present at one period or another, rather than simply overlooked.

The first source is a list of 205 birds Rockwell compiled for Barr Lake (some 30 miles northeast of Golden) in the same year of his Golden survey (Hersey and Rockwell 1909). Even though the habitats near Golden and Barr Lake were then, and are now, somewhat different, the Barr Lake list is a reliable guide to which species would have been on the plains near the foothills at the time. The second is *Birds of Colorado* (Bailey and Niedrach 1965), which provides comprehensive notes on the presence and location of all species known in Colorado up to the 1960s. The third source is a check-list of the species in the Golden locality (Foster 2001), which includes all 21 sites being compared in this study plus several more, ranging over a broader area and including more diverse habitats. This check-list identifies 235 species and is based on the records of 16 observers over the past 25 years. The fourth source, *Colorado Birds* (Andrews and Righter 1992), provides for the recent period the same exhaustive treatment that *Birds of Colorado* provides for the earlier period.

Comparing logistics and field techniques

My survey operated in the same region as R&W's (west-central Jefferson County), at the same time of year (between mid-March and mid-November), and in the same locations (see Table 1 for the number of visits both surveys made to each site and the number of species each survey found). I had to find substitute locations for seven sites in Zone 3, because the original sites R&W used are now situated on private property. Using the extensive network of

trails created by Jefferson County Open Space, I found suitable locations nearby that contained the same habitats. Both surveys kept records of first arrival and last departure dates, to document migration patterns.

Wanting to make my survey as similar to theirs as possible, I decided against doing either transect routes or point counts (techniques not known to R&W). Instead, I visited the same sites they did, on the same days, and focused on the places most likely to produce birds.

When surveying more than one site in a day, I worked through each in the same sequence that R&W did, to encounter the birds during the same time of the day. Because each site required between one and three hours to walk across, or in, I walked at a steady, slow pace to cover most of it, stopping to identify birds and record each observation. I did not count additional individuals of the same species unless others previously noted were still in sight or clearly located.

While walking between sites, I noted the birds encountered, assigning them to the nearest site. When retracing my route to reach the car, I counted additional individuals of a species only if a larger number was seen than the cumulative count at that site earlier in the day. Railroads ascended Clear Creek and Bear Creek in 1909, and twice R&W used railroads to reach locations in those drainages. To reach those same locations, I drove my car.

Comparing the participants

In 1909, Robert Rockwell was a 26-year old businessman, who had been keen on birds since boyhood and a serious student since his high school years. He had accumulated considerable field experience, but only in Colorado. In later years, he became one of the leading historians and bibliographers of Colorado ornithology.

Though three years younger, and still three years from a bachelor's degree, Alex Wetmore had already gained wide experience with the birds of North America. He later became a professional biologist, an expert on bird migration, and assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Neither man had any detailed knowledge of the birds of the Golden vicinity, which was one reason they chose that region to study. R&W identified by name the five men who assisted them (and hinted at two others) about only one of whom I have found information: L. J. Hersey was an experienced collector and naturalist.

I recruited participants for my survey by leading trips for three local birding groups, each of which provided me with several knowledgeable but not distinguished birders (a definition that includes myself). An exception was Robert Righter, who, because of his field experience and writing, is in the same rank as R&W.

Comparing technology

Though R&W had access to current field guides, and though they probably used prism binoculars (Barrow 1998), they confirmed species by collecting (shooting) them for museum specimens. Thus R&W planned their logistics to stalk birds within shotgun range. By contrast, armed with even better field guides, and state-of-the-art optics, my colleagues and I focused on whatever flew within range of binoculars.

Results

1. Which species were found only in 1909, or only in 2004?

Table 2 enumerates 157 species the two surveys found.

1a. In which zones were they most concentrated at each time?

Table 3 shows the zones where species concentrated in 1909 and 2004.

2. Which species were found at both periods of time?

The 75 species seen in both 1909 and 2004 are listed in Table 2.

2a. Which species were found in the same zones?

In 2004, 36 species (48%) were found in the same zones as in 1909.

2b. Which species were found in different zones?

1. 20 species (27%) were found in two of the same and one different zone,
2. 13 (17%) were found in one of the same and one different zone,
3. four (5%) were found in one of the same and two different zones, and
4. two (3%) were found in entirely different zones.

Discussion

Observer hours

I estimated that R&W's survey team logged approximately 932 observer hours; they found 106 species. My survey team logged 805 hours and found 126 species. The greater efficiency of the modern survey is due to advantages R&W did not have: modern optics, better field guides, general familiarity with the region, and easier access to sites through roads and trails. R&W's field notes make clear that 1909 was, compared with 2004, a much wetter, colder year, which limited their ability to find birds.

Table 2. Species zonal affiliations and date ranges.

Species	Zones		Date Range	
	1909	2004	1909	2004
Canada Goose		2, 3		3/18-11/17
Wood Duck		2		3/18-11/14
Gadwall		2		4/24-11/14
American Wigeon		2		4/24-11/14
Mallard	2	2	4/14	3/18-11/17
Blue-winged Teal	2		4/14	
Northern Shoveler	3, 4	2	8/17-1913	4/24-11/14
Green-winged Teal	2	2	4/14	3/18-4/24
Canvasback		2		11/14
Redhead		2		11/14
Ring-necked Duck		2		11/14
Lesser Scaup		2		11/14
Bufflehead		2		4/24-11/14
Common Goldeneye		2		11/14
Hooded Merganser		2		4/24-11/14
Common Merganser		2		3/18
Ring-necked Pheasant	2, 4		summer	
Blue Grouse	3, 4	3	9/19, more	4/27
Northern Bobwhite	2		10/3	
Pied-billed Grebe		2		4/24-11/14
Western Grebe		2		4/24
Clark's Grebe		2		4/18
American White Pelican		2		4/4-4/24
Double-crest. Cormorant		2		4/4-9/13
Great Blue Heron		2, 3		4/18-9/13
Snowy Egret		2		4/24-9/13
Black-cr. Night-Heron		2		4/24-5/28
Turkey Vulture	2, 3, 4?	2, 3, 4	4/14-9/26	4/4-9/18
Osprey		3		9/15
Northern Harrier		2, 3, 4		9/1-10/13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	4/14-10/19	4/4-10/30
Cooper's Hawk		2, 3, 4		4/18-9/13
Swainson's Hawk		2, 3		4/24-9/15
Red-tailed Hawk	2, 3, 4?	2, 3, 4	spr-10/2	4/4-11/14
Golden Eagle		2, 3		4/4-10/30
American Kestrel	2, 3, 4	2, 3	4/18-fall	4/4-11/14

continued

Table 2. continued

Species	Zones		Date Range	
	1909	2004	1909	2004
Merlin	3		5/2	
Prairie Falcon		2		9/20-10/2
American Coot		2		4/24-11/14
Killdeer	2	2	8/1-11/14	4/4-9/13
American Avocet	3		7/18/1913	
Spotted Sandpiper	2, 3	2	7/25	6/22-9/7
Ring-billed Gull		2		3/30-11/17
Rock Pigeon		2, 3		3/18-11/14
Mourning Dove	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	4/25-11/16	3/30-11/14
Eastern Screech-Owl	2		April	
Great Horned Owl	2	2, 3	10/2	9/15-10/2
Long-eared Owl	2		spr and fall	
Common Nighthawk	2, 3, 4		5/16-9/19	
Common Poorwill	3, 4		5/23	
White-throated Swift	2, 3, 4	2, 3	5/16-9/26	4/4-10/2
Broad-tl. Hummingbird	3, 4	2, 3, 4	6/6-9/1	5/9-9/27
Rufous Hummingbird		3		7/24
Belted Kingfisher		2, 3		4/18-11/14
Lewis's Woodpecker	2, 3, 4		5/16-10/16	
Red-head. Woodpecker	3, 4		spring	
Williamson's Sapsucker	3, 4		8/8-9/30	
Downy Woodpecker	2, 3	2, 3, 4	April	3/18-11/14
Hairy Woodpecker	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	4/25-11/6	5/25-10/23
Northern Flicker	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	Apr-Oct	3/18-11/17
Olive-sided Flycatcher	3, 4	3	5/16-8/8	6/17
Western Wood-Pewee	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	8/8-8/29	5/9-9/20
Gray Flycatcher	3		5/16	
Hammond's Flycatcher		3, 4		6/2-8/2
Cordilleran Flycatcher		3, 4		5/25-9/15
Empidonax, unidentified	3		6/6	
Say's Phoebe	2, 3, 4	2, 3	4/11-9/19	4/4-10/2
Western Kingbird	2, 3, 4	2, 3	5/23-8/22	5/11-9/9
Loggerhead Shrike		4		8/11
Northern Shrike	2		Oct-Nov	
Plumbeous Vireo		3, 4		5/25-9/18
Warbling Vireo	2, 3	2, 3, 4	5/23-9/9	5/25-8/9
Steller's Jay	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	Apr-Nov	3/18-11/17

