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**Front Cover**

Denver’s wintering Long-billed Thrasher (see *News from the Field*). Photo taken by Andrew Spencer on 21 Feb 2006.

**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>

## **CFO BOARD MINUTES**

Lisa Edwards, Secretary

The regular quarterly meeting was held April 8, 2006, at 11:00 A.M. Board members present were: President Norm Lewis, Vice President Bill Schmoker, Secretary Lisa Edwards, Treasurer David Waltman, and Directors Maggie Boswell, Doug Faulkner, Rachel Hopper, Tom McConnell, Mark Peterson, Larry Semo, and Glenn Walbek. Director Cheryl Day sent her regrets. The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Norm Lewis shared his thoughts on how to sustain CFO and continue to move the organization forward. Overall he feels things are going very well.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

CFO's current liquid assets are \$41,151.96. The retail value of the merchandise inventory is \$6,272. The Treasurer's report was approved.

### COLORADO BIRDS

Doug will be leaving as editor of the journal. Rachel Hopper has checked on several options for publishing *Colorado Birds* including subcontracting the layout of the journal and mailing the journal as a sub-permit of another mailing permit, this latter piece would be at no cost to CFO. The board discussed several options to reduce pressure and task of editor.

### CBRC

There are currently 100+ records circulating, 2005 and earlier. The rest of the 2005 records will begin circulation this summer and the 2006 records will be circulated this coming fall. The website is continuing to be fine tuned. Two member's terms are expiring in December of this year.

### FIELD TRIPS

Bill Schmoker presented the list of trips planned for 2006: Hawk Watch on April 22, Bohart Ranch on May 13, SE Colorado Ranches in mid-May; Black Swifts on August 5, and West Coast Pelagic on Sept 16.

### PROJECT AND YOUTH FUNDS

Four applications from young birders asking for scholarship money were reviewed. The board approved a total amount of \$1300 for all four young birders - Jacob Cooper, Josiah Malueg, Micah D. Malueg, and Saraiya Ruono. A motion was made and passed to provide additional monies to the Youth

Project Fund from the general fund.

MEMBERSHIP

Maggie Boswell reported that there are 441 active members. The Board also asked Maggie to look into improving the format of the CFO membership expiration date listed on the address label of *Colorado Birds*.

2006 CONVENTION

The board reviewed outstanding items for the convention to be held in Sterling next month. All outstanding items were reviewed and assigned out to various board members for completion.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion centered on the 2007 Convention location. The convention will be held in Craig.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.



## CFO Project Fund

Help support avian research in Colorado. Support the CFO Project Fund with your tax-deductible donation. Make checks payable to Colorado Field Ornithologists, clearly marked "Project Fund". Send to: David Waltman, CFO Treasurer, PO Box 19131, Boulder, CO 80308.

Remember that CFO is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation and members can designate the CFO Project Fund in estate planning or wills.

## PROJECT FUND GUIDELINES

CFO has a limited amount of money generated by the Project Fund from which to make grants to qualifying individuals or organizations for projects that will have a lasting benefit to Colorado Birds and the habitats upon which they rely. CFO urges those applying for grants to become members of Colorado Field Ornithologists. CFO Project Fund grants can be considered matching funds for other grants. The Project Fund Committee requests that the recipients of funding publish a short year-end summary of their funded work in *Colorado Birds* and/or present some of their findings at the CFO convention of the next calendar year.

The Project Fund Committee reviews and rates all applications in terms of which have best met the criteria for the mission of CFO. The data are tabulated and applications are ranked by the Project Fund Committee. Grants are divided among the highest-ranking applications with the amount of support provided dependent on the Project Fund budget.

1. All applications should contain name, address, and telephone of person or organization applying for grant.
2. Applications should include a description of the project - what will be done, who will direct the project, who will actually do the work, timetable, and rationale (explaining how the project will support the Mission of CFO).
3. All applications must be postmarked no later than December 1, and must be submitted directly to chairperson of Project Fund committee.
4. All projects must have an anticipated starting and completion date. Projects should be realistic in terms of time required to complete project.
5. Applicants must submit a complete budget. Projects should be realistic in terms of financial and volunteer resources. Applications should contain all items that the project requires and the items the applicant is seeking funding from CFO for and should contain amount requested from CFO.
6. Travel expenses, equipment readily available from private sources (such as camera, spotting scopes and office equipment) are usually not funded.
7. Application should contain amount already funded from other sources.

8. Following the receipt of a grant and completion of the project, the applicant, must submit a final report, in writing, to the chairperson of Project Fund by February of the next calendar year. This report should include a full description of the project activities and an accounting of money spent.

All monies not used must be returned to the CFO treasurer.

Please include 3 copies of the grant proposal. If there are additional brochures or copies of financial reports included in the grant application, please include three copies, one for each of the committee members.

Applicants will be notified after the winter (February) CFO Board Meeting, whether or not their project has been funded.

Committee Members:

Cheryl Day  
Project Fund Chair  
2836 Hwy. 92  
Hotchkiss, CO 81419

Pearle Sandstrom-Smith  
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**UPDATE FOR *COLORADO BIRDS: A REFERENCE*  
TO THEIR DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT**

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Strasburg, Colorado 80136  
and  
Central Buganda University  
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and

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**The Need**

The number of birders and the amount of information they are collecting is increasing constantly. Andrews and Righter (1992) listed 444 species, and the state list (as of July 6, 2006) is 480 species, an increase of 36 species (additional new species are pending). We can't count the number of unusual distributional records, new early and late dates, new high counts, etc., that Colorado birders have amassed since 1992. Our knowledge of the geographic distribution of most species has been fine-tuned, and significant new knowledge has been generated for a few species. And the birds themselves have been changing - expanding or retracting ranges, increasing or decreasing in number. Andrews and Righter (1992) provides fundamentally correct and useful statewide species accounts for common species in their core geographic and altitudinal ranges and seasonal occurrences. Numerous observations have fine-tuned our understanding, especially at the perimeter with new locality records, early and late dates, etc. A careful analysis of some data sources, such as Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and Christmas Bird Count (CBC) records, for common species would provide improved understanding of distribution within core ranges. For less common species, much new information has accumulated. The rarer species are those with the most out-of-date species accounts (except for the few species, such as Ivory Gull, for which there have been no recent observations).

**The Models**

1) CFO County Birding website: an interactive site with links between species accounts (where to find certain ones), site descriptions, and county checklists.

2) Cornell's Ebird: an interactive site where users can view graphs and maps for particular species or locations, based on birding information submitted by observers.

### **The Idea**

We propose that the new edition of *Colorado Birds* be an online version rather than a printed book.

#### Advantages

An online version offers several advantages: 1) more information can be made available, 2) links between different parts of the site offer flexibility and reorganization of data to cater to individual interests and questions, and 3) continual updating means it never really gets out-of-date.

#### Disadvantages

Some of us prefer to read books rather than computer screens, and some (although an ever decreasing percentage) are not computer literate. It is much less likely to be carried in the field, although some people do now use wireless internet connections.

### **The Details**

The *Colorado Birds: a reference to their distribution and habitat* online edition would have information organized by species, area, and habitat.

**Species information:** Each species would have an updated state species account with a similar form to the original book, with status, habitat, a state map, elevation graph, seasonal graph, and references. Some types of information were not included in the print edition because it would have added too much bulk to the book or because the two authors did not have sufficient time. Many of these could be included in an online edition. Some examples include:

- More historical maps, based on Bailey and Niedrach (1965) or other earlier references
- Maps and graphs based on CBC and BBS data
- Information on breeding and feeding ecology
- Habitat graphs that show relative abundance in different habitats, or indicating primary, secondary and minor habitat preferences
- A list or map of specimen records (in Denver Museum of Nature and Science and other museums)
- Identification material
- Lists of unusual records: a complete list of all state records for rarer

species, and lists of individual records outside the core range and time period. Records could be sorted and viewed chronologically, by geographic area, or by week or month.

**Area information:** A print edition can provide information mostly at the statewide scale due to limited space. A great advantage of an online edition would be to provide information at much finer scales: regional, local, and site-specific. Checklists would be available for different regions of the state, organized by counties (northeastern, north-central, northwestern Colorado, etc.) or by ecoregions (northwestern mesas and valleys, southwestern mesas and valleys, northern mountains, southern mountains, northeastern plains, southeastern plains). Checklists could also be created for each county and as many individual birding sites as people are interested in; e.g., Pawnee National Grassland, Crow Valley Park, Grand Mesa, Grand Valley, etc. We suggest expanding the County Birding concept by going beyond a list of species and adding abundance, seasonal distribution, early and late dates, high counts, breeding status, local distribution, etc., with a map, year graph and elevation graph. One could reach annotated checklists for individual areas by clicking on the species account maps. Alternatively, one could start with a local checklist, and click on any species to reach the statewide species account.

**Habitat information:** Each habitat would have a detailed description, with a discussion of avian ecology, photographs, links to checklists of birding sites representative of that habitat, references, photographs, etc. There would be a list of typical species in different seasons or different parts of the state. There would be a list of dominant plants (with photographs), and lists of other organisms found in the habitat could also be developed.

**Links:** There would be extensive links between the habitat accounts, species accounts and area checklists. As many links as possible could be created to existing or future external sites. Examples of such links include:

- Colorado Field Ornithologists: County Birding, Colorado Bird Records Committee, and photos. If articles from *Colorado Birds: the Colorado Field Ornithologists Quarterly* and its predecessors were archived and made available online, then links to articles could be provided.
- SORA (Searchable Ornithological Research Archive), which archives articles from *Auk*, *Condor*, *Wilson Bulletin* and other journals, which have carried many articles of interest to Colorado ornithology.
- Online data sources, such as Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Counts, and Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas.



### **An Example**

To illustrate how the website could work, let us use the example of the Lark Bunting. A user interested in this species would start with the state list, and click to reach the statewide species account for the Lark Bunting, which would be an updated version of the account from Andrews and Righter (1992). From that account, the user could click on links to reach other parts of the site. One could bring up checklists for Pawnee National Grassland and Comanche National Grassland to compare abundance, habitat use, and average and extreme early and late dates. Alternatively, regional information for northeastern and southeastern Colorado (organized by either counties or ecoregions) could be accessed to make comparisons in different regions of the state. At a yet finer scale, a user could access county checklists for Weld, Baca, Mesa and Moffat counties, and compare abundance, arrival and departure dates, and high counts for these different counties.

A map of historical occurrence (e.g., early 1900s) or links to early papers such as Hersey and Rockwell (1909) for Barr Lake and Rockwell (1908) for Mesa County could put current and past status and distribution in context. A link to BBS data would provide maps and graphs showing the abundance of Lark Buntings on different BBS routes or population trends and fluctuations. A link to CBC data would show whether or not the species has been recorded on any CBC, and if so, where, in what years, and in what numbers.

Clicking on the habitat link would bring up information on the shortgrass prairie: photographs of the main grass species, discussion of floristic subtypes and the Lark Bunting's use of those, lists of other species sharing the habitat in different parts of the state, and a discussion of the avian ecology of shortgrass prairie.

Linking to the Colorado Bird Records Committee would show if any winter records (or records in unusual locations) have been documented with descriptions or photos, and what action the CBRC took on those submissions. A user could access complete lists of all winter records, all Routt County or San Miguel County records, all records above timberline, etc. Links to identification material could be provided for those species for which identification can be challenging. There could be links to photographs (males, females, nests, eggs, etc.), video clips of Lark Bunting flight displays, and audio clips of songs and calls. Links to websites for adjoining states would provide information on the status of Lark Bunting in those states. A complete list of references relating to the Lark Bunting could be provided, with links to those materials accessible online.

The above example describes many, but not all, of the possibilities. Only imagination and the availability of data would limit the range of information and links that the website could provide.

### **The Next Steps**

The magnitude of this project cannot be carried out by one or two persons, or even a small committee. It would have to be a project involving as many Colorado birders as possible. There would be a coordinator and a steering committee, but without the interest and participation of the majority of Colorado's active birders, the project could not reach its full potential. Many roles would be needed: a computer specialist, specialists on individual species or groups, and local experts to prepare checklists for ecoregions, counties, and favorite birding sites.

