

Vol. 42 No. 2 April 2008

Colorado Birds

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly



The 46th Report of the CBRC
Pedro Maria's White Christmas
The Next 20 Birds for Colorado



Colorado Field Ornithologists
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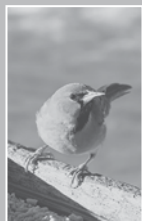
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Streak-backed Oriole, Kogler residence, Larimer County, 16 December 2007. Photo by Bill Eden

Firsts and Nexts: At Last

Nathan Pieplow

In July 2004 I was in Eugene, Oregon, finishing up my master's degree, when I got word that a Curlew Sandpiper had been found three hours to the east of me in the center of the state. Predictably, I dropped my textbooks and sped east across the Cascade crest, eventually striking it lucky: not only did my companions and I feast our eyes on the Siberian shorebird, we also had the good fortune of finding a Long-tailed Jaeger on our way back home, many hours from any salt water.

As soon as I got back to Eugene, I did my birdly duty and filled out rare bird report forms for both species, sending them that same day to the head of the Oregon Bird Records Committee. He emailed me a curious reply: "Thanks for the documentation on the Curlew Sandpiper. Why did you write up the Long-tailed Jaeger? It isn't a review species in Oregon. It occurs regularly just off the Pacific coast."

The answer, of course, is that I had been trained to document rarities in Colorado, home to a bird records committee that is interested in more than just the maintenance of the "official" state list—a committee that solicits data not just on birds that are rare in the state as a whole, but on birds that are rare where and when you find them—in other words, a committee that seeks to transcend the role of "list police" and create a much broader archive of verifiable data on avian occurrence and distribution.

Partly by design, partly by accident, this issue of *Colorado Birds* is something of a special issue dedicated to the Colorado Bird Records Committee. Many features in this issue share this focus:

- on p. 85, CBRC chair Larry Semo is profiled in "Across the Board";
- on p. 87, Connie Kogler details the visit of our latest first state record, the famous Pedro Maria;
- on p. 94, Tony Leukering and Larry Semo team up for a colossal effort to update the first state record predictions of Jerry Cairo and Bob Righter for a new millennium;
- on p. 115, the CBRC publishes the results of its deliberations on over 100 rare bird records.

Now that the Committee has truly entered the digital age with a fully functional, entirely electronic submission and voting system, you can expect to see a CBRC report in every issue of this journal—and as it works through the backlog, many of its reports will be quite long.

Its technology, its philosophy, and its professionalism all place the Colorado Bird Records Committee squarely at the head of the national *avant garde*. I hope you will continue to support its work by submitting documentation for all your unusual rare bird observations in Colorado. I can guarantee that you will see a greater—and faster—return on the investment of your time than ever before.

Nathan Pieplow, 4745-B White Rock Circle, Boulder, CO 80301, npieplow@indra.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Conventions and Contributions

Bill Schmoker

Hi, folks. I hope this note finds you enjoying the spring migration. Even as I write this in the last week of February to meet my deadline of 1 March, reports of Cinnamon Teal are beginning to trickle in. Great Horned Owls are incubating eggs, and the Red-winged Blackbirds in the small marsh behind my house are singing on warm, sunny afternoons. All of these are nice signs of things to come despite plenty of cold, snowy weather that will inevitably fill some of the days between my writing this and your reading it, by which time spring will really have sprung.

I hope that you will count our annual convention in Cañon City as one of your birding highlights this spring. The fantastic combination of birding some of our state's top locations with great field trip leaders is certainly reason enough to attend, but catching up with friends, making new acquaintances, and hearing a nationally-recognized speaker always round out the experience. And you'll find no shortage of good places to eat while you're there, as SeEtta Moss shows us in this issue's edition of the Hungry Birder (see p. 130). Preparations for the convention are finalized, and I want to thank everyone involved behind the scenes in the planning stages and at the convention itself.

For our February board meeting, we met at the Cañon City Quality Inn, our convention venue this year. I was very happy with the facility, and want to particularly thank Mark Peterson for suggesting the locale and for lining up the hotel services that we'll be using.

Mark also headed up the field trip planning and leader coordination, a monumental task benefiting all participants. He squired a carload of us around before the meeting, and each of us (all with extensive Colorado birding experience) got at least one new state bird—testament to the birding potential in the area. If you are fortunate enough to attend any convention trips, take a moment to thank your leaders and Mark, won't you?

Another pleasurable task at our board meeting was to review the project fund grant proposals for this year. All were worthy and I truly wish our budget allowed fully funding each one, but our 2008 budget limited us to funding the top three proposals as judged by the review committee. While each of the committee members selected different top-ranked proposals, each of our funded projects was the top pick of one member, and each was also in the top three aggregate scoring totals. You will be hearing more about these projects in this journal, so stay tuned!

We also received a request to support the Bird and Nature Club at Denver's East High School. We felt that it fit our goal of providing support and funding to other organizations and individuals focusing on education, research, field study, and conservation benefiting Colorado's birds. Our initial contribution will be \$150 and a year's institutional membership in CFO. Beyond that, we felt that our membership could come through in a more substantial way by donating optics, feeders, field guides, nest boxes, and other birding gear to the school. Please consider a donation, particularly if you have items like these going unused as you upgrade optics or get newer editions of field guides.

We look forward to reviewing Youth Scholarship applications later this spring as well. Several opportunities are available to young birders this summer, including Camp Yosemite and Camp Chirica-

Donate to East High School's Bird and Nature Club

The Bird and Nature club at East High School in Denver is looking for donations of optics, feeders, seed/suet, field guides, bird baths, nest boxes, and the like. They hope to improve bird habitat around the school and begin student birding field trips. To contribute, contact Brendan Doyle, East High School Counselor, at 720-423-8358 or brendan_doyle@dpsk12.org.

hua, run by Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, and the American Birding Association's Young Birder Conference in Minot, North Dakota. If you know any potential beneficiaries, encourage them to check out these camps and conferences and apply for scholarship support from CFO. Youth scholarships are also offered by Denver Field Ornithologists, the American Birding Association, and WildBird magazine, so there should be a way to get just about any interested young birder involved in at least one camp of his or her choice. Contact me directly (bill@schmoker.org) if you have questions about any of these experiences or need guidance in applying for a scholarship.

Bill Schmoker, 3381 Larkspur Drive, Longmont, CO, bill.schmoker@gmail.com

CFO BOARD MINUTES

15 February 2008

Quality Inn

Cañon City, Colorado

Lisa Edwards, CFO Secretary

The regular quarterly meeting was held at 11:12 a.m. Board members present were President, Bill Schmoker; Vice President, Jim Beatty; Secretary, Lisa Edwards; Treasurer, Maggie Boswell; and directors Bill Kaempfer, Kim Potter, Mark Peterson, Nathan Pieplow, Larry Semo and Glenn Walbek. Directors Connie Kogler and Rachel Hopper sent their regrets. The minutes of the December 2007 meeting were approved.

President's Report

Pleased with how everything is running, especially the CBRC site.

Treasurer's Report

CFO's current liquid assets are \$32,608.81. The Treasurer's report was approved.

The dues that have been prepaid for multiple-year memberships have been entered as a separate line item.

Committee Reports

A. CBRC—Larry Semo. The site is running very well. Currently 480 rare bird reports are in circulation amongst the committee, including reports submitted in 2006. CFO has received a request from another state for approval to use the submission form in its documentation process.

B. Special Awards—Kim Potter. A landowner plaque will be ordered for the hospitality of a landowner host-

ing a Colorado first state record bird. In addition, the board voted and approved a nomination for the Annual Lifetime Achievement Award to be given at the annual convention this year in Cañon City. No nominations have been received for the Ron Ryder award.

C. Nominating Committee—Glenn Walbek. The Project Fund Director term is up in May. The current director filling this position, Bill Kaempfer, is completing the unfilled term for a previous director and is eligible to remain on the board. At the board meeting Bill agreed to stay on the board in the Project Fund position. Lisa Edwards submitted her resignation effective at the end of May. Her term runs through the end of May 2009.

D. Field Trips—Jim Beatty. Several trips are now in the planning stages: the Upper Coast of Texas in mid-April; possible TNC Fox Ranch trips in May and October; a pelagic trip to the east coast in the fall; and several trips to the SE birding trail locations in the spring, similar to 2007.

E. Project Fund—Bill Kaempfer. CFO received 5 applications. The projects were reviewed by the Project Fund Committee and recommendations submitted. The board voted and approved funding for the 3 projects ranked highest by the committee, excluding money needed for transportation.

Youth Fund—Bill Kaempfer. CFO received a proposal from a Denver

high school to provide support for the school's Bird and Nature Club. The board voted to approve \$150.00 of funding to the club.

COBirds—Mark Peterson. The listserv is up to 908 members.

CFO website—Additional photos have been added to the website.

Colorado Birds—Nathan Pieplow. The April issue is full. Nathan continues to receive many great articles submitted by Colorado birders.

2008 Convention—Mark Peterson. The convention will be held in Cañon City, at the Quality Inn, 16 to 18 May. The brochure is scheduled to be mailed the week of February 18th. The online registration is ready. Mark will pick up the T-shirts. The board voted and approved the color (white) and placement of artwork (front).

City Market will be providing the box lunches again. A poster will be made summarizing the project and youth fund winners. The hotel will provide easels for the checklist. Nathan has agreed to host the paper session. Pre-convention and convention field trips are planned.

A block of 50 rooms has been reserved at \$70.00.

The featured speaker is Richard Crossley.

The next board meeting will be held at the Center for Innovation and Creativity in Boulder, Colorado at 11 a.m. on 5 April 2008.

The board meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Larry Semo

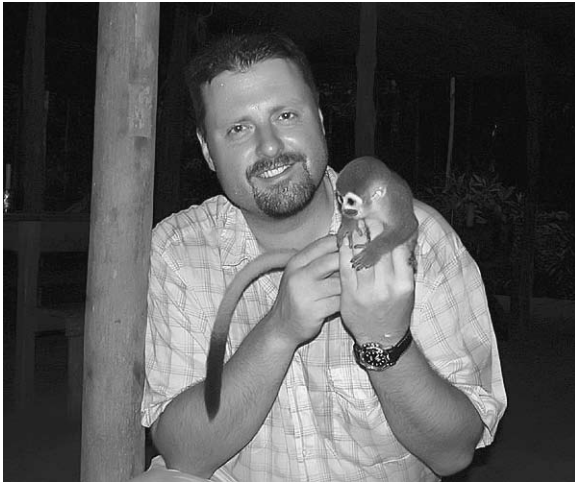
Bill Schmoker

Hatched in Wisconsin in the 1960s, Larry was destined to fly one way in his career – towards wildlife, especially since his parents and grandfather were biologists. He began birding at the age of 7 in remote northwestern Wisconsin where he was raised, in a large state park in the boreal forest. Growing up in the wild inspired Larry to become a student of nature, especially birds.

Larry credits four people with leading him to birding. Foremost were his parents, who began educating him at a very young age on the animals and plants of the area as well as the processes by which our ecosystems function. Thanks to his father's 30-year tenure in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Larry grew up sharing the Semo nest with various orphaned wildlife including bear cubs, coyotes, raccoons, multitudes of birds, and many others. Although he actively birded northern Wisconsin for many years, he had little idea that there were others with the same passion and journals that published accounts of bird observations—until, while attending a DNR meeting in his early teens, Larry spent time with Ken Lange, a noted Wisconsin naturalist. Ken opened Larry's eyes to the world of avian literature and prompted Larry to share his bird sightings with the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. Larry's graduation from local to regional birder, however, came when he met Robbye Johnson, an expert birder from Superior, Wisconsin. Larry would read accounts of all the rarities she was seeing in his home county, but as an arrogant teenager, Larry passed her off as a stringer, since he had never seen the birds she was reporting. When starting college, Larry snuck into the college greenhouse when not allowed—the greenhouse, ironically, managed by Robbye. They became close friends and have remained so. Larry soon learned that Robbye was no stringer and that rare birds were there to be seen.

Because he grew up in the spruce-fir zone and because the species is so cool, Great Gray Owl is Larry's favorite bird, although the Northern Hawk-Owl is a close second. His favorite birding location in college was Wisconsin Point, a noted hotbed of vagrants on the western end of Lake Superior. His love, though, was bog ecology, and he spent years wallowing in deep sphagnum moss swatting mosquitos and listening to the sweet sounds of the boreal avifauna.

After fledging, Larry completed college and began seasonal work. He was a bander at Hawk Ridge in Duluth for many years prior to working as a wildlife biologist for the DNR in northern Wisconsin,



Larry Semo and Squirrel Monkey in the Amazonian Basin, 2007.

where he focused on myriad species, including wolves and bears, but many birds as well. That work was also seasonal, however, and when invited in 1993 by Paul Sunby, an ex-Wisconsinite birder friend in Texas, to work with him on the federally endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo for the environmental consultant company SWCA, Larry jumped at the chance

and moved to Texas. At the time, he thought it was a temporary opportunity to bird extensively in Texas while researching unique species that would build his resume. Little did he know that he would still be working on those two species another seven years later. But by 1999, Larry, who can sweat in 40 degree temperatures, had had enough of the Texas heat and humidity. When asked if he wanted to relocate to the Denver area and help establish a new SWCA office in the Rocky Mountains, Larry quickly migrated north and has been here ever since.

As the Senior Ornithologist/Ecologist for SWCA's Rocky Mountain region, Larry oversees all biological studies, mentors junior staff, and designs creative solutions whereby man and wildlife can mutually survive. From his youth, he had particular goals in mind from the beginning: to learn from birds and nature, to learn from people, and to pass that knowledge on to others.

As Chair of the Colorado Bird Records Committee, Larry strives to capture records of rare birds in order to preserve a clear picture of the avifaunal history of the state. In 2002, Tony Leukering sparked the idea of creating an online system whereby observers could submit details of their sightings and the Committee could review and vote on those submissions electronically. Larry was quick to lend a hand with that effort. Though it was troublesome for a few years, CFO is proud to announce that the online system is now working fantastically, with kudos coming in from other states' records committees. Larry

is excited about the future of CFO, especially during this electronic age when historic and current sightings can be archived online and information can be disseminated to all.

Larry is currently the listing editor for the American Birding Association; a Regional Coordinator for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and National Audubon Society's "eBird" program; an avian distribution and identification consultant for the Peterson Field Guide to Birds, the National Geographic Society's Guide to Birds, the Sibley Guide to Birds, and the National Wildlife Federation Guide to Birds; a regional co-editor for *North American Birds*; and an identification instructor for the Master Birding Program of the Audubon Society. Clearly, CFO is fortunate to have such an experienced and nationally-recognized expert in our midst, and I know I join our members in thanking him for everything he does on our behalf.

Larry lives near Standley Lake with his dog Belden. In addition to birding, Larry's other interests include dragonflies, botany, herpetology, photography, sports, and eating.

Bill Schmoker, 3381 Larkspur Drive, Longmont, CO, bill.schmoker@gmail.com

FIRST STATE RECORD

Colorado's First Record of Streak-backed Oriole Pedro Maria's White Christmas

Connie Kogler

Saturday, 8 December 2007, was a typical Colorado snowy winter day. I had just come into the house from sweeping and filling my feeders and had only ten minutes before I had to leave for work when my husband Al called to me, saying "there's something different at the feeder!" I quickly went running. Al is not the avid birder that I am, but he knows when to call me. I noticed that this bird was an oriole, and assumed it was a Bullock's that was extremely late in departing for migration. I grabbed my camera anyway and snapped a few bad pictures in low light. I needed to go, so left it at that and went to work.

During a moment of calm at the store—Wild Birds Unlimited

in Fort Collins—I sent a quick email to COBirds concerning the “Bullock’s Oriole.” Rachel Hopper replied, asking me if I’d ruled out Streak-backed Oriole. I had not, I told her, since I was rushed to get to work. I quickly grabbed a Sibley guide and looked it up. Wow. I called my daughter at home and had her immediately email me the pictures that were still on my camera. I shot an email reply back to Rachel after reviewing the photos I’d taken. We were on to something here!

Our excited conversations quickly went to the phone. A couple of die-hard birders, Andrew Spencer and Cole Wild, braved the bad roads and snowstorm and confirmed that we indeed had a Streak-backed Oriole, potentially Colorado’s first state record. By this time it was getting dark. Not many of Colorado’s birders slept that night, as news travels fast on COBirds.

Sunday morning brought a flurry of activity, bringing a total of 80 birders to view, photograph, and video the bird. I was able to meet and greet over 30 before I had to leave for work. Then my gracious husband Al managed the rest of the day. At this point we decided to have an open house for people to come view the bird, which they did in droves. By the end of the second day we’d had a total of 120 people in our kitchen. Also by the end of that day, the bird had a name—Pedro. At first most assumed the bird was a first-year male, but over the course of several days and much study of its plumage, many convincingly argued that the bird was actually an adult female—and so we amended its name to “Pedro Maria.”

