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C.F.O. JOURNAL* is devoted to the field study of birds in Colorado. Articles and notes of scientific or general interest, and reports of unusual observations are solicited. Send manuscripts with photos and drawings to: Mark Janos, 1 Cactus Drive, La Junta, CO 81050. Send rare bird reports to: CFO Official Records Committee, c/o Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver, CO 80205. Send membership inquiries, renewals, and change of address to Steve Bouricius, 50152 Hwy. 72, Peaceful Valley, Lyons, CO 80540.

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Cover Photograph: Whooping Crane with Sandhills at Hart's Basin, Colorado by William Schuster of Delta.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD
SUMMER 1988 (JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER)

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At the request of the CFO Journal editor, I am making some changes in the format of this section, including its title. The Journal is integrating the Seasonal Bird Reports with this column and so I will expand the coverage to include reports previously found in that section. I urge you to report any birds or bird phenomenon you feel worthy of this space by writing me at the above address or by simply leaving a message after calling the Colorado Bird Report at (303) 423-5582. A very good year for American Robins or Gray Catbirds might not merit the Colorado Bird Report taped message, but is exactly what I need for this article. Of course, continue to send your usual American Birds report to Hugh Kingery. I feel this change is a positive step for the CFO Journal as it gives our members a more timely report of the birds seen in Colorado by presenting what was seen last season, not last year. As the Seasonal Reports have done in the past, I will try to review all correspondence sent to Hugh Kingery for inclusion in American Birds from the state of Colorado and include any pertinent information from those reports in this column. Because of the length of time before I receive this American Birds data, it will usually appear "out of season" and won't always be as timely as information which comes directly to me.

If you observed a bird marked with an asterisk (*) in the text, whether you found the bird or not, please submit a report to the CFO Records Committee, so these reports of rare birds can be closely examined. Send details to the CFO Records Committee, c/o Curator--Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver, CO 80205.

Summer birding in Colorado is always good, but it seemed even better than usual this year. A Common Loon at Sterling Reservoir, found by Kevin Cook, and another which spent July at Lakewood's Bear Creek Greenbelt, found by Jane Axtell, were almost expected, as every year a few nonbreeders seem to prefer our summer to that further north. Phil Hayes noted that ever-increasing Double-crested Cormorants seem to be crowding the Great Blue Herons from their Chatfield heronry. A very exciting Olivaceous

Cormorant(*) was discovered at Neesopah Reservoir in Kiowa County by Mark Janos on July 17 and was seen by many observers through September 24.

At least 8 Great Blue Heron nests were active at Gypsum where Jack Merchant reported two chicks per nest. A single Great Egret was seen at John Martin Dam by Marvin Davis of Oxford, Mississippi on August 17 and three were seen by Ron Ryder on Union Reservoir's northwest corner on September 4. This spot east of Longmont has proven to be a good location in the fall for Great and Snowy Egrets. After several years of watching summering adult Little Blue Herons(*) in Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, Rick Schnaderbeck, Clint Jeske, and Ron Ryder's persistence paid off this summer when they discovered a pair at a nest. The four chicks were later killed by a predator but the nesting gave the state a new breeding bird species. A second pair also nested here, but was never confirmed as having produced young. Two immature Little Blues were seen in mid-August at John Martin Reservoir by Davis, and a single immature was at Barr Lake for a DFO field trip. Cattle Egrets continue to show up in the late summer and fall. Twenty-four were seen by Janos at John Martin Reservoir in mid-July and 62 were at Lower Latham Reservoir on August 28, a sure spot to find both Cattle and Snowy Egrets in the fall. A Green-backed Heron may have nested in Clifton where Coen Dexter saw an adult in late June and an immature on August 8. An immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron(*) was carefully studied by DFO field trip members at Red Lion State Wildlife Area in northeastern Colorado on July 31. Davis found an adult at John Martin on August 11.

Scott Seltman reported an immature Wood Stork that made a brief appearance at Lake Scott, Kansas 60 miles east of the Colorado state line on August 21 and 22. The last Colorado record of this bird was in 1934, when a stork was shot where Stapleton Airport now stands.

The infamous Red-backed Buzzard still has Colorado birders "buzzing." This female mated with a Swainson's Hawk and one of its two chicks survived. Many suggestions and theories have been put forward to guess this bird's wintering area. Is it New Mexico or South America? If it is in New Mexico, then everyone agrees the Buzzard is an escape. If it returns to South America in the fall then few would deny it as the most unusual arrival in the U.S. this century. A plan has been put forward to radio tag this bird next summer (if it returns) and end the controversy. Are there any ideas about how to fund this effort?

Foothills Audubon reported two pair of Ospreys nesting at Shadow Mountain Reservoir early in the season but give no word of success. Fall sightings of this species were down with one report on September 30 by Norm Erthal at Chatfield. The continuing colonization of Mississippi Kites along the Arkansas River apparently reached Pueblo, where Dave Silverman felt they must be nesting after summering for the last several years. The Kites were first found nesting in Lamar some 10 years ago and are now common in every town and windbreak along the Arkansas River from Holly to Pueblo. Where will they go next? A single immature Bald Eagle was seen by Joe TenBrink in Barr Lake's heronry on July 31. Two adults were seen there by Carol Leasure in mid-August with more sightings through September. They were often seen sitting on their nest in the heronry. Bald Eagle nesting attempts have failed at Barr the last three springs due mostly to bad storms during critical times in the nesting cycle. A Cooper's Hawk in Rye all summer was probably nesting, according to Silverman. Foothills Audubon reported one in Lyons, said to be going after chickens. I don't blame it, I like chickens too. Appropriately, Eagle boasted two Golden Eagle nests and Merchant reported the young fledged by early July.