The proposal we are putting forth is just that, a proposal. We have not exhaustively investigated or thought out every aspect of this proposed online edition. Some of the ideas we have mentioned above may be impractical or of limited use, while we may have overlooked some obvious applications and links. A steering committee would work out the details of what is possible and useful. We think the specific proposals described above would create a useful and exciting online resource, and will be a trendsetter.

We are putting this idea to the Colorado birding community to see what level of interest there is in developing an online status and distribution website. If there is sufficient interest, we are willing to play an advisory role. But if there is limited interest, we are unable and unwilling to carry it forward alone.

### **Acknowledgments**

Thanks to those who first inquired about a new edition or contributed to a discussion about an online edition in their submissions to COBirds: Allan Burns, Ted Floyd, Joey Kellner, Joe Roller, and Steve Stachowiak.

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## AVIAN DIVERSITY AT SOUTH TABLE MOUNTAIN, GOLDEN, COLORADO: 2000-2005

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**Abstract**—During a six-year period (2000-2005) and totaling 121 visits, 114 species were identified at South Table Mountain: 24 year-round residents, 43 summer residents, 10 winter residents, 23 migrants, and 14 others whose presence there is not expected, given either the season or the available habitats.

### Introduction

In this paper the six-year study period is considered as a single snapshot in time. In a future paper I intend to outline the major changes that took place in the avian community at South Table Mountain (STM) during the same period of time.

Because of the surprisingly high avian diversity at this location, and because STM is a prime site for possible extension of Open Space in Jefferson County, and because of the importance of conserving wildlife habitat there, I devote considerable attention in this paper to the history of the site and its various land uses and habitats.

### Study Area

At the base of STM are Paleozoic sandstones, but most of the mountain is made up of volcanic tuff of late Cretaceous and early Tertiary age called the Denver Formation. Interbedded with the Tertiary portion are three additional igneous flows of latite; the third forms a cap on top of the mountain (Van Horn 1976).

The earliest humans at STM were almost certainly hunters, for evidence of Paleo-Indian hunters (7,000 to 12,000 years ago) has been found elsewhere in Jefferson County (Van Ness 2000). It is easy to imagine early peoples hunting on STM; their successors were still hunting Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) and Mountain Lion (*Felis concolor*) there in the late 19th century (Gardner 2002). The only large mammals that remain are Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), Coyote (*Canis latrans*), and an occasional Elk (*Cervus canadensis*); small mammals and rodents abound, as witnessed by the presence of several raptors year-round.

Stock grazing on STM lasted into the 20th century. Camp George West (a Colorado National Guard site) once occupied acreage across the central part of the mountain; the land was used largely as a small arms firing range. In the 1930s four quarries were operated by the City of Denver on top of STM; later these were taken over by private companies and used into the 1950s. The Table Mountain Gun Club existed in Quarry 4 thereafter until around 1966, when the Rolling Hills Country Club opened just to the north of the mesa. Around 1968 the Colorado State Highway Patrol opened a triangular pursuit-training course on the mesa, on land belonging to Camp George West. The remainder of land belonging to Camp George West has since been transferred to private owners and to the Department of Energy for its National Renewable Energy Laboratory, or NREL (Butler 1992).

A tourist facility existed on STM from 1906-27, which included a café, dance hall, lighthouse, and a funicular built to the high point above Golden (known as Castle Rock) in 1913. The remains of the resort were destroyed by fire in 1927 (Gardner 2002).

At the present time two private owners remain at STM, but about two-thirds of the mesa is publicly owned, and that portion is mostly zoned for agriculture or recreation. No grazing, ranching, or agriculture any longer take place. The active public uses on STM are (1) research at the NREL site on the southern slope, (2) the State of Colorado's pursuit-training course in the middle of the mountain, and (3) Jefferson County's and the City of Golden's Open Space on the east and west ends, and along trails in between.

### **Size, habitats, and major plants**

Based on property allotments (which may not be complete) STM consists of 2,018 acres, or 3.15 square miles (Jefferson County 2006). From the base of its slopes to the top of Castle Rock, STM ranges from 5,600' to 6,319' in elevation. Because STM shares characteristics of both the Plains and Foothills life zones, its eight habitats have a mixed quality that reflect the structure of the local plant and bird communities, as well as elevation, slope, and aspect of the local geography. For example, the one riparian area (a canal beneath the north slope) has qualities of a lowland, as well as a foothills riparian habitat; the grass is a mix of shortgrass prairie and mountain grassland; the shrubs are foothills shrubs, but there are small patches that closely resemble semidesert shrub. There are cliffs on all sides of the mesa, and urban areas surround its base.

Despite a history of grazing, quarries, roads, trails, and various other human activities on the top of STM, a climax community of native grasses still predominates, such as Blue Grama (*Chondrosium gracile*), Needle-and-Thread

(*Stipa comata*), and Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*). Numerous forbs accompany the grasses, among the abundant ones are Fringed Sage (*Artemisia frigida*), Sunflower (*Helianthus pumilus*), Fendler Senecio (*Packera fendleri*), and Wild Alyssum (*Alyssum parviflorum*). A total of 380 plants have been recorded at STM, of which 89 (23%) are introduced weeds, testifying to disturbances (Yeatts 2001).

The considerable diversity of avian species at STM is due largely to a variety of shrubs, which dominate the slopes and extend up to the edges of the grassland. Little disturbance exists along the slopes of STM, and shrubs are doubtless the climax community. The most common shrubs are Wild Plum (*Prunus americana*), Chokecherry (*Padus virginiana melanocarpa*), and Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*). On the cooler northern slopes are also Skunkbush (*Rhus trilobata*), Wax Current (*Ribes cereum*), and Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*).

### Methods

Some avian species were consistently found in the same habitats, or along particular routes, but most birds also moved from habitat to habitat, and from site to site. To keep track of which species were where, and when, over my nearly ten years of birding there I have worked out 32 separate routes that fairly encompass the several habitats of STM. Each of my 121 visits during the study period included between one and seven different routes, mostly organized to assure that I surveyed each route according to a regular schedule. I say mostly, because, especially during winter, I focused on routes that experience had shown would produce more species and more birds.

In some years I was able to make more visits than during others. This inconsistency, plus an emphasis on the productive routes, may bias my results somewhat. Over the six-year period, however, a reasonably balanced effort resulted, as reflected in the following summary of trips by season. More trips during spring and summer were necessary to capture the greater avian diversity during those two seasons.

Winter: December-February, 26 visits

Spring: March-May, 32 visits

Summer: June-August, 35 visits

Autumn: September-November, 28 visits

### Results

During the 2000-2005 period, 114 species were identified. As shown on Table 1, 24 are year-round residents (r), all of which are assumed to be breeders at STM.

Additionally, there are 43 summer residents, of which 23 are assumed to be breeders (b); an additional nine are possible or probable breeders (b?); only 11 summer residents have not been confirmed as breeders (s). Additionally, there are 23 migrants (m), 10 winter residents (w), and 14 whose presence at STM is exceptional enough (e) to deserve comments in the Discussion section.

## Discussion

### Table 1

Row 2 of Table 1 shows the total number of visits for each month over the six years; the numbers in succeeding rows indicate on how many visits per month each species was encountered. Therefore the table is an indication of frequency, not abundance.

### Assumed but unconfirmed breeders

Among the 47 assumed breeders, I was not able to positively confirm breeding for 13 species, according to the protocol of Kingery (1998). Seven are classified as residents, six as breeders, but I assumed the 13 were breeders on the basis of their presence during the nesting season in suitable breeding habitats: Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*), White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*), Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*), Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*), American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), and American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*).

### Exceptional species

Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), and Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) are not found at STM, because wetlands are insufficient there. However, all these birds are found at nearby wetlands (e.g., Coors Ponds, Clear Creek, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, Standley Lake), thus they fly over STM occasionally, especially the geese, which often feed on the adjacent greensward of Rolling Hills Country Club.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) is the only duck found regularly on site, in the canal, and they may breed there. Other ducks, including Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), and Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), are seen during winter in nearby suburban ponds, but so far not at STM (thus not counted) with one spectacular exception: A pair of Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) were seen swimming in the canal on 16 June 2003. I

searched diligently during subsequent visits but never saw them again.

Given a scarcity of suitable habitat, and because they are not known to breed in Jefferson County, the frequency of Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), in all seasons, is notable.

Bald Eagles nest at Standley Lake to the north, and hunt for wounded ducks on Coors Ponds during winter. Before builders thoughtlessly eliminated a favorite perching tree, they were often seen from high points of STM.

A male Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) appeared 13 May 2002 atop a phone pole, above mixed shrub/grass habitat. Perhaps he was exploring the suitability of the cottonwoods at nearby Rolling Hills Country Club.

A male Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) appeared in May of 2000, and again in May of 2003, once in grassy habitat, the other time in very barren ground near the old gun club. One expects to find these summer residents on the lower ground farther east.

Similarly out of normal range was a migrating male Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), especially notable for its late arrival, 26 November 2003.

Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) are more likely during winter in the county, so their appearance on 1 July 2001, and again on 8 July 2003, was probably due to the exotic suburban shrubs at the foot of STM, where they were seen.

Most unexpected was a migrating male Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) in dry grassy habitat atop STM, on 1 October 1998 - before the period of this study, but worth including because of its rarity.

Not quite as rare were the pair of migrating Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) on 21 May 2002, seen in mixed shrub/grass habitat.

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) is now a well-established summer resident and breeder at STM, having expanded its range northward in recent years. Perhaps a similar attempt to expand territory may account for the presence of the Eastern Kingbird, Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*), Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*), and Black-headed Grosbeak. In each case STM offers suitable habitat, but in meager amounts.

### Unconfirmed species

Single individuals of four possibly additional species were: Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) on 17 December 2003, Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*) on 5 June 2001, Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) on 4 June 2000, and Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*) on 2 September 2000. Because I was alone on each occasion, and viewing conditions were not ideal, I did not count them. The finch and the flycatcher are likely, the other two are at least possible, given the season and habitat.

### Large numbers

8 April 2002: 66 American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) feasted in shrub/grass habitat on the northern slope. Exactly a year later, 58 made a return engagement in exactly the same place.

3 June 2002: 54 Violet-green Swallows (*Tachycineta thalassina*) were feeding in the air above cliffs and shrub/grass habitat on the north side.

12 March 2003: a swarm of over 125 American Crows were feasting on insects, in the grasslands on top.

16 & 31 July 2003: over 200 Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) circled above cliffs, near a former gravel quarry; some moved west to feed over grassy habitat, others went downslope to feed over shrubs. These swallows first appeared in small numbers in 2001, were more prevalent the next year, peaked in 2003, then disappeared.

31 July 2003: a total of at least 127 House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) seen in shrub/grass, then cliff, then suburban habitat. Flocks of 50-100 are not unusual in any season near suburbs, but also in shrub/grass habitat.

28 August 2003: a flock of over 50 White-throated Swifts zoomed over the cliffs near the northwest corner of STM, the largest flock I have observed of these common summer residents.

17 December 2003: a migrating mixed flock of blackbirds (uncertain species), European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), perhaps including other species, flew over, numbering over 500 individuals.

15 January 2004: 72 European Starlings mauled the shrubby habitat near suburban housing.



### Acknowledgments

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Table 1. Frequency of encountering species on South Table Mountain near Golden, Colorado, 2000-2005. Total # of surveys performed is in bold under each month.