continued

Table 2. continued

Species	Zones		Date Range	
	1909	2004	1909	2004
Blue Jay		2, 3		4/26-11/14
Western Scrub-Jay	2, 3, 4	2, 3	4/3-5/16	4/26-11/9
Pinyon Jay	3, 4		spr, 9/26	
Clark's Nutcracker	3		5/2	
Black-billed Magpie	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	Apr-Nov	3/18-11/17
American Crow		2, 3, 4		3/18-11/17
Common Raven		2, 3, 4		4/4-11/14
Horned Lark	2	2	Aug-Nov?	10/2
Tree Swallow		2, 3, 4		4/18-8/11
Violet-green Swallow	3, 4	2, 3, 4	5/16-9/1	4/18-9/13
N. Rough-winged Swallow		2		5/20-6/5
Cliff Swallow	2	2, 3	5/12-9/1	6/2-10/2
Barn Swallow	2, 3	2	5/16-10/2	4/24-9/13
Black-capped Chickadee	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	mostly fall	3/18-11/17
Mountain Chickadee	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	spr-fall	4/16-11/11
Bushtit		3		8/9-10/23
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3, 4	3, 4	10/10	4/26-10/30
White-breasted Nuthatch	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	mostly fall	5/9-11/14
Pygmy Nuthatch	3, 4	2, 3, 4	Apr-Nov	4/16-11/11
Brown Creeper	3, 4	2, 3, 4	9/19-10/31	6/11-11/17
Rock Wren	2, 3, 4	2, 3	5/2-10/2	6/2-10/2
Canyon Wren	2, 3, 4	2, 3	4/11-8/1	3/18-10/16
House Wren	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	5/9-10/2	4/26-9/15
American Dipper		2, 3		3/18-9/20
Golden-crowned Kinglet		3		10/23
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	spr and fall	3/18-11/14
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		2, 3		5/9-9/1
Eastern Bluebird	3		5/2	
Western Bluebird	3, 4	3, 4	6/6	4/18-9/27
Mountain Bluebird	2, 3, 4	3	Apr-Sept	4/27-10/16
Townsend's Solitaire	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	spr and fall	4/16-11/14
Swainson's Thrush	3, 4		5/9-6/6	
Hermit Thrush		3, 4		5/30-9/15
American Robin	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	Apr-Oct	3/18-11/14
Gray Catbird	2	2, 3	spr-9/7	5/28-9/1
Northern Mockingbird		3		5/11
Sage Thrasher	2	2	8/1	7/31

continued

Table 2. continued

Species	Zones		Date Range	
	1909	2004	1909	2004
European Starling		2, 3, 4		3/18-11/17
American Pipit	2		spr and fall	
Bohemian Waxwing	2		mid-Mar, 4/3	
Orange-crowned Warbler	2, 3, 4	2, 3	5/6-5/16	4/26-9/29
Virginia's Warbler	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	5/16-9/7	5/9-8/28
Yellow Warbler	2, 3	2, 3	May-Aug	5/6-8/9
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	spr and fall	4/18-11/14
Townsend's Warbler		3, 4		9/15-9/27
MacGillivray's Warbler	2, 3, 4	3	5/16-9/26	6/11-8/18
Common Yellowthroat	2		summer	
Wilson's Warbler		2, 3		8/28-10/2
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	2, 3, 4	August	5/9-9/1
Western Tanager	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	8/8-10/2	5/6-9/20
Green-tailed Towhee	2, 3, 4	2, 3	5/16-10/2	5/9-9/25
Spotted Towhee	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	5/2-10/17	4/4-11/14
American Tree Sparrow	2, 3, 4		10/24-4/3	
Chipping Sparrow	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	4/25-10/17	4/18-10/2
Brewer's Sparrow	2	2, 3	8/1	7/31-10/14
Vesper Sparrow	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	4/18-10/2	4/27-7/31
Lark Sparrow	2	2, 3	spring	7/31-10/2
Lark Bunting	2, 3		July-Aug	
Savannah Sparrow	3		Sept	
Grasshopper Sparrow	2		7/25	
Song Sparrow	2, 3, 4	2, 3	spr-fall	3/18-11/14
Lincoln's Sparrow	2, 3, 4		May, early Oct	
White-crowned Sparrow	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	spr and fall	5/2-11/14
Dark-eyed Junco	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	spr and fall	3/18-11/14
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		2		5/20
Black-headed Grosbeak	2, 3	2, 3, 4	5/20-6/6	5/11-8/9
Lazuli Bunting	2, 3	2, 3	July-Aug	5/9-8/9
Indigo Bunting	2	3	8/1	6/2
Red-winged Blackbird	2, 3, 4	2, 3	Apr-Oct	3/30-11/14
Western Meadowlark	2, 3, 4	2, 3	Apr-Oct	4/16-9/25
Yellow-headed Blackbird	2		4/14, May	
Brewer's Blackbird	2	2, 3	May and Oct	4/28-9/20
Common Grackle		2, 3		3/30-9/29
Brown-headed Cowbird	2, 3	2, 3, 4	7/25	4/24-8/2

continued

Table 2. continued

Species	Zones		Date Range	
	1909	2004	1909	2004
Bullock's Oriole	2	2, 3	5/10-?	5/11-8/9
Pine Grosbeak	4		11/7	
Cassin's Finch	2, 3		4/14, 4/25	
House Finch	2	2, 3, 4	Apr-Nov	3/18-11/17
Red Crossbill	3, 4	4	4/18-5/23	9/15-9/25
Common Redpoll	2		late Mar-4/7	
Pine Siskin	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	4/18-10/10	8/9-11/2
Lesser Goldfinch	2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4	sum-10/10	3/30-9/29
American Goldfinch	2, 4	2, 3	spr and fall	4/4-11/14
House Sparrow	2	2, 3	Apr-Nov?	3/18-11/14

Key: **spring**=May and June, **summer**=July, August, first half of September, **fall**=second half of September, October, first half of November, **winter**=second half of November, December through April.

Table 3. Number of species in zones for 1909 and 2004 studies and totals per zone.

Zone	1909	2004
	No. Species (%)	No. Species (%)
2 only	27 (25.47)	31 (24.60)
3 only	7 (6.60)	10 (7.92)
4 only	1 (0.94)	2 (1.59)
2, 3	10 (9.43)	35 (27.78)
2, 4	2 (1.89)	0 (0.00)
3, 4	15 (14.15)	7 (5.56)
2, 3, 4	44 (41.51)	41 (32.54)
Total 2	83 (37.56)	107 (42.80)
Total 3	76 (34.39)	93 (37.20)
Total 4	62 (28.05)	50 (20.00)
Total overall	106	126

Date ranges

R&W paid careful attention to earliest and latest dates for all species observed, “to gather considerable data on migrations, spring and fall, and vertical movements to and from the higher altitudes.”

When R&W's article did not give a date range for a species, the context made clear that the bird was present most of the time (e.g., Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*), or rarely (e.g., Lark Bunting, *Calamospiza melanocorys*). In the latter cases, I assumed the dates given were the inclusive dates.

Three-fourths of the species present in both 1909 and 2004 (57 of 75, 76%) spent less time in the Golden vicinity during 1909 than they did during 2004.

Species richness

R&W identified a total of 109 species, but after lumping them to conform with modern taxonomy (American Ornithologists' Union 1998) there were 106. Of the 106 found in 1909, 31 were seen only in that year (noted by an asterisk * following the name in Table 2). Of the 126 found in 2004, 51 were seen only in that year (noted by the number symbol #).

Most of the 31 birds found only during the 1909 survey have been seen recently in one or more of the same habitats where R&W found them. I have seen 20 of them during the past five years. A colleague has seen Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), and I saw the American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) nearby.

The Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*), the Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*), and the American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) are in the Golden locality; I just missed them during my 2004 survey. The Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) is very local and could easily have been missed. However, the Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*) has moved up slope in recent years.

Andrews and Righter (1992) indicate that six more birds seen only during 1909 are now unlikely migrants, irregular visitors, or irruptive species in the Golden locality: the Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*), Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*), Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*), Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*), and Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*). My own experience over recent years suggests that these six have moved upslope and/or to the west and southwest. Therefore, seven birds seen only in 1909 (the six mentioned and the Williamson's Sapsucker) are no longer in or near Golden.

What about the 51 birds I found in 2004 that R&W did not find in 1909? Only five of these birds would not have occurred in the Golden vicinity in 1909: the Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*), European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*, not yet in Colorado), and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*).

All the others were in or near Golden in 1909, as shown by the Barr Lake list (Hershey and Rockwell 1909), or by Bailey and Niedrach (1965). Thirty-three of them were found at Barr Lake, including most of the waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, raptors, and several passerines. While many lakes, reservoirs, ponds, and other suitable habitat for water-loving birds existed in 1909 in the terrain surrounding Denver (Gelder 1915), the Golden Reservoir on Lookout Mountain was the only substantial body of water within the territory R&W surveyed. Water habitats are more prevalent today near Golden (Coors ponds, lakes on the Rolling Hills Golf Club, and several lakes in Prospect Park abutting Clear Creek), which is why more water birds have been found near Golden recently.

In 1909, the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*), Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*), Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*), and the Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) were most likely seen only during migration, or were irregular visitors, thus they could easily have been missed. Two others are irregular wanderers and could have been overlooked for that reason, the Bushtit (*Psaltiriparus minimus*) and the American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*).

Seven other species seem to be much more common recently near Golden: Cordilleran (formerly Western) Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*), Plumbeous (formerly Solitary) Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*), American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*), and Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*). The Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) was, and still is, more common in the higher mountains, though it seems to have extended its range downslope.

The Hammond's Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) formerly lived higher in the mountains than R&W searched, suggesting that these species have extended their range downslope in recent years.

In summary, seven species seen in 1909 are probably no longer in the Golden

vicinity. Five species seen in 2004 were not yet near Golden as early as 1909. Another eight (the seven mentioned two paragraphs above, plus the Hermit Thrush) have extended their ranges since 1909 to include Golden, or seem to be more common in recent years. On balance, therefore, species richness has increased by six, from 106 to 112.

Abundance

No comparative estimates of abundance are possible, because R&W spoke of abundance only in general terms, such as few, several, fairly common, numerous, or abundant. They used over 20 such terms, which they did not define or delimit in numerical terms. They also occasionally used numbers, but in his article, for example, Rockwell used a combination of numbers and general words to illustrate abundance by zone, mentioning only a selection of the sites where he saw each species. Sometimes he elaborated by estimating a species' overall abundance during the entire course of the season, usually in general terms.