Northern Goshawk reports came this summer from Bob Cohen and Duane Nelson in the Central City area. Dr. Cohen can tell when a Goshawk is near by the distress call of the Tree Swallows, which are the first to notice when a Goshawk is approaching. Another Goshawk was seen in Rocky Mountain National Park by Joe Mammoser. This bird came out of nowhere in response to a Pygmy-Owl call and Joe (who was pretending to be a Pygmy-Owl) managed to escape uneaten. An early Merlin was seen on August 10 at Barr Lake by TenBrink. Also at Barr Lake, Lee and Marilyn Rowe reported an immature Peregrine Falcon which spent August 21-29 there and an adult Peregrine was found at Barr by Boulder Audubon on September 17. At Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge on July 1 Schnaderbeck watched as a Peregrine carried off a duckling.

Shorebirds returned earlier and in greater numbers this year than usual. Joe Himmel found large flocks of both yellowlegs species, with Long-billed Curlew and breeding-plumaged Least and Baird's Sandpipers traveling south through Weld County at the end of June and in early July. The Rows reported that three Black-bellied Plovers visited Barr Lake on August 21-23. This species was reported on the September 11 fall bird count. Probable nesting Snowy Plover were reported by Janos who saw 14 at Neesopah Reservoir on July 8. The DFO reported 6 still there on September 3. Schnaderbeck reported that Black-necked Stilts nesting at

Monte Vista were more successful this year than last and Silverman felt those present at Sugar City in July were also nesting. Other July shorebirds included a solitary Solitary Sandpiper at Prewitt Reservoir found by Kevin Cook on the 6th, and sixty-four Long-billed Curlews which were seen at Neesopah Reservoir by Janos on July 8. Also seen by Janos on the 8th at Neesopah Reservoir were 17 shorebird species including an adult breeding-plumaged hendersoni race of Short-billed Dowitcher(*). Four Sanderlings and three Short-billed Dowitchers were found by Dexter on July 21-24 at Cochetopa Dome Reservoir, 9120 feet in elevation, south of Gunnison! The Rows found three Short-billed Dowitchers on August 7 in southern Weld County's Prospect Valley. Large concentrations of shorebirds were found by Janos on the mudflats of a low John Martin Reservoir on August 13. These included Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitchers, Stilt, Least, and Baird's Sandpipers and Wilson's Phalaropes totaling several thousands. The shorebird of the season, found at Weld County's Prospect Valley, was a full breeding-plumaged female Red Phalarope(*). Found by Joe and Adam Mammoser on August 6, it stayed through the next day. This is a very early date for this species in the state.

Nelson and Janos both commented on what is almost certainly a new nesting site for California Gulls in Colorado: on the island in Blue Lake (also called Adobe Creek Reservoir) located on the Bent-Kiowa County line. This nesting island, first noticed last summer by Nelson, becomes the most southeasterly nesting colony of California Gulls in North America. Also nesting on this island were endangered Least Terns. Mike Carter found 6 adults and 8 young on August 17 as well as Snowy Plover. Is this newly-found wildlife sanctuary afforded any protection? No. The reservoir can be drawn down low for irrigation in summer, connecting the island to the mainland and allowing a feast for predators. Very unusual was a second-year Great Black-Backed Gull(*) seen on September 3 at Neesopah Reservoir by Seltman. Birding's Iron Cross for always being on the alert goes to Patty Echelmeyer. She was driving south on Sheridan Boulevard at dusk on September 22 through Denver's rush hour traffic on the way to her granddaughter's birth. Patty proved she has the right stuff by picking out a Sabine's Gull from the gull swarm over Sloan's Lake without even slowing down. What a Grandma! Baby, mom, grandma, and Sabine's gull are all reported doing well. This gull stayed through September 24. Another Sabine's Gull was found by Bob Righter at Cherry Creek Reservoir on the 23rd and two were spotted here by Steve Stachowiak the next morning. Also on the 24th Derb Carter, visiting from North Carolina, found two more Sabine's Gulls at Chatfield Reservoir, making a grand total of five in Denver on September 24, and a

sixth, which stayed only a few minutes, was found on the 27th by Bob Spencer in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt. Finally, two more Sabine's Gulls were seen by David Silverman near Walsenburg, also on September 24. Common Terns were seen in several spots in the Grand Junction area by Dexter during the last week of September.

A Mourning Dove with just-hatched nestlings were found by Dan Bridges at Fort Morgan on September 18, almost 3 weeks after the start of dove hunting season.

Unusual was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo heard by Bob Spahn at Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge in early July. A Greater Roadrunner was polite enough to move into the Janos' yard in La Junta this summer and a single was seen by the DFO on September 5 at Two Buttes.

Two different Barn-Owl nests were reported in Fort Collins by Ryder and Art Gingert, both in old buildings, and another nest was found in a dirt bank in Colorado Springs State Wildlife Area by breeding bird atlasers. A Barn-Owl was seen on August 20 in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt by Sally Asher. Another was found under the Arkansas River Bridge at Holly on September 3 by the Seltmans and still another was at Walsh on September 4, on a DFO field trip.

Flammulated Owls were found in their usual nesting groves west of Denver and Boulder this summer and Silverman reported them nesting at San Isabel. Two Eastern Screech-Owl nests were found in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, an ideal habitat for this species in Denver. Foothills Audubon found two Eastern Screech-Owl nests in Loveland and another in Longmont with 3 young. Western Screech-Owls were reported by Silverman at Rye and Wetmore. A single Northern Pygmy-Owl was found by Joe Himmel in Rocky Mountain National Park. Several correspondents have expressed concern over Burrowing Owls, with Ryder not finding a single bird in over 20 breeding bird atlas blocks on the Pawnee Grasslands nor elsewhere in excellent habitat! The situation was probably best summed up by Jerry Cairo who said, "This species is still around, but fewer and fewer are seen every year. Could it be having problems on its wintering grounds?" Long-eared Owls nested in Eagle, Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, and on Ute Mountain. The latter was a first for latilong 22. Schnaderbeck reported that Short-eared Owls had a better nesting season than usual at Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge. Others were present this summer at Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge where Bill Howe saw them at dusk, and at McCoy, where the Ewing's heard them almost every night through July. Rob Wilson reported a Short-eared Owl at timberline on Mount Antero that circled his camp three times

at dusk on July 3. Four Boreal Owls in the high country of western Boulder County were a high count and two different Saw-whet Owls in holes north of Divide were a nice find for Roberta Winn.