Species	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>
Canada Goose - e	3	4	4	2	-	1	-	1	1	1	3	7
Mallard - e	-	-	1	1	5	3	1	1	3	1	1	-
Hooded Merganser - e	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Am. White Pelican - m	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Double-cr. Cormorant - m	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron - e	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey Vulture - s	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-
Northern Harrier - e	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk - s	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cooper's Hawk - s	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
Swainson's Hawk - s	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk - r	2	1	2	1	3	5	4	3	4	3	-	4
Ferruginous Hawk - w	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk - w	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle - e	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Golden Eagle - r	1	1	-	2	2	3	3	1	1	-	-	-
American Kestrel - r	2	1	2	8	6	9	8	4	10	5	4	4
Prairie Falcon - r	2	-	2	2	2	4	1	1	1	2	3	3
Killdeer - e	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-billed Curlew - m	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull - e	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Rock Pigeon - r	1	1	-	-	-	2	2	1	5	1	-	3
Mourning Dove - r	1	2	3	4	6	13	11	9	9	2	-	1
Great Horned Owl - r	1	1	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Nighthawk - s	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
White-throated Swift - b	-	-	-	2	6	8	4	2	6	-	-	-
Br.-tailed Hummingbird - s	-	-	-	1	1	3	4	5	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher - s	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Lewis's Woodpecker - e	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Downy Woodpecker - r	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	1	1	1	3	3
Hairy Woodpecker - m	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Northern Flicker - r	7	4	10	8	8	14	11	6	10	7	9	12
Olive-sided Flycatcher - m	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Wood-Pewee - b	-	-	-	-	4	5	4	5	6	-	-	-
Cordilleran Flycatcher - m	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Say's Phoebe - b?	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Ash-thr. Flycatcher - m	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Kingbird - b	-	-	-	1	8	10	11	4	5	-	-	-
Eastern Kingbird - e	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 1, continued

Species	J 8	F 5	M 10	A 13	M 9	J 15	J 11	A 9	S 11	O 8	N 9	D 13
Loggerhead Shrike - m	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike - w	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Plumbeous Vireo - m	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Warbling Vireo - b	-	-	-	-	4	3	4	-	-	-	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo - m	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steller's Jay - w	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Blue Jay - r	-	3	3	2	-	1	-	2	7	-	3	1
Western Scrub-Jay - r	5	4	7	7	2	9	4	7	10	6	6	7
Black-billed Magpie - r	7	5	10	9	8	14	10	7	9	8	9	12
American Crow - r	4	2	9	6	3	5	1	1	-	5	6	7
Common Raven - r	-	-	2	2	4	5	2	-	1	1	4	-
Horned Lark - m	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tree Swallow - b	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	2	1	-	-	-
Violet-green Swallow - b	-	-	-	3	7	9	10	3	4	-	-	-
N. R.-winged Swallow - s	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cliff Swallow - b	-	-	-	-	1	3	8	1	1	-	-	-
Barn Swallow - b?	-	-	-	1	1	7	4	4	3	-	-	-
Bl.-capped Chickadee - r	1	5	8	6	6	7	8	5	10	4	6	4
Mountain Chickadee - w	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Bushtit - w	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch - m	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
White-br. Nuthatch - r	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	2	3
Pygmy Nuthatch - m	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Wren - b	-	-	1	3	4	6	4	3	7	3	-	-
Canyon Wren - r	-	-	-	2	3	5	7	2	3	2	1	1
House Wren - b	-	-	-	1	6	11	11	4	3	-	-	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - m	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - b	-	-	1	-	6	7	7	4	5	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird - e	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Mountain Bluebird - m	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Townsend's Solitaire - w	3	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	2
Swainson's Thrush - m	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hermit Thrush - m	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Robin - r	3	1	10	9	8	14	11	8	6	6	6	6
Gray Catbird - b	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
Northern Mockingbird - b?	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Sage Thrasher - b	-	-	-	2	1	1	5	4	5	1	-	-
European Starling - r	2	4	10	7	5	7	2	3	5	5	4	4
Cedar Waxwing - e	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Tennessee Warbler - m	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Table 1. continued

Species	J 8	F 5	M 10	A 13	M 9	J 15	J 11	A 9	S 11	O 8	N 9	D 13
Virginia's Warbler - b?	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	1	2	1	-	-
Yellow Warbler - b	-	-	-	-	3	6	4	-	-	-	-	-
Yell.-rumped Warbler - m	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	4	4	-	-
Wilson's Warbler - m	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Bl.-thr. Gray Warbler - m	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat - b	-	-	-	-	7	12	7	4	1	-	-	-
Western Tanager - b?	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	4	5	-	-	-
Green-tailed Towhee - b	-	-	-	-	2	5	5	2	3	2	-	-
Spotted Towhee - r	3	2	10	9	8	15	11	9	11	8	4	7
Am. Tree Sparrow - w	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Chipping Sparrow - b?	-	-	-	3	5	3	5	6	6	3	-	-
Brewer's Sparrow - b	-	-	-	-	3	3	4	4	3	2	-	-
Vesper Sparrow - b	-	-	1	3	8	12	7	5	5	1	-	-
Lark Sparrow - b?	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	2	3	-	-	-
Bl.-thr. Sparrow - e	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Lark Bunting - m	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-
Song Sparrow - r	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1	2	1	3	4
Wh.-cro. Sparrow - w	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	6	4	3
Dark-eyed Junco - w	6	5	7	2	1	1	-	-	-	5	9	11
Rose-breast. Grosbeak - e	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bl.-headed Grosbeak - b	-	-	-	-	4	6	3	1	3	-	-	-
Lazuli Bunting - b	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
Lazuli x Indigo Bunting - s	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indigo Bunting - b?	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird - s	-	-	-	-	2	4	1	1	1	2	-	1
Western Meadowlark - b	-	-	8	9	9	14	9	5	6	7	1	-
Brewer's Blackbird - s	-	-	-	2	4	3	1	-	1	1	-	-
Common Grackle - b	-	-	1	6	6	10	5	-	3	1	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird - b	-	-	-	1	7	12	8	-	-	-	-	-
Bullock's Oriole - b	-	-	-	-	8	14	8	5	2	-	-	-
House Finch - r	7	5	10	9	7	15	11	8	10	8	8	12
Pine Siskin - m	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Lesser Goldfinch - b?	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	2	3	2	1	-
American Goldfinch - r	-	3	1	1	1	5	3	2	3	1	3	8
House Sparrow - r	6	4	6	5	3	8	4	2	4	2	4	8

r = year-round resident

s = summer resident

b = confirmed breeder

b? = possible/probable breeder

m = migrant

w = winter resident

e = exceptional at STM

## THE 42<sup>ND</sup> REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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### Introduction

This 42<sup>nd</sup> report presents the results of Spring 2006 deliberations of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or Committee) on submissions to the CBRC for documentation and archival purposes. This article provides results of the circulation of 128 reports submitted by 53 observers documenting 118 occurrences of 60 species. This article deals primarily with 2004 occurrences, but reports date back to 1991. Per CBRC Bylaws, 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. Those records with 4 or 5 accept votes transcend to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of deliberations.

The documents reviewed include the report of two species previously unconfirmed from the state, White-eared Hummingbird and Tropical Parula, bringing the state total to **480**. Four potentially additional species to the state list are still pending within the CBRC - Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*), Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*), and, recently, Hooded Oriole (*Icteria cucullatus*).

One change to the statewide Main Review List has now been adopted. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) is no longer on that list, but documentation will still be required for all locations west of the Continental Divide. Please see the section on accepted Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers within this document for the justification behind this decision.

Committee members voting on these reports: Coen Dexter, Doug Faulkner, Peter Gent, Joey Kellner, Ric Olson, Brandon Percival, and Larry Semo.

### Documenting and reviewing rarities

The primary purpose of the CBRC is to archive reports of occurrences of species that are considered rare in the state. Secondly, the Committee's purpose is to provide a scientific context for accepting records of birds,

primarily sight records, to the official state list of species that have occurred in the state. To complete the second task, the CBRC requests that the birding public submit documentation on such occurrences to be reviewed by the Committee. The review is primarily to ascertain whether the submitted documentation supports, in the consideration of seven state experts, the identification presented. Thus, the primary pieces of information that the Committee requires is a written description of the bird(s) and how similar species were ruled out.

Current photographic technology has greatly increased the number of photographs (particularly, digital) that the CBRC has received and these photos greatly assist the Committee in determining whether the documentation provided supports the identifications. However, this technological benefit has a disadvantage. Some observers are now simply submitting photographs with date and location with no written description. While the photographs certainly prove the identification, the lack of a written description leaves at least some of the CBRC members feeling uneasy. Without written descriptions, many pieces of information are lost forever. While pictures are great and you will not hear a single CBRC member complain about too many photographs, those photos are single images of a bird or flock of birds; they may not convey everything that a thorough, well-written description could provide. Remember, the CBRC is primarily an archive and with only a single picture as documentation for an individual rarity occurrence, future researchers may not be able to determine the age, sex, or origin of a given rarity; something that may be considered important in the future.

### **Committee News**

The second consecutive term of Brandon Percival expires at the end of 2006. John Vanderpoel's second consecutive term expires at the end of 2006. John resigned from the CBRC at the end of 2005 due to other commitments and Peter Gent graciously stepped in to complete John's final year of term. Per CBRC Bylaws, a Committee member can only hold two consecutive three-year terms before mandatorily taking at least one year off. Both so-noted vacancies become available beginning in 2007 and the Committee is actively evaluating potential new candidates for positions. Committee member requisite qualifications include 1) Expertise in avian identification, 2) History of CBRC support through consistent documentation submissions, and 3) Continual access to computer technology, especially the Internet.

### **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 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 (9054 Dover Street, Westminster, CO 80021), the CBRC would greatly appreciate submission via the on-line CBRC website (<http://www.cfo-link.org/CBRC/login.php>).

### Report format

The organization and style of this report follow that of Leukering and Semo (2003), with some alterations. An asterisk preceding a species' name indicates that the species is not currently on any CBRC review list (Semo et al. 2002), but that reviewed reports are of unseasonable or locally rare occurrences. As of 2002, the CBRC removed from the statewide 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 those species were on the Main Review List. Those species' names preceded by an asterisk (\*) are species rare in certain parts of the state and for which the CBRC requests documentation from those areas (Semo et al. 2002, Semo and Leukering 2004). Finally, the filled circle (•) indicates those species not on any review list and not particularly out-of-season but for which the CBRC circulated for review a record of some interest, due to location, date, plumage, etc., but for which documentation would not be required.

If present, the numbers in parentheses following a species' name represent the total number of accepted records for Colorado followed by the number of accepted records in previous ten-year period preceding the submission. The latter number is of importance, as it is one of the criteria for a species' placement or removal from the statewide Main Review List (Semo et al. 2002). However, note that the number of accepted records will decline for some species as the CBRC continues to tackle the backlog of determinations as to how many of the accepted records are simply recurrences in subsequent years of a known individual.

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) *Check-list of North American Birds* (AOU 1998) through the 47<sup>th</sup> Supplement (Banks et al. 2006). 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), if known, 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, initials of those that submitted videotape are indicated by a lower-case, italicized “v” (v), and those who submitted sonagrams are indicated by a lower-case, italicized “s” (s). Thus, the parenthetical expression “(JD v, RA†, TL, JV, CW; 2001-36; 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 2001-36; 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 in 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 when documentations do not provide such.

Abbreviations used in this report are: CG=Campground; Res=Reservoir; SP=State Park; SWA=State Wildlife Area

### **RECORDS ACCEPTED**

TRUMPETER SWAN - *Cygnus buccinator* (26/13). A group of four (3 adults and one immature) were present at Lake Maria, *Huerfano*, on 30 November 2003 (DS; 2003-91; 7-0), providing a first county record. Descriptions of the bill and forehead patterns were conclusive as to the identity of Trumpeters.

TUNDRA SWAN - *Cygnus columbianus*. Since the CBRC placed Tundra Swan on the statewide Main Review List in 2002 (Semo and Leukering 2002)



because of identification challenges between it and Trumpeter Swan and a pattern of decreased occurrence in the state, there have been six accepted records prior to this circulation. The Committee has accepted a dilatory, but well-appreciated, documentation of a first-cycle bird photographed at the Sambrito Wetlands in Navajo SP, *Archuleta*, 24 March 2002 (AS †, NP; 2002-153; 7-0). Documentation was provided only by the photographing observer.

EURASIAN WIGEON - *Anas penelope* (26/8). A male was well-described and adequately photographed at Barr Lake, *Adams*, 1-3 December 2003 (DF †, TL †; 2003-97; 7-0). This provides the fifth record of this species for *Adams* and the third for Barr Lake; the most recent Barr Lake observation was from 1986.