Wetmore provided precise numbers at specific sites on particular dates, based on the specimens he collected, and sometimes he estimated additional numbers seen or heard. But Wetmore's collections were not always representative of all the birds he saw; they were biased towards birds that interested him, or were lacking at the State Historical and Natural History Museum of Colorado, his employer at the time.

Although sufficient data for detailed comparisons on abundance is lacking, one conclusion seems clear. The 24 birds seen in 1909 but not during 2004, though still present today, are not as abundant as they were in 1909. This is especially true of the Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), Blue Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*), Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), Common Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*), Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*), Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*), Lark Bunting, Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), and Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*), each of which has been seen only once in recent years in or near Golden.

Zonal affiliation

R&W listed only selected sites (habitats) for each species they observed, but when translated into one of the three zones of the region their observations on habitat preference are reliably comparable with the 2004 results.

Fifty-six (75%) species present in 1909 and 2004 occurred in mostly the same zones during both years. On the other hand 37 birds (49%) changed the number of zones they visited; 44% visited one more or one less zone, while 5% visited two more or two less.

Comparing the zones all species occupied in 1909 versus the zones all species occupied in 2004 shows that overlapping in Zones 2 and 3 increased from 1909 to 2004, while overlapping in Zones 3 and 4, and in Zones 2, 3, and 4 decreased.

Overall, the trend in zonal affiliation was away from Zone 4, either because species moved to the west, beyond the Front Range, or upslope, out of the Golden vicinity, or downslope, from Zone 4 to lower zones.

Acknowledgments

Patricia O'Neill, Robert Righter, and Fran Enright read earlier drafts of this paper and made useful suggestions. Dr. Kayleen Niyo read the penultimate version and made many stylistic corrections.

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A BIT OF JOURNAL HISTORY

10 Years Ago in the Journal...

Jameson Chace chronicled the range expansion of the predominately southwestern U.S. Brown-headed Cowbird subspecies *obscurus* into Boulder, Colorado.

15 Years Ago in the Journal...

An article by Reynolds, Joy, and Means, provided information on Northern Goshawk preying on Boreal Owl in western Colorado.

20 Years Ago in the Journal...

James Dennis reported on two Whooping Cranes from the Grays Lake NWR experimental flock spending over a month during fall migration in Weld County.

30 Years Ago in the Journal...

A short article by Stone, et al., described their observations of hawking (flycatching) behavior by White-crowned Sparrows near Creede.

FIELD NOTES

Flickers and Bears

I experienced an unusual interaction between bears and Northern Flickers approximately five years ago in the Dolores River drainage. Bear numbers were at pre-drought highs. Halting spring bear hunts, use of dogs, and baiting saw rapid increases in bear populations. Bears expanding their habitats penetrated areas of plentiful food supply.

The particular area I was hunting was a medium-growth aspen ridge line. North-facing canyons and intermixed spruce and aspen made this an ideal place for bear. I made several trips through the area noting a quantity of downed rotting aspen. Every time I walked through the area a flock, up to twenty-five, of flickers would leave the ground in mass flight.

I was puzzled by both the number of flickers and why so many would be in one area. I returned to observe. I sat in early morning light watching steady numbers of flickers arriving singly and in pairs. They were ground feeding. I previously observed an area of logs torn to smithereens by feeding bears. I moved into the area discovering that bears were prolifically feeding on well-rotted logs full of insects. They scattered bark, rotting trunk, and insects about the area. Bears were most likely feeding during night hours. Flickers arrived early morning to clean up the bears nightly insect raids. Word was obviously out among the flickers as to easy feeding.

Fred Blackburn



THE 39TH REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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Introduction

The Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter, CBRC or Committee) here provides the 39th report of its deliberations on submissions to the CBRC for documentation and archival purposes. In this article, we provide the results of the circulation of 85 reports submitted by 50 observers documenting 59 occurrences of 48 species. This article deals primarily with occurrences in 2003, but with a few 2002 occurrences and one 1996 occurrence that had originally been circulated without pictures and not accepted; the record was recirculated with pictures. All reports originating from a year prior to 2003 have the year **bold-faced**. Of the reports here considered, the CBRC accepted 50 records of 43 species and did not accept 11 reports (of 11 species). Per CBRC by-laws, all accepted records received final 7-0 or 6-1 votes to accept. Each report that was not accepted received fewer than four votes to accept in the final vote for that report.

The documents reviewed here include reports on Colorado's fourth Lucy's Warbler. Reports on other very rare species, White-tailed Kite and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, are commented upon here. The state list total remains at 477. Reports of Black Vulture and Kelp Gull are still circulating, and, if accepted, would add to the state list. The top seven observers submitting the most documents for inclusion here are: Bill Schmoker (13), Doug Faulkner (8), Rachel Hopper (5), Tony Leukering (4), and Ric Olson, Brandon Percival, and David Silverman (3 each). Another seven observers submitted two documents each. Committee members voting on these reports were Coen Dexter, Tony Leukering, Ric Olson, Brandon Percival, Larry Semo, John Vanderpoel, and Christopher L. Wood.

Committee News

Due to personal considerations, Rachel Hopper, who was elected to the CBRC to replace the retiring Chris Wood, has asked to be replaced. Doug Faulkner, our inveterate journal editor, has agreed to fill that slot. Joey Kellner has also agreed to serve again – he was last on the CBRC in 1999 - and will fill the slot vacated by the retiring Tony Leukering. The remaining members are Larry Semo (Chair), Coen Dexter, Ric Olson, Brandon Percival, and John Vanderpoel.

Committee Functions

All reports received (written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and/or sound recordings) by the CBRC are archived at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, CO 80205, where they remain available for public review. The Committee solicits documentation of reports in Colorado for all species published in its review list, both the main and supplementary lists (Semo et al. 2002, Semo and Leukering 2004), and for reports of species with no prior accepted records in Colorado. While documentary materials can be submitted in hard copy to Larry Semo (see address above), the CBRC would greatly appreciate submission via the new CBRC website, which is now online (www.cfo-link.org; follow links to CBRC). The members' term-expiration dates are printed on this journal's masthead.

Report Format

The organization and style of this report follow that of Leukering and Semo (2003), with some alterations. This report consists of three parts: Part I consists of accepted records, Part II lists those reports that were not accepted because the documentation did not support the identification and/or eliminate all similar species, and Part III lists those reports of birds whose identification was not questioned but whose wild origin was. The CBRC wishes to reiterate at this time that the main reason reports are not accepted is that those reports either do not support the identification or do not fully describe the bird in question, thus failing to eliminate all other identification contenders.

The nomenclature and sequence of these lists follow the A.O.U. (1998, 2003, 2004). As of 1 January 2002, the CBRC removed from the main review list, but only from the main review list, those species preceded by the pound, or number, sign (#) (Semo et al. 2002), thus the reports here are from a period when the species were on the main review list. Those species' names preceded by the plus symbol (+) are species that are rare in certain parts of the state or at certain times of the year and for which the CBRC requests documentation from those areas (Semo et al. 2002, Semo and Leukering 2004). Also in 2002, the CBRC added a few species to the state review list for which there are numerous previous reports and these species are indicated by a preceding square (); the

number of accepted records listed for these species is, obviously, only those accepted since 2002. Finally, an asterisk preceding a species' name indicates that the species is not currently on any CBRC review list (Semo et al. 2002), but that the report is of some interest, due to location, date, plumage, etc., but for which documentation would not be required.

The numbers in parentheses after each species' name represent the total number of accepted records for Colorado followed by the number of accepted records in the past ten years (1993-2002). The latter number is of importance, as it is one of the criteria for a species' placement on the main CBRC review list (Semo et al. 2002). However, note that the number of accepted records will decline for some species as the CBRC tackles the backlog of determinations as to how many of the accepted records are simply recurrences in subsequent years of a known individual.

Within each species account, records are listed chronologically by first date of occurrence. Each record presents as much of the following information as we have available: number of birds, age, sex, locality, county, and date or date span. In parentheses, we present the initials of the contributing observer(s), the official record number, and the vote tally in the first round and, if relevant, second round (with the number of "accept" votes on the left side of the dash).

The initials of the finder(s) of the bird(s) are underlined and are presented first if that person (those people) contributed documentation; additional contributors' initials follow in alphabetical order by name. If the finder(s) is (are) known with certainty, but did not submit documentation, those initials are presented last. Observers submitting a photograph or video capture have a dagger (†) following their initials and initials of those that submitted videotape are indicated by a lower-case, italicized "v" (*v*). Thus, the parenthetical expression of a report in Part I ("JD *v*, RA†, PEL, BR, DAS; 2002-36; 4-3, 5-2)" means: JD found the bird(s) and submitted documentation (including video) and as the finder, is first in the list of those that submitted details with initials underlined; RA, though alphabetically first of the five submitting observers, was not the finder, so comes second; RA submitted, at least, photographic documentation; the record number assigned to the occurrence was 2002-36; and in the three rounds of voting, the first-round vote was four "accepted" votes and three "not accepted" votes, the second-round vote was 5-2 in favor of accepting the report, and since this report was listed in Part I, the report was accepted at a CBRC meeting. The decision on most reports is completed on the first round.

In this report, county names are italicized, in keeping with the style established

for the *News from the Field* column in this journal (e.g., Semo and Wood 2003). We have attempted to provide the full date span for individual records, with the seasonal reports in *North American Birds* and this journal being the primary sources of those dates. The Committee has not dealt with the question of full date spans as compared to submitted date spans.

Abbreviations used in this report are: **BLSP**=Barr Lake SP, *Adams*; **BR**=Bonny Res., *Yuma*; **CBR**=Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso/Pueblo* (county indicated in account); **CVCG**=Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grassland, *Weld*; **FLWE**=Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement, *Bent*; **JR**=Jackson Res., *Morgan*; **LCC**=Lamar Community College, *Prowers*; **Res.**=Reservoir; **SP**=State Park; **SWA**=State Wildlife Area.