Black Swifts were seen in July west of Eldora near their Boulder County nest site by Dave Hallock, and at Hanging Lake in Glenwood Canyon where they have nested for at least the last 35 years. Charles Hood found them in Ouray's Box Canyon, a traditional nesting location, in late July. Black Swifts were also found twenty miles southeast of Eagle on July 2 by Righter and 5 were seen from the Georgetown Loop Train by Alan Hay on July 21. Chimney Swifts were seen all summer in older Denver neighborhoods and a flock of 8 was seen by Nelson on the Auraria Campus in Denver on September 28.

Hummingbird migration starts in July and this year yielded a bumper crop. Most mountain feeders had 2 or 3 times as many Rufous as usual and many Calliope Hummingbirds visiting. Nelson reported 20 different Calliope Hummingbirds at his feeder at 7950 feet elevation in Coal Creek Canyon west of Denver. These were seen from July 20 to August 21 and included 4 different adult males and 16 females and immatures. For the 5th year, a male Magnificent Hummingbird() spent the summer at a feeder at Burland Ranchettes, near Pine, Colorado. Jean Maguire and Joe TenBrink found another Magnificent Hummingbird about 10 miles away, near Bailey, while participating in the Breeding Bird Atlas. Are there more Magnificent Hummingbirds hiding in this little-birded area?

A Red-headed Woodpecker in Eagle was a surprise for Merchant. Howe found Red-bellied Woodpeckers nesting along the Platte in Ovid, a part of the state where this species has occurred in the last two years. Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers, a bird almost always reported when found, were widespread and found by numerous observers statewide. Six were found in the Indian Peaks where Hallock attributes their success to the success of the spruce budworm which has killed many Englemann Spruce. Silverman found a pair of Three-toeds with young at San Isabel.

To the delight of many birdwatchers in Denver, a calling Eastern Wood-Pewee(*) was found by Dorthey Horton at Chatfield State Park on August 3 and it stayed until the 19th. A second Eastern Wood-Pewee was heard and then seen on August 21 by Jerry Cairo at Prewitt Reservoir. A singing Least Flycatcher(*) was found by Bill Prather in Lyons on July 3. He found its nest a week later. They successfully fledged their young, making these the first confirmed nesting Least Flycatchers for Colorado. Two

different nesting Ash-throated Flycatcher pairs, found by Merchant, were new latilong breeding records at Eagle. A pair of Great Crested Flycatchers(*) seen feeding four young were found on July 31 at Prewitt Reservoir by Glen and Jean Hageman. This also constitutes a new state nesting record. What seemed to be a Great-crested Flycatcher invasion occurred in late August. One was found in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt from the 24th to the 27th, another was seen by Janos at Fort Lyon on the 28th and one was seen in Boulder the same date by Gerald Dunphy. This species is becoming more common in the Platte Valley where Howe found them widespread in 4 of 6 study areas as far west as Masters. Howe feels that they probably breed regularly along the South Platte, downstream from Masters. Very unusual was a Great-crested reported by Dexter in Fruita on September 25. This is one of only a few records for the west slope. A Cassin's Kingbird found by Dexter on July 21 at 10,000 feet, north of Creede, was seemingly lost.

Two pairs of Purple Martins were nesting on July 7 in the spot on McClure Pass where Vic Zerbi found them several years ago. Rich Levad found a pair on July 10 on the Uncompahgre Plateau where he found them last year.

We seldom hear much about corvids. So it is of note that on August 16 Davis started high in the Wet Mountains and by 3:00 p.m. had seen each of Colorado's 10 corvid species. Quiz: Name all ten corvids in Colorado. No fair cheating.

The first Carolina Wren(*) reported in Colorado in 14 years was found in Holly by the Seltmans. They feel that this species' population explosion in Kansas will continue to spill over into Colorado, barring a bad winter. This individual was seen on September 2 and was still there the 25th. A Bewick's Wren found at Barr Lake on August 29 by Erthal was unusual. A single Sedge Wren(*) found singing in Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge by Howe was still present on July 11. Another singing Sedge Wren was found on August 23 at Jackson Reservoir by Larry Sanders.

A lost Wood Thrush(*) was fireworks for Brenda Cockrell and Joey Kellner on July 4 at Barr Lake. Another put in an appearance for John Prather on the CU Campus on September 28. Conspicuous by their absence this year were Cedar Waxwings. They had previously been found every summer on the North Saint Vrain River, 4 miles upstream from Lyons. Merchant reported 4 in Eagle on July 11. The highest count was of 32 Cedar Waxwings, found by Foothills Audubon. A migrant Philadelphia Vireo(*) was found along Boulder Creek on September 7 by John Prather and another was seen in Wheat Ridge

Greenbelt by Erthal on September 25.

The annual fall warbler spectacular in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt got off to a great start this year with Nelson reporting 17 species in August, including the following: a very secretive Golden-winged Warbler(*) seen August 22-31 by many observers; two Tennessee Warblers seen August 17-25; two Chestnut-sided Warblers seen August 16-31; a Magnolia Warbler seen August 15-26; many Townsend's Warblers seen from August 22-31; a Blackpoll Warbler seen on September 2; several American Redstarts; and perhaps as many as 8 Northern Waterthrush seen from August 15 to September 21. The secret to finding a Waterthrush is to learn its very loud call note and then to patiently look for it when it is calling. Wheat Ridge Greenbelt has good habitat and is heavily birded, but all the birds don't come here. When you hear of a good migrant fallout at the greenbelt, check your favorite bird spots and there will probably be a good fallout there also.