\*SURF SCOTER - *Melanitta perspicillata*. Though scoters are regular fall migrants along the Front Range and some mountain parks in autumn, records from the Eastern Plains are quite rare, and even more unusual for spring. Forming the first record for *Bent*, a basic-plumaged bird integrated with Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) at Lake Hasty on the late date of 1 May 2004 (NP; 2004-79; 7-0).

#RED-NECKED GREBE - *Podiceps grisegena*. The CBRC generally does not review reports of Red-necked Grebes from the Eastern Plains of Colorado following its removal from the statewide Main Review List in 2002 (Semo et. al, 2002). However, through 2002, there had been no records of this species occurring in Colorado during the summer period. The CBRC has accepted a bird that still retained basic plumage present on a pond at *Weld* County Road 24 between at least 1 and 3 June 2003 (MB, BGe; 2003-46; 6-1). Despite a sound Red-necked Grebe plumage description, most Committee members questioned one of the observers comments that the bird appeared larger than a Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). Apparently no Western Grebes were nearby for size comparison and it is assumed that the size comment was erroneous as Red-necked Grebes are not physically larger than Western Grebes.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - *Nyctanassa violacea* (17/7). A juvenile present at Rock Canyon below Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, 18 and 19 September 2003 (RM †; 2003-92; 7-0) is the second for *Pueblo*.

\*OSPREY - *Pandion haliaeetus*. Representing the first confirmed winter season record for Colorado, one was photographed at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 20 December 2003 (TL †; 2003-101; 7-0). Unconfirmed reports indicated that this bird had been present at Pueblo Res. earlier during the same month, though no details were submitted to the CBRC.

CURLEW SANDPIPER - *Calidris ferruginea* (2/2). A juvenile at Prewitt Res., Washington, found by Kellner, is the second record of this Eurasian shorebird for Colorado. First found on 18 September 2005, the bird remained for a number of days and was seen by many birders, though submitted documentation to the CBRC establishes a date range for the historical records as only from 18-19 September (JK †, AS †, PG; 2005-96; 7-0).



Juvenile Curlew Sandpiper at Prewitt Res., Washington (CBRC# 2005-96). Photo by Andrew Spencer on 19 Sept 2005.

RUFF - *Philomachus pugnax* (2/1). Establishing the second accepted record for Colorado, a juvenile of this Eurasian shorebird was found by Oswald at Lake Meredith, Crowley, and present at least 5-6 October 2002 (SO v, PG, RH †, TL, LS †; 2003-18; 7-0). The sole previous record was of a bird seen in Weld in late May and early June 1977.

#SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - *Limnodromus griseus*. Short-billed Dowitchers are rare in the state, especially on the Western Slope. As the Eastern Plains have received a fairly substantial host of Short-billed Dowitcher reports, the CBRC removed this species from the statewide Main Review List in 2002 (Semo et.al, 2002), though still requires details on birds across the state

in adult and/or basic plumage. Beatty and Allerton found two in alternate plumage at Pastorius Res., *La Plata*, on 24 April 2004, though documentation was received by only the first-named observer (JBy, SA; 2004-96). This is the first confirmed record of Short-billed Dowitcher for *La Plata*.



Juvenile Ruff at Lake Meredith, *Crowley* (CBRC# 2003-18). Photo by Rachel Hopper on 6 Oct 2002.

RED PHALAROPE - *Phalaropus fulicarius* (29/11). An adult in basic plumage was superbly photographed on the late date of 6 November 2003 at Lake Henry, *Crowley* (AS †; 2003-39; 7-0). This is the first accepted record for *Otero*.



Red Phalarope at Lake Henry on 6 Nov 2003 (CBRC# 2003-39). Photo by Andrew Spencer.

LAUGHING GULL - *Larus atricilla* (29/17). The Committee belatedly received documentation of a second-cycle bird present at Boyd Lake, *Larimer*, in 2002 (NK; 2002-137; 7-0) that was previously documented by Hopper and accepted. This documentation was for an observation of the bird two days prior to the previously accepted record and the official period of occurrence for this individual bird is now 21 through 23 November 2002. The CBRC greatly appreciates documentation for birds previously accepted if those records provide additional date spans of occurrence or additional information that may be important for the historic account.

LITTLE GULL - *Larus minutus* (23/12). Three additional Little Gull records were accepted during this circulation. A juvenile was at Standley Lake, *Jefferson*, between 11 and 12 September 2002 (DF; 2002-3; 7-0). A surprising TWO juveniles floated around Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, on 17 and 18 September 2002 (RL, RO; 2002-80; 7-0). An adult in basic-plumage was photographed at Bingham Lake in The Pinery, *Douglas*, on 15 and 16 November 2004 (GW †, HK, TL †; 2004-68; 7-0)

MEW GULL - *Larus canus* (26/16). An adult in definitive-basic plumage graced Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 19 December 2003 (TL †; 2003-62; 7-0). It is unknown if the bird lingered longer at this location as no other details of its occurrence were provided. This is the fourth record for Pueblo Res.

\*HERRING GULL - *Larus argentatus*. Herring Gulls are extremely rare in southwestern Colorado. Beatty had the foresight to provide details to the CBRC of an occurrence he had of one in 2003. The CBRC accepts Jim's sighting of a 3<sup>rd</sup>-cycle bird present near Durango, *La Plata*, on 27 March (JBy; 2003-24; 6-1) based on a majority of opinion, though one Committee member maintained that the description did not adequately rule out other large gulls.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL - *Larus glaucescens* (11/6). Forming the 11<sup>th</sup> record for Colorado, a first-cycle bird was present at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, where documented on 29 and 30 March 2003 (BGU, GW †; BB; 2003-22; 7-0). Cherry Creek Res. has hosted 5 of the 11 records of this species in the state. Interspecific matings are common among Glaucous-winged Gulls, especially with Western (*Larus occidentalis*) and to a lesser degree, Herring Gull. First-filial and back-cross offspring containing Glaucous-winged Gull lineage present an extremely problematic situation for observers and Bird Records Committee's attempting to determine the specific identity of birds within that group. The diluted heritage of many Glaucous-winged Gulls west of Colorado forces observers in those regions to oftentimes not identify many of the "Glaucous-winged Gulls" they encounter. The CBRC has been very critical

in its analysis of potential Glaucous-winged Gulls in the state because of hybridization issues. The above-noted Cherry Creek bird displayed no phenotypic characteristics that suggested anything but a pure (at least to human eyes) Glaucous-winged Gull. Based on migratory patterns of many northwestern breeders that pass through Colorado, it seems that the population of Glaucous-winged Gulls that vagrate to Colorado may come from populations much further north (Alaska), outside of the Glaucous-winged and Western Gull inbreeding zone. With photographic-only evidence, it is obvious that we cannot preclude, based on genetics, that all or any of the accepted Glaucous-winged Gulls in the state are indeed pure, and the Committee must rely on phenotypic traits to provide an opinion.



Glaucous-winged Gull at Cherry Creek Res, *Arapahoe*, on 29 March 2003 (CBRC#2003-22). Photo by Glenn Walbek.

\*SABINE'S GULL - *Xema sabini*. Documentation was received for a previously accepted record of an alternate-plumaged adult, very rare for Colorado. The finder of this rare find at San Luis Lake, *Alamosa*, provided details for his sighting on 21 September 2002 (RL; 2002-84; 7-0). The previous documentation was for 26 September (Dave Rintoul), thus the state now has a more accurate reflection of the stay of this individual bird.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - *Rissa tridactyla* (27/11). The CBRC accepted a belatedly submitted report of an adult in basic plumage present at Chatfield Res. in both *Douglas* and *Jefferson* on 23 November 2001 (AS †, GW; 2002-152;

7-0). A poor photograph was obtained, which for some Committee members did not necessarily confirm Black-legged Kittiwake, though written descriptions of the birds were supportive of the species. This is the third record for Chatfield Res., all from the period 2000-2001.

\*LEAST TERN - *Sternula antillarum*. Rare for its westward location, one was northeast of Florence, *Fremont*, between 14 and 16 May 2004 (AB, MP †; 2004-84; 7-0). The finder reported that he believed the bird was seen by others through 21 May, though the CBRC did not receive details from any birders affirming that date.

ARCTIC TERN - *Sterna paradisaea* (12/6). The CBRC completed its review of several Arctic Tern records from 2000 to 2003, of which an additional four records have been established for the state. A bird transitioning from juvenal to basic plumage was present at Union Reservoir, *Weld*, 6-7 October 2000, where carefully studied and illustrated (JV v; 2000-168; 7-0). The CBRC wishes to apologize to John Vanderpoel for the belated response in circulating this record. A juvenile was present at Standley Lake, *Jefferson*, 10-11 September 2002 (TL, LS; 2003-130; 7-0). An alternate-plumaged bird was stunningly photographed at Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, on the surprising date of 18 June 2003 (VT †; 2003-52; 6-1). Unfortunately, no written description of the bird or the account of its discovery was provided to the CBRC and the CBRC will be conducting internal discussions and external consultations with other Bird Records Committees regarding the potential future validity of photograph-only documentations in regards to the historic perspective of avian records. The fourth accepted Arctic Tern record was of at least one (and possibly two) alternate-plumaged bird seen and excellently documented at Union Res., *Weld*, (the fourth occurrence of this species at this location) on 13 September 2003, and later found the same day at Boulder Res., *Boulder* (BS; 2003-126; 7-0). Of the twelve records of Arctic Tern for Colorado, eight have come from the period 10 September through 8 October.

#EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - *Streptopelia decaocto* The spread of this species across Colorado has been well-documented, yet a number of counties have no accepted records. Two additional counties were recently added to the list of confirmed locations. A group of eight were well-described from Norwood, *San Miguel*, in the southwestern portion of the state, where seen on 7 September 2003 (TL; 2003-3; 7-0). A pair set up camp in Arvada, *Jefferson*, where first seen 29 December 2002, lingering into early 2003 and later, which established the first record for that county (CS †, LS †; 2003-14; 7-0).

INCA DOVE - *Columbina inca* (16/11). Little documentation of the birds

present at Rocky Ford, *Otero*, have been submitted to the CBRC since the few years following their discovery of nesting at that locale. Continued presence was confirmed at Rocky Ford in 2002 with the acceptance of an adult weakly described, but sufficient to accept, seen on 1 September (RL, 2002-167; 7-0). It is known that Inca Dove's continue to reside in Rocky Ford and the CBRC is deliberating on the removal of this species from the two known breeding areas of the state: Rocky Ford and Lamar, *Prowers*. More out-of-place, one was photographed in Kit Carson, *Cheyenne*, on 21 November, 2004 (TL †; 2004-94; 7-0). There is now a total of eight Colorado counties with confirmed Inca Dove sightings.



Adult Arctic Tern at Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, on 18 June 2003 (CBRC# 2003-52). Photo by Van Truan.

**SNOWY OWL** - *Bubo scandiaca* (12/5). Two additional records were accepted. A juvenile day-roosted along the *Bent* side of Adobe Creek Res. (Blue Lake), where nicely photographed on 16 January 2002 (DN †; 2002-13; 7-0). Another, seemingly an adult female, was photographed north of Lake Holbrook along *Otero* County Road 25 (LS †, VT; 2002-1; 7-0). These records represent the first accepted records of this species for *Bent* and *Otero*.

**WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD** - *Hylocharis leucotis* (2/2). Unprecedented, Colorado received its **FIRST** and **SECOND** state-record White-eared Hummingbirds during the summer and early autumn of 2005. The first, an adult female, showed up at the feeder of Allerton's house northeast of Durango, *La Plata*, where first documented by Beatty on 19 June and stayed apparently until 7 August, though the last documentation of the bird came on 24 July (JBy †, PG, JK †, CWi, SA; 2005-69; 7-0). Surprisingly, during the stay of the first

state record, an immature female was found roughly 22 miles north in northern La Plata. The homeowner (Brown) reported that the bird first arrived at their feeder on 20 July. Documentation was achieved on 30 July by Faulkner and Semo and the bird apparently remained at that location to, quite coincidentally, 7 August, the same date of departure as the bird at Allerton's home (DF †, LS †, RB; 2005-77; 7-0). The occurrence of White-eared Hummingbirds in Colorado during the summer and early autumn of 2005 is not wholly unexplained. White-eared Hummingbird erupted north and east of its normal range in quite large numbers during the period according to regional reports in *North American Birds* (2005 Vol 59 no. 4 and 2006 Vol. 60, no.1). In Arizona, where the species is regular in single digit numbers in the southeast corner, over 13 were reported during summer and fall, with noteworthy northern occurrences in the Pelloncillo Mountain range and along the South Fork of the Lower Colorado River, representing the first northern Arizona record. In New Mexico, besides a report from Gila Hot Springs in the southwestern corner of the state, one was in *Catron*, in the west-central area and one was in the Sacramento Mountains, a first for southeastern New Mexico. Texas also experienced an unprecedented magnitude of White-eared Hummingbird reports, with up to 14 being seen in the Davis and Chisos mountains from late summer through October. Extralimital was the bird in the Southern Plains at Lubbock in mid-July. The most wayward occurrence was one in Michigan from mid- to late-August, representing the first record for the Western Great Lakes region and the second record east of the Mississippi. The previous record east of the Mississippi River was a wintering bird present in Mississippi in 1996.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD - *Calypte costae* (3/3). An adult male believed to be of this species was photographed at a very unusual location, the Mount Evans Pay Station in *Clear Creek* at an approximate elevation of 10,800 feet (BS †, CWo; 2003-123; 7-0). On 11 July 2003, Wood and Schmoker observed a small, chunky hummingbird coming to a feeder at the pay station that drew interest. The bird had a purple gorget with long gorget tails that extended posteriorly to the top of the bended wing. The bill was of moderate length and mostly straight, though did have a small degree of curvature through the mid-portion. Other characteristics supportive of Costa's Hummingbird evident in the submitted photographs included a white, postocular spot, light grayish-white (non-buffy) underparts that blended toward green along the flanks, and dark wingtips that projected beyond the dark tail tip. This record, the third for Colorado and all since 2001, came almost a month prior to a bird captured for banding at Rocky Mountain NP, *Larimer*, that was previously accepted by the Committee (2003-64) and over two years later than the first accepted record from Crow Valley CG, *Weld*, in 2001 (2001-46).



\*RED-HEADED WOODPECKER - *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Red-headed Woodpecker is quite rare on the Front Range of Colorado and records further west are very few. Very unusual was a high montane observation of an adult near Leadville, *Lake*, on 10 July 2004 (RL; 2004-97; 7-0), which formed an obvious first county record.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - *Sphyrapicus varius*. In 2002, the CBRC approved the addition of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker to the statewide Main Review List as reports of the species seemed to be in decline and there was no clear picture of the status and distribution of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the state. Since that period, many observers have provided details on Yellow-bellied Sapsucker occurrences across eastern Colorado. David Leatherman, whose intense interest in the species and tenacity and ability to find Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in Colorado, prepared an assiduous treatise on his observations of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the state, including photographs and species of tree observed in. His submittal accounted for 37 additional records from *Larimer* (31), *Boulder* (1), and *Prowers* (5) stemming from a period November 1987 through January 2005. Newly accepted records submitted from David Leatherman are listed below.

1. 20 November 1987 - adult (male?), Fort Collins (FC), *Larimer*
2. 22 November 1987 - juvenile, FC
3. 23 January through 13 March 1988 - juvenile male, FC
4. 15 December 1988 through 21 February 1989 - adult male, FC
5. 2 December 1989 - adult, FC
6. 13 December 1989 through 7 January 1990 - juvenile, FC
7. 5 January through 13 March 1991 - adult male, FC
8. 3 November 1991 - juvenile, male, FC
9. 5 November 1991 - 14 March 1992 - juvenile female, FC
10. 5 November 1991 - juvenile male, FC
11. 23 November 1991 through 2 February 1992 - adult male, FC
12. 12 January 1992 - Juvenile (seemingly female), FC
13. 9 February 1992 - juvenile male, Boulder, *Boulder*
14. 9 February 1992 - juvenile female, Boulder
15. 13 November through 24 December 1992 - adult female, FC
16. 6 December 1992 through 6 March 1993 - adult male, FC
17. 15 November through 15 December 1993 - adult male, FC
18. 2 March 1994 - adult male, FC
19. 4 March 1994 - juvenile female, FC
20. 30 November 1994 - juvenile, FC
21. 16 March 1995 - juvenile female, FC
22. 23 March 1995 - adult female, FC
23. 13 February 1995 - juvenile female, FC

24. winter of 1996-97 - Lyons, *Boulder*
25. 10-18 December 1999 - juvenile female, FC
26. 8-10 March 2000 - juvenile female, FC
27. 20-21 November 2000 - male, Lamar, *Prowers*
28. 21 November 2000 - juvenile female, Lamar
29. 20 November through 8 December 2001 - juvenile, FC
30. 21 November 2001 - 22 March 2002 - juvenile female, Lamar
31. 21 January through 2 March 2002 - adult male, FC
32. 12-16 February 2002 - adult male, FC
33. 23 November 2003 - 1 February 2004 - juvenile male, FC
34. 4 January through 14 March 2004 - juvenile, Lamar
35. 20 January 2004 - adult male, Lamar
36. 24 November 2004 through 9 January 2005 - juvenile, FC
37. 9 January 2005 - juvenile male, FC

With the acceptance of these records, the CBRC has voted to remove Yellow-bellied Sapsucker from the statewide Main Review List. This species will no longer need to be documented for all locations east of the Continental Divide. Documentation will still be required for observations of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker west of the Continental Divide, however.

ALDER FLYCATCHER - *Empidonax alnorum* (14/7). Two additional records of Alder Flycatcher, a difficult, but not impossible species, to separate from Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii*) using non-auditory criteria. Auditory and visual clues were used to confirm the identity of an Alder Flycatcher near Fort Lupton, *Weld*, on 4 June 2001 (TL, CWo; 2002-171; 7-0), forming a first record for that county. The quintessential ‘fee-bee-yo’ song was heard many times along a riparian area adjacent to the South Platte River. Plumage and shape characteristics supportive of Alder Flycatcher included the olive-green upperparts, a narrow, partial eye-ring that was most profound at the rear of the eye, a faintly white throat contrasting with darker auriculars, an olive-gray chest band, pale whitish-yellow underparts, dark tail with pale outer webs to the sixth rectrices, a relatively long, primary projection, and a completely orange maxilla contrasting with a dark mandible. Even more unusual, one was spotted and nicely photographed high in the mountains south of Leadville, *Lake*, during the CFO Convention on 7 June 2003 (LK, GW †; 2003-50; 7-0), which is, not surprisingly, a first county record. Photographs strongly eliminated Willow Flycatcher and the bird was heard singing its distinctive song at least once. With increased knowledge of the separation of Alder Flycatcher from Willow Flycatcher, especially from populations of the greener, eastern race of Willow Flycatcher (*E. t. trailii* and *E. t. campestris*, of whom some consider synonymous), it appears that Alder Flycatcher may be an

annual late spring/early summer migrant across the Eastern Plains of the state. The Committee still wishes to warn observers that not all “Traill’s” Flycatchers are identifiable when not vocalizing, however, and it requires a consistent suite of characteristics to successfully separate the two when in the field.



Alder Flycatcher near Leadville, *Lake*, on 7 June 2003 (CBRC# 2003-50). Photo by Glenn Walbek.

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER** - *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (24/12). The circulation accepted two additional records for the state. A female, present at Higbee Cemetery, *Otero*, in late summer 2002, was soundly documented for the date 14 September (RL; 2002-155; 7-0). A first-cycle female was seen in Carrizo Canyon, *Baca*, on 25 May 2003 (TR; 2003-38; 7-0). More than a third of Colorado’s 24 Vermilion Flycatcher records have occurred since 2000.

**\*GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER** - *Myiarchus crinitus*. A well-described bird was observed west of its usual range near Dixon Res., *Larimer*, on 14 September 2004 (RH; 2004-98; 7-0). The observer carefully provided separation details on the various plumage aspects of the bird, especially in comparison to Ash-throated and Brown-crested flycatchers (*Myiarchus tyannulus*), the latter a species that should be seriously considered in autumn in Colorado.

**#YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** - *Vireo flavifrons*. Although this species was removed from the statewide Main Review List in 2002 because of accretive occurrence frequency, the CBRC still accepts and solicits reports of pre-2002 observations of Yellow-throated Vireo for review as to provide a clearer picture

of the status of this species in the state. Leukering acceptably provided details of an alternate-plumaged bird present at Chatfield SP, *Jefferson*, on 15 May 2001 (TL; 2002-165; 7-0), providing the third confirmed record of this species for *Jefferson* through 2001, all from Chatfield SP.

\*JUNIPER TITMOUSE - *Baeolophus ridgwayi*. Representing the first record for *Summit*, a high-elevation, non-Pinyon-Juniper habitat county, one wandered to a feeder in Silverthorne, where present between December 2001 and at least 5 February 2002 (TP †; 2002-17; 7-0).

\*EASTERN BLUEBIRD - *Sialia sialis*. Very rare for southwestern Colorado, a male and female were at Navajo SP, *Archuleta*, on 28 April 2004 (JBy, PDe; 2004-92; 7-0).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - *Catharus minimus* (37/21). Providing a first for *Kit Carson*, one was seen at Flagler SWA, on 7 May 2003 (JBy; 2003-139; 6-1).

WOOD THRUSH - *Hylocichla mustelina* (24/11). A healthy four additional records were accepted with this circulation. Very tardily submitted, but still of great value, the CBRC accepted submissions of two different Wood Thrushes captured at the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's banding station at Barr Lake, *Adams*. Of special interest is that both birds were banded within one day of each other, 15 and 16 October 1996 (TL †; 2002-161 and 2002-164, respectively; both 7-0). In-hand photographs and molt patterning of each bird (and the lack of a band on the second bird when captured) confirmed two different individuals in first-basic and definitive-basic plumage. Acceptance of these two records is testimony that it is never too late to submit records! These records represent the first, and only, established accounts of this species for heavily-birded *Adams*. Beatty spotted one below Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, on 4 May 2003 (JBy; 2003-149; 7-0), establishing the third record for that county. Lastly, one skulked at Last Chance on 20 May 2004 (TL; 2004-101; 7-0), which is the first confirmed record for *Washington*.

VARIED THRUSH - *Ixoreus naevius* (22/13). A male, the first for *Broomfield*, was briefly described, but diagnostically photographed, from a private residence in Broomfield on 3 December 2004 (EZ † AZ; 2004-90; 7-0).

\*CURVE-BILLED THRASHER - *Toxostoma curvirostre*. One was in Grand Junction, *Mesa*, on 9 June 2004, establishing a very rare record for Colorado's West Slope (PDi; 2004-85; 7-0). The observer carefully noted all pertinent field characteristics including the size of bird, length of tail, length and shape of bill, overall coloration, spot patterning to the upperbreast, and eye color.



Wood Thrush at Barr Lake, *Adams*, on 15 Oct 1996 (CBRC# 2002-161). Photo by Tony Leukering.

TROPICAL PARULA - *Parula pitiayumi* (1/1). Despite a host of exceptional vagrant records in 2005, the most unpredicted was the appearance of a territorial male Tropical Parula at Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins, *Larimer*. Leatherman first detected the singing bird on 18 June, but was unable to get decisive views of it until days later. On 20 June, Joe Mammoser obtained good views and opined Tropical Parula as the identity. Easy to detect when singing, this oftentimes prevaricative bird frustrated many as it would seemingly disappear for long stretches at a time. However, over the course of the next 17 days, with the bird last seen on 4 July (DAL), a majority of Colorado birders did get nice views of one of Colorado's greatest records. The CBRC received numerous photographic and written evidence for historical support of the record, as well as a sonagram (DAL, JM †, DF, PG, LG †, TH †, NL, NP(s), BS †, CWi †; 2005-71; 7-0). Colorado's Tropical Parula represents the northernmost documented occurrence of this species, with the nearest vagrancy location being from the Texas Panhandle at Lubbock on 18 May 2003 (Mark Lockwood, Chair, Texas BRC, pers. comm.). Apart from other more southerly vagrant records from Texas, other vagrant Tropical Parulas have been found in the southern tier of states of Arizona, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - *Dendroica fusca* (38/21). Extremely unusual for its location, and obviously a first county record, an alternate-plumaged male was nicely documented from the Animas River in Durango, *La Plata*, where present on 13 May 2002 (JBY, 2002-56; 7-0). In contrast to Bay-breasted Warbler, in which Colorado vagrant records have declined greatly over the past twenty years, the number of Blackburnian Warbler reports has substantially increased. Through 2002, the majority (22 of 38 records) of Colorado's Blackburnian Warbler records were collected since 1990.