Pedro Maria stayed with us for 26 cold, wintry days. She became a major focus in my day as I began to offer her various foods, such as live and roasted mealworms (she preferred live), grape jelly (yes!), suet pellets (*¡muchas gracias!*) and orange marmalade (*¡muy bueno!*). The open house continued for 9 days, during which time people were welcome to come into our house and view the bird whether we were home or not. By the end of Pedro Maria’s visit we’d had a total of 450 visitors, with 30 of those coming back twice or more. Fewer than half a dozen folks missed her altogether.

Of note is the possibility that this bird was in Loveland from at least the middle of November, as a nearby neighbor claims to have had a bird that looked just like it at her feeders, but took no notes or photographs.

The Colorado Bird Records Committee has accepted this record as the first occurrence of Streak-backed Oriole in Colorado (see p. 115 of this journal).

Description of the Bird

The overall size and shape of the bird was right for an oriole species.

It appeared larger than a Bullock's Oriole, yet slightly smaller and leaner than a Red-winged Blackbird. It had all the field marks of a Streak-backed Oriole: dark orange, almost reddish malar; orange-olive face; olive head; finely black-streaked olive back; and a bright orange belly that faded to orange-yellow



Streak-backed Oriole, Kogler residence, Larimer County, 9 December 2007. Photo by Andrew Spencer

all the way down past the legs to the bright orange-yellow undertail coverts. It had a black throat patch and a deep black mask with no line behind the eye. Its bill was large and straight, the gray-blue lower mandible tipped with black at least to the halfway point. The primary projection barely came to the end of the undertail coverts. The lesser coverts were broadly edged in white, while the greater coverts were edged in grayish-white. The eyes were dark, the legs and feet gray-blue. The tail was uniformly worn, olive green at the base, fading to olive brown near the end.

I believe this bird to be an adult female, as all the feathers showed even wear and there were no contrasting new flight feathers or greater or lesser coverts.

Sounds

I heard this bird vocalize twice, once after a Sharp-shinned Hawk grabbed a House Finch from "her" tree, and once as she approached and then landed on the tray feeder. The sound was obviously an oriole chatter, deeper and harsher-sounding than that of Bullock's.

Behavior

This bird was first seen eating roasted peanut halves from a small tray feeder under the spruce tree. She eventually tried every type of seed and feeder in the yard, including hanging suet feeders, niger seed tubes, tubes with mixed seed, trays with sunflower and peanuts, and of course the grape jelly and orange feeder. She began to eat suet

pellets and grape jelly as soon as I offered them (on 9 December, the second day of her visit) and thereafter showed a solid preference for live meal worms and grape jelly, with occasional snacks of roasted peanuts, raspberry jam, orange marmalade, and suet pellets. Fresh oranges were put out, but after one investigation that we noted, she never touched them.

She arrived in the spruce every morning in the 7:00 hour, with her earliest arrival at 7:05 a.m. and her latest at 7:54 a.m. She would hop down to the tray feeder and begin feasting—3, 4, 5, 9 mealworms would get typewritered through her beak and swiftly swallowed—then she would pop back up to the safety of the spruce to clean her beak and digest her meal. She would eat steadily like this for the first hour, spending the rest of her day alternately preening, sunning, and eating. Her behavioral pattern was generally the same each day: she would come in early, feed heavily for the first few hours, then feed more lightly but still steadily throughout the day. She usually increased her feeding intensity again in the late afternoon before going to roost.

Other birds discovered the mealworms also, including European Starlings, Mountain and Black-capped Chickadees, and American Robins. To discourage starlings (who, like teenage boys, do not taste their food before swallowing) and give the oriole a feeding place to eat without competition, we hung a clear plastic dinner bell feeder from Wild Birds Unlimited above and near the tray feeder she was using. This proved very successful, as she found it within 24 hours of its appearance and it became her preferred feeder. The starlings never were able to access it. (The American Robin is still promptly showing up just after dawn for his morning meal of worms.. and I'd better not be late).

The oriole did not appear to be timid, shy, or flighty in comparison to Red-winged Blackbirds or starlings, and would sit on the feeder even when the snowblower was being used in the driveway in plain view 20-30 feet away. She shared the feeder peacefully with Northern Flickers and was tolerant of smaller birds, but defended her food source from blackbirds and starlings until they outnumbered her. She became quite accustomed to being fed and often came down in less than one minute after mealworms were set out, if she happened to be in the tree at that time.

I eventually began recording the times of her visits and what she ate each time. I certainly would have liked to do this from dawn to dusk every day, but it was not possible. Instead, beginning on 21 December 2007, I set up my videocamera aimed at the feeder(s) to record 3-4 hours of video on as many days as I could. (I will say that

Date	Time of arrival, if noted	Length of Observation	Number of mealworms consumed	Number of bites of grape jelly	Number of bites of raspberry jam
12/20/2007		3 hours	11	36	2
12/21/2007		3 hours	60	1	
12/24/2007	7:30 a.m.				
12/26/2007	7:15 a.m.	20 minutes	23		
12/27/2007		3 hours	77	Many, not tallied	
12/28/2007		1 hour	21		
12/29/2007	7:54 a.m.	1.5 hours	36	5	
12/30/2007	7:25 a.m.	<1 hour	37		
12/31/2007	7:23 a.m.	1 hour	45	5	
1/1/2008	7:25 a.m.	4 hours	103	A few	
1/2/2008	7:26 a.m.	4 hours	Not tallied		

Table 1: Feeding Observations

although I shot lots of video and pictures and took lots of notes, once the bird left, I felt that it was not nearly enough.) The results of these observations are summarized in Table 1.

On 2 January, the last day she appeared, I did not count mealworms or video her, but she was steadily at the feeder from 7:26 a.m. until her usual siesta time of 10:30 or 11:00 a.m. That was the last we saw of her. There were no Sharp-shinned Hawks visiting at this time either.

Temperature

During Pedro Maria's stay, I was quite concerned by the cold temperatures. The highest temperature between 8 December and 2 January was 41° Fahrenheit, and the lowest temp we had was on 28 December: minus 5° Fahrenheit. We had 13 days with single-digit low temperatures during that period, and 13 days when the high was only 30 degrees or less (Weather Underground 2008).

Throughout these frigid days, Pedro showed up consistently between 30 and 60 minutes after civil twilight, sometimes slightly later. My opinion of her condition is that she had obtained a high enough level of body mass and/or fat that she was not desperate to begin feeding at first light. Her energy reserves were apparently not low and she could maintain her body temperature for a long overnight period. In my opinion, she looked great, well-kempt and perky. I was astonished at her huge consumption of mealworms, which ranged from many small meals of 5-8 worms to massive feasts of 23 worms at one time. Even on the morning of 28 December, which was our coldest day, she appeared healthy

Date	High	Average	Low
8 Dec 2007	24	18	12
9 Dec 2007	14	10	5
10 Dec 2007	30	16	1
11 Dec 2007	23	19	15
12 Dec 2007	17	12	6
13 Dec 2007	26	17	8
14 Dec 2007	23	19	15
15 Dec 2007	23	12	1
16 Dec 2007	33	20	8
17 Dec 2007	35	22	10
18 Dec 2007	33	26	19
19 Dec 2007	41	28	15
20 Dec 2007	39	28	17
21 Dec 2007	41	28	14
22 Dec 2007	28	20	12
23 Dec 2007	39	24	10
24 Dec 2007	30	19	8
25 Dec 2007	37	30	24
26 Dec 2007	19	10	1
27 Dec 2007	19	16	12
28 Dec 2007	15	5	-5
29 Dec 2007	28	12	-4
30 Dec 2007	30	19	8
31 Dec 2007	26	22	19
1 Jan 2008	21	11	1
2 Jan 2008	24	14	1

Table 2: Daily Temperatures in Fahrenheit.
Source: Weather Underground (2008)

and normal (but hungry). I can only hope that, with the milder temperatures and 3-8 mph southward winds on 2 January (Weather Underground 2008), she caught the right breeze to take her home.

Other Extralimital Records of Streak-backed Oriole

The Streak-backed Oriole has a history of winter vagrancy. Arizona has quite a few records including documentation of nesting in the southern portion of the state. The first record from northern Arizona was documented at the bottom of the Grand Canyon on 22 January 1998 (Rosenberg 2001). California also has several records (Hamilton et al. 2007). Oregon has one record of a male bird from 28 September to 1 October 1993 (Oregon Bird Records Committee 2006). The species has occurred twice in New Mexico, in December 2000 and December 2003 (NMOS 2007, database records 60867, 66007). Texas had one at Brazos Bend State Park near Houston from 12 Dec 2004 to 8 April 2005 (Lockwood 2005). An immature male bird appeared at the feeders of Mike Stevens in Mercer, Wisconsin in early January 1998 and was apparently present for two weeks

before succumbing to the cold temperatures (Schultz 1999). Thus, it appears that our Streak-backed Oriole visit this past December fits in with the established patterns this species shows of winter wandering.

Conclusion

I seem to have more questions than answers after our Streak-backed Oriole visit. Seeing as she was well fed and apparently tolerating the cold well, why did she leave? I am convinced that she did indeed leave by her own power and not under the duress of a hawk attack. I spent several hours looking for any sign that she had been made a meal of, and came up empty-handed. I also observed

her avoid almost daily Sharp-shinned Hawk attacks, even when both she and the hawk were in the same tree. (The Sharpie's victims were usually juncos, House Finches, or House Sparrows.) Given the other winter vagrant patterns, I expected this bird to stay through spring, but for reasons we'll never know, she decided not to. I can't help but wonder if being so well fed and having a break in the weather tipped the odds in her favor for a successful trip south.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Hosting such an amazing bird for 26 days and getting to meet so many wonderful birders was an incredible privilege. I have to thank all 450 visitors for being so generous and kind, parking on the street, and not leaving any doors open. Special thanks to Rachel Hopper for alerting me to the possibility of a Streak-backed and to Andrew Spencer and Cole Wild for confirming it. Sincere thanks and gratitude for my family's willingness to let our home life become public day after day, with new faces at the breakfast table every morning. Many thanks also to all the wonderful photographers who sent photographs, and to Nathan Pieplow and Bill Maynard for their patient coaching and review of my writings.

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The Next 20: Past and Current Colorado Avifaunal Predictions

Tony Leukering and Lawrence S. Semo

One of the many games that birders play, by themselves or in groups, might be titled “What bird species will be the next to occur in the state?” It is a regular feature of both slow birding days and more manic long road trips to seek the most recent first state record. It is played by 40-year veterans and neophytes alike. However, one birder’s next-most-likely is often on another’s list as “possible, but unlikely.” In fact, if you asked 200 birders for a list of the most likely next 20 species, the lists would probably be like snowflakes: no two alike.

The epitome of this game was played in the 1990s, when the ABA published a series of articles in its journal, *Birding*, on the next birds to occur in the ABA area. It was published in seven installments, splitting the game up into regions that would be most likely to provide those next species (e.g., Alaska, the southwest, northeast Atlantic), with each region providing its own list. The general operating procedure was to get some number of avowed regional experts each to provide a list of the next ten species to occur in the region that would be new for the ABA area, then compile the results.

A primary reason for these articles was to alert readers to the possibilities. This is necessary because a large percentage of birders in North America may know nothing about birds not found in their North American field guides, and there are many records of first ABA-area birds’ being originally misidentified as something a bit less rare: North America’s first Variegated Flycatcher was identified as a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher for some time, the first Piratic Flycatcher as a Variegated Flycatcher. Who knows what has been missed because it was passed off as something common, as was the first Whiskered Tern (originally identified as an oiled Common Tern)?

In 1987, Jerry Cairo and Robert Righter put together such a game for Colorado and published their list of predicted species in this journal (Cairo and Righter 1987). We find it fascinating that few have ever tried, at least in print, to analyze the success of previous versions of the game – that is, keep score. This article analyzes the success of Cairo and Righter and makes 20 new predictions of its own. It consists of four parts: 1) an analysis of species added to the Colorado state list since the publication of Cairo and Righter (1987); 2) an analysis of Cairo and Righter’s success; 3) a discussion of the species that have

occurred in at least one of the seven neighboring states; and 4) the unveiling of a new list of predicted species for our fair state.

Methods

All aspects of this paper are predicated on the official list of Colorado birds maintained by the Colorado Bird Records Committee (CBRC), a standing committee of the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO), the publisher of this journal. Throughout, county names are italicized.

For Part 1, Leukering obtained the list of species that have been added to the Colorado state list since 1986, over a period of 21 years (1987-2007, inclusive).

For Part 2, Leukering obtained the list of species generated by Cairo and Righter (1987) and merged that with the list of species added to the Colorado list since 1986, creating a list of 63 species (after splits). He then assigned each species to one of nine source areas:

Arctic: Species breeding in the North American arctic zone (e.g., King Eider);

Coastal: North American species typically restricted to coastal or near-coastal habitats (e.g., Glossy Ibis);

East and Southeast: Species typical of eastern North America,

many with south-eastern affinities (e.g., Acadian Flycatcher);

Mexican: Species for which the bulk of breeding populations in the New World occur south of the United States and which, if they breed in the United States, have a very constrained range here; cf. Southwestern (e.g., Thick-billed Kingbird);

Northern: Species typical of areas to the north of Colorado, excluding arctic breeders,



Acadian Flycatcher, Ft. DeSoto, FL, 19 April 2007. Photo by Glenn Walbek

whose ranges do not include Colorado latitudes, at least at our range of longitude (e.g., Pileated Woodpecker);

Old World: Species of generally Palearctic distribution, some of which have toeholds in North America, and most of which probably arrive in the New World via Alaska (e.g., Common Crane);

South American: Species essentially restricted in the New World to South America (e.g., Kelp Gull);

Southwestern: Species for which the bulk of breeding populations in the New World occur south of the United States but which maintain a more-than-marginal breeding population north of Mexico (e.g., Red-faced Warbler);

Western: Species of the western United States not found as far east as Colorado, at least at Colorado latitudes (e.g., Vaux's Swift).

The categories are, admittedly, somewhat arbitrary and some species could have been assigned to one of a couple of categories. We analyzed the "success" of Cairo and Righter (1987) by comparing their list of 43 predicted species to the list of 41 species added to the state list since that publication, breaking down the analysis by source region.

For Part 3, Semo gathered official state lists for each of Colorado's seven neighboring states (New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma) and tallied the number of states that had recorded each species that had not occurred in Colorado.

For Part 4, Leukering sent a questionnaire to birders interested in Colorado birds (not all of them Colorado residents) with at least a reasonable knowledge of ABA-area bird distribution. In that questionnaire, each birder was asked to list his/her predictions for the next 20 species to occur in Colorado. The species were to be ranked according to the respondent's estimation of likelihood, with the most likely being ranked 1st and the least likely being ranked 20th. Upon reception of completed questionnaires, Leukering converted ranks to points in an inverse ratio (that is, 1st place garnered 20 points, 20th place garnered but 1) in order to weight the guesses by rank. Finally, Leukering also asked each respondent to list one species that was a "wild hare"—that is, something that would be a real surprise (such as last year's Great Knot in West Virginia), but still possible.

Results and discussion

Part 1 – Analysis of species added to the Colorado list since 1986

Table 1 lists additions to the Colorado state list since 1986 with their source area and year of addition, along with those species guessed by Cairo and Righter (1987; hereafter C&R) that have not yet occurred. Note that a prior report of one species, Smith's Longspur, is currently circulating through the CBRC and, if accepted, would

change the data presented in Table 1 slightly. Note also in Table 1 that both Glossy Ibis and Common Ground-Dove have acceptance dates prior to the publication of C&R. The first accepted record of Glossy Ibis occurred in 1986, but action by the CBRC was not completed until late 1987. In the case of Common Ground-Dove, a single-observer sight report from 1981 had been provisionally accepted (see CBRC bylaws in Anonymous 2002), but the species was not added to the main list until a multiple-observer record was accepted, in 1999 (Lisowsky 2001), thus enabling full acceptance of the earlier record. Both of these species were, obviously, predicted by C&R.

Note that there has been no increasing or decreasing trend in the numbers of new species to the state list for the past 21 years. Thus, the end of additions to the list is not in sight.

	Species	Source Region	Predicted?	First Occurred
1	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Southwest		1991
2	Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Southwest	Y	1990
3	Garganey	Old World		1990
4	Tufted Duck	Old World		1997
5	King Eider	Arctic	Y	
6	Common Eider	Arctic	Y	
7	Ruffed Grouse	North	Y	1988
8	Arctic Loon	Old World		2002
9	Glossy Ibis	Coast	Y	1986
10	Black Vulture	East/southeast	Y	2002
11	White-tailed Kite	Southwest	Y	
12	Harris's Hawk	Southwest	Y	1994
13	Zone-tailed Hawk	Southwest	Y	1999
14	Crested Caracara	Southwest		1997
15	Common Crane	Old World	Y	
16	Curlew Sandpiper	Old World	Y	1998
17	Black-headed Gull	Old World	Y	1988
18	Heermann's Gull	Coast	Y	
19	Iceland Gull	Arctic	Y	1999
20	Slaty-backed Gull	Old World		2000
21	Kelp Gull	South America		2003
22	Gull-billed Tern	Coast	Y	
23	Royal Tern	Coast		1997
24	Black Skimmer	Coast	Y	2001

Table continued on next page

Table 1: Bird species added to the Colorado state list since 1986, as well as those not yet added that were predicted to occur by Cairo & Righter (1987).