The season's second Golden-winged Warbler(*) was found by Horton upstream from Chatfield's Kingfisher Bridge on September 24-25 in a large flock of Yellow-rumped Warblers. A single Nashville Warbler was found by Nelson on September 26 in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt. A female Magnolia Warbler at Coal Creek along US 14 west of Briggsdale was found by Dave Leatherman on September 12 and another was found on September 29 in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt. On September 14 Leatherman found 2 male Black-throated Blue Warblers, one at Dixon Reservoir west of Fort Collins, and the second at Crow Valley Campground. Bridges found a female of this species at Sedgwick on September 17 and another female was spotted by Derb Carter at Barr Lake on September 24. Black-throated Gray Warblers were found this summer in their usual pinyon-juniper habitat from Canyon City to Mesa Verde. Earliest Townsend's Warblers were two found on August 14 at Barr Lake by Nelson. The willows surrounding Barr Lake are one of the best spots in Colorado to find this fall migrant. A Blackburnian Warbler(*) was at Holly on September 2, distracting the Seltmans momentarily from the singing Carolina Wren they were watching. A second Blackburnian, seen west of Vail by Bob Jickling on September 20 was a first western slope record for Colorado. Two more Blackburnians were found in September: on the 24th in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt by Zerbi and another on the 25th at Barr Lake by TenBrink.

An immature male Pine Warbler(*) spent September 14-22 on Boulder Creek, where John Prather found it almost daily. Leatherman found 2 Bay-breasted Warblers on September 12, one at Crow Valley Campground and one at Coal Creek. A Blackpoll Warbler

was also found at Crow Valley by Leatherman on September 14 and Nelson reported one on September 17 at the west end of Wheat Ridge Greenbelt. Banded at the Colorado Bird Observatory at Barr Lake were a Blackpoll Warbler on September 5, a Black-and-white on September 11, and Ovenbirds on August 27 and September 11. Another Black-and-white was spotted on Boulder Creek by John Prather on September 11, with yet another found by Derb Carter on the 24th of September at Barr Lake. Horton reported an Ovenbird at Chatfield on August 28 and 29. Probable nesting Ovenbirds were found all season at their usual summer area in Rye, by Silverman. The DFO found several American Redstart nests above Kingfisher Bridge at Chatfield State Park, in an area where they have traditionally nested, and a number of singing males found by Howe along the South Platte River from Masters to Ovid could signal nesting in that area. The singing male Hooded Warbler found in June by Thurmond Cooper stayed until at least July 10 in Boulder's Gregory Canyon.

The male Summer Tanager seen by Martha Zoetewey at Chatfield on July 12 was: very early, very late, nesting, or lost (choose one of the preceding). Also seeing red was Bob Spencer who found three Summer Tanagers in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, at least one of which stayed from August 17 to September 17. These included a mottled immature male, a female, and an adult male. Bob is in the process of officially changing his last name to Tanager. A Scarlet Tanager was seen in Karl Stecher's Denver yard on September 20.

The male Northern Cardinal seen in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt on July 10 has been there for 20 months and was awarded the stealth bird award for being seen by the least number of birders looking for it. An immature male Cardinal was seen by Cairo, Himmel, and Janos on September 24 south of Holly along the Arkansas River. A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak seen by Nelson on July 25 at Rocky Ford Wildlife area falls into one of the four categories for the Chatfield Summer Tanager.

A mini-invasion of Dickcissels was reported in La Veta, Beulah, and Rye by Silverman, and Howe found Dickcissels in every weedy field from Crook to Julesburg in July. This was a bumper crop year for Cassin's Sparrows in Colorado. They were found everywhere in proper habitat (eastern plains; sagebrush). Nelson reported finding several along I-76 only 10 miles from Nebraska where there is only one record. Field Sparrows singing at Tamarack Ranch for the second year in a row were easily located by Howe, and Erthal found an unusual migrant Field Sparrow at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt on September 25. A Sage Sparrow which Merchant found singing on June 28 south of Eagle's airport was a pleasant

surprise, as was a single seen by Nelson in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt on September 26. A Lark Bunting found by Nelson and Cohen on July 15 at Rollinsville seemed to be lost. Lark Buntings were present all July in McCoy where the Ewings found an immature male. Three secretive Baird's Sparrows(*) were seen by TenBrink in Northglenn from August 19 to 22. Joe found these birds by spending many hours in his car, slowly driving along a road surrounded by a field. He said they never alighted anywhere but on the ground and were observed only when they ventured to the roadside, and then only from the car. Grasshopper Sparrows had a very successful year statewide, with Steve Jones reporting them in Boulder County, Silverman finding them at La Veta, Beulah and Rye, and Howe calling them common in their Colorado stronghold at Tamarack Ranch. Grasshopper Sparrows were also commonly found in eastern Colorado on almost all Breeding Bird Surveys. Righter found one singing on top of North Table Mountain in Golden, before a fire burned this area in September. Another Grasshopper Sparrow, of the eastern race pratensis, was carefully studied east of Holly by Cairo, Janos, and Himmel on September 25. Amazing was a Henslow's Sparrow(*), seen well by Cairo, Himmel and Bill Prather at Red Lion State Wildlife Area, near Julesburg, for a second state record of this secretive species. Fox Sparrows were widespread in their proper mountain habitat, and Hallock reported high counts in western Boulder County.