PINE WARBLER - *Dendroica pinus* (21/8). Two additional Pine Warbler records were accepted. The first was of a male in alternate plumage present at Fairmount Cemetery in Lamar, *Prowers*, between 7 and 10 May 2002 (BGI, DL †; 2002-136; 7-0), for the second *Prowers* record, both from the same season and year. A basic-plumaged bird spent the winter of 2003-04 amongst urban-planted conifers at a schoolyard in Greeley, *Weld* (RH, RL, CWO †, SM). Though the bird spent considerable time at this location, unfortunately the only date span in which documentation was provided was from 21-31 December 2003 and those will become the official record dates of occurrence for this bird unless additional documentation is provided that expands that period.

PRAIRIE WARBLER - *Dendroica discolor* (24/14). An alternate-plumaged male was southeast of Neeskah Res., *Kiowa*, on 2 May 2004 (NP; 2004-81; 7-0). For a well-birded location and general "hot-spot" for eastern warblers in Colorado, surprisingly, this is the first record of Prairie Warbler for *Kiowa*.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - *Dendroica castanea* (35/9). An alternate-plumaged female was captured and banded at the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory banding station at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 19 May 2002 (TL †; 2002-4; 7-0). Chico Basin Ranch was honored with the presence of yet another Bay-breasted Warbler, an alternate-plumaged male on the *Pueblo* side of the property on 10 May 2003 (BS; 2003-118; 7-0). Finding not one, but two Bay-breasted Warblers on back-to-back years during the 2000 decade at Chico Basin Ranch is surprising and encouraging. Almost half (19) of the 39 records of this species in Colorado occurred prior to 1980 and observations since that period have been quite lackluster, even for a vagrant.

KENTUCKY WARBLER - *Oporornis formosus* (31/13). The first record for *Bent* was obtained with the observation of a male at Fort Lyon SWA on 1 May 2004 (NP; 2004-76; 7-0). Apparently the bird was discovered by four other individuals earlier in the day (BP, GR, WR, JT), though the Committee received no details from the finders.

CANADA WARBLER - *Wilsonia canadensis* (27/10). A first-year female graced the east side of Barr Lake, *Adams*, on 31 August 2003 (DE; 2003-2; 7-0), the third record for *Adams*, two coming from the fall of 2003.

SCARLET TANAGER - *Piranga olivacea* (26/14). The records for two alternate-plumaged males were obtained, one from 2002 and the other from 2004. Both birds brightened a private residence near Lamar, *Prowers*. The first was of a bird photographed on 19 May 2002 (JS †; 2002-172; 7-0) and the second was photographed on 24 May 2004 (JS †; 2004-37; 7-0). Both birds were submitted as one documentation and originally assigned one CBRC accession number. For accuracy, the Committee has reassigned the accession number of one of the two birds and those two valid accession numbers are published herein. These records become the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respective records for *Prowers*.

\*SNOW BUNTING - *Plectrophenax nivalis*. The distribution of Snow Bunting was defined more clearly in 2002 in which those areas of the state requiring documentation was established (Semo and Leukering 2002). A basic-plumaged male was seen at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 30 January 2003 (BM †, BP; 2003-8; 7-0). Diagnostic photographs of the bird were provided to the CBRC, though unfortunately no written account of the observation, information on if the submitted photographs represent the first or last observation of the individual, or whom the finder was, were provided to the Committee.

\*ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK - *Pheucticus ludovicianus*. A rare West Slope record was provided with the acceptance of an alternate-plumaged male present at Ouray, *Ouray*, between 30 May and 1 June 2004 (SH; 2004-26; 7-0).

\*ORCHARD ORIOLE - *Icterus spurius*. Extremely rare for western Colorado, an adult male was seen at Pastorius Res., *La Plata*, on 9 May 2004 (JBY; 2004-95; 7-0).

\*BALTIMORE ORIOLE - *Icterus galbula*. Rare for its westward location, an alternate-plumaged male that temporarily set up territory at a residence in Masonville near Fort Collins, *Larimer*, where it sang persistently from at least 9 through 15 June 2003 (JBN; 2003-25; 7-0). Written descriptions of the bird eliminated a potential hybrid Baltimore x Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullocki*).

\*COMMON REDPOLL - *Carduelis flammaea*. The CBRC placed Common Redpoll on the review list for the majority of the state in 2002 (Semo and Leukering, 2002) as records outside the northeastern counties are extremely

few and details should be provided for the historical record of occurrence of this species in Colorado. Two first county records were accepted during this circulation: *Bent* and *Montrose*. Three were seen in flight, but provided diagnostic calls, at Lake Hasty SP, *Bent*, on 20 November 2004 (TL; 2004-91; 6-1). One dissenting Committee member questioned the validity of specific identification based on such a brief encounter, though the majority of members thought the description was adequate. Much less debatable, an adult female was diacritically photographed at a feeder in Montrose, *Montrose*, on 29 November 2004 (CK; 2004-86; 7-0).

### **RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED**

The Committee recognizes that its decisions, as one of its important duties, may have undesired results to some observers. It is heartily acknowledged that those who took effort to submit documentations certainly care whether or not their reports are accepted. However, a non-accepted record only indicates that the documentation was not complete or convincing enough to catalogue it on the list of confirmed bird records for the state. Non-accepted reports may provide evidence that may not mention certain requisite field marks or may indicate that the conditions of the observation did not permit the proper study of all necessary traits. Non-accepted records do not necessarily suggest that the birder misidentified or did not see the species. Summaries of why the following records were not accepted are included for each decision.

EURASIAN WIGEON - *Anas penelope*. A female wigeon reported cavorting with American Wigeons west of Pagosa Springs, *Archuleta*, on 11 November 2003, failed to gain Committee support as a Eurasian Wigeon (2003-145; 3-4). This sleeping bird was described as displaying a bright rufous head contrasting with grayer upperparts and a white throat, characteristics suggestive of Eurasian Wigeon, but not conclusive. Unfortunately the observer was not able to discern the pattern or coloration of the underwings, which should be darkish gray and finely barred. No discussion was presented on if the bird displayed other Eurasian Wigeon traits such as lack of scapular markings, pale edges to the tertials, and proportionately smaller head than American Wigeon. As identification of female wigeon is often subjective, and hybrids are always a possibility, a more detailed cadre of field traits would have been necessary to accept this record.

BLACK VULTURE - *Coragyps atratus*. The report of an "immature" Black Vulture perched on a transmission wire with Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 10 September 2002, met little CBRC support (2002-78; 1-6). No elimination from juvenile Turkey Vultures, which also have non-red heads, was provided and no discussion on posture or shape was



presented. The bird was noted as being dark, although the view allowed by the observer was east-facing toward the morning sun, a period when all vultures at the roost should be dark. Without additional details, such as observations when in flight, the Committee did not have enough substantial information to accept this report.

**GYRFALCON** - *Falco rusticolis*. The laconic description of a large, mostly white raptor near Montrose, *Montrose*, on 21 January 2001 supplied details not conclusive of gyrfalcon (2002-166; 0-6). The description that the bird was primarily white with black spotting and blackish wings and made a repetitive "ke ya" vocalization can intimate gyrfalcon. However, other raptor species with aberrant plumages must also be considered. The only separation between the subject bird and a white red-tailed hawk was that the subject bird flew faster. No information was furnished describing the bird's overall shape, size, or flight pattern (beyond fast). Despite no confirmed records for the state, gyrfalcons in white plumage - a race dominant in the Greenland area and not the anticipated gray morph occasionally found in Colorado - seems to be the most often reported. The only verified white gyrfalcons in Colorado have been of escaped falconry birds. Full or partial albinism is relatively common in red-tailed hawks and observers should use caution when identifying large raptors in white plumages. Unfortunately, the provided description of the Montrose bird did not fully eliminate aberrant plumaged birds of other species from contention.

**MEW GULL** - *Larus canus*. A juvenal at Warren Lake, *Larimer*, on 30 November 2001, was briefly described by an experienced observer, but only two members voted to accept (2002-170; 2-5). Despite the submission of photographs, the written description did not provide enough salient details and the photographs were of very poor quality and were not conclusive to support Mew Gull. If higher quality photographic evidence is available, the CBRC would re-review the record.

\***GREATER ROADRUNNER** - *Geococcyx californianus*. There was no Committee support for a record of a bird in Salida, *Chaffee*, on 20 October 2002, as the observer provided absolutely no description of the bird (2002-90; 0-7).

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER** - *Sphyrapicus varius*. Very unusual for the time and place, an adult male was reported from Coller SWA, *Mineral*, on 2 July 2004. Though an interesting account, there is enough overlap in plumage between Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*) that a record of this magnitude should be held to a much higher standard than reports of this species in winter. The documentation, written

eight months following the sighting, was suggestive of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, though plumage overlaps and still unclear separation criteria between the *Sphyrapicus*, suggests that this very out-of-range observation would need photographic evidence to accept (2004-99; 3-4).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - *Contopus virens*. A report of a singing, non-seen Eastern Wood-Pewee at Bonny Res., Yuma, on 6 May 2003 failed to gain acceptance (2003-137; 2-5). Indeed, the bird may have been an Eastern Wood-Pewee; however, the CBRC is reluctant to accept heard-only pewees as other birds can, and do, mimic the song of Eastern Wood-Pewee, especially European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). As the observer did not provide information on why European Starling was eliminated, it would have at least required a visual on a pewee species to provide enough clues as to the identity of this bird.

\*BLUE JAY - *Cyanocitta cristata*. Though most likely a Blue Jay, the report of one in Cahone, Dolores, on 9 November 2002 provided no description of the bird (2002-159; 1-6). The observer noted that a photograph was taken, though it was not submitted to the CBRC. The CBRC requested a copy of that photograph, and to this date, it has not been provided. If the observer submits a photograph, the CBRC will open up the record again for review.

SEDGE WREN - *Cistothorus platensis*. On 23 April 2002, a Sedge Wren was reported and documented from Barr Lake, Adams. The finder of this bird later recanted his original identification as video footage was obtained of the subject bird with the finder present, who agreed that it was indeed the same bird discovered earlier. Video documentation clearly indicated that the bird was a Marsh Wren and not a Sedge Wren as originally noted. Other observers who observed the bird later opined that it was a Sedge Wren, not knowing that the original observer did not agree with that premise anymore. Though documentation submitted from the non-finder observers could suggest Sedge Wren, the video of the bird proved the contrary (2002-40; 0-7).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - *Catharus minimus*. The report of one at Crow Valley CG, Weld, on 11 May 2003 certainly may have been of this species, though a majority of Committee members voted against (2003-42; 3-4). Reported by a very experienced observer, most CBRC members were confused over the plumage description being reddish-brown, which would be suggestive of Veery, a species not eliminated from contention by the observer.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER - *Toxostoma bendirei*. Continuing the saga of the status of Bendire's Thrasher in the San Luis Valley, an intriguing report was

reviewed of a bird seen near LaGarita, *Saguache*, on 6 August 2003. Unfortunately, committee members were reluctant to accept the record as Curve-billed Thrasher in juvenal plumage was not eliminated. Noted breast spotting shapes were suggestive of Curve-billed Thrasher, as well as Bendire's Thrasher. The breast was discussed as "dirty white", which is more indicative of Sage Thrasher. Ultimately, the CBRC noted too many inconsistencies to accept as Bendire's Thrasher (2003-11; 1-6).