Table continued from previous page

	Species	Source Region	Predicted?	First Occurred
25	Eurasian Collared-Dove	East/southeast		1996
26	Inca Dove	Southwest	Y	1992
27	Common Ground-Dove	Southwest	Y	1981
28	Northern Hawk Owl	North	Y	
29	Great Gray Owl	North	Y	
30	Chuck-will's-widow	East/southeast	Y	
31	Vaux's Swift	West	Y	
32	Green Violet-ear	Mexico		1998
33	Broad-billed Hummingbird	Mexico		2002
34	White-eared Hummingbird	Mexico		2005
35	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	East/southeast	Y	1991
36	Costa's Hummingbird	Southwest		2001
37	Acorn Woodpecker	Southwest	Y	1994
38	Golden-fronted Woodpecker	Southwest	Y	
39	Black-backed Woodpecker	North	Y	
40	Pileated Woodpecker	North	Y	
41	Greater Pewee	Southwest	Y	
42	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	East/southeast	Y	2000*
43	Acadian Flycatcher	East/southeast	Y	
44	Buff-breasted Flycatcher	Mexico		1991
45	Brown-crested Flycatcher	Southwest	Y	2007
46	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	Mexico		2002
47	Thick-billed Kingbird	Mexico		1992
48	Carolina Chickadee	East/southeast	Y	
49	Tufted Titmouse	East/southeast	Y	
50	Black-crested Titmouse	Southwest	Y	
51	Verdin	Southwest	Y	
52	Cactus Wren	Southwest	Y	
53	Northern Wheatear	Old World	Y	
54	Tropical Parula	Mexico		2005
55	Red-faced Warbler	Southwest	Y	1993
56	Black-chinned Sparrow	Southwest	Y	2006
57	Smith's Longspur	Arctic	Y	2003
58	Pyrrhuloxia	Southwest	Y	1989
59	Bronzed Cowbird	Southwest		1990
60	Hooded Oriole	Southwest	Y	2006
61	Streak-backed Oriole	Mexico		2007
62	Hoary Redpoll	Arctic	Y	
63	Lawrence's Goldfinch	West		2007
			43	41
* - pending CBRC acceptance				

Of the 41 species added since 1986, two hail from the arctic, three from coastal areas, four from the east and southeast, eight from Mexico, one from the north, six from the Old World, one from South America, 15 from the southwest, and one from the west. Taxonomically, there are 27 non-passerines and 14 passerines, a ratio of roughly 2:1, compared to the overall ratio on the Colorado state list of 1.1:1. Among these additions, the orders of non-passerines and the families of passerines with the biggest gains include waterfowl (four species), charadriiforms (shorebirds, gulls, terns, etc.; seven species), hummingbirds (five species), and flycatchers (five species), with these four groups accounting for just over half of the additions.

Part 2 – Analysis of Cairo and Righter (1987)

Table 1 enables us to assess the accuracy of the C&R predictions. Of the 43 predicted species, roughly half (21) have occurred, which accounts for just over half of the 41 species that have actually occurred. Except for one region – the Southwest – the percentages predicted correctly are half or less in each category, which might lead one to opine that the predictions weren't any better than chance. However, the difference between the lengths of the ABA-area and Colorado lists in 1987 was more than 400. We suggest that, overall, C&R did a great job of predicting the next species to occur in Colorado. We hope that this critique is accepted in the sense in which it is presented – with respect and the understanding that hindsight is almost always more effective than foresight. Remember, there is no statute of limitations on their guesses, and many of those species that have not yet occurred will almost certainly do so at some point in the future (thus increasing their success rate).

Arctic (2/5 occurred): In our opinion, of the five species predicted from this region, two of the three most likely species have been recorded: Iceland Gull and Smith's Longspur. The longspur is almost certainly of nearly annual occurrence, but patterns of birding in the state do not optimize our chances of finding it, and we believe that few of us have the knowledge to identify the species as heard-only flyovers or briefly-seen birds on the ground – the most common ways that we run into longspurs. In other words, the species has probably been occurring in Colorado all along. The gull has now been found in most years since the acceptance of the first state record, suggesting that recent increases in interest and gull-identification knowledge have played a large part in that species' place on our state list. The relatively warm winters of the last half of the 1990s and the first few years of this decade also may have encouraged more gulls to winter in the state's larger expanse of open water during that period. We con-

sider Hoary Redpoll the next most likely in this group from the C&R list, but the prediction has been hampered by the fact that there has not been a single large incursion of Common Redpolls into the state since 1987, and we feel that such a phenomenon would offer the best opportunity to find a Hoary.

Coastal (2/4 occurred, 1 unpredicted occurrence): Of this set of species, we feel that only one, Glossy Ibis, was particularly certain to occur and it has certainly done so, with the state amassing 39 accepted records (and no small number of undocumented reports) since 1986. The remaining four species seem to us to be nearly equal in their chance to occur with, of course, only two of them having made it (Royal Tern and Black Skimmer)—both having occurred twice and, most interestingly, both having been first discovered in south-east Colorado by Duane Nelson.

East and Southeast (3/7 occurred, 1 unpredicted occurrence): In our opinion, C&R's predictions in this category were hampered by the inclusion of two permanent residents (Carolina Chickadee and Tufted Titmouse) that have little history of vagrancy and do not show much evidence of long-distance movements; neither has occurred. Interestingly, the titmouse has since been re-split into two species (Tufted Titmouse and Black-crested Titmouse), and we retroactively added the latter to the C&R list (in the southwest region) primarily because it is this form that occurs closest to Colorado and thus may be more likely; in fact, C&R discussed just such. C&R are certainly excused for not including the species from this group that has colonized Colorado most conclusively – Eurasian Collared-Dove – as the species had only recently been discovered to be a part of the ABA-area avifauna in 1987 and few on this side of the Atlantic Ocean were yet cognizant of its dispersal capabilities. It might be argued that Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (included here by us) is better included in the Northern source region, as its longitudinal range is much more broad than is its latitudinal range. However, its eastern migration route caused us to include it here (even though the northerly and westerly extent of the breeding range may be what makes the species so likely to occur here).

Mexico (no predictions, 8 unpredicted occurrences): This category may account for the only real failure of C&R's predictions. Interestingly, there have been seven occurrences of the three hummingbird species (two each of Green Violet-ear—though one of those reports is still winding its way through the CBRC—and White-eared Hummingbird and three of Broad-billed Hummingbird) and we suggest that the hummingbird show is nowhere near over.

North (1/5 occurred): We consider this category to be C&R's

second-worst failure. Only one of the five predicted species has occurred, and we attribute that to the fact that most of these species are primarily residents, with little in the way of regular long-distance movements, at least within the Rocky Mountain parts of the various species' ranges. The only species to have been found to occur – Ruffed Grouse – is probably a regular permanent resident of the state, albeit one found in very small numbers in a very tiny piece of Colorado's geography.

Old World (2/4 occurred, 4 unpredicted occurrences): The single most obvious likely species from this category (Curlew Sandpiper) occurred, but the next most likely in our opinion (Tufted Duck) was not predicted. Since the publication of C&R, there have been many more occurrences of various Siberian species throughout the ABA area, and most birders are more aware of the possibility of such species now than they were in the 1980s. Though such species will probably always be exceedingly rare in Colorado, the list of potentials from the Old World may be as long as that from any other region, perhaps longer.

South America (no predictions; 1 unpredicted occurrence): The list of possibles from this category is somewhat long; it includes some real eye-openers and at least a chance for species never before recorded in the ABA area (note the very recent occurrence of White-crested Elaenia in Texas).

Southwestern (11/17 occurred, 4 unpredicted occurrences): This is the category in which C&R was most successful. We consider that they were hampered a bit by the inclusion of a few permanent resident species with little history of vagrancy (though we actually consider one of those – Golden-fronted Woodpecker – to be nearly overdue). Regardless, we consider most of their “misses” still in play and likely to occur.

West (0/1 occurred, 1 unpredicted occurrence): C&R guessed only one species in this category and only one such species has occurred; unfortunately, it was not the predicted species. Their guess – Vaux's Swift – is almost certainly going to occur (and probably has already), but its addition to the Colorado list is hampered by the extreme difficulty of proving its identification.

Part 3 – Species not accepted to the Colorado list that have occurred in neighboring states

This list is topped by White-tailed Kite (all 7 states), Heermann's Gull and Acadian Flycatcher (5 states each), and Gray Hawk, Chuck-will's-widow, Pileated Woodpecker, Great Kiskadee, Black-capped Vireo, Cave Swallow, and Verdin (4 states each). Most of these, then,

seem likely to occur in Colorado, particularly the species with histories of vagrancy (e.g., White-tailed Kite, Chuck-will's-widow).

Part 4 – The next 20

Of the 36 questionnaires sent out, we received 19 responses (including our own two). All responses were received by 19 February 2008, prior to the occurrence of any potential first state record in 2008. Of

the 19 people playing the game, three are out-of-state residents. Our spreadsheet of results lists a whopping 77 species, an average of just over four unique species per respondent, with the range of points received going from 1 all the way up to 286. Table 2 presents our resultant Top 20 potential additions to the Colorado list of birds. They are presented in order of points received from the votes of the respondents. Of the 19 respondents, Semo guessed the highest number of species found on our final Top 20, guessing 18 of them (Brandon Percival, with 16, and Andrew Spencer, with 15, were the next closest). Your other author was well back with only 13 guessed. However, just because a committee of 19 states something about future occurrences doesn't make its pronouncements ac-



White-tailed Kite, Laguna Atascosa NWR, TX, March 2005. Photo by Bill Schmoker



Cave Swallow, Bentsen SP, TX, 28 March 2005. Photo by Tony Leukering

tual; we wait to see whose predictions are most successful – perhaps it will be someone whose guesses don't match our top 20!

The Top 20

1. White-tailed Kite (four 1st-place votes): In keeping with the predictive powers of occurrence in neighboring states, this species was the top point-getter, and it was really no contest. The species has occurred in every Colorado border state, and has also been accepted to the state lists

of Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota! Of course, this accolade does not mean that it won't be another 20 years before Colorado finally obtains its first state record White-tailed Kite. There have been at least three reasonable reports of this species from the state, but as yet no accepted occurrences.

2. Tropical Kingbird: Although this species garnered no 1st-place votes, the preponderance of high ranks among its 15 votes moved it into 2nd place. Tropical Kingbird conducts a regular fall flight up the Pacific coast from its primarily south-of-the-border breeding range. There are also sporadic and scattered vagrant occurrences elsewhere in the ABA area. The strong difference in occurrence of vagrants of the species on the Pacific coast compared to the rest of the ABA area may be a result of differing ecologies of eastern and western Mexican representatives of the species. West Mexican *occidentalis* probably accounts for the lion's share of the Pacific coast occurrences, though at least one occurrence of South American *melancholichus* exists for California (Pyle 1997), while eastern ABA-area occurrences probably pertain to eastern Mexican *satrapa*. These data may suggest

Species	# points	# entries	avg rank
White-tailed Kite	286	17	4.2
Tropical Kingbird	210	15	7.0
Cave Swallow	200	11	2.8
Vaux's Swift	190	12	5.2
Allen's Hummingbird	189	13	6.5
California Quail	174	10	3.6
Heermann's Gull	171	16	10.3
Acadian Flycatcher	166	13	8.2
Pacific Golden-Plover	124	11	9.7
Chuck-will's-widow	122	10	8.8
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	118	12	11.2
Red-necked Stint	115	11	10.5
Western Gull	106	10	10.4
Black-tailed Gull	105	8	7.9
Mottled Duck	104	7	6.1
Ruddy Ground-Dove	99	12	12.8
Black-capped Vireo	84	9	11.7
Cactus Wren	69	7	11.1
Wandering Tattler	68	8	12.5
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	64	4	5.0

Table 2: The 20 bird species receiving the most points in the survey, with number of votes and average rank.

that though Tropical Kingbird is not at all a rare species in California, Colorado may be waiting some time for its first record. There is at least one reasonable unaccepted report of the species here.

3. Cave Swallow (seven 1st-place votes): Although it garnered the most 1st-place votes, inexplicably only four other respondents voted for Cave Swallow. This result is even more surprising considering that there are four reasonable one-observer sightings of the species from the state to date and that its rapidly-expanding breeding range has brought it to within 150 miles of Colorado. The photograph of the individual swallow from the other recent report of the species suggests that a juvenile Cliff Swallow was misidentified. However, no reports have yet been submitted to the CBRC for even provisional acceptance. We consider this species to be one of the most likely species to be added to the state list this year.

4. Vaux's Swift: This species is probably the one noted by respondents that will face the most difficulty in being accepted to the Colorado state list. Identification of *Chaetura* swifts is difficult and compounded by a range of individual species variation that is unappreciated by most observers. Unless a specimen and/or sound recordings are obtained, we can expect some strong "discussion" to take place within the CBRC on most reports submitted to that body. The species is of regular occurrence in Utah and should certainly be expected in western Colorado (as predicted by C&R) in migration. Vaux's Swift has been reported a fair few times in that area, with a recent reasonable sighting coming from *Delta*. Other western Colorado occurrences have either been identified specifically as pertaining to Chimney Swift or have been left unidentified to species. Leukering has measured an individual found dead in Durango (in 1995) and found it to be a Chimney Swift. Finally, the long-shot possibility that some other *Chaetura* (particularly Short-tailed Swift) might also



Tropical Kingbird, Ecuador, 27 December 2004. Photo by Bill Maynard

occur in the ABA area throws yet another monkey wrench in the works.

5. Allen's Hummingbird (one 1st-place vote): This species, like the preceding, is considered by many Colorado birders to be overdue. Yet, like Vaux's Swift, certain identification in Colorado will probably require a bird in the hand. And, in our opinion, no one is better placed to obtain that first state record than are Deb and Steve Bouricius, with their hummingbird-banding operation near Clifton, Mesa. (Of course, with that written, and Murphy's Law as operable here as anywhere, the first record will probably be provided by some incredibly well-photographed adult male in *Prowers*.) With more and more effort being expended in the United States on attracting late-fall and winter hummingbirds and with more and more effort expended on capturing and banding them, we are finding that Allen's Hummingbird is not the incredible rarity away from the West Coast that it has been considered for so long. Texas now has >20 records and it is annual in numbers in Arizona.

6. California Quail (three 1st-place votes): Some respondents thought that they would vote as the most-likely new Colorado species the one that may very well have been in the state when they were voting: California Quail. The species has an introduced but well-established population in northeastern Utah that is mapped in most recent field guides as occurring right up to the Colorado border. Some Colorado birders have taken to looking for it in and near Browns Park, Moffat, particularly as Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge staff (pers. comm.) report that it is reasonably common in the Utah part of the refuge to within a mile or so of the state line. California Quail's congener, Gambel's Quail, is fairly similar in appearance and is also found in western Colorado, so anyone reporting the former should take pains to convince the CBRC that the latter was considered and ruled out. Finally, there have been at least a few attempts to introduce this species to Colorado and various hunting clubs may release individuals from time to time or let them escape, so the CBRC will probably look askance at reports from outside the Browns Park area.

7. Heermann's Gull: Heermann's Gull received the second-highest number of total votes, but the two 2nd-place votes it received were the only top-5 votes it garnered, and thus it fell well behind White-tailed Kite. This species conducts a post-breeding northward movement up the Pacific coast from its primarily Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez) breeding grounds. This movement often includes individuals jumping across land to the Salton Sea in southeast California with sporadic occurrence in Arizona, and it is this movement that would

probably bring us our first. Considering that Wyoming has a record of Heermann's Gull, despite lacking a record of Lesser Black-backed Gull until 2007, and that Heermann's has occurred in Michigan and Florida, Colorado's lariphiles ought to have their eyes peeled for this distinctive species.

8. Acadian Flycatcher: This species' 13 votes ranged in rank from 2nd to 17th. As it belongs to the difficult genus *Empidonax*, we don't expect acceptance of Acadian Flycatcher to the state list to be an easy task. It should probably be looked for relatively early in spring (at least, for *Empidonax*, a generally late-migrating genus) in the southeast. There have been one or two undocumented reports of the species from that area. Another advantage to looking in late April and early May is that the only other species of the genus to be found then are Least, Gray, and Dusky flycatchers, not the larger and more similar-looking Willow and Alder flycatchers.

9. Pacific Golden-Plover: With the interesting (possibly hybrid) plover found near Lower Latham Reservoir, *Weld*, in spring 2007, more Colorado birders have probably become aware of the possibility of this species' occurring here than were previously. Utah recorded the species in fall 2006, though as of this writing, the report had not yet cleared the state records committee. However, the photographic support for the report certainly ought to enable acceptance there. We believe that fall would probably be the best time to search among the American Golden-Plovers for this species.