An Eastern Meadowlark(*) was found by Howe on June 6 as it sang at the Tamarack Ranch Check Station, where it was repeatedly chased off by the Westerns. Weld County's Eastern Meadowlark, found by Howe in June, lingered until July 7. Great-tailed Grackles were seen all over north-central Colorado this summer while just two years ago they were never reported. This bird will probably be common at places like Lower Latham within a few years.

Pine Grosbeaks had a good summer in Rocky Mountain National Park where Ryder found an excellent cone crop. The big cone crop brought many Red Crossbills into the area early in the period but the big story in July was White-winged Crossbills(*). Following many reports in June, Ron Ryder found two pairs of White-winged Crossbills just north of Rocky Mountain National Park, near Long Draw Reservoir on July 15. Jack Coss went looking for these birds ten days later and found a pair with juveniles several miles from the area where Ron reported the first four. This is yet another species that has never been confirmed as a Colorado nester. Meanwhile, Don and Diane Mullineaux found a single White-winged Crossbill at Echo Lake on July 10 and thought nothing of it because it was in the same spot as the last one they saw several years ago!

Keep those calls and letters coming, and good birding!

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS
COMMITTEE REPORT FOR RECORDS SUBMITTED IN 1986

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This paper reports the results of the Colorado Field Ornithologists' Records Committee decisions for 49 reports submitted by observers for committee evaluation, during the year 1986. During this period, committee members were Bill Brockner, Richard Bunn (chairman), Charlie Chase, Mark Janos, Bill Maynard and Duane Nelson.

The reports received by the committee were classified as A, B or C records. An A record supports the claimed identification, a B record represents a misidentification, and a C record is regarded as incomplete. Of the 49 reports acted upon by the committee, 40 were classified as A, 2 as B, and 4 as C. Three records remained unclassified. 1986 records submitted after the reports were already circulating among committee members will be included with the records for 1987.

Each record in this report is accompanied by a permanent file number, e.g. 1-86-59. This number denotes a family code number, year of observation, and chronological record number. Family code numbers do not reflect recent changes in the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds.

The following species have occurred in Colorado only rarely, and the Records Committee requests reports, photographs and other types of evidence documenting their presence in the state: Red-throated and Yellow-billed Loons, Brown Pelican, Olivaceous Cormorant, Anhinga, Magnificent Frigatebird, Reddish Egret, White and Glossy Ibises, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Trumpeter Swan, Brant, Harlequin Duck, American Swallow-tailed Kite, Common Black-Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Yellow, Black and King Rails, Purple Gallinule, Common Moorhen, Eskimo Curlew, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Ruff, Long-tailed Jaeger, Little, Mew, Lesser Black-backed, Glaucous-winged, Great Black-backed, Ross' and Ivory Gulls, Arctic Tern, Marbled and Ancient Murrelets, Groove-billed Ani, Barred Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Blue-throated and Anna's Hummingbirds, Black Phoebe, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Long-billed and Bendire's Thrashers, Phainopepla, White-eyed Vireo, Lucy's, Hermit, Prairie, Cerulean and

and Swainson's Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Connecticut and Mourning Warblers, Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, Henslow's, LeConte's and Sharp-tailed Sparrows and Brambling.

PART 1 Class A Records

Red-throated Loon: One (1-86-59) in basic or winter plumage on 8 November 1986, at Cherry Creek State Recreation Area, Arapaho County (Peter Gent).

Olivaceous Cormorant: A single adult, in basic plumage, was seen with a flock Double-crested Cormorant at Jumbo Reservoir, near Crook, in northeast Colorado, on 6-7 September 1985 by Mark Janos and Dan Bridges (4-86-22).

Green-backed Heron: One (5-86-9) was seen by Mark Janos on 24 February 1986, at Hotchkiss in Delta County.

Glossy Ibis: An adult in alternate plumage was seen by Mark and Vicky Janos on 27 March 1986 at Sweitzer Lake, in Delta. First state record (7-86-10). A previous specimen record was removed from the state list (Gent 1987).

Ross' Goose: One was observed 19-31 March 1986 near Salida, in Chaffee County by Jane Owen (8-86-44).

American Black Duck: A single male was seen by Larry Halsey on 29 November 1985 on Pelican Ponds, near Jackson Reservoir, in Morgan County (8-86-2).

Eurasian Wigeon: An adult male was seen at Barr Lake (Adams County) by Peter Gent and Larry Halsey on 26-28 January 1986 (8-86-3), and Carbody Lake (Weld County) on 16 March 1986 by Jerry Cairo (8-86-53).

Greater Scaup: Two males and 1 female were seen on Duck Lake in Larimer County, on 13 October 1986, by Jerry Cairo (8-86-62).

Pomarine Jaeger: One adult, in light phase plumage, was reported by Larry Halsey from Jackson Reservoir (Morgan County) on 5 October 1986 (22-86-42). Halsey also reported 1 adult, in the same plumage, from Cherry Creek State Recreation Area, on 23 November 1986 (22-86-1).

Parasitic Jaeger: One sub-adult bird, in dark phase plumage, was reported by Larry Halsey from Cherry Creek State Recreation Area, on 26 September 1985 (22-86-41).

Snowy Plover: A single adult male, in alternate plumage, was seen on 13-14 April 1986, at the Delta Sewage Ponds (Delta County), by Mark Janos (18-86-33).

Upland Sandpiper: One adult, in alternate plumage, was reported by Coen Dexter and Mark Janos, on 12 May 1986, at the gravel ponds off Road D near the Clifton Sewage Ponds in Mesa County (19-86-14).

Hudsonian Godwit: On 25 May 1986 Ann Means and Bill Prather saw 1 in basic plumage at Nelson Reservoir, in Weld County (photographs on file, 19-86-31). One adult in alternate was seen on 29 May 1986, at Highline Lake near Loma (Mesa County), by Coen Dexter (19-86-46).