\*SUMMER TANAGER - *Piranga rubra*. A female reported from north of Vallecito Res., *La Plata*, on 28 August 2003 did not eliminate Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) from consideration (2003-141; 2-5). Indeed the description of size and gray bill and the location and habitat actually suggest Hepatic Tanager. Without a rationale of why the bird was not Hepatic Tanager, the CBRC felt reluctant to accept the record.

PAINTED BUNTING - *Passerina ciris*. The report of an immature/female-plumaged bird at Carrizo Canyon, *Baca*, seen 15-16 June 2003 carried little weight through the Committee (2003-55; 2-5). The noted pattern of black upperparts and yellow uppertail coverts is inconsistent with all plumages of Painted Bunting. Other details provided were less than helpful, with the song simply described as "finch-like", the consistent use of "dark" to describe the head, wings, and tail (the latter of which are brown fringed in either green or red and the former being either green or blue), and no mention of an eye ring.

### Reporters and Cited Observers

The CBRC graciously thanks the following individuals for submitting records of rare species in Colorado which prompted this circulation: Susan Allerton, Jason Beason (JBn), James Beatty (JBy), Michelle Bloom, Bob Brown, Richard Brown, Alex Cringan, Peter Derven (PDe), Paul Didier (PDi), Glenn Dunmire, Doug Faulkner, Peter Gent, Brian Gibbons (BGi), Gregg Goodrich, Larry Griffin, Bryan Guarente (BGe), Beverlee Guild (BGU), Thomas Heinrich, Sue Hirshman, Rachel Hopper, Hugh Kingery, Connie Kogler, Nick Komar, David Leatherman, Norm Lewis, Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, Roger Linfield, Bill Maynard, Steve Messick, Rich Miller, Duane Nelson, Ric Olson, Stan Oswald, Brandon Percival, Nathan Pieplow, Tim Profota, Thom Rahn, Gene Rutherford, Wendi Rutherford, Bill Schmoker, Chris Sedlmayr, Larry Semo, David Silverman, Andrew Spencer, Jolan Truan, Van Truan, John Vanderpoel, Glenn Walbek, Cole Wild (CWl), Chris Wood (CWo), Sherrie York, Andrea Zorawowicz, Eric Zorawowicz.

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### **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*.

## FIELD NOTES

### **Northern Harriers feast on displaced rodents**

Adobe Creek Reservoir started receiving inflow for the first time in the new millennium in January 2006. The bottomlands of the huge natural depression containing the lake have had several years to build up vegetation, along with burrowing rodents, particularly White-footed mice, Ord's Kangaroo Rats and Hispid Cotton Rats. With water rising at about four inches a day, it is possible to watch the capillary action of rising water advance, sometimes in feet per minute. As water rises, it seeps or flows into the maze of rodent burrows that have been undisturbed for up to five years. At a crisis point, disoriented rodents emerge from their burrows.

Opportunistic diurnal raptors (particularly Northern Harriers) congregated around the rising edges of the lake in large numbers. I counted over 30 harriers in the air at one time from the west edge of the lake. They were feasting on these rodents as if it were an all-you-can-eat buffet. I would not be surprised if there were over 100 harriers present on the reservoir, although it was not always easy to get close enough to the water to see them.

A similar spectacle of Northern Harriers occurs on the west end of John Martin Reservoir most every December. I believe that harriers congregating there at that time of year are responding to the same phenomenon. As of the writing of this note, there were few harriers at John Martin. I think they moved 20 miles to Adobe Creek Reservoir.

Duane Nelson  
342 East 6th Street  
Las Animas, CO

### Northern Harrier catches fish

On Saturday, January 21, 2005, at about 11:55 A.M. at Cherry Creek State Park, I drove into the parking lot at the southeast corner nearest the inlet of Cherry Creek.

I observed an adult bald eagle in the air circling the vicinity of the boat ramp. Upon further observation I saw a Northern Harrier coursing back and forth about 15 yards off the shoreline. I thought it was unusual to see a harrier flying this way over water. It made one swoop toward the water without success, but as I continued to watch, it circled and returned.

It reached into the water with its talons and caught a Gizzard Shad. The fish appeared to be alive, but may have been distressed and with the proximity of the eagle, it is possible that the eagle had previously caught then dropped it. The shad exhibited a visibly red belly. A Colorado Division of Wildlife biologist informed me that this red color results from hemorrhaging due to winter stress. The harrier successfully carried the fish and landed about 20 yards inland from the shore. The harrier made no attempt to eat immediately, but I've found that to be a common behavior in raptors.

Because I was watching the bird through the camera, I did not see two fishermen approaching to see what the bird had caught. They flushed the harrier and it left its prey. I stayed in my vehicle watching the area for about 15 minutes. Neither the harrier or any other bird returned.

[Editor's Note: Neither the Bent Life History nor the Birds of North America account of Northern Harrier mentions fish as a food item. The BNA account also makes this observation: "When disturbed by conspecifics during feeding, Northern Harrier usually defends prey; when disturbed by larger Buteos, quickly yields prey." This hints at a reason why the bird did not return for its fish.]

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Northern Harrier grasping a fish out of Cherry Creek Reservoir on 21 Jan 2005. Photos by Bob Rozinski. Copyright Wendy Shattil/Bob Rozinski. Used with permission.

**NEWS FROM THE FIELD:  
WINTER 2005 - 2006 REPORT (DECEMBER - FEBRUARY)**

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This report is dedicated to the memory of John William Prather, who died on 20 February 2006 in Flagstaff, Arizona, aged 36. John was born on March 12, 1969, to his parents Inez and Bill Prather, and grew up in Colorado. He received BA and MS degrees in 1991 and 1994 from the EPO Biology Department at Colorado University, and received a PhD from the University of Arkansas in 2000. John birded a lot in Boulder and around the entire state, even when living elsewhere. A recent, lasting contribution was his and others finding breeding Lucy's Warblers along Yellow Jacket Creek in Montezuma County in 2004, which was the first documented breeding in Colorado since 1913. John contributed to many, and wrote some, *News from the Field* articles for this journal, and it is with great sadness that I record his last reports in this seasonal report.

Colorado had a roller coaster season of widely varying temperatures. At Denver International Airport (DIA), December started cold with a record low of -13°F on 7 Dec. The second half of the month was warm, with record highs of 69°F and 66°F on 25 and 31 Dec, respectively. January at DIA was described as a "very drab" month for unusual weather. The average temperature was 37.4°F, which is 8.2°F above normal, and temperatures of 66°F and 69°F both tied the previous record highs on 6 and 7 Jan 6, respectively. The middle of February was very cold, with record lows set on 17, 18, and 19 Feb of -10°F, -13°F, and -4°F, respectively. The previous record for 19 Feb was 3°F, which was set back in 1889. The season ended with record high temperatures of 73°F on 27 Feb and 77°F on 28 Feb, with the latter being the highest temperature ever recorded in February at Denver. Precipitation in the Front Range was low, with a total of 0.78in at DIA, which is less than half of the 1.63in normal. However, the northern and central mountains had snowfall much above average, although the snowfall was below normal in the southern mountains of Colorado.

The avian highlight of the season was not one, but two Long-billed Thrashers. The first was found by Brandon Percival on 14 January at Chico Basin Ranch and remained there for the remainder of the season. In the same vicinity, many lucky observers saw a Brown Thrasher, which made for an excellent



comparison, a Curve-billed Thrasher, a Gray Catbird, and a male Eastern Towhee; quite a collection of unusual winter birds! The second was found by Susan Anderson in south Denver on 20 February, and confirmed by Andrew Spencer. It remained throughout the month and beyond, and was seen by many observers. There are only two previous occurrences of this species in Colorado. The first was collected in May 1906 at Barr Lake northeast of Denver, and the second was a bird that spent most of the winter of 1993 at Chatfield Reservoir southwest of Denver.

Also, there were four Pine Warblers seen, with three being present for virtually the entire season. Wintering Pine Warblers included: one at the home of Rachel Hopper in north Fort Collins, another at the Denver West Office Park, and the third along Boulder Creek below the University of Colorado. Other rare species seen were two Brant in Fort Collins and one in Aurora, Eurasian Wigeon in Rocky Ford, possibly the same Yellow-billed Loon at Chatfield, Big Johnson, and Pueblo Reservoirs, Glaucous-winged Gulls at Pueblo Res and Jackson Res, Black Phoebe in Pueblo, Cape May Warbler also in Pueblo, Eastern Towhee in Boulder, Golden-crowned Sparrow near Delta, and Purple Finch in Las Animas and at Lake Beckwith.

Thanks to everyone who sent in their sightings, and to all the people 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 electronic bulletin board. 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 should now submit your sightings through 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 the chairperson, Larry Semo (address on the form).

Abbreviations: **CBC**=Christmas Bird Count, **CRs**=County Roads, **m.ob.**=many observers, **Res.**=Reservoir, **SWA**=State Wildlife Area.

### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Good numbers reported statewide this season, with the most unusual being four adults and two immatures at Pastorius SWA, *La Plata*, between 16 and 21 Feb (JBy, BB).

**Ross's Goose:** West Slope reports were of a total of six birds at Nucla, Montrose, and Delta, *Delta*, between 12 Dec and the end of the season.

**Cackling Goose:** This species was seen in good numbers throughout the season in northern Front Range counties, such as *Boulder* and *Larimer*.

**Brant:** Two were seen for most of the winter at various locations in and around Fort Collins, *Larimer*, (RH, DAL, RS, NK, m.ob.), and one was seen on the Denver Urban CBC at Expo Park in Aurora, *Arapahoe*, 1 Jan (MJB, EJ).

**Trumpeter Swan:** Two adults and a juvenile were seen at Lake Hasty, *Bent*, between 1 Dec and 19 Feb (DN), six adults and a juvenile were at Cattail Pond, Loveland, *Larimer*, between 4 Dec and 26 Feb (NK, m.ob.), and an immature was seen at Grand Lake, *Grand*, on 29 Dec (BE). An adult was seen on the Colorado River at Rifle, *Garfield*, on 4 Jan (KP, AD), one was seen at Jerry Creek Res, *Mesa*, between 13 and 16 Jan (DJ, LA), and an adult was seen at 95th Street and Boulder Creek, *Boulder*, between 11 and 19 Feb (S&MP, PG).

**Tundra Swan:** Seven adults and an immature were seen at Baseline Res, *Boulder*, on 2 Dec (SL, RT), and probably the same birds were at Terry Res, *Boulder*, on 3 Dec (BK, JV, IS), and an immature was at Lake Hasty between 2 Dec and 11 Jan (DN). Six adults were at Browns Park NWR, *Moffat*, on 26 Dec (DH), and an immature was at Navajo State Park, *Archeluta*, between 12 and 23 Feb (JBy, LA).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** A male was seen at Valco Ponds in Rocky Ford, *Otero*, between 15 Dec and 31 Jan (MP, m.ob.).

**Surf Scoter:** A female type was seen at Brush Hollow Res, *Fremont*, on 4 Dec (RM), an immature male was at Rock Canyon, *Pueblo*, on 9 Dec (BKP), and another female type was at Pueblo Res, *Pueblo*, between 10 Dec and 28 Feb (BKP, m.ob.).

**White-winged Scoter:** One was seen at Lagerman Res, *Boulder*, on 3 Dec (BK, JV, IS), a female type was seen at McLellan Res, *Douglas*, also on 3 Dec (AS), and one was at 88th Ave and the South Platte, *Adams*, on 25 Feb (GW, LK).

**Black Scoter:** A female was seen at Chatfield Res, *Douglas/Jefferson*, on 3 and 4 Dec (JK, m.ob.).

**Long-tailed Duck:** One was seen at Jerry Creek Res on 1 Dec (RLe), a male was at Big Johnson Res, *El Paso*, on 4 Dec (BKP), a female was at Pueblo Res between 9 Dec and 24 Feb (BKP, m.ob.), and another was at 88th Ave and the South Platte on 21 Feb (CC, K&JS).

**Yellow-billed Loon:** A juvenile was seen at Chatfield Res on 3 and 4 Dec (JK), and what may have been the same bird was seen at Big Johnson Res and Pueblo Res on 4 Dec (BMa, KL, BKP). A first West Slope record was the loon at Highline Res, *Mesa*, between 25 Dec and 16 Jan (RLe, RLa, m.ob.).