Part I: RECORDS ACCEPTED

TUNDRA SWAN - *Cygnus columbianus* (4/4). One juvenile wandered around *Pueblo*, being found 17 November **2002** at Valco Ponds SWA and then moving to Pueblo Res. where it was last seen on the local Christmas Bird Count, 14 December **2002** (BKP, LS †, RM; 2003-129; 7-0). An adult at Boulder Res., *Boulder*, was apparently present only 13 November 2003 (BS, BG; 2003-131; 7-0).

LEAST BITTERN - *Ixobrychus exilis* (17/3). As many as two matriculated at Ft. Lyon SWA, *Bent*, 3 May - 28 June 2003, but only one male was described in submitted documentation (PF, CLa, RO; 2003-44; 7-0). One observer reported seeing both male and female at this site (Semo and Percival 2004).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - *Nyctanassa violacea* (16/6). A juvenile pleased many observers at Belmar Historic Park, Lakewood, *Jefferson*, 19 September - 11 October 2003 (KS, DF †, BS †; 2003-86; 7-0).

GLOSSY IBIS - *Plegadis falcinellus* (30/26). An adult in alternate was found at Headquarter's Pond, CBR, *Pueblo*, 11 May 2003 (TL; 2003-122; 7-0) for a first ranch record. An adult at Alamosa NWR, *Alamosa*, 10 July 2003 (CC; 2003-59; 7-0) provided the second reported and first accepted San Luis Valley record.

+PIPING PLOVER - *Charadrius melodus*. A juvenile provided a fifth BLSP area record 8-9 August 2003 (BS †, DF; 2003-60; 7-0).

RED KNOT - *Calidris canutus* (21/6). Two, an adult and a juvenile, were subsidiary benefits of chasing the Kelp Gull present at JR 18-21 September 2003 (BS †, TL, GW; 2003-128; 7-0), though only documented on the first of those dates.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - *Tryngites subruficollis* (26/9). One juvenile was found at BLSP 29 Aug 2003 (DF †, BB, LB; 2003-17; 7-0).

- RED PHALAROPE - *Phalaropus fulicarius* (28/11). A basic-plumaged individual was present among Red-necked Phalaropes at BLSP 10 September 2002 (TL; 2003-66; 7-0).
- POMARINE JAEGER - *Stercorarius pomarinus* (15/7). A light-morph subadult terrorized gulls at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson* and *Douglas*, 5-14 November 2003 (BS †, JK; 2003-116; 7-0), though only one observer submitted documentation, that from 5 November.
- +LEAST TERN - *Sterna albifrons*. An adult (possibly two) was observed at Lathrop SP, *Huerfano*, 14 May 2003 (BR; 2003-40; 6-1). The observer reported seeing a Least Tern at each of the main lakes in the park, but could not discern whether those observations referred to the same individual. This location is well outside the known breeding range of the species in the state and, thus, the report is subject to review (Semo and Leukering 2004).
- INCA DOVE - *Columbina inca* (14/11). One was nicely photographed in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, 23 November 2003 (DR †, MA; 2003-83; 7-0).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (17/4). A rain-soaked juvenile was found early in the morning at Rose Pond, CBR, *Pueblo*, 30 August 2003 (BS, CLW; 2003-117; 7-0).
- LESSER NIGHTHAWK - *Chordeiles acutipennis* (16/11). One at the Neenoshe Reservoir Locust Grove 3 May 2003 (RH †, RO, BKP; 2003-45; 7-0) provided a first *Kiowa* record.
- +CHIMNEY SWIFT - *Chaetura pelagica*. One foraging over Chipeta SWA, *Montrose*, 20 May 2003 (TW; 2003-48; 6-1). Another was over Kremmling, *Grand*, 7 June 2003 on a CFO convention trip (DE, BS; 2003-63, 6-1). Both occurrences provided first county records. The lone dissenter for both records believed that Vaux's Swift was not ruled out in either case.
- MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD - *Eugenes fulgens* (10/6). An immature male visited Silverman's feeder in Rye, *Pueblo*, 17 September 2003 (DSi; 2003-74; 7-0).
- ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD - *Calypte anna* (8/3). An adult female visited feeders and flowers in Tina Jones' yard in Littleton, *Jefferson*, 3 October 2003 - 6 January 2004 (RH, MPe †, BS †, TJ; 2003-106; 7-0). This long-staying individual allowed many a Colorado birder to "tick" this one for the state. Thanks, Tina! On 6 January 2004, after a large snowstorm and very cold weather, the bird was captured and taken to a rehabilitator, where it subsequently died.
- +WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER - *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*. A female spent the 2003-2004 winter at the Cañon City Abbey, *Fremont* (BS †, SM; 2003-89; 7-0), documented only on 29 December 2003.
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - *Sphyrapicus varius* (3/3). A juvenile first

found at Foster Grove Campground, Bonny SP., Yuma, 14 November 2003 stayed to at least late December; it was photographed on 18 December on the local Christmas Bird Count (PG, HK, TL †, CLW †, BKP; 2003-85; 7-0).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - *Contopus virens* (17/5). A singing male located at the Holmes Grove, CBR, El Paso, 30 August 2003 (BS, NG; 2003-120; 7-0) provided the first accepted state record since 1999.

+LEAST FLYCATCHER - *Empidonax minimus*. Single singing males were noted by the late Jack Merchant at two locations in summer 2003 (JM; 2003-57; 7-0). One was at Gypsum Campground on the west edge of Gypsum, Eagle, 6 June - 7 July, and the other was at Trail Gulch, five miles southeast of Eagle, Eagle, 14-28 June. The documentation was the last submitted by Jack and, thus, possibly the last typed documentation that the CBRC will receive. Another individual was found at the Highway 13 crossing of the White River west of Meeker, Rio Blanco, 27-28 June (EH; 2003-99; 7-0). These records highlight the recent great increase of detection of Least Flycatchers in western Colorado. Most of these individuals have been found in reasonable breeding habitat (typically gallery riparian woodland) and have been singing males. We greatly appreciate western birders documenting these occurrences to help in establishing this new pattern and encourage all to scrutinize *Empidonax* found during summer in western gallery forest.

+EASTERN PHOEBE - *Sayornis phoebe*. One was found along Fourmile Creek near Glenwood Springs 13-14 December (KP; 2003-93; 7-0) for a first Garfield record.

#WHITE-EYED VIREO - *Vireo griseus* (23/17 at the time). A report of a bird captured 29 May 1996 in Endovalley, Rocky Mountain N.P., Larimer, that had previously circulated and not been accepted, was re-reviewed along with pictures not circulated previously and accepted (RC; 51-96-65; 7-0).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - *Vireo solitarius* (10/9). One on 7 September 2003 at Foster Grove Campground, Bonny SP, Yuma, (NP; 2003-69; 6-1) was on the early end of typical arrival dates for the species.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - *Vireo philadelphicus* (27/13). One was at BLSP 29 August 2003 (DF, GW †; 2003-68; 6-1).

SEDGE WREN - *Cistothorus platensis* (16/4). One was immaculately photographed at incredibly close range at FCRP 18 October 2003 (MPe †, BM †, RH, BKP; 2003-79; 7-0). The bird was first found on 17 October and was present at least until 22 October.

WOOD THRUSH - *Hylocichla mustelina* (21/9). Those looking for a reported Varied Thrush at the FLWE on 26 October 2002 found a Wood

- Thrush, too (BKP; 2003-10; 7-0). One was at Two Buttes SWA, *Baca*, 3 May 2003 (RO; 2003-43; 7-0).
- +GRAY CATBIRD - *Dumetella carolinensis*. One noted 23 January 2003 about six miles southeast of Eagle, *Eagle*, provided one of few Colorado winter records and the first such for the county (JM; 2003-127; 7-0).
- SPRAGUE'S PIPIT - *Anthus spragueii* (6/2). One was found by a visiting birder in southwestern *Baca* on 27 April 2003 (MPa; 2003-32; 7-0). Three of the previous five accepted records are from *Sedgwick*, and *Boulder* and *Larimer* each scored a record in 1976.
- LUCY'S WARBLER - *Vermivora luciae* (4/2). A female caused excitement at Valco Ponds SWA, *Pueblo*, 13-15 April 2003 (MA, SM †, BKP, RM; 2003-27; 7-0), as she provided only the fourth accepted state record (the Grand Junction occurrence has never been submitted to the CBRC).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER - *Dendroica dominica* (27/11). A superbly-photographed individual was at the Cañon City Abbey, *Fremont*, 1 December 2003 - 2 January 2004 (BS †, MPe; 2003-115; 7-0), though was documented by only one observer, on 20 December. This individual visited the wells created by wintering Williamson's and Yellow-bellied sapsuckers and provided a first county record.
- +BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - *Mniotilta varia*. An immature male graced the Ute Indian Museum at the south side of Montrose, *Montrose*, 1 September 2003 (RW; 2003-71; 7-0). What was probably the same bird was found a few days later at Chipeta SWA a few miles away, but was not submitted to the CBRC.
- KENTUCKY WARBLER - *Oporornis formosus* (30/13). A male was heard singing at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, 15 May 2003 (MCL; 2003-34; 7-0).
- CANADA WARBLER - *Wilsonia canadensis* (25/10). An individual of undetermined sex was present at BLSP 31 August 2003 (DF; 2003-98; 7-0). Another, a female, was reported from the same location that day (Gent 2004), and that report is still in circulation. Amazingly, another individual, a male, was found on the same date, but at the Holmes Grove, CBR, *El Paso* (BS †, CLW; 2003-119; 7-0).
- SCARLET TANAGER - *Piranga olivacea* (24/12). An immature male spent 6-20 December 2003 at Gray Rocks Commons, Ft. Collins, *Larimer* (DSw, RH †; 2003-94; 7-0) and was nicely photographed on the bird's final day at the location. As this species is extremely rare in North America in winter, it is unsurprising that this bird represents the first state winter record.
- "RED" FOX SPARROW - *Passerella iliaca iliaca*. One visited Frog Pond, Colorado City, *Pueblo*, 26 October 2003 (DSi; 2003-81; 7-0). Another

was at the Wagon Wheel Campground at Bonny Res., Yuma, 14 November 2003 (PG, BKP; 2003-84; 7-0).

+WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - *Zonotrichia albicollis*. An immature tan-morph wintered at 10,600 feet elevation at the Loveland Basin ski lift near Loveland Pass, *Clear Creek*. The bird was first noted 30 Dec 2002 and last seen 22 April 2003 and documented only on the first date (BS †, KN †; 2003-5; 7-0). There is only one previous Colorado record for the species above ~8,700 feet.

+SNOW BUNTING - *Plectrophenax nivalis*. A male was near Craig, *Moffat*, 10 December 2003 (RH; 2003-107; 7-0).

PAINTED BUNTING - *Passerina ciris* (25/16). A single male was documented as occurring at Colorado's Painted Bunting hotspot – Cottonwood Canyon – 21 May - 22 June 2003 (CLi, LL, PM, MA; 2003-36; 7-0), documented on 25 May and 16 June (which supported occurrence only in *Las Animas*). As many as two males had been reported from this location that summer, but the CBRC did not receive documentation supporting such.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK - *Sturnella magna* (6/1). One sang about 20 times at the public Lesser Prairie-Chicken lek east of Campo, *Baca*, on 27-28 April 2003 (MPa; 2003-22; 7-0). The observer stated that he felt the bird referable to the southwestern subspecies, *liliani*. Eastern Meadowlarks have been found at and near the public lek each spring since, occupying high-structure grassland typical of southeastern *Baca* and northeastern New Mexico.

+BALTIMORE ORIOLE - *Icterus galbula*. An adult male was present at BLSP from at least late May through mid-July 2003 (DF, GG †, TL †; 2003-56; 7-0). The bird was seen feeding the same fledglings in July that a female hybrid oriole was feeding (Leukering pers. obs.), providing some proof for a first county breeding record.

+BLACK ROSY-FINCH - *Leucosticte atrata*. A relatively low-elevation record of this species was provided by an adult male near Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 20 March 2003 (BBH †; 2003-21; 7-0).

PURPLE FINCH - *Carpodacus purpureus* (31/8). A well-described brown individual (female or immature male) was in Rye, *Pueblo*, 12 December 2003 (DSi; 2003-90; 7-0).

Part II: RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED

WHITE-TAILED KITE - *Elanus leucurus*. An individual was reported from near Cortez, *Montezuma*, 23 December 2003 - 1 January 2004 (2003-100; 0-7). The description sounded more like a leucistic raptor of some other species than it did a White-tailed Kite, as its wings were

described as being “pure white, top and bottom, with some gray on wing shoulders, but not really black.”

MEW GULL - *Larus canus* (25/15). An adult in alternate plumage was reported from JR 7 October 2003 (2003-111; 1-6). To most CBRC members, the description did not rule out Ring-billed Gull, particularly the “mantle not darker than Ring-billed” and the “pale eyes.” Additionally, Mew Gull typically starts molting into basic plumage quite early in the fall, so a bird in full alternate in October would be odd.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL - *Larus glaucescens* (10/5). A first-cycle large gull was photographed at Horsetooth Res., Larimer, 13 December 2003 (2003-77; 0-7). Even though at least one CBRC member routinely votes to not accept photo-only reports, this photo was also insufficient to identify the bird in question.

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD - *Eugenes fulgens* (10/6). A female was reported from Boulder 26-29 July 2003 (2003-58; 0-7), however the details provided were insufficient to convince the Committee.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - *Empidonax flaviventris*. A well-studied bright *Empidonax* was at CVCG 12 June 2003 (2003-103; 2-5). One of the primary reasons for the report's non-acceptance is that one of the three submissions reported it as not being a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Additionally, various features described suggested Alder Flycatcher rather than Yellow-bellied, particularly as one observer mentioned that there was “no discernible eye ring.” This species is only provisionally on the state list, due to an accepted single-observer sighting in Pueblo in May 2000.

+LEAST FLYCATCHER - *Empidonax minimus*. A single, silent individual was reported from along the San Juan River near Pagosa Springs, Archuleta, 25 August 2003 (2003-75; 2-5). Many of the Committee were concerned by the relatively sketchy details provided, particularly for a member of a notoriously difficult genus. Specific important details lacking included plumage condition, bill shape, and primary projection.

+GRAY VIREO - *Vireo vicinior*. One was reported from Howard, Fremont, 16-17 June (2003-65; 2-5). Though the description was certainly suggestive of Gray Vireo, most CBRC members were unconvinced by the brief details provided. The area might support this sparse-Piñon-Juniper specialist, but to date, there are no county records.

WOOD THRUSH - *Hylocichla mustelina* (21/9). A bird reported from CVCG 3 August 2003 (2003-72; 3-4) split the Committee. The description mentioned important field marks, but the fact that others reported up to three individuals, with two possibly being juveniles swayed a number of the CBRC to vote against the record. This is because

breeding by Wood Thrush in the state is undocumented and Brown Thrasher, a confusion species for Wood Thrush, does breed locally.

VARIED THRUSH - *Ixoreus naevius* (20/7). A male was reported (by an unknown observer) three miles north of Golden, *Jefferson*, 1 December 2003 (2003-88; 1-6), but the only description provided was "like an American Robin but with a breast band." This, granted, suggests Varied Thrush, but the CBRC (and most other records committees) are unlikely to vote to accept such a brief description – even if of a very distinctive species.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT - *Anthus spragueii* (6/2). A bird seen poorly by the reporter, but heard well, was near Ovid, *Sedgwick*, 18 October 2003 (2003-124; 3-4). Though the bird was probably correctly identified, there was essentially no description, except for that of voice, and that was not convincing. Unfortunately, the bird was seen better by others, but was not documented by them.

PRAIRIE WARBLER - *Dendroica discolor* (22/14). One was submitted as occurring at Colorado City, *Pueblo*, 4 May 2003, but the documentation lacked a description of the bird (2003-29; 2-5).

Reporters and Cited Observers

Mymm Ackley, Lyle Anise, Bob Brown, Leann Brown, Richard Cimino, Robin Corcoran, Cameron Cox, Brenda Dexter, Coen Dexter, Donna Emmons, Doug Faulkner, Peter Frechtel, Peter Gaede, Brian Gibbons, Gregg Goodrich, BB Hahn, Ed Hollowed, Rachel Hopper, Joey Kellner, Hugh Kingery, Nick Komar, Charlie Lawrence (CLa), Marie Cecile Lee, Tony Leukering, Cindy Lieurance (CLi), Leslie Lieurance, Paul Mackenzie, Joe Mammoser (JMa), Bill Maynard, Jack Merchant (JMe), Rich Miller, SeEtta Moss, Duane Nelson, Kent Nickell, Ric Olson, Arvind Panjabi, Michael Patten (MPa), Brandon K. Percival, Mark Peterson (MPe), Nathan Pieplow, Suzie Plooster, Kim Potter, Bob Richter, Dick Roth, Bill Schmoker, Karleen Schofield, Dave Silverman (DSi), Doug Swartz (DSw), Glenn Walbek, Ross Watkins, Tracy Wohl, Ronda Woodward, Christopher L. Wood.

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NEWS FROM THE FIELD: WINTER 2004-2005
REPORT (DECEMBER - FEBRUARY)

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The weather was warm and dry across the Eastern Plains this winter. The monthly average temperature at Denver International Airport (DIA) was 4.6, 3.3, and 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal in December, January and February, respectively. The warmest temperature during the winter at DIA was 70F on 20 January, which was a record high for that date, and the coldest was -9F on 23 December. The precipitation at DIA over the season was only 0.43 inches compared to the normal value of 1.63 in. December was the fifth driest on record, and February was the second driest ever recorded in Denver. Fortunately, it was a very different story on the West Slope where the snowfall was heavy, especially in the southwest over the San Juan Mountains. This resulted because storms arrived from the west and southwest, having dropped much of their moisture over a very soggy southern California.

The biggest story of the winter was a huge invasion of Bohemian Waxwings. A few were seen in the late fall, but early in December large flocks were being seen in several parts of the state. Eventually, Bohemian Waxwings were seen throughout the state all winter, often in the company of a few Cedar Waxwings, with all the reports totaling well over 10,000 birds. Another interesting invasion, but on a very much smaller scale, was the twelve Purple Finches seen, mostly along the Arkansas River Valley from Salida, Pueblo, Las Animas, and Lamar. The final dramatic invasion this winter was by White-winged Doves. Sixty-six were found on the Pueblo Reservoir Christmas Bird Count, and many more were seen in the southeast quadrant of Colorado. Two were seen in Boulder, making a total of 110 birds this winter of a species that was unrecorded in winter from Colorado until three years ago!

Hummingbirds again hit the headlines early in the season. A female Costa's Hummingbird spent most of the winter at a feeder in Clifton, only about a mile from where the Broad-billed Hummingbird was seen two years before. In addition, a female Anna's Hummingbird spent the winter nearby at a feeder in southeast Grand Junction. Both these birds had been there during the fall, but both were caught, identified, and banded by Steve and Debbie Bouricius early in December. Other very rare birds seen during the winter were: Black Brant, Eurasian Wigeon, Red-throated Loon, two sightings of Gyrfalcon, American Woodcock, Iceland Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sedge Wren, Varied Thrush, Pine Warbler, and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

David Leatherman reports that it was a great winter for Pine Siskins on the plains. He also reports that shrikes were scarce, but Merlins were about normal, and there was a good variety of wrens wintering in the southeast part of the state. Finally, Yellow-rumped Warblers were hard to come by in Lamar this winter, whereas dozens were about last winter.