10. Chuck-will's-widow: This is one of the six species in our Top 20 list that were also listed in C&R, with five of them being in our Top 10 (only Cactus Wren fell below this threshold). This large and distinctive nightjar is an early spring migrant that regularly overshoots in the East and has occurred as far west as Nevada and California. Though such vagrancy is not recorded all that often, it is probably severely overlooked due to the species' cryptic plumage and retiring and nocturnal habits. We would suggest looking for it in April in southeast Colorado, watching for a large and large-headed nightjar either flushing from the ground or perched horizontally on tree limbs. The southernmost populations of the mostly South American Rufous Nightjar (*Caprimulgus rufus*) are at least partially migratory and just might be a candidate for occurrence in the ABA area. We mention it as it is fairly similar to Chuck-will's-widow and could cause some identification confusion.

11. Fork-tailed Flycatcher: We were a bit surprised that this species did not grace the C&R list, as it was already established as a regular vagrant in the East (particularly along the East Coast) by



Fork-tailed Flycatcher, San Isidro, Costa Rica,
19 January 2008. Photo by Larry Semo

1987. However, there are very few western U.S. records and California only just got its second last fall. Most of the eastern ABA-area records probably pertain to southern South American *savana*, rather than the more proximate Mexican race, *monachus*. The highly-migratory *savana* probably makes this species the most common South American vagrant recorded in the ABA area. Contrastingly, *monachus* is much less common in the ABA area, but has occurred multiple times in Texas. Due to the very different migratory habits and distributions of those two subspecies, a Fork-tailed Flycatcher showing up in Colorado might very well be

referable to either of the two, with *monachus*, perhaps, a tad more likely.

12. Red-necked Stint (one 1st-place vote): This is the highest-ranked of the two Siberian species in our Top 20. Even more so than with our regularly-occurring peep species, basic- and juvenal-plumaged stints are likely to be overlooked, so the most efficacious time to search for this lovely sandpiper is probably during early fall migration from late June and July when an adult still mostly in alternate plumage might turn up. Note that the similar Little Stint probably has a fairly similar likelihood of occurrence here and we urge caution in identifying any stint in Colorado.

13. Western Gull: This species is considered by many to be exceedingly rare more than 50 miles or so from the Pacific Ocean—in fact, even eastern California records of the species are fairly rare. However, Utah has hosted one or two for the past few winters and there are two specimen records (!) from the Chicago, IL, area. Fortunately, dark-mantled gulls are still fairly rare in Colorado, so at least finding candidates for this species should be fairly straightforward. However, we urge great caution in identifying it for two reasons: 1) Western Gull × Glaucous-winged Gull hybrids, including backcrosses that can be difficult to separate from pure Westerns, are probably at

least as likely (if not more likely) to occur in Colorado than are pure Western Gulls; and 2) Slaty-backed Gull is also probably more likely in Colorado than is Western Gull.

14. Black-tailed Gull (one 1st-place vote): Multiple recent records east of Colorado provide strong support for this species' showing in our Top 20. The last of our two Siberian Top 20 species, Black-tailed Gull is quite distinctive in most plumages and should not cause much consternation. However, first-cycle plumages can be fairly similar to the same plumage in California Gull, thus causing potential for such a bird to be overlooked. However, this species' clean white vent region and incredibly long bill should greatly assist in correct identification.

15. Mottled Duck: There have been a few reasonable, but undocumented, Colorado reports of this southeastern species, and it is now regular as a breeder as close as Red Slough, OK. These facts made us somewhat surprised that Mottled Duck didn't score higher in this list. Though it is superficially similar to American Black Duck and female Mallard in plumage, good views should enable correct identification. Note that Mottled Duck sports a feature that all other similar ducks lack: a small black gape spot that is readily seen with good views.

16. Ruddy Ground-Dove: Until the very recent past, this species seemed to be well on its way to following Inca Dove in its fairly rapid and widespread colonization of the ABA area. It was getting more and more regular and common in winter in both Arizona and California, had bred in the latter state, and had at least summered in the former. No few Colorado birders had the species on their radar screen and, in fact, the CBRC and various seasonal-report editors insisted that any reports of Common Ground-Dove rule this species out. Perhaps the past two winters' reduction in numbers in the ABA area is just a short-term "correction," and the species will soon be pushing again at Colorado's borders.

17. Black-capped Vireo: Though federally listed as Endangered, this species is still common enough in its primarily Texas breeding range to be a real candidate for occurrence in Colorado. The current breeding range extends north to southern Woods and southeastern Woodward in Oklahoma (USFWS 2007), approximately 180 miles southeast of Colorado, and it formerly nested in Kansas, so there may yet be some genes present in the species to send it farther north than the current distribution. There are also at least a few records of spring overshoots of the species. There is one fairly credible, though unaccepted, report of Black-capped Vireo from Colorado and we suggest that searching for it in April and early May in the southeast part of the state would have the highest potential for reward. Unlike the

species to which it is superficially most similar in plumage – Blue-headed Vireo – the present species is an active forager in dense and shrubby vegetation.

18. Cactus Wren: Despite a number of reports from southern Colorado of this distinctive species, Cactus Wren has not made it to the official state list. There are few extralimital reports of this primarily resident species, but such do exist and the species' breeding range limit lies not so far south of our state's southern border as to completely preclude its occurrence here. We do provide a particular caution, however. Leukering, while leading a CFO field trip in 2007, heard a perfect rendition of this species' distinctive song in southeastern *Las Animas* – given by a Northern Mockingbird. As many of Colorado's Northern Mockingbird breeders apparently winter in the southwest, they commonly incorporate vocalizations of species typical of those areas, many of which are very rare here or have never occurred in Colorado. We have heard the species imitating Crissal Thrasher and Phainopepla (among a few others) in eastern Colorado and suggest that any heard-only reports of Cactus Wren in the state will receive short shrift from the CBRC.

19. Wandering Tattler: There are really very few records of Wandering Tattler away from Pacific coast states and provinces in North America, so one might think that the species is not a particularly strong candidate for occurrence here. However, there are four records from Utah and even Texas claims one (M. Lockwood, pers. comm.). It seems reasonable to suggest that any Wandering Tattler that shows up in Texas in fall has probably crossed through Colorado, so check those butt-bobbing rock shorebirds! However, we suggest great caution in identifying this species in Colorado, as the Siberian Gray-tailed Tattler may also be a candidate for occurrence here and tattler identification is not particularly easy.

20. Pacific-slope Flycatcher (one 1st-place vote): In each of the past two falls, there has been a single Colorado occurrence of in-hand "Western" Flycatchers that measured out in the Pacific-slope Flycatcher range using an admittedly involved formula that apparently does a very good job of separating the Cordilleran and Pacific-slope flycatchers (Pyle 1997). This formula results in a fairly broad overlap zone, but individuals falling reasonably outside that zone are identified correctly by the formula at virtually all times. These two reports are pending or circulating in the CBRC, so this species might very well be the first to be added to the state list after publication of this article. A piece of information that may support the possible occurrence of Pacific-slope Flycatcher in Colorado is that in fall, the widely syntopic breeder Cassin's Vireo is more com-

mon on the state's eastern plains than is Plumbeous Vireo, with the ratio at the Barr Lake banding station running at roughly 3:1 or 4:1 (Leukering, pers. obs.). In this vein, we have been urging Colorado birders for years to consider this species and refrain from assuming that fall-migrant "Western" Flycatchers are necessarily Cordillerans.

Other Species Receiving Votes

The species ranked 21st through 30th were as follows (species with identical point totals being presented in taxonomic order): Couch's Kingbird (61 points, 5 votes), Hoary Redpoll (53, 7), Little Stint (50, 7), Wilson's Plover (49, 6), Gray Hawk (47, 5), Common Eider (44, 6), Black-backed Woodpecker (44, 5; the only species receiving a 1st-place vote that did not make the Top 20), Great Kiskadee (44, 5), Golden-fronted Woodpecker (42, 5), and Siberian Accentor (42, 5). The remaining 47 species were: >30 points – Yellow-footed Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Great Gray Owl, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Verdin, Short-tailed Hawk; >20 points – Northern Wheatear, Elegant Tern, King Eider, Greater Pewee, Hutton's Vireo, Varied Bunting, Green-breasted Mango, Crissal Thrasher; >10 points – Yellow-legged Gull, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Rufous-backed Robin, Northern Hawk Owl, Ringed Kingfisher, Olive Warbler, Shiny Cowbird, Elf Owl, Yellow-green Vireo, Gila Woodpecker, Gray Partridge, Carolina Chickadee; <11 points – Common Crane, Blue-footed Booby, Lesser Sand-Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Fish Crow, White-collared Swift, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Sooty Tern, Kirtland's Warbler, White-tipped Dove, Berylline Hummingbird, Boreal Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Black-crested Titmouse (yes, all three parids received 3 points each), White Wagtail, Black Storm-Petrel, Red-throated Pipit, Golden-cheeked Warbler, and Slate-throated Redstart.

The "Wild Hares"

This category surprised us, as some species placed in the Top 20 by some respondents were considered wild hares by others. Thus, of the 17 respondents listing a wild hare guess, 11 provided wild hare guesses (of nine species, including two each of Ruddy Ground-Dove and White Wagtail) that were noted in Top 20 votes by others. Thus, only six additional species were provided by the various wild hare guesses: Leach's Storm-Petrel (Pieplow), Spotted Redshank (Leatherman), Red-legged Kittiwake (Gibbons), Lucifer Hummingbird (Maynard), Aztec Thrush (Leukering), and Flame-colored Tanager (Spencer). We do appreciate the nice mix of source regions of those six species,

Species	NM	AZ	UT	WY	NE	KS	OK	# states
White-tailed Kite	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Heermann's Gull	X	X	X	X			X	5
Acadian Flycatcher	X	X			X	X	X	5
Gray Hawk	X	X	X			X		4
Chuck-will's-widow	X				X	X	X	4
Pileated Woodpecker				X	X	X	X	4
Great Kiskadee	X	X				X	X	4
Black-capped Vireo	X				X	X	X	4
Cave Swallow	X	X			X	X		4
Verdin	X	X	X				X	4
Gray Partridge			X	X	X			3
Wandering Tattler	X	X	X					3
Passenger Pigeon					X	X	X	3
Ruddy Ground-Dove	X	X	X					3
Carolina Parakeet					X	X	X	3
Elf Owl	X	X	X					3
Great Gray Owl			X	X	X			3
Allen's Hummingbird	X	X				X		3
Mexican Jay	X	X				X		3
Mexican Chickadee	X	X				X		3
Tufted Titmouse					X	X	X	3
Cactus Wren	X	X	X					3
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	X	X	X					3
Rufous-backed Robin	X	X	X					3
Crissal Thrasher	X	X	X					3
Abert's Towhee	X	X	X					3
Hoary Redpoll			X	X	X			3
Mottled Duck					X		X	2
King Eider					X	X		2
Common Eider					X	X		2
California Quail		X	X					2
Montezuma Quail	X	X						2
Least Grebe		X					X	2
Least Storm-Petrel	X	X						2
Short-tailed Hawk	X	X						2
Aplomado Falcon	X	X						2
Clapper Rail		X			X			2
Pacific Golden-Plover		X	X					2
Wilson's Plover						X	X	2

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Table 3: Birds that have occurred in neighboring states, but not yet in Colorado.

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Species	NM	AZ	UT	WY	NE	KS	OK	# states
Yellow-footed Gull		X	X					2
Western Gull	X	X						2
Gull-billed Tern	X	X						2
Elegant Tern	X	X						2
Whiskered Screech-Owl	X	X						2
Northern Hawk Owl				X	X			2
Buff-collared Nightjar	X	X						2
Vaux's Swift		X	X					2
Berylline Hummingbird	X	X						2
Cinnamon Hummingbird	X	X						2
Violet-crowned Hummingbird	X	X						2
Lucifer Hummingbird	X	X						2
Elegant Trogon	X	X						2
Gila Woodpecker	X	X						2
Red-breasted Sapsucker		X	X					2
Arizona Woodpecker	X	X						2
Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet	X	X						2
Greater Pewee	X	X						2
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	X	X						2
Hutton's Vireo	X	X						2
Yellow-green Vireo	X	X						2
Fish Crow						X	X	2
Carolina Chickadee						X	X	2
Le Conte's Thrasher		X	X					2
White Wagtail	X	X						2
Olive Warbler	X	X						2
Slate-throated Redstart	X	X						2
Fan-tailed Warbler	X	X						2
Botteri's Sparrow	X	X						2
Yellow-eyed Junco	X	X						2
Bachman's Sparrow						X	X	2
Yellow Grosbeak	X	X						2
Varied Bunting	X	X						2
Taiga Bean-Goose					X			1
Barnacle Goose							X	1
Emperor Goose					X			1
Whooper Swan				X				1
Spruce Grouse				X				1
Laysan Albatross		X						1

Species	NM	AZ	UT	WY	NE	KS	OK	# states
Streaked Shearwater				X				1
Sooty Shearwater		X						1
Leach's Storm-Petrel		X						1
Black Storm-Petrel		X						1
Great Frigatebird							X	1
Lesser Frigatebird				X				1
Greater Flamingo						X		1
White-tailed Tropicbird		X						1
Red-billed Tropicbird		X						1
Northern Gannet							X	1
Blue-footed Booby		X						1
Brown Booby		X						1
Jabiru							X	1
White-tailed Hawk		X						1
Clapper Rail		X						1
Common Crane					X			1
Spotted Redshank						X		1
Little Stint	X							1
Purple Sandpiper							X	1
Northern Jacana		X						1
Thick-billed Parrot		X						1
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl		X						1
Plain-capped Starthroat		X						1
Bumblebee Hummingbird		X						1
Eared Quetzal		X						1
Green Kingfisher		X						1
Ringed Kingfisher							X	1
White-headed Woodpecker				X				1
Golden-fronted Woodpecker							X	1
Red-cockaded Woodpecker							X	1
Ivory-billed Woodpecker							X	1
Black-backed Woodpecker				X				1
Gilded Flicker		X						1
Nutting's Flycatcher		X						1
Tropical Kingbird		X						1
Piratic Flycatcher	X							1
Couch's Kingbird	X							1
Rose-throated Becard		X						1

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Species	NM	AZ	UT	WY	NE	KS	OK	# states
Black-crested Titmouse							X	1
Black-capped Gnatcatcher		X						1
Brown-headed Nuthatch							X	1
Northern Wheatear		X						1
Clay-colored Robin	X							1
Aztec Thrush		X						1
Blue Mockingbird		X						1
Red-throated Pipit		X						1
Crescent-chested Warbler		X						1
Golden-crowned Warbler	X							1
Rufous-capped Warbler		X						1
Flame-colored Tanager		X						1
Rufous-winged Sparrow		X						1
Five-striped Sparrow		X						1
Worthen's Sparrow	X							1
Black-vented Oriole		X						1
Shiny Cowbird							X	1
Totals	55	87	21	13	20	22	29	

however: a panglobal pelagic, a long-distance migrant Old World shorebird, a Bering Sea specialty, and three Mexican specialties (one hummingbird and two passerines).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would first like to thank Jerry Cairo and Bob Righter for their foresight and ability in publishing their paper on future occurrences of birds in Colorado. Without them, we would have nothing to critique and compare and we, again, congratulate them on a job very well done. We also thank the respondents to our request for Top 20 lists: Jim Beatty, Norm Erthal, Doug Faulkner, Brian Gibbons, Rachel Hopper, Joey Kellner, Dave Leatherman, Paul Lehman, Bill Maynard, Ric Olson, Brandon Percival, Mark Peterson, Nathan Pieplow, Andrew Spencer, Brad Steger, Glenn Walbek, and Chris Wood.

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CBRC REPORT

The 46th Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee:

Partial Results of Winter 2007-08 Circulations and New Additions to the State List

Lawrence S. Semo
Chair, Colorado Bird Records Committee

Introduction

This 46th report presents the partial results of deliberations of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or Committee) on circulations during the winter of 2007-08, including records of two species previously unknown from the state: Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*) and Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*). This article provides results of the circulation of 141 reports submitted by 32 observers, documenting 102 occurrences of 64 species. 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 have transcended to a second round of deliberations, and results of those records will be published at a later date.

The documents reviewed bring the state total to **487**. Two potentially new species to the state list are still pending within the CBRC: Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*E. flaviventris*).

Committee members voting on these reports were: Coen Dexter, Doug Faulkner, Peter Gent, Rachel Hopper, Joey Kellner, Bill Maynard, Ric Olson, and Larry Semo.

Committee Functions

All reports received by the CBRC (written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and/or sound recordings) are archived at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, CO 80205, where they remain available for public review. The Committee solicits documentation of reports in Colorado for all species published in its review list, including both the main and supplementary lists (Semo et al. 2002), and for reports of species with no prior accepted records in Colorado. Those lists can be found at www.cfo-link.org/birding/lists.php. Documentary materials should be submitted online at the CBRC website (www.cfo-link.org/CBRC/login.php).