Ruddy Turnstone: On 15 May 1986, Coen Dexter and Richard Levad saw 1 in alternate plumage at Highline Lake, in Mesa County (18-86-38).

Red Knot: One was seen by Coen Dexter on 15 May 1986, at Highline Reservoir, in Mesa County (19-86-46).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Seven alternate-plumaged adults were seen on 3 June 1986 at Highline Reservoir, in Mesa County by Coen Dexter and Richard Levad (19-86-39).

Dunlin: Five birds in basic plumage were seen by Mark Janos at the Delta Sewage Ponds (Delta County) on 20 October 1986 (19-86-4). Four were present from 10 November 1986 through 24 January 1987.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: One was seen by Jim and Rosie Watts, and Bill Maynard, at CF&I Ponds, in Pueblo County on 7-8 September 1985 (19-86-23).

Black-legged Kittiwake: One bird in first winter plumage was seen in the company of Bonaparte's Gulls on 13 January 1986, by Bill Maynard (23-86-32). This bird was also reported by Larry Halsey on 16 January (23-86-32), and by Richard Hale on 2 February (23-86-5).

Least Tern: One adult in alternate plumage, was seen by Mark Janos on 29 April 1986, at Sweitzer Lake, in Delta County (23-86-17).

Caspian Tern: One adult, in alternate plumage, was reported by Coen Dexter, on 11 May 1986, in Grand Junction, Mesa County

(photograph on file 23-86-48). One in alternate plumage was seen on 16-19 May 1986, on Sweitzer Lake, in Delta County, by Mark Janos (23-86-18).

White-winged Dove: Mary Jane Schock saw 1 on 12 May 1986 in Denver (25-86-20).

Whip-poor-will: Two were seen by Mark Janos, on Mesa de Mayo, near Kim, on 26 May 1986 (29-86-34).

Calliope Hummingbird: One was seen on 28 September 1986 in Olathe, in Montrose County, by Mark Janos (31-86-58).

Williamson's Sapsucker: Rosie and Jimmy Watts saw an adult female, in Florence, Fremont County, on 10 February 1986 (33-86-7).

Vermillion Flycatcher: One adult male was seen, by Jerry Cairo, on 18 January 1986, near Hudson in Weld County (34-86-25). An adult female was found dead by Greg Hughes in Fort Collins in Larimer County on 26 March 1986 (34-86-11).

Tree Swallow: Mark Janos observed 1 on 9 November 1986 at the Delta Sewage Ponds, in Delta County (36-86-60).

Bendire's Thrasher: Jerry Cairo and Dan Bridges observed 2-4 on 21-25 June 1986 in the Old Woman Creek area west of Del Norte, in Rio Grande County (43-86-36).

Philadelphia Vireo: Dan Bridges saw 1 on 31 August 1986 in Cottonwood Canyon, Las Animas County (51-86-50).

Tennessee Warbler: Richard Levad saw 1 on 1 October 1986 (52-86-56) and 1 on 3 October 1986 (52-86-57). Both observations were in Clifton, in Mesa County.

Cape May Warbler: One visited a suet feeder in Jane Axtell's backyard in Lakewood (Jefferson County), 12 December 1985 to 16 April 1987 (52-86-35).

Blackpoll Warbler: One was seen on 30 September 1986 in Wheatridge (Jefferson County) by Dan Bridges (52-86-54).

Pine Warbler: Dan Bridges reported 1 on 7 September 1986 from Riverside Reservoir, in Weld County (52-86-51).

Mourning Warbler: One was seen by Dan Bridges on 25 May 1986 at

Bonny Reservoir in Yuma County (53-86-21).

Kentucky Warbler: One male in alternate plumage was seen on 11 May 1986 at the Colorado Springs State Wildlife Area by Bill, John and Virginia Maynard (56-86-12).

Swainson's Warbler: Virginia Maynard saw 1 on 17 May 1986 at Bear Creek Nature Center in El Paso County (52-86-15).

Northern Cardinal: Toni Breviller saw a female on 23 May 1986 at Two Buttes Reservoir, in Baca County (56-86-16).

Painted Bunting: One male in alternate plumage was seen on 9 May 1986, by Ann Means, in Lyons (56-86-27).

Great-tailed Grackle: One adult male was seen 12-19 February 1986, near the intersection of 4th Street and Colorado State Highway 115, in Florence (Fremont County) by Jimmy and Rosie Watts (54-86-8). Hugh Kingery reported 1 adult male, on 6 May 1986, from Windsor Lake in Denver (54-86-19). One adult male was seen by Jerry Cairo near Latham Reservoir, in Weld County (54-86-52).

Scarlet Tanager: One male in alternate plumage, was seen on 10 May 1986, in Denver County, by Mary Jane Schock (55-86-29). Jerry Cairo reported a male in basic plumage from Jackson Reservoir (Morgan County) on 2 October 1986 (55-86-61). One male was seen, at Chatfield State Recreation Area, in Jefferson County, by Dan Bridges (55-86-49).

PART 2 Class B records

Thayer's Gull: One reported from McLellan Reservoir, 23 February 1986 (23-86-6).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: One reported from Bonny Reservoir (Yuma County) on 4 October 1986 (33-86-55).

Part 3 Class C records

Gyr Falcon: One reported on 12 October 1986, from Windsor Reservoir, in Weld County (12-86-63).

Red Phalarope: One reported from Highline Lake, in Mesa County, on 22 April 1986 (21-86-13).

Snowy Owl: One reported on 17 November 1986, in Denver (28-86-24).

Yellow-throated Vireo: One reported 8 October 1986, from Ouray County (51-86-26).

Part 4 1986 reports remaining unclassified.

Piping Plover: One reported from Chaffee County, on 17 May 1986 (18-86-45).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Three seen on 10 August 1986, at CF&I Ponds, in Pueblo County (19-86-40).