Another trend to note is that more species are being seen in the state in winter, either in ones and twos, or in larger flocks, such as the White-winged Doves. Rare to unusual species reported this year were: American Bittern, Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Sora, Sandhill Crane, Spotted Sandpiper, Band-tailed Pigeon, Barn Owl, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Sage Thrasher, Green-tailed Towhee, and Chipping Sparrow. Quite a list!

Thanks to everyone who sent us their sightings, and to all who collected the postings off COBirds and elsewhere. The reader of this report should be aware that many of the sightings used in this report were taken from postings to the COBirds listserve. Not all of the rare and unusual species have been supported by documentation sent to the Colorado Bird Records Committee. Underlined species are those for which the Committee desires written documentation. You can submit your sightings on the CFO website at <http://www.cfo-link.org/CBRC/login.php>. This is the preferred method of submitting records. However, if you need a form, use the one on the inside of this journal's mailer. Documentation should be sent to Larry Semo (address on the form).

Abbreviations: **Barr**=Barr Lake SP, *Adams*; **Brush Hollow**=Brush Hollow Res., *Fremont*; **Chatfield**=Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*; **Cherry Creek**=Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*; **John Martin**=John Martin Res., *Bent*; **Jumbo**=Jumbo Res., *Logan/Sedgwick*; **PR**=Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*; **SP**=State Park; **Union**=Union Res., *Weld*; **Valmont**=Valmont Res. complex, *Boulder*; **EOP**=end of period (i.e., Feb 28).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Unusual locations for this species were 13 found in Canon City, *Fremont*, which stayed to 28 Jan (KL); one at Zink's Pond in Durango, *La Plata*, 1 Dec-2 Jan (PD, SA, JBy); single birds in *Delta* and *Montrose*, 9-31 Dec (AL, DFi, CK); one at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, 18 Dec (CLW, LE, BKP). The high count was 26 seen at Jumbo, 25 Feb (RO, JKe, GW).

Snow Goose: An adult was at Zink's Pond, 26 Dec-2 Jan (JBy, PD, SA); which was unusual for southwestern Colorado. High counts this season were from the Arkansas Valley in southeastern Colorado; 8,384 were counted on the John Martin Res. CBC, 15 Dec, and 8,370 were counted on the Rocky Ford CBC, 16 Dec.

Ross's Goose: Single birds were at 104th Ave. near Stearns Lake, *Boulder*, 12 Dec (PG); in *Broomfield*, 13 Dec (DCE); Cherry Creek, 19 Dec (BGu); Montrose, 22-31 Dec (CK); Wheat Ridge, *Jefferson*, 1 Jan (TB); Glasser Res., *Broomfield*, 2 Jan (EZ); Platte River near Overland Park Golf Course, *Denver*, 2 Jan (BBi); and Canon City, *Fremont*, 9 Jan-26 Feb (DPa, SM). High Counts were 800 on the John Martin Res. CBC, 15 Dec, and 930 on the Rocky Ford CBC, 16 Dec.

Cackling Goose: A *minima* race individual was reported from Sheldon Lake in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, 31 Dec (NK). The high count of the Richardson's race was 502 on the Rocky Ford CBC, 15 Dec (fide SOs).

Brant: A first-winter Black Brant was seen by many at the Inverness Business Park and Golf Course, *Arapahoe/Douglas*, 18-28 Feb (BT, m.ob.).

Trumpeter Swan: Four adults were seen at Cattail Pond in Loveland, *Larimer*, 5 Dec-Feb 2 (NK), and probably the same four at the Hewlett Packard Property, *Larimer*, 18 Feb (CW). Other single birds seen were a juvenile at Windsor Lake, *Larimer*, 11 Dec (JTU); an adult in Golden at 44th Ave. and Table Mt. Parkway, *Jefferson*, 13-18 Dec (EA); a juvenile at Boulder Creek and Baseline Res., *Boulder*, 18 Dec-8 Jan (PR, DWa); two adults at Meeker, *Rio Blanco*, 21 Dec (DH, KP, VZ, EH); an adult at Cherry Creek, 27 Dec (BGu); and finally another adult in *Boulder*, 29 Dec-28 Feb (BK, DWa).

Tundra Swan: Five were seen at Lake Maria, *Huerfano*, 5 Dec (DSi); two adults and a juvenile at Porter Creek, *Weld*, 12 Dec (EA); and again two adults and a juvenile at CF&I Lakes, *Pueblo*, 1 Jan-19 Feb (PSS, CS).

Wood Duck: This species is rare in southwest Colorado in winter, but a male was seen at Totten Res., *Montezuma*, 20 Jan (JBy, SA).

Eurasian Wigeon: An adult male was seen at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, 19-28 Feb (BKP, m.ob.).

Cinnamon Teal: The first of this early spring migrant that normally appears in February, were three seen at Portland, *Fremont*, 26 Feb (MP, TLe, BMa, KL), and a male in Glenwood Springs, *Garfield*, 26 Feb (KKu).

Greater Scaup: Ninety-five were reported in the state this season, with 26 at Rocky Ford Valco Pond, *Otero*, 16 Dec (MP, BKP) being the largest flock. Singles birds seen in *Delta* and *Montrose*, 8 Dec-3 Jan (FL, MP, TLe, JBn, CK); and two at Pastorius Reservoir, *La Plata*, 24 Feb (JBy) were the only ones reported from western Colorado.

White-winged Scoter: Two were seen at Sands Lake in Salida, *Chaffee*, 2-6 Dec (TLe, SY, RLd), and one was at Union, 16 Dec (SJD).

Black Scoter: A female/immature-plumaged bird was seen on the Arkansas River at Valco Ponds in Pueblo, 2 Dec (JBy, PD), and a female was at Rifle Gap Res., *Garfield*, 5 Dec (AD, VZ).

Long-tailed Duck: One to two were at PR, 1 Dec-8 Feb (BKP, KL); one at Boyd Lake, *Larimer*, 5 Dec (NK); one at Clifton Sewage Ponds, *Mesa*, 7 Jan-21 Feb (FL); and one at Fossil Creek Res., *Larimer*, 12 Feb (CW, KGi).

Barrow's Goldeneye: Reports from southern Colorado included a male seen at PR/Valco Ponds, found in the fall (LL), which stayed to 4 Feb, and a female at PR, 4 Dec-4 Feb (KL, BKP). Also, a male was seen at Trinidad Lake, *Las Animas*, 6 Dec (TLe, MP), and up to four were seen in southwest Colorado in *La Plata/Montezuma*, 7 Dec-17 Feb (JBy, SA, PD).

Red-throated Loon: A juvenile spent most of the winter at PR, 2 Dec-28 Feb (JBy, PD, KL, BKP).

Pacific Loon: One, or perhaps two, were at PR all winter (BKP, KL).

Common Loon: Several spent the winter at PR, with a high count of nine on 15 Jan (KL, BKP); two were at Ridgway Res., *Ouray*, 1-6 Dec (JBn); a single bird was at Boyd Lake, *Larimer*, 5 Dec (NK); and one to three were at Totten Res., 20 Jan-17 Feb (JBy).

Red-necked Grebe: Rarer in winter than in fall, single birds were seen at Lathrop SP, 8 Dec (RMi), and at PR, 15 Jan (KL, BKP).

American White Pelican: Early season reports included one seen at Neenoshe Res., *Kiowa*, 7 Dec (MP, TLe), two seen at John Martin, 7 Dec (DN), and one seen at Rocky Ford Valco Pond, 16 Dec (DN, MP, BKP).

Double-crested Cormorant: A slow season for cormorants, with only a few reports. Up to four spent all season at PR (BKP), and a similar number spent all season at Valmont (PG). Two were seen at John Martin, 7-15 Dec (DN), and one was at Rocky Ford Valco Pond, 16 Dec (MP, BKP).

American Bittern: Remarkable reports in winter were one seen at Coot Lake, *Boulder*, 6 Dec (DWi); two in Delta, 18-22 Dec (BD, CDy); and one flew out of a John Martin area marsh, 29 Jan (MP, KL, LE, BKP).

Green Heron: One was seen below John Martin dam, 12 Dec (DN) for another odd winter sighting for Colorado.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Seventeen reports were received of this rare winter species from nine locations this season.

Turkey Vulture: One was seen at Hotchkiss, *Delta*, 2 Dec (TC); an adult at Fort Carson, *El Paso*, 3 Jan (RB); an immature at John Martin, 13-15 Jan (DN, SOs); one seen at Superior, *Boulder*, 11 Feb (PR); and finally another one seen at Inverness Business Park, 25 Feb (KSt).

Northern Goshawk: On the plains, an adult was seen in *Pueblo*, 18 Dec (CLW) and 10 Jan (MP); an adult was in *Bent*, 31 Dec (MP); a juvenile was south of Holyoke, *Phillips*, 12 Feb (MP, LE, KL, BKP) and 20 Feb (TLe); and another juvenile was at 52nd and Ivy, *Adams*, 22 Feb (DCE).

Gyrfalcon: A first for *Pueblo* was a gray morph bird seen along Hwy 96 near Valco Ponds, and briefly at the Pueblo landfill, 18 Dec (PHu, MHu, CLW). Unfortunately, this bird was not seen again. An immature gray morph was at Colorado Blvd. and 52nd Ave., *Adams/Denver*, 28 Feb (DCE).