Report Format

The organization and style of this report follow those of Leukering and Semo (2003), with some alterations. 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 the ten-year period preceding the submission. The latter number is of importance, as it is one of the criteria for a species' continuance on or removal from the statewide Main Review List (Semo et al. 2002).

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist of North American Birds (AOU 1998) through the 48th Supplement (Banks et al. 2007). Each record presents as much of the following information as we have available: number of birds, age, sex, locality, county, and date or date span. In parentheses, we present the initials of the contributing observer(s), the official record number, and the vote tally in the first round and, if relevant, second round (with the number of "accept" votes on the left side of the dash).

The initials of the finder(s) of the bird(s) are underlined, if known, 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

sonograms or recordings are indicated by a lower-case, italicized “s” (s). Thus, the parenthetical expression “(JD v, RA†, TL, JV, CW; 2001-36; 4-3, 6-1)” 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 two rounds of voting, the first-round vote was four “accept” votes and three “do not accept” 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. The CBRC encourages observers to document the final date on which a rare species was seen, as that provides historical evidence of the true extent of its stay.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

Trumpeter Swan – *Cygnus buccinator* (29/14). An adult was at Coors Pond in Golden, *Jefferson*, on 29 Nov 2004 (DF †, IS, TS; 2004-134; 7-0), although it was apparently first discovered the day prior. Two adults graced College Lake in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 16 Nov 2005 (AS †, NK; 2005-123; 7-0). Establishing the first record for *Chaffee*, six adults were at Salida between 29-30 Dec 2005 (MK †, SY; 2005-147; 7-0), but were believed to have been seen on the 28th by the landowner.

Tundra Swan – *Cygnus columbianus*. Six records of Tundra Swan were recently accepted: two 1st-cycle birds at Shadow Mountain Res., *Grand*, on

23 Feb 2002 (AS †; 2002-176; 7-0); two adults at Standley Lake, *Jefferson*, on 27 Nov 2002 (AS †, JBn; 2002-199; 6-1); two adults and a juvenile at Fentress Lake, *Boulder*, on 24 Nov 2004 (BSc †, NP, DW; 2004-132; 7-0); an adult at Plaster Res., *Broomfield* on 17 Nov 2005 (EZ; 2005-124; 6-1); four adults and a juvenile at Marston Res., *Denver*, on 17 Nov 2005 (AS †; 2005-125; 7-0); and six adults at Elevenmile Res., *Park*, on 18 Nov 2005 (AS, JP; 2005-126; 6-1).

“Ridgway’s” Cackling Goose – *Branta hutchinsii minima*. “Ridgway’s” Cackling Goose is now the preferred common name of the subspecies *minima* (Mlodinow et al., in prep.).

One was present at Fairmount Cemetery in Glendale, *Arapahoe*, on 13 Jan 2002 (AS†; 2002-172; 7-0). This is the third member of this race recorded from Colorado.

Surf Scoter – *Melanitta perspicillata*. Establishing the first record for Montrose, an adult female was found near Paradox on 24 Apr 2003 (AS †, CD; 2003-134; 7-0).

Long-tailed Duck – *Clangula hyemalis*. A male transitioning into alternate plumage was at Crom Lake near Pierce, *Weld*, on the very late date of 21 May 2005 (DF †; 2005-56; 7-0). This is the latest known spring date for this species in the state.

Red-throated Loon – *Gavia stellata* (31/11). A juvenile was at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 4 Dec 2004 (BKP †; 2004-135; 7-0).

Pacific Loon – *Gavia pacifica*. One at Navajo Res., *Archuleta*, on 10 Nov 2005 (JBy; 2005-115; 7-0) is the first recorded in that county.

Brown Pelican – *Pelecanus occidentalis* (16/6). A juvenile

was found at Greenbriar Park in Fort Collins on 27 May 2006. This long-staying bird was subsequently seen throughout the summer and fall at various locations, including near Greeley in *Weld*, Fossil Creek Res., Lake Loveland, and Boyd Lake in *Larimer*, and ultimately at McIntosh Lake in *Boulder* on 27 Nov (RH †,

NK, TL †, BM †, NP, BSc †, AS †, WS, NAK; 2006-89; 7-0).

Neotropic Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (15/4). Establishing the first record for Yuma, an adult was at Bonny Res. between 19 Apr and 16 May 2005 (MI, JBy; 2005-24; 7-0). Another bird, possibly an adult, was at John Martin Res., *Bent*, on 30 Oct of the same year (AS †, BKP †, GW†; 2005-112; 7-0).

Least Bittern – *Ixobrychus exilis* (18/4). A Least Bittern consistently called from dense cattails at Cottonwood Marsh, *Boulder*, on 5 Jun 2005, where briefly observed and photographed by some (PG, NP, BSc †, JK; 2005-63; 7-0). This bird apparently remained at that location until 12 Jun, although no details of such were provided to the Committee. This is the fourth record of this species for *Boulder*.

Little Blue Heron – *Egretta caerulea*. Although adult Little Blue



Little Blue Heron, Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo County, 9 October 2005. Photo by Brandon Percival

Hérons were removed from the main statewide review list in 2002 (Semo et al. 2002), the Committee still requests details on birds in juvenal plumage. On 9 Oct 2005, a juvenile was photographed at Pueblo Res. (BKP †; 2005-105; 7-0).

White Ibis – *Eudocimus albus* (5/4). An adult was at Rock Canyon, Pueblo, on 25 May 2004 (BKP; 2004-123; 6-1).

Red-shouldered Hawk – *Buteo lineatus* (17/6). Establishing the third record for Yuma, an adult was at Bonny Res. on 4 Sep 2005 (LS; 2005-85; 7-0).

Piping Plover – *Charadrius melodus*. A juvenile was at Chatfield Res. on 9 Aug 2001 (AS †, JBH; 2001-203; 7-0). This is the first record for Douglas.

Snowy Plover – *Charadrius alexandrinus*. Early was the adult Snowy Plover at Lake Cheraw, Otero, on 2 Apr 2005 (BKP †, KL; 2005-16; 7-0).

Red Knot – *Calidris canutus* (23/8). Providing the first record for Logan, two definitive basic-plumaged birds were at Jumbo Res. on 13 Sep 2004 (RS †; 2004-128; 7-0). Another definitive basic-plumaged bird was at Lake Meredith, Crowley, on 17 Sep 2005 (AS †; 2005-95; 7-0).

Least Sandpiper – *Calidris minutilla*. Record late was the basic-plumaged Least Sandpiper along the Arkansas River near Valco Ponds, Pueblo, from 2-9 Dec 2005 (BKP †; 2005-130; 6-1).

Red Phalarope – *Phalaropus fulicarius* (34/17). The CBRC accepted four additional records of Red Phalarope during this circulation, all from

2005. An adult molting into basic plumage was at Prewitt Res., Washington, on 4 Sep of that year (BSc †; KL, BM; 2005-86; 7-0). A basic-plumaged adult was at Chatfield Res., Douglas and Jefferson, on 9 Oct (AS; 2005-104; 7-0). A 1st-cycle bird was at Boulder Res., Boulder, on 12 Oct (BSc †; 2005-108; 7-0). Surprisingly, this is the first accepted record of the species from Boulder. A bird molting from juvenal to basic plumage was at Fruitgrowers Res., Delta, on 14 Oct (AS †; NP; 2005-110; 7-0), a first record for that county.

Long-tailed Jaeger – *Stercorarius longicaudus* (12/5). Four new Long-tailed Jaeger records were recently accepted, including first county records for Larimer, Pueblo, and Washington. On 9 Sep 2004, a juvenile was at Fossil Creek Res. (RHo †, LG, RHa, CWi; 2004-129; 6-1). A dark-morph juvenile was at Prewitt Res., Washington, from 5-15 Sep 2005 and was enjoyed by many (LG, TL, RLi, JR; 2005-89; 7-0). A light-morph juvenile was at Lake Beckwith in Colorado City, Pueblo, on 13 Sep 2005 (DS; 2005-92; 7-0). Lastly, another juvenile, a light-morph, was at Prewitt Res. on 19 Sep 2005, where seen in both Washington and Logan (AS; 2005-97; 7-0).

Laughing Gull – *Larus atricilla* (32/15). A 2nd-cycle bird was at Metro Lake in Colorado City on 11 Jul 2005 (DS; 2005-74; 6-1). Chatfield Res. hosted a 1st-cycle bird seen in both Douglas and Jefferson on 9 Oct 2005 (AS †, SS; 2005-107; 7-0); this is the first record of the species for Douglas. Another 2nd-cycle bird was at Swede

and Duck Lakes, *Larimer*, on 31 Aug 2005 (CW†; 2005-82; 7-0).

Little Gull – *Larus minutus* (24/11). A definitive basic-plumaged bird was documented at Pueblo Res. on 19 Nov 2004 (BSc †, BKP; 2004-131; 7-0). Apparently the gull was present at that location from at least 17-24 Nov, although the Committee received no details on that length of stay.

Mew Gull – *Larus canus* (33/22). Six additional Mew Gulls were accepted during the past circulation, all in definitive basic plumage. One was at Chatfield Res., *Douglas* and *Jefferson*, on 23 Nov 2001 (AS, GW; 2001-204; 6-1) and represented the first record for *Douglas*. Another was at City Park (Sheldon Lake) in Fort Collins on 31 Dec 2004 (KK †, NK †; 2004-138; 7-0), surprisingly a first confirmed record for heavily birded and gull-filled *Larimer*. A third bird was seen on 11 Nov 2005 at a pond near historic Strauss Cabin in Fort Collins (NK †; 2005-117; 7-0). Pueblo Res. and the Arkansas River immediately downstream hosted one on 10 Feb 2005 (BKP †; 2005-122; 7-0), and Pueblo Res. was the winter home of another Mew Gull documented between 13 Nov 2005 and 2 Mar 2006 (BKP †; 2005-156; 7-0). Lastly, one was at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, on 12 Dec 2005 (GW †; 2005-138; 7-0).

Iceland Gull – *Larus glaucoides* (3/3). A 1st cycle bird was at Pueblo Res. on 18 Mar 2000 (TL, BP; 2006-177; 7-0).

Least Tern – *Sterna antillarum*. Establishing a first record for *La Plata*, a Least Tern was at Pastorius Res. on 5 Apr 2005 (JB†; 2005-31; 7-0).

Ancient Murrelet – *Synthliboramphus antiquus* (6/2). Providing the sixth record for the state and conforming to the developed pattern of occurrence in Colorado, one was found helpless on a residential street in Fort Collins on 13 Nov 2005 (NK †, SS; 2005-154; 7-0). Unfortunately, the bird perished during the evening. The specimen will be preserved at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. All Ancient Murrelet records for Colorado have been during the period 14 Oct – 5 Dec.

Inca Dove – *Columbina inca*. An adult was at Fort Collins on 9 Oct



Mew Gull, Rock Canyon, Pueblo County, 18 February 2005. Photo by Brandon Percival



Ancient Murrelet, Ft. Collins, Larimer County, November 2005. Photo by Nick Komar

2005 (NK †, TE; 2005-106; 7-0). This is the third record for Larimer.

Broad-billed Hummingbird – *Cyananthus latirostris* (3/3). An adult male



Broad-billed Hummingbird, Holliday residence, Colorado Springs, El Paso County, 16 April 2006. Photo by Fred Engleman

graced the feeders of Richard and Marilyn Holliday in Colorado Springs, El Paso, where documented on 13 Apr 2006 (FE †, R&MH; 2006-30; 7-0). When the bird was captured, it was noticed that the bird was already banded! It had been banded in New Iberia, Louisiana in Dec 2005, a distance between banding and recapture points of 965 miles. This is the second Louisiana-banded

Broad-billed Hummingbird encountered in Colorado, the first being a female at Clifton, Mesa in 2002.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

– *Archilochus colubris* (9/8). Southeastern Colorado continues to provide evidence that Ruby-throated Hummingbird is a rare but regular autumn migrant through that portion of the state. The Committee recently accepted a record of an immature male present 5 miles south of Lamar, Prowers, between 3 and 10 Oct 2005 (JS †, AS †; 2005-102; 7-0).

Costa's Hummingbird – *Calypte costae* (4/4). An adult



Costa's Hummingbird, Clifton, Mesa County, 7 December 2004. Photo by Rachel Hopper

female came to a feeder in Clifton, where documented from 7-9 Dec 2004 (PG, RH †, RLi; 2004-136; 7-0). Although the bird was banded during its stay, which apparently may have been 4 Dec 2004 – 9 Jan 2005, the Committee received no details on that length of stay. All records of this species have been since 2001.

Red-bellied Woodpecker – *Melanerpes carolinus*. Westward was the female present at Crow Valley Campground, Weld, 1-6 May 2006 (RH †, LS †, DAL; 2006-44; 7-0).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – *Contopus cooperi*. Potentially establishing the earliest spring record for the state, Boyce saw and heard an Olive-sided Flycatcher near Ridgway, Ouray on 16 Apr 2005 (AB; 2005-20; 7-0).

Alder Flycatcher - *Empidonax*

alnorum (16/7). One near Genoa on 5 May 2004 (TL †; 2004-124; 6-1) is the first for Lincoln and the earliest spring record for Colorado by 14 days.

Black Phoebe – *Sayornis nigricans*. One was along Carrizo Creek near Cottonwood Canyon, Baca, on 17 Apr 2006 (BGi †, AM; 2006-35; 7-0).

Vermilion Flycatcher – *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (26/12). An adult female sallied below Two Buttes Res., Baca, on 22 Apr 2005 (BKP †; 2005-27; 7-0).

Brown-crested Flycatcher – *Myiarchus tyrannulus* (1/1). Establishing the first record for Colo-

rado, Leatherman photographed a Brown-crested Flycatcher at Crow Valley Campground on 29 Oct 2007 (DAL †; 2007-76; 7-0). Excellently documented, the bird was distinguished from Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) by its deeper bill, contrast between gray sides of head and the brown crown, brown-gray mantle, lighter gray breast, and the extent, sharpness, and brightness of the white edging on its tertials and secondaries. The breeding range of the *magister* subspecies group extends from southern California, extreme southern Nevada and southwestern Utah through Arizona to southwestern New Mexico and from there south through west Mexico (AOU 1998). Since the 1960s, the species has expanded its range westward and



Brown-crested Flycatcher, Crow Valley Campground, Weld County, 29 October 2007. Photo by Dave Leatherman

northward (North American Birds and American Birds data) and has shown a pattern of vagrancy, namely northward in California and east to Alabama.



Gray Vireo, Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso County, 9 May 2003. Photo by Tony Leukering

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – *Tyrannus forficatus* (26/20). Five additional records were accepted, all adult males. One was at Two Buttes Res. on 20 Apr 2005 (AS; 2005-26; 7-0). Another was at Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo*, on 25 Apr 2005 (BGi; 2005-32; 7-0). One at Bear Creek Greenbelt in Lakewood, *Jefferson*, was documented on 3 May 2005 (DF †; 2005-37; 7-0); although apparently present between 30 Apr and 7 May, the CBRC only received details for the single date. A week later, one was seen roughly 7 miles south of Briggsdale, *Weld*, on 14 May 2005 (NK†; CWi; 2005-47; 7-0). Lastly, one was near the intersection of County Road 1 and Road KK along the *Otero* and *Pueblo* line

between 19 and 28 Sep 2006 (BGI †, BM †, BKP †; 2006-134; 7-0).

Gray Vireo – *Vireo vicinior*. Providing a first record for *El Paso*, a wandering Gray Vireo was nicely photographed at Chico Basin Ranch on 9 May 2003 (TL †, JBn; 2003-26; 7-0).

Blue-headed Vireo – *Vireo solitarius* (10/9). The majority of Committee members approved the record of a Blue-headed Vireo wonderfully photographed at Crow Valley Campground on 1 Sep 2003 (TL †, GM; 2003-114; 6-1). Though no documentation was presented to the CBRC, the bird was apparently detected at that lo-

cation the day prior. This record is a first for *Weld* and the earliest fall date for Colorado. Separation between Blue-headed and Cassin's Vireos is difficult under field conditions and assessment of records of the former is vexing even with detailed descriptions and photographs. Acceptance of Blue-headed Vireos requires careful analysis of throat/auricular demarcation contrast, contrast between the blue-gray head and green mantle, brightness of the yellow flanks, and width of white on the outer rectrices, although the latter characteristic is extremely difficult to resolve when the bird is not in hand.

Philadelphia Vireo – *Vireo philadelphicus* (29/15). An adult was at Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo*, on 18 May 2005, (BGi, BKP, MPe; 2005-54; 7-0) and a basic-plumaged bird was at Bonny Res. on 4 Sep 2005 (LS; 2005-87; 7-0).