**Red-necked Grebe:** An adult in basic plumage was seen at Valmont Res, *Boulder*, on 21 Jan (BS, TF, m.ob.).

**American White Pelican:** This species now seems to be wintering in the state in small numbers, with three seen at John Martin Res, *Bent*, on 11 Jan and 17 there on 15 Feb (DN).

**Sora:** Three were recorded on the John Martin Res CBC on 14 Dec (MP, TLe), and one was on the Rocky Ford CBC on 15 Dec (SO).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** For the second year in a row, one spent the entire winter season at Rock Canyon in Pueblo (BKP, m.ob.), and a total of four were seen in Paonia, *Delta*, and Grand Junction, *Mesa*, between 2 and 17 Dec (JBn, RLe, m.ob.).

**Dunlin:** Very surprising were the four birds that were seen at the Greeley Feedlot Lagoons, *Weld*, between 3 Dec and 31 Jan (JHi, DM, SM), and one again spent most of the winter at Valco Ponds in Pueblo, seen between 11 Dec and 20 Feb (BKP, m.ob.).

**Mew Gull:** A total of eight reports this season. The reliable adult was seen at Union Res, *Weld*, between 22 Nov and 3 Dec (JP, m.ob.), another adult was at Cherry Creek Res, *Arapahoe*, between 12 Dec and 31 Jan (GW, m.ob.), a third adult was at Pueblo Res between 17 Dec and 26 Feb (BKP, MP, m.ob.), and a first-year bird was also at Pueblo Res between 17 Dec and 25 Jan (CLW, TLe, m.ob.). One was seen on the Pueblo CBC on 31 Dec (MK), an adult was seen at Cherry Creek Res on 10 Feb (AB), a second-year bird was seen at Fossil Creek Res, *Larimer*, on 26 Feb (CWl), and a first-cycle bird was at Erie Res, *Boulder*, on 27 Feb (BS).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** A total of 21 reports this season, all from along the Front Range.

**Glaucous-winged Gull:** A first-year bird was seen at Pueblo Res on 15 Dec (BKP), and, possibly, another young bird was seen at Jackson Res, *Morgan*, on 28 Jan (TJ, TS).

**Glaucous Gull:** A poor season for this species, with only six reports. A first-cycle bird was at Jumbo Res, *Sedgwick*, on 2 Dec (NE, GWa, JK), two first-cycle birds were at Pueblo Res between 11 Dec and 28 Feb (BKP, MAc, m.ob.), an adult was also at Pueblo Res between 14 Dec and 5 Feb (BKP, m.ob.), a first or second-cycle bird was seen at Valmont Res on the Boulder CBC on 18 Dec (BS, TF), and a first-cycle bird was seen at Erie Res on 27 and 28 Feb (BS, PG).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** A second-year bird was seen at Pueblo Res between 7 and 19 Dec (BKP, m.ob.), an adult was also seen at Pueblo Res between 9 Dec and 19 Feb (LB, RM, m.ob.), a third-year bird was at the same location on 16-17 Dec (BKP), as was a fourth-year bird between 17 Dec and 6 Jan (TLe, m.ob.). Finally, another fourth-year bird was found elsewhere at Rist Benson Res, *Larimer*, between 14 Jan and 28 Feb (CWi, m.ob.), and an adult was seen at NeeGranda Res, *Kiowa*, on 25 Feb (NP, AS, AB).

**Band-tailed Pigeon:** One was seen just east of Glenwood Springs, *Garfield*, on 1 Jan for a first area mid-winter record (TM).

**Inca Dove:** Up to six spent the winter season in Lamar, *Prowers* (JT), and up to twelve were seen in Rocky Ford between 1 Jan and 6 Feb (SO).

**Snowy Owl:** An immature bird was seen on Highway 287, *Kiowa*, on 7 Jan (JK).

**Williamson's Sapsucker:** Surprisingly, there were six reports this season. A male was seen at Florence Mountain Park, *Fremont*, on 18 Dec (MP), another was at the Lakeside Cemetery in Canon City, *Fremont*, between 18 Dec and 26 Feb (RM, m.ob.), and was joined by a female between 20 Jan and 26 Feb (BKP, MP, m.ob.). A male was seen on the Salida CBC, *Chaffee*, on 21 Dec (SY), another was seen in Mesa Verde National Park, *Montezuma*, on 31 Jan (M&DH), and another male was seen in Rye, *Pueblo*, on 7 Feb (DS).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Fourteen birds were reported this season, with the most unusual location being an adult and juvenile at Lake DeWesse, *Custer*, on 21 Dec (LB).

**Black Phoebe:** One spent most of the winter at Valco Ponds in Pueblo, and was seen between 11 Dec and 23 Feb (BKP, BMc, MAc, m.ob.).

**Carolina Wren:** Two spent the entire winter at the Lamar Community College (DAL, m.ob.), one was seen at Valmont Res on 21 Jan (TF), and one was heard at Two Buttes Res, *Baca*, on 22 Jan (MP, BKP).

**Winter Wren:** Thirteen birds were reported this season, all from the eastern part of the state, except for one seen in Grand Junction on 24 Dec (JC).

**Eastern Bluebird:** Four were seen on the Salida CBC on 21 Dec (SY), and ten were seen on the Spanish Peaks CBC, *Huerfano*, on 24 Dec (DS, m.ob.).

**Hermit Thrush:** Up to twelve birds were seen this winter in all parts of the state. This is an unprecedented number to be seen in Colorado in winter.

**Gray Catbird:** Six were reported this season, which is also a large number of winter sightings.

**Long-billed Thrasher:** One was seen at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, between 14 Jan and 28 Feb (BMA, BKP, m.ob.), and many people were fortunate to see a Brown Thrasher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Gray Catbird, and an Eastern Towhee in the same location ! Even more surprising, however, was that a second bird was found by Susan Anderson in her yard in south Denver, *Denver*, on 20 Feb, and it stayed for the remainder of February (AS, m.ob.). These are the third and fourth records of this species in Colorado.



Long-billed Thrasher at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*. Photo taken by Bill Maynard on 27 January 2006.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** An unusual winter record was one seen on the Delta CBC on 16 Dec.

**Northern Parula:** Very unusual were two in north Boulder. A male was seen on 3 Dec (TF), and a female was found dead very close by on 15 Jan (TF, AC).



Pine Warbler at Denver West Office Park during the winter of 2005-06. Photo by Mark Chavez.

**Cape May Warbler:** An immature was seen in Pueblo City Park between 16 and 18 Dec (BKP, m.ob.).

**Pine Warbler:** A very good winter for this species, with four records, and three birds overwintering. One was seen at the Denver West Office Park, *Jefferson*, between 25 Nov and 22 Jan (MC, K&JS), which is exactly where a male spent most of the previous winter, a male was seen in Pueblo City Park on 3 Dec (MY), one was seen at Rachel Hopper's house on Long Pond, *Larimer*, between 17 Dec and 28 Feb, and one was seen along Boulder Creek below CU between 2 and 29 Jan (HL, NG).

**Northern Waterthrush:** One was found along the Poudre River on the Fort Collins CBC on 17 Dec (CWi, m.ob.), and was seen there until 6 Jan.

**Green-tailed Towhee:** One was seen on the Boulder CBC on 16 Dec (JHa), and another was also seen in Boulder on 28 Jan (Mar).

**Eastern Towhee:** A male spent the entire winter season in north Boulder (RB), a female was seen on the Bonny Res CBC, *Yuma*, on 22 and 23 Dec (BS, m.ob.), and another male was seen on the Chico Basin Ranch CBC on 6 Jan and remained the rest of the season (TLe, MP, m.ob.).

**Field Sparrow:** One was seen on the John Martin Res CBC on 14 Dec (DN), and very unusual was one at Navajo State Park, *Archeluta*, on 21 Jan (JBy, PD).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Unusual in winter, one was seen in Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 2 Feb (DS).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Also unusual in winter, one was seen on the Pueblo CBC on 31 Dec (MK), and one was seen at Brush Hollow Res on 23 Feb (RM).

**Fox Sparrow:** Two birds of the eastern subspecies were seen on the Bonny Res CBC on 22 and 23 Dec (MP, LS, m.ob.), and another was in Rye between 31 Jan and 10 Feb (SC).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** There were reports of ten birds in December, and one seen at the Lamar Community College on 3 Feb (JT).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Only 14 birds reported this winter, which is well below average. The most unusual locations were one seen throughout December in Grand Junction (RLa, m.ob.), and one seen on the Salida CBC on 21 Dec (SY).

**White-throated Sparrow:** Only ten reports, which is also well below average.

**Harris's Sparrow:** There were 20 birds reported this winter, with the most unusual locations being one seen at Crawford, *Montezuma*, between 24 Dec and 28 Feb (AR), and an adult in Steamboat Springs, *Routt*, between 2 and 13 Jan (DB, TLi).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow:** For the third year in a row, one was seen at Dave Galinat's house near Fruitgrowers Res, *Delta*, between 1 Dec and 8 Jan, and one was seen in Fruita, *Mesa*, on 12 Feb (JBn).

**Snow Bunting:** A flock of 13 was seen at the intersection of CRs 6 and 50, *Moffatt*, on 21 Dec (DD), and one was seen at Bonny Res on 10 Jan (MP, BKP).

**Rusty Blackbird:** One was seen in Canon City on 18 Dec (TLe, CLW), and one was seen in Fort Collins on 29 Jan (RH, LS).

**Common Grackle:** There were reports of 30 birds around Colorado this winter, with the largest flock being 13 seen in Lamar between 2 and 28 Feb (DR).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** One was seen just east of Boulder on 3 Dec (SL, JR),

three were in Canon City on 18 Dec (TLe, CLW), and one was seen between Delta and Olathe, *Delta*, in late January (LA).

**Purple Finch:** A female type was seen in Las Animas, *Bent*, on 2 Dec (DN), another was seen at Lake Beckwith, *Pueblo*, on 25 Dec (DS), and a third was seen in Lamar on 17 Jan (JT).

**Common Redpoll:** Just one bird reported this winter, which was seen on the Bonny Res CBC on 23 Dec (MP, m.ob.).

### Contributing Observers

Mymm Ackley (MAC), Susan Anderson, Larry Arnold, Margaret Arp (MAR), Jason Beason (JBn), Jim Beatty (JBy), Mary Jane Black (MJB), Dee Bolton, Andy Boyce, Leon Bright, Robin Byers, Barb Byron, Allan Carpenter, Sherry Chapman, Charles Chase, Mark Chavez, Jacob Cooper, Art Dahl, Peter Derven, Dean DiTommaso, Norm Erthal, Bob Evans, Ted Floyd, Dave Galinat, Nelda Gamble, Peter Gent, Jack Harlan (JHa), Dona Hilkey, Mona and Dean Hill (M&DH), Joe Himmel (JHi), Rachel Hopper, Drake Jandreau, Ellie Jones, Tina Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Joey Kellner, Mike Ketchen, Loch Kilpatrick, Nick Komar, Ron Lambeth (RLa), Steve Larson, David A. Leatherman (DAL), Hope Leighton, Tony Leukering (TLe), Rich Levad (RLe), Kara Lewantowicz, Tom Litteral (TLi), Dick Maxfield, Bill Maynard (BMA), Tom McConnell, Bill McGurn (BMc), Steve Messick, Rich Miller, Duane Nelson, Stan Oswald, Brandon K. Percival (BKP), Mark Peterson, Nathan Pieplow, Suzi and Myron Plooster (S&MP), Kim Potter, John Prather, Andrea Robinsong, Joe Roller, Dottie Russell, Bill Schmoker, Karen and Jim Schmoker (K&JS), Trish Schumacher, Larry Semo, Iris Sherman, David Silverman, Rob Sparks, Andrew Spencer, Janeal Thompson, Richard Trinkner, John Vanderpoel, Glenn Walbek, Cole Wild (CWl), Chris L. Wood (CLW), Mark Yaeger, Sherrie York.