Peregrine Falcon: Singles seen this season were a wintering bird in Grand Junction, *Mesa* (LA); at Valmont, 24 Dec (TF); at 88th Ave. and the Platte River, *Adams*, 18 Jan (MS); and in Pueblo City Park, 26 Feb (MP, TLe, KL).

Sora: This species seems to be wintering now in the large marshes around John Martin Reservoir. This winter up to three were found there 15 Dec-29 Jan (MP, BKP); two were at Grand Junction, 19 Dec (fide CDe); and another was at

the Lamar Community College, *Prowers*, 14 Jan (JTh, DN).

Sandhill Crane: This species is rare in mid-winter, but four were seen at John Martin, 13 Jan (DN); 14 flew over Zink's Pond, 24 Jan (JBy); and one was seen at Boulder Creek near 119th Street, *Boulder*, 1 Feb (DPr).

Spotted Sandpiper: This species is very rare in winter in Colorado. Two were seen at Grand Junction, 19 Dec (CDe); one or two were along the Arkansas River below Dutch Clark Stadium in Pueblo, 2 Jan-28 Feb (GW, JKe); and one was seen in Glenwood Springs, 4 Jan (TMc, KMc).

Least Sandpiper: A single bird was seen at Highline SP, *Mesa*, 25-28 Feb (LA).

Dunlin: One spent some of the winter in the same stretch of the Arkansas River in Pueblo as the Spotted Sandpipers, 28 Dec-10 Feb (DSi).

American Woodcock: One was seen along Sand Creek in Aurora, *Adams*, 1-8 Jan (RLz, m.ob.).

Bonaparte's Gull: The last one of the season was at PR, 18 Dec (MP, TLe).

Mew Gull: This species is being seen much more regularly in Colorado, with eleven reports this winter. If all reports are documented, then perhaps it might be removed from the CBRC review list in the future. A 2nd-year bird was at Valmont, 2 Dec-10 Jan (TF); an adult was at John Martin, 15 Dec (MP, BKP); a 2nd-year bird was at Fort Collins City Park, 20-22 Dec (NK); an adult was also at Valmont, 25 Dec (TLe, LS); another adult was at Fort Collins City Park, 31 Dec (NK, KKe); a 2nd-year bird was at Nissen Res. #1, *Broomfield*, 11 Jan (DCE, EZ); a 1st-year bird was at Thomas Res., *Boulder*, 17-22 Jan (BK); an adult was seen by many at Crown Hill Lake, *Jefferson*, 3-EOP (PP, m.ob.); an adult was at Chatfield, 5 Feb (MP, ABu); an adult was at PR, 10-18 Feb (BKP, MP, KL); and another adult was at Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*, 23 Feb (MP).

Thayer's Gull: There were 27 reports of this species on the eastern slope of Colorado this season.

Iceland Gull: The gull of the season was a 2nd-year bird seen by many at Cherry Creek, 11-18 Feb (GW, m.ob.). The only other documented records in Colorado are two from *Pueblo* and one from *Boulder*.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: There were 24 reports of this species on the eastern slope of Colorado this season.

Glaucous-winged Gull x Herring Gull hybrid: A first-year bird, possibly of this lineage, was photographed at PR, 24 Jan (BKP).

Glaucous Gull: A good total of 17 were reported this season, with most of the reports were from the northern Front Range. The exception was PR, where two 1st/2nd-year birds were seen between 1-28 Jan (MP, BKP), and a smallish looking adult was seen there, 14 Jan (BKP).

Great Black-backed Gull: Another gull species that was reported more frequently than usual this winter, with ten reports. The adult found at PR in the fall stayed until 18 Feb (RMi); a 1st- or 2nd-year bird was at Neenoshe Res., 13 Dec (MP, BKP); 1st- and 2nd-year birds were at John Martin, 15 Dec (MP, BKP); a 2nd-year bird was at Union, 16 Dec (SJD); another 2nd-year bird was at PR, 14 Jan-10 Feb (BKP, MP); a 1st-year bird was at Thomas Res. and other *Boulder* locations, 20-29 Jan (JV, BK, PG); a 3rd-year bird was at PR, 21-28 Jan (MP, BKP, TLe); a 2nd-year bird was at Cherry Creek, 12-18 Feb (TLe, LS); and lastly a 3rd-year bird was at Lake Loveland, *Larimer*, 18 Feb (CW).

Black-legged Kittiwake: An adult was seen at Chatfield, 1 Dec (JKe), and a juvenile was seen at Cherry Creek, 5 Dec (GW).

Band-tailed Pigeon: This species is very unusual in winter, but 12 were seen at Green Mountain Falls, *El Paso/Teller*, all season (RB), and 40 were seen in Trinidad, *Las Animas*, 4 Feb (MP, BKP).

White-winged Dove: Single birds were seen in Colorado Springs, 3 Dec (MP), and in Trinidad, 6 Dec (MP, TLe). A large flock was present west of Pueblo, 15 Dec-28 Feb (MY), with 66 seen on the Pueblo Res. CBC, 18 Dec (MP). Twenty-one were seen at Rocky Ford, 16 Dec-21 Jan (SOs, BKP, MP). Single birds were seen in Gunbarrel, *Boulder*, 19 Dec (RLi), and in Florence, *Fremont*, 19 Dec (CLW, JKe, KL, BKP). Six were seen on the Pueblo CBC, 1 Jan (DS, SOI), and ten were at La Junta, *Otero*, 1 Jan (MP). Finally, single birds were seen in Fountain, *El Paso*, 9 Jan (ABu), at the Legion Park Overlook in *Boulder*, 6 Feb (LG, SRi), and in Burlington, *Kit Carson*, 20 Feb (TLe).

Inca Dove: Up to four were seen in Lamar, *Prowers*, 5 Dec-29 Jan (JTh); up to three were in Rocky Ford, 16 Dec-16 Jan (SOs, DN); one was seen in Florence, a first for *Fremont*, 19 Dec (MP, m.ob.); and one was seen in Fowler, *Otero*, mid-Jan to 26 Feb (MF).

Barn Owl: Fifteen birds from seven locations were reported this season.

Northern Pygmy-Owl: Reports this season were from *Boulder, Delta, El Paso, Fremont, Mesa, and Teller*.

Burrowing Owl: One was photographed at CR 13, south of CR W, *Baca*, 28 Dec (JJ).

Long-eared Owl: Eighty-six birds were reported this season, including one in juniper habitat near Penrose, *Fremont*, 11 Feb (KL, BKP).

Short-eared Owl: Seven were reported this season from *Crowley, El Paso, Larimer, Pueblo, and Yuma*.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Twelve were reported in the state this winter, surprisingly none from the Eastern Plains.

Anna's Hummingbird: An adult female found in the fall at Orchard Mesa, *Mesa*, was banded on 4 Dec (D&SB), and stayed all winter.

Costa's Hummingbird: An adult female found in the fall at Clifton, *Mesa*, was banded on 4 Dec (D&SB), and stayed to 29 Jan. This is only the third record of this species documented in Colorado.

Acorn Woodpecker: Two adults continue in the usual location near Durango, all season (PD, SA, JBy).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: A first for *Huerfano* was a female coming to a feeder in La Veta, all season (PN), and also farther west than normal was a bird near the Pueblo Nature Center, 18 Dec (MP), and one in Colorado City, 6 Feb (DSi). One was seen at Hugo, *Lincoln*, 14 Dec (BKP, MP), and one was in Fleming, *Logan*, 12 Feb (MP, LE, KL, BKP).

Williamson's Sapsucker: Two females were seen at the Holy-Cross Abbey in Canon City, 1 Dec-28 Jan (SM), another female was at Centennial Park in Canon City, 1 Dec-19 Feb (SM), and a male was seen in Florence, 19 Dec (SM).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Another good winter for this species in Colorado. One to two juveniles were seen at City Park Golf Course in Fort Collins, 1 Dec-28 Feb (DAL); an adult male was at Pueblo City Park, 1-19 Feb (MY); a juvenile was at Lathrop SP, 8 Dec (RMi); one to two juveniles were in Pueblo City Park, 12 Dec-26 Feb (GW, MP, MY, LBr); another juvenile was at Centennial Park in Canon City, 19 Dec-19 Feb (SM); a juvenile was west of Pueblo City Park, 21

Jan (BKP, MP); an adult male was at the Roselawn Cemetery in Blende, *Pueblo*, 1 Jan (MY); a juvenile was at CF&I Lakes, *Pueblo*, 1 Jan (PS-S, CS); and finally one was at Lake Beckwith, Colorado City, *Pueblo*, 2 Jan (SM).

Black Phoebe: Only the second winter record for Colorado, one was in Canon City, 24 Jan (SM), which is also the location of the other winter record.

Say's Phoebe: There were many more reports than usual this winter. There were five reports from *Pueblo*, one from *Fremont* and *Las Animas*, two from *Otero*, one from *Mesa*; and finally one much farther north at Hygiene, *Boulder*, 25 Jan (SRo).

Loggerhead Shrike: This species is very rare away from the southeast plains in winter, but one was at White Rock, *Boulder*, 24 Jan (TF).

Blue Jay: Unusual in western Colorado, one was in Craig, *Moffat*, 24 Dec (FL).

Clark's Nutcracker: Lowland reports of single nutcrackers were from *Broomfield*, 18 Jan (LS), and Lakewood, *Jefferson*, 4 Feb (MC).

Carolina Wren: One found in the fall spent the entire winter at the Lamar Community College (DAL), another was seen at John Martin, 7 Dec-13 Jan (DN), and a very surprising northwest Colorado sighting was an individual seen near Clark, *Routt*, 21 Jan to at least 9 Feb (SB, TLi, FL).

House Wren: One seen at John Martin, 15 Dec (DN, BKP, MP, SOs, m.ob.) was a very rare winter report.