Wood Thrush – *Hylocichla mustelina* (25/13). The first for *El Paso*, a 1st-basic bird was banded at Chico Basin Ranch on 4 Oct 2002 (NG, TL †; 2002-183; 7-0).

Varied Thrush – *Ixoreus naevius* (24/14). A female was at Pueblo City Park on 3 Jan 2003 (AS †; 2003-133; 7-0).

Sprague's Pipit – *Anthus spragueii* (8/4). Apparently

now annual in small numbers at this location, one was flushed from a short grass ridge near Hale, *Yuma*, on 2 Oct 2005 (AS †, GW †; 2005-8; 7-0).

Lucy's Warbler – *Vermivora luciae* (6/4). Seemingly regular now, two males were again observed along Yellowjacket Creek, *Montezuma*, on 30 Apr 2005 (JB; 2005-35; 7-0).

Northern Parula – *Parula americana*. Extremely late and far west was the female-type bird seen in *Paonia, Delta*, on 26 Nov 2005 (GH; 2005-129; 7-0).

Yellow-throated Warbler – *Dendroica dominica* (30/12). Two additional Yellow-throated Warbler records were recently accepted. A male of the westernmost race *dominica* was nicely photographed at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 14 May 2004 (TL †, NG; 2004-122; 7-0); apparently the bird was first detected the day prior, but unfortunately no details were provided for that date. Another male was at



Blue-headed Vireo, Crow Valley Campground, Weld County, 1 September 2003. Photo by Tony Leukering

the same location on 25 Apr 2005 (BGi; 2005-30; 7-0).

Pine Warbler – *Dendroica pinus* (26/12). A basic-plumaged female at Flagler on 5 Nov 2004 (TL †, MPe; 2004-130; 7-0) is the first for Kit Carson. An adult male was



Pine Warbler, Bonny State Park, Yuma County, 6 August 2005. Photos by Tony Leukering

at Pueblo on 3 Dec 2005 (BKP, MPe, BS; 2005-133; 7-0). A surprising find was a juvenile molting into 1st-basic plumage photographed at Bonny Res. on the very early fall date of 6 Aug 2005 (TL †; 2005-80; 7-0). Considering that it still retained extensive juvenal plumage, one wonders where it was hatched. Establishing a first record for *Arapahoe*, a 1st-basic-plumaged female was at Cherry Creek State Park on 15 Sep 2005 (AS †, JR; 2005-94; 7-0).

Prairie Warbler – *Dendroica discolor* (26/15). Two were recently accepted, both males. One was at Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso, on 8 May 2005 (BGi, BSc †; 2005-36; 7-0), while another was at Golden, Jefferson on 14 May of that same year (IB; 2005-46; 6-1).

Bay-breasted Warbler – *Dendroica castanea* (36/9). An adult female was banded at Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso, on 5 May 2005 (BGi, RH, BSc †; 2005-155; 7-0).

Northern Waterthrush – *Seiurus*

noveboracensis. Extremely late was the adult Northern Waterthrush present 17-18 Dec 2005 in Fort Collins (DE, RHo †, CWi; 2005-141; 7-0).

Kentucky Warbler – *Oporornis formosus* (32/13). Providing a first for *Kiowa*, an alternate-plumaged male was at NeeNoshe Res. on 11 May 2001 (AS; 2001-201; 7-0).

Mourning Warbler – *Oporornis philadelphia* (22/10). Two records of male Mourning Warblers were accepted, both from Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo. One was present on 19 May 2001 (TL, TS; 2001-202; 7-0) and the other was seen on 15 May 2005 (PG, BGi, RLi; 2005-49; 7-0).

Canada Warbler – *Wilsonia canadensis* (28/10). A 1st-basic male was banded at Barr Lake, Adams, on 3 Sep 2001 (AS †, CLW; 2001-198; 7-0).

Painted Redstart – *Myioborus pictus* (4/1). Exciting was the discovery of an adult about 9 miles northwest of Newcastle, Garfield, where present 16-18 Nov 2005 (FE, AS †, GW

†; 2005-120; 7-0). This is the first confirmed record of Painted Redstart in the state since 1974.

Hepatic Tanager – *Piranga flava* (20/5). A male at Chico Basin Ranch on 11 May 2002 (TL †, MH; 2002-104; 7-0) was the first for *El Paso*.

Summer Tanager – *Piranga rubra*. Summer Tanagers are rare in southwestern Colorado, but the adult female present near Ridgway, *Ouray*, on 11 Aug 2004 provides evidence of occasional presence of the species within that area (JBy; 2004-127; 6-1).

Scarlet Tanager – *Piranga olivacea* (28/15). An adult female at Crow Valley Campground on 11 May 2004 (BGU †; 2004-121; 7-0) is the first record for heavily birded *Weld*.

Fox Sparrow – *Passerella iliaca iliaca/zaboria*. An adult “Red” Fox Sparrow was documented at Belmar Park in Lakewood on 23 Apr 2004, although it was apparently found the previous day (DF, MC; 2004-120; 7-0).

Northern Cardinal - *Cardinalis cardinalis*. Far westward, and a first for *Chaffee*, was a female photographed in *Salida* on 21 Jun 2005 (NV †; 2005-70; 7-0).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – *Pheucticus ludovicianus*. Very early was the alternate-plumaged male at *Paonia*,



Painted Redstart, New Castle, Garfield County, 18 November 2005. Photo by Glenn Walbek

Delta, on 11 Apr 2005 (JBn †; 2005-17; 7-0).



Hepatic Tanager, Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso County, 12 May 2002. Photo by Tony Leukering



Streak-backed Oriole, Kogler residence, Larimer County, 9 December 2007. Photo by Bill Schmoker

Painted Bunting – *Passerina ciris* (28/16). A beautiful male graced the feeders of Harry Price in Erie, *Boulder*, where first found on 6 May 2005. The only documentation date, however, was for 9 May (BSc †, DF, HP; 2005-42; 7-0).

Streak-backed Oriole – *Icterus pustulatus* (1/1). Colorado's first Streak-backed Oriole, an apparent adult female, graced the feeders of the Kogler home near Boedecker Res. in Loveland, where present between 8 Dec 2007 and 2 Jan 2008 (CK †, PG, GG †, TL †, BKP, NP, AS †, AK; 2007-103; 7-0). Streak-backed Orioles normally range from northern Sonora and western Chihuahua in Mexico south along the Pacific Slope to extreme northwestern Costa Rica (Jaramillo and Burke 1999). Seven subspecies have been identified and all specimens examined in the U.S. attribute to *microstictus*, the western

Mexico race (Phillips 1995), of which the Colorado bird also appeared to be. Vagrancy patterns are established for the species. It is virtually annual in winter in southern Arizona and has bred in that state (Corman and Monson 1995). California currently has 7 records, most of which are from fall/winter (Hamilton et al. 2007). Other examples of out-of-range movements include one record from Ore-

gon, a record from north-central New Mexico (Hamilton et al. 2007), and a record from near Houston, Texas from December into April (Texas Bird Records Committee 2005). More remarkably, one attempted to winter at a northern Wisconsin feeder before it succumbed (Schultz 1999). Thus the appearance of a Streak-backed Oriole in winter in Colorado conforms to the somewhat developed pattern of winter vagrancy of the species.

Scott's Oriole – *Icterus parisorum*. The CBRC accepted three records of Scott's Oriole from east of usual, all adult males. These included one at Genesee, *Jefferson*, on 13 May 2002 (AS †; 2002-177; 7-0); one on 3-4 May 2005 at Boulder, *Boulder* (MB†, TL †; NP, BSc †, GK, MS; 2005-38; 7-0), a first for that county; and another on 18 May 2005 near Texas Creek, *Fremont* (NP, AB; 2005-53; 7-0).

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

The Committee recognizes that its decisions may upset some observers. We heartily acknowledge that those who make the effort to submit documentation certainly care whether or not their reports are accepted. However, non-accepted records do not necessarily suggest that the birder misidentified or did not see the species. A non-accepted record only indicates that the documentation was not complete or convincing enough to catalogue on the list of confirmed bird records for the state. Non-accepted reports may provide evidence that does not mention certain requisite field marks or indicates that the conditions of the observation did not permit the proper study of all necessary traits. All non-accepted records are archived at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. We summarize below why the following reports were not accepted.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) – The report of a juvenile at Banner Lakes State Wildlife Area, Weld, on 19 Jul 2005 gained little Committee endorsement (2005-75, 1-6). The bird was only observed in flight and those key identification points necessary to make a valid conclusion in separating juvenile night-herons were not indicated. No information was presented as to bill color and shape, presence of a gray loreal area, shape and degree of white spotting on upperparts, or length of legs.

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*). The description of a 1st-cycle gull at Cherry Creek Res. from 26 Feb 2002 was considered inadequate to support the record (2002-129, 3-4). Separation from various hybrid possibilities was not provided and Thayer's Gull was not truly eliminated.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) – Although probably correct in identification, the report of a bird at Lamar Community College, Prowers, on 27 Oct 2005 was insufficient to establish its identity (2005-111; 2-5). Descriptions of the bird's overall color being yellow and of its having a bill thicker than a Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) are inconsistent with a Varied Thrush.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) – A male reported from Fort Collins on 8 Aug 2005 was most likely correctly identified, but received little Committee support, as no description of the bird was provided (2005-81, 2-5).

Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) – A report of 75 Common Redpolls from Connected Lakes State Park in Grand Junction, Mesa, on 11 Dec 2004 gained no Committee endorsement (2004-137; 0-7). The report was mainly of heard-only birds and the observer acknowledged little experience with redpoll flight calls. Description of those flight calls was not satisfactory to the Committee; nor was the number of birds in the flock, in a year in which few redpolls were reported in the state.

REPORTERS AND CITED OBSERVERS

The CBRC graciously thanks the following individuals for submitting records of rare species in Colorado that prompted this circulation: JBn: Jason Beason; JBy: Jim Beatty; CB: Charles Bell; AB: Andrew Boyce; IB: Inga Brennan; MC: Mark Chavez; LE: Lisa Edwards; DF: Doug Faulkner; TF: Tom France; PG: Peter Gent, BGi: Brian Gibbons;

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Cañon City: CFO Convention 2008

SeEtta Moss

Those who come to the 2008 CFO Convention in Cañon City will find not only great birding, but many other attractions that provide entertainment for non-birding spouses or for future trips. I suspect that most CFO members are aware that Cañon City is home to a number of prisons. In fact, there are 6 state prisons in Cañon City and a large federal prison complex just south of Florence. Tours are no longer available, but the tall stone walls of the old territorial prison, known as "Old Max," still stand guard at the west entrance to town and are viewable from Highway 50.

Cañon City is also well known for the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park. The bridge spans the Arkansas River west of town and the site is now a theme park with a requisite thrill ride all-day fee. Additionally, there is a tourist train that carries its passengers through the Royal Gorge. The area is also known for its whitewater rafting and kayaking. In fact, the Arkansas River between Cañon City and Buena Vista is the most rafted river in the United States. The river also draws many fly fishing enthusiasts who travel upriver following the well-known caddis fly hatch each spring.

Less well known are the world-class dinosaur digs located in the Garden Park area only a few miles north of town on Red Canyon Road. Farther north on Red Canyon Road is an area well known to rock climbing enthusiasts, the Shelf Road climbing area, which draws climbers from around the United States as well as from other countries.

A locally known attraction is Skyline Drive. A one-way road built by early prison inmates, it traverses a formation known as the hogbacks, which is only a few inches wider than the road in places. With sheer drops on both sides of the road in places, this drive is not only spectacular but breathtaking, especially when you drive up the crest of a hill whose other side is not visible. As there are no fees here, it is truly a cheap thrill. Others might enjoy the antique stores located around the area, while history buffs may find the many historic buildings located in downtown Cañon City of interest.

Only a few hundred feet west of the Quality Inn, where the 2008 CFO Convention is headquartered, are the grounds of the Holy Cross Abbey. Though the monks are gone and the Abbey is for sale, the beautiful Abbey Monastery is still open to visitors. Most of the grounds are also still accessible to the public and from fall to winter birders check the pines on the west side of the grounds for Yellow-bel-

lied and Williamson's Sapsuckers. Several years ago a Yellow-throated Warbler foraged for over a month at the sap wells in these pines.

Those staying at the **Quality Inn** will have a complimentary breakfast buffet that is quite substantial, with scrambled eggs, cereals, pastries and make-your-own waffles. Though it normally is available from 6:00 a.m. to



City Buffet, Cañon City

10:30 a.m., CFO has made arrangements for an early opening at 5:00 a.m. during the convention. Those staying at other hotels can pay to eat at the buffet. Otherwise one can get early breakfast at Denny's, which is open 24/7, and at the Village Inn, located a few miles east on Highway 50, which is open 24 hours on Friday and Saturday nights.

The Quality Inn does not have a dining room but serves dinner and a limited lunch menu in the bar. However, there are a number of restaurants around town that provide a wide variety of food choices, including a number of chain restaurants that I won't describe. Just a few minutes' walk to the east of the Quality Inn is the **City Buffet**, which advertises over a hundred selections of Chinese, Japanese, and American dishes. For those who enjoy king crab legs, this is the best deal in town. Though there are times when snow crab is substituted, and occasions when availability keeps them off the menu, steamed king crab legs are served at dinner on Friday and Saturday and all day on Sunday. And the price per person is only \$9.99 (\$8.99 for those of us over 60)—compare that price to the one at Merlino's, below. They have boiled shrimp on ice, a limited selection of sushi, many Chinese dishes, a good selection of salads, bowls of fruit, and several dessert selections. Their lunch menu excludes the shrimp and crab, but costs less. And for the adventurous they always have a container with tiny octopuses that are very, very hot. They open at 11:00 a.m. daily, and are open until 9:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 9:00 p.m. on other days. I like to eat here and I especially enjoy the steamed crab legs.

Located a little farther east is **Coyote's Coffee Den**, which is accessed by turning into the Creekside Shopping Center on the south side of Highway 50 at Justice Center Road. They are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, although the drive-through opens at 6:00 a.m. daily. This is not just a great place to get coffee, espresso, and other non-alcoholic beverages—they also serve breakfast items as well as both hot and cold sandwiches, soup, salads, and desserts. And they offer beer including some microbrews, wine, and other alcoholic beverages as well. They have free Wi-Fi internet. Also in the Creekside Shopping Center is **Torero's Mexican Restaurant**. Open daily from 11:00 a.m., they offer a wide variety of Mexican and a few American dishes. I like their chicken fajitas (\$11.50) and also their avocado tostado (one, for \$6.95, is a plate-full). They offer a full bar including several Mexican beers and several flavors of margaritas.

Another place to get espresso drinks is **Cañon Coffee Café**. Open from 6:00 a.m. Monday to Friday and 7:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, they offer a full breakfast menu including Belgian waffles served with eggs and meat for \$5.95. They offer a variety of sandwiches, salads, and soups for \$5.50 to \$7.25. Located at 1520 Royal Gorge Boulevard (the name of Highway 50 through town), they are located in a small shopping center on the south side of Highway 50 across from Safe-way. They also offer free Wi-Fi internet.

On the west side of Cañon City at 231 Main Street, which is just one block north of Highway 50, is **DiRito's Italian Cuisine**. They are open 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Owned and run by a local Italian family, they offer a good selection of Italian food. I like their steaks, which are reasonably priced from \$12.50 to \$17.75. They offer a full bar including several beers on tap.

We have one brew pub in town, **McClellan's Grill and Brewing Co.** Located in the heart of historic downtown Cañon City at 413 Main Street, they are open from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to midnight on Sunday. They have a nice selection of sandwiches from \$6.95 to \$9.50 that includes a choice of sides. Their "Celtic Fayre" includes such classics as corned beef and vegetables. I recently had their wild-caught salmon filet, which comes with a vegetable and a choice of potato for \$12.95. Also offered are Irish sausages simmered in ale, fish or shrimp & chips, shepherd's pie, Gaelic steak, roasted Cornish game hen, and a vegetable nut loaf, all from \$7.95 to \$16.95. They offer a variety of locally brewed beers, ales, stouts, and porters, as well as bottled beers.

One block east of McClellan's is **Pizza Madness**, a local restaurant serving pizza, salads, sandwiches, and spaghetti. They offer beer

by the glass or pitcher in a family atmosphere. Their mini-pizzas run from \$5.75 to \$7.00 depending on toppings, while sandwiches are about \$6.00.

On the south side of Cañon City is **Merlino's Belvedere**, a very well-known Italian restaurant. Located at 1330 Elm Street, this long-time restaurant specializes in Italian food and steak. I like their rigatoni with marinara sauce, just over \$14.00 for a full order. They are open daily for lunch and dinner. Their entrees range from about \$12 to \$35 (for filet mignon or king crab legs).

For quick Mexican food, a local favorite is **Alfonso's**, which is located inside the "In & Out Conoco" on the corner of Reynolds Avenue and East Main Street (one block south of Highway 50, just a few blocks west of the Quality Inn). They have a few tables where you can eat in, or you can order to go; they have a drive-up window. Open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily, they offer a wide variety of Mexican food from breakfast burritos (most just \$3.75) to combination plates (from \$6.49 to \$7.99).