Dusky-capped Flycatcher: One reported from Temple Canyon Park, in Fremont County, on 28 June 1986 (34-86-37).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The records committee thanks Jon Dunn, H. Douglas Pratt, and J.V. Remsen, Jr. for their expert evaluation of the Glossy Ibis records.

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SOME NEW INFORMATION ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF
JUVENILE AND WINTER PLUMAGED LOONS WITH REFERENCE
TO THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE TO THE
BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, SECOND EDITION

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The purpose of this article is to supplement the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, second edition, with the most relevant information from an excellent paper by R. H. Appleby, S. C. Madge, and K. Mullarney that appeared in British Birds in 1986. I've tried to simplify, clarify and present new information from that article and from other sources to help make juvenile and winter-plumage loon identification more accurate when one is using the National Geographic field guide. For plates mentioned in this article, follow along with the second edition of the field guide, pp. 18-21.

In loon identification, one must be very aware of age, distance, light, mood, and time of year. Generally speaking, adult loons are in winter plumage by November, although evidence of breeding plumage can still be apparent on some individuals into January, particularly with some Common and Yellow-billed Loons (Appleby et al. 1986). Obviously, before November adults will be in declining forms of breeding plumage and in various advancing stages of winter plumage.

Basically, the identification problems for loons fall between Pacific (Gavia pacifica)/Red-throated (Gavia stellata), Pacific/Common (Gavia immer), and Common/Yellow-billed (Gavia adamsii). The distinction between Red-throated and Commons is fairly straight-forward and will not be discussed in detail here.

Pacific Loon vs. Red-throated and Common Loon:

Plumage Characteristics

Plumage characteristics are probably the best identification tool in separating the Pacific Loon from other loons. The mark that is the most species-specific is on the side of the neck. On the Pacific Loon, there is a very distinct, even line created by

the dark hind-neck meeting the white sides of the foreneck on the vertical plane of the mid-neck (Appleby et al. 1986), well shown on the winter plumage adult in the National Geographic guide on p. 19. This effect is slightly less emphasized on a paler-headed juvenile but still very obvious. There is also a dark chin strap effect on some Pacific Loons that can be difficult to see. If one does not see this field mark, the viewed bird may still be a Pacific Loon. On the adult and immature Common Loon, the side of the neck region would show as an uneven line with an indentation of white into the dark side of the neck, well shown on winter plumage Common Loon on p. 19. When the Common is relaxed with head and neck scrunched down over its shoulders, this white indentation is still visible, although less apparent. On the adult Red-throated Loon, the neck region shows a lot more white than dark. The line where the dark meets the light on the neck is toward the back of the neck. Both are well shown on pp. 19 and 21.

The face of the Red-throated Loon appears quite light, which prominently reveals its small, dark eye (Jack Reddall, pers. comm.). In the adult and immature plumage of the Pacific Loon, the dark of the face conceals the eye (well shown on p. 19). On the adult Common Loon, the whiteness of the side of the face usually separates the eye out so it is noticeable (clearly shown on p. 19). On the juvenile Common Loon, this is not always apparent as some show a lot of darkness on the face, and at a distance this mark becomes less reliable. The juvenile plumage of the Common Loon is not shown in National Geographic, and its omission could mislead one to identify a juvenile Common Loon for a Pacific Loon if one relies on this mark alone.

The color of the hind-neck/nape region on the adult winter and juvenile Pacific Loon, under proper light conditions, can show as velvety-gray. On the adult this effect contrasts with the darkish coloration of the back, but on the juvenile, the pale gray tipping on the scapulars makes for less contrast between back and neck (Appleby et al. 1986). The dark head of the juvenile Common Loon, however, contrasts more with the lighter pale-fringed back. This effect is most noticeable until approximately January, after which molting, wear, and bleaching cloud the issue. Caution should apply here, as angle, direction, and intensity of light can make one loon look like another.

The flanks of the Pacific Loon will sometimes show white when relaxed (Appleby et al. 1986 and Harrison 1983), contrasting more so on adults. When swimming or under the grip of anxiety, such as a windsurfer hurtling toward it, it can lower its rear white

flank feathers and sink a bit, thereby reducing the effect of this mark. The Pacific Loons on p. 19 are shown with no white flank patch. The Red-throated Loon also has this mark, although more diffused and with less contrast due to its lighter back. The Common Loon can also show this but again not as prominent or with as much contrast (Appleby et al. 1986). This mark is not mentioned in the National Geographic but under the right conditions can be a useful indicator.

Structural Characteristics

The high point on the body on the Pacific Loon, as well as on the Common and Yellow-billed Loons, is much closer to the neck/head (Appleby et al. 1986) than the National Geographic guide shows. On the Red-throated Loon the high point of the body is at the midpoint, which is well shown on pp. 19 and 21. At the correct angle this mark is quite noticeable and can be used as an indicator for separating the Red-throated from the rest.

The head shape of the Pacific Loon can be altered so at times it can take on the appearance of the steep-foreheaded look of the Common Loon. Usually though, the head is smoothly-rounded with its bill held level. The bill of the Pacific Loon can vary considerably and has the potential for resembling a young, yet-to-be-fully-developed bill of a small, young Common Loon. Typically though, the bill is long, slim, and dagger-shaped (Appleby et al. 1986). In the Red-throated Loon, the bill is less variable and is adequately depicted in the National Geographic guide. Care should be used in separating the Red-throated Loon at a distance from the snaky-headed effect of a cormorant, particularly a young Double-crested Cormorant (Phalacrocorax auritus).