Winter Wren: Ten were reported this winter in *Baca*, *Bent*, *Boulder*, *Douglas*, *Otero*, and *Pueblo*.

Sedge Wren: One was seen at John Martin, 2 Dec (DN), and another was seen in Grand Junction, 19 Dec-25 Feb (RLa).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One seen at Brush Hollow, 19 Dec (PHu, ABu), and two in Grand Junction, 19 Dec (fide CDe) were the only reports.

Eastern Bluebird: Reports from western Colorado were five seen in Grand Junction all season (fide CDe), and three were seen in Craig, 8-15 Jan (FL).

Hermit Thrush: One was seen at South Platte Park, *Arapahoe*, 18 Dec (CB); two were in Grand Junction, 19 Dec-25 Jan (fide CDe); three were at Bonny



First record of Carolina Wren (here Dec 9) for *Routt*. Photo by Tom Litteral.

Res., *Yuma*, 23 Dec (BBo, GW, LK, TLe); one was along Boulder Creek at CU, 29 Dec-12 Jan (TF); and one was in Durango, 19 Jan (PD).

Varied Thrush: A male seen in *Broomfield*, 3 Dec (EZ, LK), and one seen in Fort Collins, 10 Feb (fide RHo) were the only reports.

Gray Catbird: A surprising five were reported this winter. Single birds were seen at Lake Beckwith, Colorado City, 2 Dec-27 Feb (DSi); John Martin, 15 Dec (JTh, DR); Boulder Creek at CU, 18 Dec-14 Feb (DSp, m.ob.); Runyon Lake in Pueblo, 1 Jan (MK); and at Paonia, *Delta*, 1 Jan-28 Feb (JM, JBn).

Northern Mockingbird: Sixteen were reported in the state this winter.

Sage Thrasher: It was a very good winter for this species in the Pueblo area. Several were present all season in the Juniper Breaks Campground at Pueblo Res. (KL, BKP); seven were seen in Colorado City, 10 Dec (DSi); one or two were seen in Canon City, 17 Dec-24 Jan (MP); and 13 were counted on the Pueblo Reservoir CBC, 18 Dec (m.ob.).

Brown Thrasher: Six were reported in the state this season. Single birds were

seen at the Paulsen's farm north of Lamar, *Prowers*, 1 Dec-23 Jan (LP); at Two Buttes Res., 7 Dec-21 Jan (MP, TLe); at the Lamar Community College, 12 Dec-18 Jan (DAL, DR); at John Martin, 14 Dec (DN); at Colorado City, 21 Dec-28 Feb (DSi); and at Crawford, *Montrose*, 15 Feb (fide CDe).

Bohemian Waxwing: Over 10,000 were reported from throughout the state.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Two were seen at the Redlands, *Mesa*, 26-28 Feb (LA).

Black-throated Green Warbler: The first-fall bird found in the fall stayed at the Rock Canyon/Valco Ponds area in Pueblo through 18 Dec (BKP, LE, CLW). This is probably the latest date for this species in Colorado.

Pine Warbler: Two males were visiting suet feeders in Pueblo, 11-18 Dec (LL), and another male visited a feeder at the Denver West Office Complex east of Golden, *Jefferson*, 7 Jan-19 Feb (KSd, m.ob.).

Ovenbird: Another odd warbler in winter was this bird seen at 4700 Holly, *Denver*, 1-14 Dec (BSa, DFa, m.ob.).

Common Yellowthroat: A male was visiting a suet feeder in Golden, *Jefferson*, 4-6 Dec (JRo, MR).

Green-tailed Towhee: One was seen at Louisville, *Boulder*, 18 Dec (MAr); one was seen in Colorado City, 23 Dec (DSi); and another was seen in Paonia, *Delta*, 3 Jan (JBn).

Chipping Sparrow: This is a very rare species in winter, but there were seven reports this year. One was seen in Lamar, 7 Dec (JTh, MP, TLe); one was at PR, 18 Dec-8 Feb (BKP, LE); two were seen on the Salida CBC, 21 Dec (fide SY); one was seen in Pueblo, 26 Dec-4 Jan (VAT); another one was seen in Lazear, *Delta*, 29 Jan (LA); and finally one was seen in Delta, 11-18 Feb (JBn).

Vesper Sparrow: One was seen near Nucla, *Montrose*, 6 Dec (CDe, BW). There are only a handful of winter records of this species for the state.

Sage Sparrow: One made a surprising winter visit to Red Rocks Park, *Jefferson*, 7-8 Jan (BSp, WF).

Savannah Sparrow: Two were seen at Glade Park, *Mesa*, 26 Feb (LA).



Pine Warbler at the Denver West Office Complex (here 12 Feb). Photo by Bill Schmoker.

Fox Sparrow: One spent most of the winter in Durango, 18 Dec-28 Feb (JBy).

Lincoln's Sparrow: A large number wintered in the state last year, but only six were reported this year, all from southeastern Colorado.

Swamp Sparrow: Only 27 were reported in the state this winter, which was low compared to last winter. One seen in Grand Junction, 3 Dec (LA), was the only one reported from western Colorado.

White-throated Sparrow: Only seven were reported this winter, which is also much lower than usual. Five spent all season in Grand Junction (fide CDe), and two were seen at Two Buttes Res., 7 Dec (TLe, MP).

Harris's Sparrow: Only 13 were reported this season, which is again quite low. Three or four spent all winter in Grand Junction (fide CDe); one was seen in Delta, 21 Jan (JBn); and two were seen in La Veta, *Huerfano*, 20 Feb (KL, BKP, PN), which is odd for a mountain town.

Golden-crowned Sparrow: One spent the winter at Fruitgrowers Res., *Delta* (DG).

McCown's Longspur: This species normally winters in *Baca*, but this year reports came from *Kiowa*, Jan 25 (DAL), and *Weld*, 13 Feb (NK, CW).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: This species also winters in *Baca*; the only other report were five on the John Martin CBC, 15 Dec (SOs, MP).

Snow Bunting: A few of this northern species were reported this winter in the state. One was seen north of Denver International Airport, *Denver*, 8 Jan (LK); ten were seen at Barr, 14 Jan (RHa, CW); and 15 were reported near Virginia Dale, *Larimer*, 13 Feb (DSm).

Northern Cardinal: The only reports were from Las Animas, *Bent*. One was seen on 15 Dec (DN, RLi), and two were seen on 15 Jan (DN, SOs).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Up to six were seen near Lamar, 12 Dec-28 Feb (DAL); three were found on the John Martin Res. CBC, 15 Dec (JTh, DR); one was seen on the Pueblo CBC, 1 Jan (DJ); and one was seen south of Montrose, 8 Jan (TLe, JBn, MP).

Rusty Blackbird: A slow season for this species, with only three reports. One was seen at Mount Ouray SWA, *Chaffee*, 21 Dec (DN, TLe); up to eight were seen near Lamar, 27 Dec-29 Jan (DAL); and one was near Barr, 22 Jan (LK, GW, GGo).

Common Grackle: This species seems to be around more in winter than previously. Reports from odd locations included; two seen at Connected Lakes SP, *Mesa*, all season (LA); three seen at Gould, *Jackson*, 19 Dec (NK); one seen in Westcliffe, *Custer*, 26 Dec (MY); and one seen in Allison, *La Plata*, 20 Feb (JBy).

Great-tailed Grackle: An adult male spent the whole winter in Durango, (JBy), and the high count was 250-285 seen in Lamar, 23-29 Dec (DAL).

Brown-headed Cowbird: High counts of the season were 55 at Lamar, 12 Dec-28 Feb (DAL), and 93 on the John Martin Res. CBC, 15 Dec (m.ob.).

Pine Grosbeak: Lowland reports included 15 seen in Grand Junction, 3 Dec (LA); 11 seen at Fort Lewis College in Durango, 18 Dec-1 Jan (JBy, SA); five seen in southwest Fort Collins, 21-22 Dec (NK, BMi, KKe); three seen south of Lamar, 1-2 Jan (DAL); and one seen at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 8 Jan (GR).

Purple Finch: There was an interesting little invasion of this species this year. Three were seen in Las Animas, 1-7 Dec (DN); four were in Lamar, 5 Dec-11 Jan (JTh); one female type was seen at Nucla, 11 Dec-2 Jan (CDe, BW); another

female type was seen at the Lamar Community College, 12-13 Dec (DAL) and 29 Jan (MP, KL, BKP, LE); one female type was at Pueblo City Park and Valco Ponds, 18 Dec (MP, CLW, BKP); one adult male was seen at Hatchet Ranch, east of Colorado City, *Pueblo*, 31 Dec (BBH); a female was seen at Log Lane Village, *Morgan*, 15 Jan (PW, JRi); and finally another female type was seen at Sands Lake in Salida, *Chaffee*, 18 Jan (VAT).

Red Crossbill: Reports from the far Eastern Plains were two seen at the Fairmount Cemetery in Lamar, 29 Jan (BKP, MP), and six to eight seen at Bonny Res., 25 Feb (RO, JKe, GW).

Common Redpoll: A nice surprise was a flock of 75 seen at Connected Lakes SP, 11 Dec (JBy). One was seen in Grand Junction, 19 Dec (LA), a male was seen at the Fawnbrook Inn in Allens Park, *Larimer*, 31 Dec-1 Feb (RSe, m.ob.), and another male was seen at Hatchet Ranch, east of Colorado City, *Pueblo*, 25 Jan-4 Feb (BBH).

Lesser Goldfinch: This species now winters in small numbers in *Fremont*, *Pueblo*, and some areas of the West Slope. Other reports were four seen in Boulder, 15 Dec-27 Feb (TF); one seen in Golden, 18 Feb (IS); and one female seen in La Veta, *Huerfano*, 4 Feb (BKP, MP, PN).

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Colorado Field
Ornithologists