I have to mention the hamburgers and beer that some birders favor at the **Owl Cigar Store**, located at 626 Main Street. This is an old-timey bar with a typical bar grill and atmosphere. American food



McClellan's, Cañon City. Photos by SeEtta Moss



is available at **Big Daddy's Diner**, located inside Hank's Travel Plaza at 420 Royal Gorge Boulevard (a.k.a. Highway 50). Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, they offer specials on classics such as fried chicken. A local drive-in, **Big Burger World**, is located at 1205 S. 9th Street. They offer burgers and other fast food as well as some good BBQ. There are a number of other food establishments that are listed in the yellow pages.

For those who enjoy local wines, the **Winery at the Holy Cross Abbey** is located on the Abbey grounds. They purchase grapes grown by locals. Open 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays, they offer a variety of locally produced wines.

If you have any questions, just shoot me an email.

SeEtta Moss, SeEtta@msn.com



Red-shafted Flicker by Joe Rigli

Fall 2007 (August - November)

Peter R. Gent

Colorado had a warm fall in 2007. August was the second warmest in the Denver region since records were first taken in 1872. The monthly average temperature at Denver International Airport was 75.4° F, which is 3.7° F above normal. The September average temperature was 2.7° F above normal, and October and November were also warmer than normal. The precipitation in Denver during the fall was 6.53 inches, which is 1.6 inches above normal. This was due to a very wet October when the rainfall was 3.03 inches, which is 2.04 inches above normal, and a wet September when the rainfall was 2.76 inches, which is 0.94 inches above normal. For the calendar year 2007, precipitation in Denver through November was 13.4 inches, which is 1.78 inches below normal.

A number of very rare species were seen in Colorado this fall. Top of the list must be the Brown-crested Flycatcher that was photographed at Crow Valley Campground on 9 October by David Leatherman. There are no previous records of this species in Colorado. Three birds that may have been juvenile White Ibises were seen at Cherry Creek Res in September. There were two reports of Ross's Gull, at John Martin Res and at Lagerman Res north of Boulder, both in October. There is only one previous record, which was of an immature seen at Jumbo Res in the spring of 1983. An apparent Pacific-slope Flycatcher was banded at Lykins Gulch in north Boulder County on 20 September. There is one previous report, which was of an individual banded at Barr Lake in September 2006, though the species has not yet been accepted to the state list by the CBRC. A male Connecticut Warbler was seen in Craig in September; there are only a handful of previous records, and this is the first report from Colorado's West Slope. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was observed briefly but well at the Fox Ranch in Yuma County on 6 October. There are only three previous records; the last was from Cherry Creek Res in October 1982.

Other rare species reported during the fall included a Black Brant at Boulder Res, a Eurasian Wigeon at Pueblo Res, a Yellow-billed Loon at MacFarland Lake in North Park, a possible Reddish Egret in Lafayette, a Common Black-Hawk again just east of Cañon City, a Harris's Hawk north of Aguilar, a Laughing Gull at Jumbo Res, a Magnificent Hummingbird in Crystal, three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Niwot and the Lamar area, a Philadelphia Vireo south of Lamar, Sprague's Pipits near Bonny Res and at Ramah SWA, a

Scarlet Tanager south of Lamar, and two Le Conte's Sparrows and an Eastern Meadowlark at the Fox Ranch in Yuma County.

Two other interesting things are worth noting this fall. The first is the several very rare warblers seen at Loudy-Simpson Park in Craig, which included Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, and Hooded Warbler, in addition to the already noted Connecticut Warbler and a Red-eyed Vireo. The second is that several mountain species spilled out onto the Eastern Plains of Colorado in large numbers. This included Mountain Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Pine Siskin, as well as small numbers of Clark's Nutcrackers and Evening Grosbeaks.

Thanks to everyone who sent in their sightings, and to all the people who collected the postings off COBirds and elsewhere.

Note 1: The reports contained herein are largely unchecked, and the report editor does not necessarily vouch for their authenticity. Underlined species are those for which the Colorado Bird Records Committee requests documentation. You should now submit your sightings through the CFO web site at <http://www.cfo-link.org/CBRC/login.php5>. 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 form).

Note 2: The name of the county is listed in *italics* only the **first** time each location is mentioned in the report. County names are usually not mentioned in subsequent records except to specify the placement of birds within sites that lie within multiple counties.

Abbreviations: CR: County Road; doc: documentation submitted to the CBRC; m.ob.: multiple observers; Res: Reservoir; SP: State Park; SWA: State Wildlife Area.

Greater White-fronted Goose:

A large flock for the West Slope was 13 birds seen at Crystal Springs Lake near Carbondale, *Garfield*, on 21 and 22 Oct (BJ, VZ, TM), which is a first county record.

Ross's Goose: All the reports were from the Eastern Plains, with very large numbers seen in the far east of the state. Twelve birds were seen at Windsor Res, *Weld*, on 16 Nov (ED).

Cackling Goose: West Slope reports were of one in Grand Junction,

Mesa, on 21 Oct (JC), one seen at Cerise Ranch Pond, *Garfield*, on 18 Nov (K&TM, LV), and two seen at Confluence Park, *Delta*, on 25 Nov (JBs).

Brant: A black-bellied individual was seen at Boulder Res, *Boulder*, on 14 Nov (WS, doc).

Trumpeter Swan: It was a banner year for this species, with 22 birds reported. Very unusual West Slope reports were of one seen at Cerise Ranch Pond on 18 Nov (K&TM,

LV), and one seen at Lake Catamount, Routt, on 27 Nov (TL).

Tundra Swan: Several quite large groups were observed this fall. On the West Slope, two adults and four immatures were seen at Seely Pond in Craig, Moffat, on 3 Nov (FL). A flock of 18 was seen at Chatfield Res (Douglas/Jefferson) on 24 Nov (JK, AS, doc), and three adults and five immatures were seen at Lake Maria, Huerfano, on 28 Nov (DS).

Eurasian Wigeon: A female was seen at Pueblo Res, Pueblo, on 14 Nov (BKP, doc).

Surf Scoter: Another bumper year for this species saw 34 birds reported. At unusual locations were up to three female/immature birds seen at Lake DeWeese, Custer, between 18 and 23 Oct (RLi, RM), a female seen at North Delaney Lake in North Park, Jackson, on 11 Nov (AS), and another female photographed at Lake Avery, Rio Blanco, on 18 and 19 Nov for a new county record (DH, VZ, FL).

White-winged Scoter: It was another good year for this species, with 18 birds reported. At unusual locations were one at Highline Res, Mesa, on 14 Nov (LA, CB, DWr), an adult male at Elkhead Res, Moffat, on 24 Nov (FL, DH, CDo), and a female/immature type at Lake DeWeese on 26 Nov for a first Custer record (RM).

Black Scoter: It was also a very good year for this species, again with



Surf and Black Scoters, Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo County, 27 October. Photo by Brandon Percival

18 birds reported. West Slope reports were of two at Taylor Park Res, Gunnison, on 28 Oct (LA, AR) and a female/immature at Elkhead Res between 17 and 29 Nov (FL, VZ, TL). Also, two were seen at North Delaney Lake on 3 Nov and at Walden Lake, Jackson, on 11 Nov (AS).

Long-tailed Duck: There were 10 birds reported this fall, with only one West Slope report: that of a male seen at Blue Mesa Res, Gunnison, on 26 Nov (JBt).

Red-throated Loon: It was a banner year for this species also, with 10 birds reported. An adult was seen at Cherry Creek Res, Arapahoe, between 6 Oct and 12 Nov, and was joined by a juvenile between 27 Oct and 12 Nov (GW, AH, m.ob.); an adult was seen at Standley Lake, Jefferson, between 2 and 5 Nov (LS, m.ob., doc), another adult was at Union Res, Weld, between 3 and 9 Nov (NP, WS, doc), and one was seen at Pueblo Res on 10 Nov (BKP, doc). One was seen at Spinney Mountain Res, Park, on

12 Nov (MP), an adult and juvenile were seen at Chatfield Res between 16 and 21 Nov (GW, m.ob.), a juvenile was seen at Union Res on 17 Nov (NP, AS, doc), and finally one was again seen at Pueblo Res on 30 Nov (BKP).

Yellow-billed Loon: One was seen at MacFarland Lake in North Park, *Jackson*, on 3 Nov (AS, doc), which if accepted will furnish a new county record.

Red-necked Grebe: There were six reports this fall, with one seen at North Poudre Res #3, *Larimer*, on 21 Oct (AS), one at Pueblo Res between 31 Oct and 24 Nov (BKP, m.ob.), one at Lake Loveland, *Larimer*, on 3 and 4 Nov (NK), one at Cherry Creek Res on 3 Nov (JSc, m.ob.), one at Payne's Siding Res, *Delta*, between 4 and 6 Nov (JBs, m.ob.), and one seen at John Martin Res, *Bent*, on 16 Nov (DN).



Pacific Loon, Cherry Creek Reservoir, Arapahoe County, 19 October 2007. Photo by Glenn Walbek

Reddish Egret: An adult was reported from Greenlee Preserve in Lafayette, *Boulder*, on 8 Sep (TF).

White Ibis: A group of three juvenile birds, possibly of this species, was reported from Cherry Creek Res on 7 Sep (LM).

Common Black-Hawk: Perhaps the same adult as last year was seen in the same place along the Arkansas River just east of Cañon City, *Fremont*, between 29 Sep and 2 Oct (RM, m.ob.).

Harris's Hawk: One was reported north of Aguilar, *Las Animas*, on 15 Oct (SG).

Broad-winged Hawk: Very unusual were two seen at Connected Lakes in Grand Junction on 24 Sep (CB).

Black-bellied Plover: An impressive high count of this species was the 23 seen at Chatfield Res on 8 Oct (JK, m.ob.).

American Golden-Plover: There were 17 birds reported this fall, which is above average. The high count was of four seen at Adobe Creek Res, *Bent*, on 21 Sep (DN).

Piping Plover: Farther north than usual was one seen at Jumbo Res, *Logan*, on 5 Aug (NE, JK).

Black-necked Stilt: A large group in the northern part of the state was the 24 seen at Lower Latham Res, *Weld*, on 7 Aug (BSc, JSc).

Red Knot: There were six reports this fall, which is above average. An adult was seen at John Martin Res on 1 and 2 Aug (DN, m.ob.), a juvenile was at Adobe Creek Res on 2 Aug (CW, NK, doc), one was seen at Orlando Res, *Huerfano*, between 9 and 15 Sep (DS, BKP, doc), one was at Lake Cheraw, *Otero*, on 11 Sep (BM, BKP, doc), one was seen at Jackson Res, *Morgan*, on 21 Sep (JK, NE), and a rather late bird was seen at Jumbo Res on 29 Oct (HA).

Dunlin: An adult was seen at Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, on 23 Aug (NK, MR), one was at Fossil Creek Res, *Larimer*, on 3 Nov (NK), up to four were seen at John Martin Res between 16 and 26 Nov (DN), and one was at Chatfield Res on 18 Nov (AS).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: The only report this fall was of one seen at Adobe Creek Res on 13 and 14 Sep (BM, DE, doc).

Red Phalarope: A juvenile was seen at Cherry Creek Res on 11 Sep (GW, BB, doc), an adult was seen at Boulder Res on 24 Sep (BSc), another was seen at Cherry Creek Res between 6 and 12 Nov (GW, MP, doc), and a very rare mountain record was of one at Twin Lakes, *Lake*, on 20 Oct (M&TK, doc).



Broad-winged Hawk, Lincoln County, 20 September 2007. Photo by Glenn Walbek

Long-tailed Jaeger: An adult was seen at Claymore Lake, *Larimer*, on 28 Aug (KE, doc), and a juvenile was photographed at Boulder Res on 13 Sep (TH, MB, PG, m.ob.).

Laughing Gull: A second-cycle bird was seen at Jumbo Res on 15 Aug (CW, doc).

Mew Gull: A second-cycle bird was seen at Cherry Creek Res on 7 Oct (GW, JK), and a first-cycle bird was seen at Pueblo Res on 12 Nov (BKP).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: At unusual locations for this species were a second-winter bird seen at Ridgway Res, *Ouray*, between 2 and 13 Oct (BW, CDe, m.ob.), which is a new county record, and one seen at Lake Estes, *Larimer*, on 6 and 7 Nov (SRa).

Glaucous Gull: The only sighting was of an adult at Pueblo Res on 17 Nov (BKP, m.ob.).

Great Black-backed Gull: As usual, there was an adult at Pueblo Res between 10 and 30 Nov (BKP, m.ob., doc), and another adult was seen at NeeNoshe Res, *Kiowa*, on 28 Nov (DAL).

Sabine's Gull: A spectacular flight this fall saw about 70 birds reported, with a high count of nine at Boulder Res during the middle of October (BSc, DWa). At unusual locations were a juvenile seen at Vega Res, *Mesa*, on 8 Sep (RLa), one seen at Lake DeWeese on 12 Sep and 12 Oct (RM), and one at Twin Lakes between 7 and 20 Oct (M&TK).

Black-legged Kittiwake: A juvenile was seen at Chatfield Res on 21 Nov (AS, doc), and another was seen at Cherry Creek Res also on 21 Nov (AH).

Ross's Gull: An adult in basic plumage was seen at John Martin Res on 14 Oct (BKP, MP, doc), and perhaps the same individual was seen at Lagerman Res, *Boulder*, on 28 Oct (BSc, doc). Assuming they refer to the same individual, if accepted, this would be the second record of this species in Colorado.

Common Tern: West Slope sightings were of one in Craig between 3 and 26 Sep and two birds on 6 Oct (FL), which is a new county record; four seen at Stagecoach Res, *Routt*, on 26 Sep (VZ); and one seen at Confluence Park between 4 and 9 Oct (JBs, m.ob.).

White-winged Dove: One or two were visiting feeders in Grand Junction from the beginning of the period until 9 Nov (LA, m.ob.), and one

was seen in Cortez, *Montezuma*, on 12 Nov (*fide* CDe).

Inca Dove: At unusual locations were one seen on the Fox Ranch, *Yuma*, on 1 Sep (TF, AB), one seen in Idalia, *Yuma*, on 7 Oct (BSt, MP), and one seen in Brandon Percival's front yard in Pueblo West, *Pueblo*, on 17 Oct (BKP, doc).

Boreal Owl: An apparent Boreal Owl responded to a tape on the Rock Creek road, *Rio Grande*, on 6 Oct (NP, AS).

Magnificent Hummingbird: One seen during the summer at Crystal, *Gunnison*, stayed until 4 Aug (K&TM, doc).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: An adult male was seen in John Vanderpoel's backyard in Niwot, *Boulder* between 19 and 22 Aug (JV, m.ob., doc), another adult male was seen at the Paulsen's farm north of Lamar, *Prowers* between 19 and 23 Sep (LP), and a female was seen in Lamar between 30 Sep and 3 Oct (JT).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: Very late birds were a juvenile seen just north of Ouray, *Ouray*, until 22 Oct (*fide* SH) and a male seen in Franktown, *Douglas*, between 21 Oct and 1 Nov (KD).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Very rare on the West Slope, one was seen in Grand Junction on 3 Oct (JC).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: One was seen at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, between 13 and 16 Aug (BM, doc), another was also at this location on 24 and 25 Aug (JD, m.ob.), and one was seen at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, on 27 Sep (DAL).

Alder Flycatcher: One was seen

in the *El Paso* part of Chico Basin Ranch between 16 and 24 Aug (BM, JD, m.ob., doc), another was seen in the *Pueblo* part of the ranch on 22 Aug (BM, doc), and one was seen at Kinney SWA, *Lincoln*, on 26 and 27 Aug (MP, LE).

Pacific-slope Flycatcher:

One was banded at the banding station in Lykins Gulch, *Boulder*, on 20 Sep (MB, doc). This is the second report of this species' being banded in Colorado. The CBRC has not yet accepted the first, from last fall.

Black Phoebe: Both adults and a juvenile were again seen in *Salida*, *Chaffee*, between 25 Aug and 7 Sep (RM), and one was seen in *Colorado City*, *Pueblo*, on 15 Sep (DS).

Eastern Phoebe: Birds farther west than usual were two seen in *Colorado City* on 15 Sep (DS).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Well west of their normal range were one seen at *Chatfield Res* on 15 Sep (JK) and another seen at *Colorado City* on 18 Sep (DS).

Brown-crested Flycatcher: One was seen and well photographed at *Crow Valley Campground* on 9 Oct (DAL, doc). This is the first report of this species in Colorado; it has been accepted by the CBRC (see p. 115 of this journal).

Bell's Vireo: A report from well west of its usual range was of one seen at *Pella Crossing* in *Hygiene*, *Boulder*, on 8 Sep (TD).

Yellow-throated Vireo: One was



Philadelphia Vireo, *Prowers County*, 16 September 2007. Photo by Jane Stulp

seen at *Chatfield Res* on 21 Sep (JK, U&HK).