Yellow-billed Loon vs. Common Loon:

Plumage Characteristics:

A dark mark behind the eye shows in most Yellow-billed Loons, as the field guide points out. This is particularly pronounced on young Yellow-billed Loons (Appleby et al. 1986). This mark is less useful in late winter, as then the Common Loon, due to wear and bleaching, looks more like the Yellow-billed Loon and has the potential for also showing a vague dark patch behind the eye.

Structural Characteristics:

Size is quite variable in both species. The young can be quite a bit smaller than the adult.

The bill is a critical area for identification. On the Common Loon, the culmen, or top ridge of the upper mandible, is dark from the base of the bill to the tip. On the Yellow-billed Loon, the culmen is dark from the base of the bill only to the midpoint. Never does it show dark from the midpoint to the tip (Appleby et al. 1986). The bill of the Common Loon is apt to show a faint, dark cutting edge (the line created where the upper and lower mandibles meet). On the Yellow-billed Loon, the cutting edge is not noticeable. (This last mark is an indicator and best used only on close views. The National Geographic guide shows these differences for the two species on p. 19 but does not mention them in the text). In the Yellow-billed Loon, the bill appears pale and, in good light, yellow. In the Common Loon, the bill during breeding season is dark, but from post-breeding to pre-breeding the bill can appear quite light, usually variations of pale grayish and bluish-white.

On the Common Loon, the general effect of the bill is of a dagger, which is created by a slightly decurved culmen and a moderate gonydeal angle (the upward angle of lower mandible). The head is usually held level. On the Yellow-billed Loon, the upper mandible generally appears straight with a marked gonydeal angle. The effect is magnified by the tendency of the bill to be slightly uptilted. These are general tendencies and can be used as strong indicators. There are certain individuals that just do not fit the rule.

Loons in Flight:

In flight the Pacific, Common, and Yellow-billed Loons, because of their large feet, show the wings equally distant from the front and rear ends. The head of the Pacific Loon is held more in line with its body than the Red-throated and Common Loons, which tend to hold their heads lower than body line (Appleby et al. 1986). The flight of the Pacific Loon is described as stiff and rigid when compared to the Common Loon, whose flight is reported to be looser and more goose-like (Appleby et al. 1986). The distant silhouette effect of the Red-throated Loon is of a loon with its wings farther back along its body. This effect is caused by its smaller, less noticeable feet. The Red-throated Loon is also reported to fidget in

flight, moving its neck and head around (Appleby et al. 1986). Also, it is reported to be the only loon that can take off directly from water without requiring the running start of the other loons (Harrison 1983). Loon identification in flight is full of tricks and at best, the above-mentioned information should be used as an aid.

As one can see, there are countless subtle variables in the identification of loons. I would, therefore, appreciate any and all comments, as I am sure that loon identification will be a constant on-going discussion, particularly the phraseology describing the nuances in field marks.

I want to particularly thank Jack Reddall, who helped clarify the field marks that were significant and add new ones. Bob Andrews, Hugh Kingery, and Sandy Righter gave much-needed help in structuring this paper.

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COLORADO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS REPORT

Hugh Kingery
869 Milwaukee St.
Denver, CO 80206

Colorado has two and a half new breeding species after field work this summer. (Atlas workers did not find any of them during Atlas field work, although the Atlas will incorporate the information in its database). Bill Prather found nesting Least Flycatchers near Lyons; Glen and Jean Hageman found recently fledged Great Crested Flycatchers at Prewitt Reservoir; and at Gunnison Ron Meyer and Don Radovich monitored the whole breeding cycle (courtship, copulation, nesting, incubation, and fledging of one young) of a Swainson's Hawk paired with the Red-backed Buzzard (See C.F.O. Journal 22: 5, 9, and 41).

Atlas field work has started to fill in gaps on our knowledge about breeding birds in the state. Observers have studied eight blocks on the Ute Reservation south of Cortez, a comparable number in Latilong 13 east of Denver (which birdwatchers usually drive through on their way somewhere else), and a diverse set of blocks in Baca County. All have added new latilong breeding records (from the mundane--American Robin in Latilong 13--to the more interesting--Long-eared Owl in Latilong 22).

Regional Coordinators have just started reviewing cards from the 1988 field season; at this writing we have only anecdotal information about the summer work. My wife, Urling, and I discovered one surprise: a female Barrow's Goldeneyes in the Flat Tops Wilderness (apparently non-breeding). Ron Meyer confirmed White-faced Ibis breeding near Gunnison, a Latilong first and fourth Colorado nest site. Coen Dexter led a group onto Sleeping Ute Mountain near Cortez. In the extensive scrub oak and snowberry habitat the most common birds were Dusky Flycatcher, Green-tailed Towhee, and Hermit Thrush. They camped next to a scrub oak copse where a pair of Long-eared Owls had just fledged three young.

Paul Opler, undoubtedly the most prolific Atlaser in the State, completed about 20 blocks. Steve Jones conducted a "block-busting" party to Baca County June 16-20 in which thirteen observers forayed into five blocks. In 60 hours they tallied 11-56 species per block (2-15 confirmed). Highlights included

Mississippi Kite, Western Screech-Owl, Curve-billed Thrasher, and Roadrunner. Steve reports that Roger Jakoubek and Jim Knopf are the only birders to have driven through three states to find an Atlas block.

The Atlas continues to welcome new observers. Contact a Regional Coordinator or the Atlas Office (c/o Zoology, Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver 80205).

-----REMINDER-----

The Colorado Field Ornithologists and the Denver Museum of Natural History are sponsoring a weekend clinic:

-Dec. 10 and 11 Colorado Hawks by Brian Wheeler,
illustrator of
the new Peterson's
A Field Guide to
the Hawks.

The clinic will consist of a half-day presentation at the Denver Museum of Natural History on Saturday followed by field trips to local areas on Sunday.

For details, call either the Denver Museum of Natural History at 370-6353 or Peter Gent at 494-1750.

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