Blue-headed Vireo: One was seen at *Two Buttes Res*, *Baca*, on 2 Sep (PJ), one was at the *Community College* in *Lamar* on 9 Sep (SM), one was seen at *Chico Basin Ranch* on 14 Sep (BM), one was at *Nee-Noshe Res* on 16 Sep (MP, BSt), one was in *Littleton*, *Jefferson*, on 19 Sep (TJ), and finally a very late bird was at *Confluence Park* on 14 Oct (JC, JB), for an extremely rare West Slope record.

Philadelphia Vireo: The only report this fall was of one seen at the *Stulp farm* just south of *Lamar* on 16 Sep (JSt, JT).

Red-eyed Vireo: Unusual West Slope reports were of one seen at *Connected Lakes* in *Grand Junction*

on 2 Sep (LA) and one seen at Loudy-Simpson Park in Craig between 15 and 18 Sep (FL, DH, VZ).

Mountain Chickadee: Large numbers of this species were seen all over the Eastern Plains this fall, along with other mountain species such as Golden-crowned Kinglet and Pine Siskin.

Carolina Wren: Farther west than usual was one seen in Greenwood, Custer, on 21 Aug (RM).

Winter Wren: There were only three reports this fall, which is well below normal. One was seen at Walden Ponds, Boulder, on 6 Aug (PH), one was at Tamarack Ranch SWA, Logan, on 26 Aug (BK, TD), and one was seen at the Last Chance rest stop, Washington, on 2 Oct and 15 Nov (TJ, MP).

Northern Mockingbird: Rather unusual for the location was one seen at Big Gypsum, San Miguel, on 1 and 2 Aug (VZ).

Sprague's Pipit: There were only two reports this fall: three were seen northeast of Bonny Res, Yuma, on 13 Oct (NE, LS, doc), and one was at Ramah SWA, El Paso, on 20 Oct (CL).

Bohemian Waxwing: The prelude to a large winter invasion was a trio of fall reports: one seen at Last Chance between 15 and 17 Nov (GW, AH), one heard in Boulder



Cassin's Vireo, Walbek residence, Douglas County, 13 September 2007. Photo by Glenn Walbek

on 17 Nov (CN), and 42 seen in Steamboat Springs, Routt, on 28 Nov (TL).

Blue-winged Warbler: A juvenile was seen at Loudy-Simpson Park in Craig on 7 Aug (FL), which furnishes a new county record; one was seen at the Hatchett Ranch, Pueblo, on 15 Sep (BBH); and an adult was also at Loudy-Simpson Park between 15 and 17 Sep (FL, DH, VZ).

Northern Parula: An unusual West Slope record was of one seen in Loudy-Simpson Park in Craig on 15 Sep (FL, DH).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: One was seen at Waterton Canyon, Jefferson/Douglas, on 8 Sep (U&HK), a female was at Dixon Res, Larimer, on 10 Sep (RH), another female was seen at Crow Valley Campground on 17 Sep (BG), and a male was seen on the CSU campus in Fort Collins, Larimer, on 18 Sep (AS).



Black-throated Green Warbler, El Paso County, 23 November 2007. Photo by Mark Peterson

Black-throated Green Warbler:

A male was seen at the Thompson Ranch, *Lincoln*, on 28 Sep (MP), a female was seen near Rye, *Pueblo*, on 29 Oct (DS), and another female was seen in Colorado Springs, *El Paso*, on 23 Nov (LF, BM).

Blackburnian Warbler: A first-fall male was seen at Rock Canyon in Pueblo on 9 and 10 Sep (BKP, m.ob., doc), and one was seen at Cherry Creek Res on 14 Sep (MP).

Yellow-throated Warbler: One was seen at Prewitt Res, *Washington*, on 25 Aug (JK).

Pine Warbler: There were ten reports this fall, which is well above average. A male was seen at the Burlington cemetery, *Kit Carson*, 9 Sep (MP), one was at the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, *Jefferson*, on 10 Sep (IS), a male was seen at Dixon Res on 15 Sep (CS), one was at Fort Lyon, *Bent*, on 16 Sep (DN), and a juvenile female was seen at the Wray fish hatch-

ery, *Yuma*, on 18 Sep (DAL). A male was seen at Prewitt Res on 25 Sep (NE), an adult female was also at the Wray fish hatchery on 7 and 8 Oct (BSt, MP, LE), a juvenile female was seen in Lamar on 14 Oct (BKP, MP, doc), one was seen in Lakewood, *Jefferson*, on 14 Nov (MC), and finally a female was again seen at the Denver West Office Park, *Jefferson*, on 30 Nov (KS).

Palm Warbler: One was seen at Dixon Res on 14 Sep (BG), one was seen at Prewitt Res on 15 Sep (PG, BD), one was at the Stulp farm south of Lamar on 11 Oct (JSt), and one was seen in southwest Longmont, *Boulder*, on 16 Oct (SS).

Prothonotary Warbler: A male was seen in Cope, *Washington*, on 13 Oct (LS, JR, m.ob.).

Kentucky Warbler: An immature bird was seen at Dixon Res on 29 Aug (CW).

Connecticut Warbler: The warbler of the season was the adult male seen at Loudy-Simpson Park in Craig between 12 and 15 Sep (FL, DH, doc), which is a first for the West Slope.

Mourning Warbler: An immature female was seen at the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt on 30 Aug (NE), one was seen at Lake Holbrook on 7 Sep (SO), an adult was in Kit Carson, *Cheyenne*, on 8 Sep (MP), and an adult male

was at Waneka Lake, Boulder, also on 8 Sep (TF).

Hooded Warbler:

An unusual West Slope record was of a female seen at Loudy-Simpson Park in Craig between 16 and 21 Sep (FL, DH, VZ).

Scarlet Tanager:

A female was seen at the Stulp farm south of Lamar on 22 Sep (JSt).

Eastern Towhee:

One was seen at the Tamarack Ranch SWA on 26 Aug (BK), and a female was seen at Bonny Res on 13 Oct (NE, JR).

Le Conte's Sparrow: Two were seen at the Fox Ranch on 6 Oct (TF, BSc).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:

One was seen at the Fox Ranch also on 6 Oct (TF, BSc, doc). This is the first Colorado sighting since one appeared at Cherry Creek Res in 1982.

Fox Sparrow: A bird of the mountain race was seen at Standley Lake on 6 Oct (LS, TS, doc), and a "Red" eastern-race bird was at Bonny Res on 13 Oct (LS, TS, doc).

Swamp Sparrow:



Nashville Warbler, Crow Valley Campground, Weld County, 16 September 2007. Photo by Joey Kellner

Only eight birds were reported this fall, which is much fewer than usual. The only slightly unusual location was Lake Beckwith, *Pueblo*, where one was seen between 25 Oct and 13 Nov (DS).

White-throated Sparrow: Unusu-



Magnolia Warbler, Chatfield State Park, Douglas County, 3 September 2007. Photo by Joey Kellner

al West Slope records were of one seen in Silverton, *San Juan*, on 1 Nov (CDe), which is a first county record, and one coming to feeders in Norwood, *San Miguel*, between 23 and 25 Nov (GS), which is also a first county record.

Harris's Sparrow:

Over 20 birds were reported this fall, with a high count of seven at Sand Draw SWA, *Sedgwick*, on 18 Nov (MP, SRu). At an unusual location was a first-year bird seen in Estes Park, *Larimer*, on 23 Nov (SRa).

Snow Bunting: One was seen at Jumbo Res on 12 Nov (LS), and one was at Pueblo Res on 17 Nov (BKP).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: An unusual West Slope report was of a male seen in Fruita, *Mesa*, on 4 and 5 Aug (HS).

Northern Cardinal: Well west of its usual range was a male seen at Chatfield Res on 1 and 2 Aug (JSc).

Eastern Meadowlark: One was seen at the Fox Ranch on 6 Oct (TE, BSc).

Rusty Blackbird: A total of 16 birds was seen this fall, which is above average. The largest group was of six seen at the Nature Center in Pueblo on 30 Nov (BKP, JD).

Black Rosy-Finch: Three were



Townsend's Warbler, Cherry Creek State Park, Arapahoe County, 26 August 2007. Photo by Glenn Walbek

seen on Pinyon Mesa, *Mesa*, on 23 Oct (LA), six were seen at Kenney Res, *Rio Blanco*, on 17 Nov (DH), two were seen in Meeker, *Rio Blanco*, on 18 Nov (FL), and four were seen on Highway 149 four miles south of US 51, *Gunnison*, on 25 Nov (JBt).

Purple Finch: A male was seen in Ovid, *Sedgwick*, on 31 Oct (HA), a second male was seen in Las Animas, *Bent*, on 2 Nov (DN), a third male was seen in Manitou Springs, *El Paso*, between 4 and 14 Nov (JM), and a female was also in Manitou Springs between 10 and 30 Nov (BM, BSt). These sightings presaged a larger winter influx.

Common Redpoll: The only report was of one seen at the KOA Campground feeders in North Park on 3 Nov (AS).

Contributing Observers:

HA: Henry Armknecht; LA: Larry Arnold; JB: Jason Beason; JBt: Jim Beatty; MB: Maggie Boswell; BB: Bob Brown; CB: Carole Brysky; AB: Allan Burns; MC: Mark Chavez; JC: Jacob Cooper; ED: Eric DeFonso; TD: Todd Deininger; CDe: Coen Dexter; BD: Beth Dillon; CDo: Craig Dodson; KD: Kathy Dressel; JD: John Drummond; KE: Ken Ecton; LE: Lisa Edwards; DE: David Elwonger; NE: Norm Erthal; TF: Ted Floyd; LF: Lori Fujimoto; PG: Peter Gent; BG: Brian Gibbons; SG: Susan Gifford; BBH: B B Hahn; PH: Paula Hansley; TH: Thomas Heinrich; AH: Allison Hilf; DH: Dona Hilkey; SH: Sue Hirshman, RH: Rachel Hopper; PJ: Pete Janzen; BJ: Bill Johnson; TJ: Tina Jones; M&TK: Melanie and Tim Kalbach; BK: Bill Kaemper; JK: Joey Kellner; U&HK: Urling and Hugh Kingery; NK: Nick Komar; RL: Ron Lambeth; DAL: David A Leatherman; CL: Cici Lee; RL: Roger Linfield; TL: Tom Litteral; FL: Forrest Luke; BM: Bill Maynard; JM: John Maynard; K&TM: Kay and Tom McConnell; RM: Rich Miller; LM: Larry Modesitt; SM: SeEtta Moss; DN: Duane Nelson; CN: Christian Nunes; SO: Stan Oswald; LP: Linda Paulsen; BKP: Brandon K Percival; MP: Mark Peterson; NP: Nathan Pieplow; SRa: Scott Rashid; MR: Mike Resch; AR: Andrea Robinsong, JR: Joe Roller; SRu: Saraiya Ruano; IS: Ira Sanders; BSc: Bill Schmoker; JSc: Jim Schmoker; KS: Karleen Schofield; LS: Larry Semo; SS: Scott Severs; DS: David Silverman; TS: Tim Smart; AS: Andrew Spencer; GS: George Steele, BSt: Brad Steger; HS: Harriet Stephens; JSt: Jane Stulp; CS: Carol Sullivan; WS: Walter Szeliga; JT: Janeal Thompson; JV: John Vanderpoel; LV: Linda Vidal, GW: Glenn Walbek; DWa: David Waltman; CW: Cole Wild; BW: Brenda Wright; DW: Dave Wright, VZ: Vic Zerbi.

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Glossy Ibis and the identification challenges of hybrid *Plegadis* in Colorado

Tony Leukering

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) has, in the past 20 years or so, become a regular, though still rare, part of Colorado's migrant avifauna. The CBRCL lists 39 accepted records and though the first record was from *Delta* on 27 March 1986, virtually all other records are from the Eastern Plains and all but three (including the above) occurred in the period 11 April - 28 May. Though the rate of accrual of accepted records is at the threshold at which the species may be removed from the state review list (Anonymous 2002), the Colorado Bird Records Committee has not removed it for two reasons. The first is that field identification of Glossy and White-faced (*P. chihi*) ibises is difficult, particularly for birds not in alternate plumage, and continued confusion in that vein certainly seems to me to be a valid cause for retention of the species on the review list. The second is that the advent of apparent hybridization between the two species—including apparent hybrid individuals in Oklahoma (Arterburn and Grzybowski 2003) and apparent mixed breeding pairs in Wyoming (Faulkner 2005)—complicates identification of some alternate-plumaged adults. In fact, hybrid ibis have been reported from Colorado during each of the past four springs, with some of the birds that exhibit mixed characteristics being nicely photographed. I was lucky to find and photograph such a bird near Beebe Draw, *Weld*, on 23 April 2005 and pictures of it (the top two pictures presented on the back cover) provide the basis for this column.

Now that I have seen four apparent first-generation (F1) hybrid *Plegadis* ibises in Colorado (two each in *Weld* and *Boulder* counties), my experience suggests that such birds are easily misidentified as Glossy Ibis, even more so than as White-faced Ibis. This is because they seem to sport more Glossy Ibis-like features, with the blue borders above and below the bare facial skin typical of that species. Such apparent F1 hybrids generally sport the following features:

- bluish upper and lower borders to the facial skin;
- reddish irides that are less bright than typical of White-faced Ibis;
- facial skin that ranges from all violet to a mixture of pinkish, violet, and dark blue;

- leg color more like that of Glossy Ibis, with dull-colored tibiae and tarsi but usually brighter and pinker tibia-tarsal (“ankle”) joints;
- bill coloration two-toned with varying degrees of gray (White-faced) and brown (Glossy).

Pictures, statements, and/or illustrations in other sources (Sibley 2000, Arterburn and Grzybowski 2003, Semo 2007) agree with these conclusions. The most useful aspect of my pictures of the Beebe Draw hybrid (back cover) is that the bird is in company with both Glossy and White-faced ibises, thus enabling direct comparison in which the above features are readily noted.

Whether I (and others) am overlooking White-faced Ibis-like F1 hybrids cannot now be determined, but I certainly cannot discount the possibility, as the genetics of suspected hybrids, particularly as they relate to appearance, have not been addressed. Additionally, backcross hybrids (e.g., the products of pairings between pure birds and F1 hybrids) would probably be more similar in appearance to the pure parent and thus could be considerably harder to detect than are F1 hybrids; indeed, such has been shown to be true of backcross hybrids of Kelp and Herring gulls in Louisiana (Dittman and Cardiff 2005).

In fact, in researching this topic and looking through my own pictures of *Plegadis* ibis, I found pictures of an individual that I had identified through the camera as a White-faced Ibis, but which, scrutiny of the pictures suggests, may be a White-faced-like backcross hybrid. The bottom picture on the back cover shows this individual. Note that the bird exhibits a fairly typical White-faced Ibis facial pattern but that there is a hint of violet in the distal portion of the facial skin, that the eye is not quite as red as is typical for White-faced Ibis, and that the bird’s legs and bill are colored like those of a Glossy Ibis.

The species: Glossy (*Plegadis falcinellus*), White-faced (*P. chihi*), and hybrid ibis.

The context: The warmer months anywhere in Colorado, but especially the Eastern Plains in migration.

The problem: The number of hybrids seems to be increasing, complicating this already-tricky identification.

(See photos on back cover.)

Additional Identification Information

As identification of difficult species is generally best accomplished with as large a suite of characters as possible, quite a few observers have been trying to determine whether there are any features besides face and leg characters that can help separate Glossy and White-faced ibises and their hybrids. One such character that is receiving scrutiny now and that appears to work given good views is the color of the tertials. Marshall Iliff pointed this character out to me a few years back and I have been “test driving” it since. Though it seems to work fairly well for birds in alternate plumage, its usefulness for other plumages appears to be low or non-existent. In alternate plumage, Glossy Ibis have tertials that tend to green and violet, with no bronze aspect, and they are mostly concolorous with most of the rest of the wing, particularly the greater coverts. White-faced Ibis have green tertials, too, but ones with significant bronze aspects that contrast somewhat with the non-bronzy greater coverts. This difference is depicted fairly well in the top picture on the back cover, in which the hybrid ibis sports White-faced Ibis-like tertials. Note that the apparent backcross in the bottom picture does not have any visible bronze aspect to its tertials, a feature that, in combination with the leg pattern, suggests an infusion of Glossy Ibis genes in that bird’s chromosomes.

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Hybrid White-faced x Glossy Ibis, left; and Glossy Ibis, right.
Photographed 23 April 2005 by Tony Leukering at Beebe Draw, Weld County, CO.



Same birds as in above photo, plus two White-faced Ibises. From left to right: Glossy Ibis; White-faced Ibis; White-faced Ibis; hybrid ibis.



Possible backcross hybrid between a White-faced Ibis and a White-faced x Glossy Ibis. *Photographed 12 May 2006 by Tony Leukering at East Reservoir, Jefferson County, CO.*