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The C.F.O. Journal is published quarterly with the following deadlines for the submission of material:

Spring (No. 1) -- March 1
Summer (No. 2) -- June 1
Fall (No. 3) -- September 1
Winter (No. 4) -- December 1

Please keep these dates in mind when submitting announcements or articles for consideration.

The Colorado Field Ornithologists annual convention will be held May 20-21, 1989 at the University Park Holiday Inn at Fort Collins. The paper session is Saturday, May 20 from 1-5 p.m.

You are invited to submit an abstract for a paper to be presented at the convention. Popular and scientific papers on Colorado avifauna are welcome. Presentations will be limited to 15 minutes with 5 additional minutes for discussion.

Abstracts are due by March 31, 1989. However, because of this late notice, you may consider submitting abstracts a few days after the deadline. Authors will be notified by April 14 if their papers are selected.

Authors should submit an abstract of their paper to Ron Ryder, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins 80523; (303) 491-6547.

M.A.J.

BIRDS OF THE FRASER EXPERIMENTAL FOREST, COLORADO,
AND THEIR ROLE IN DISPERSING
LODGEPOLE PINE DWARF MISTLETOE

Thomas H. Nicholls and Leanne M. Egeland
USDA Forest Service, North Central Forest Experiment Station
St. Paul, MN 55108

and

Frank G. Hawksworth
USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station
Fort Collins, CO 80526

ABSTRACT

Previous studies of the birds of the Fraser Experimental Forest, Grand County, Colorado, found 59 species. In our study, aimed at determining the role of birds in the dispersal of lodgepole pine dwarf mistletoe (Arceuthobium americanum), we trapped or observed an additional 14 species on or near the experimental forest. We trapped 10 bird species carrying dwarf mistletoe seeds. In order, the most common were Gray Jay, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, and Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler. In addition, four mammal species were identified as vectors. The study confirmed that birds and mammals can vector dwarf mistletoe seeds and establish new infection centers well beyond the range of explosive seed dispersal of these parasitic plants.

INTRODUCTION

Between 1982 and 1988, we studied the birds and mammals of the Fraser Experimental Forest in Grand County, Colorado, to help

determine their role in the dispersal of lodgepole pine dwarf mistletoe, Arceuthobium americanum (Nicholls et al. 1984, Hawksworth et al. 1987). Dwarf mistletoe is the most important forest disease problem in many areas of the West, including the Rocky Mountains where more than half of the lodgepole pine forests are affected (Hawksworth and Dooling 1984). The dwarf mistletoes markedly reduce growth of infected trees, increase mortality, and adversely affect wood quality and seed production. In addition, trees weakened by dwarf mistletoe are more susceptible to other forest pests, especially bark beetles.

Dwarf mistletoes are dispersed primarily by explosive fruits, which hurl the seeds for distances of 10 to 30 feet. However, in many forest stands, isolated infection centers well beyond the range of explosive seed discharge have been found (Hawksworth and Wiens 1972; Hudler et al. 1979; Ostry et al. 1983). In studies at the Fraser Experimental Forest, we found isolated infection centers in an otherwise healthy lodgepole pine forest (Hawksworth et al. 1987). About three-fourths of the infection centers were near stand openings, suggesting that animals, especially birds, were involved in establishing these infection centers. Stand openings are attractive habitats for birds and other animals. The foraging habits of Gray Jays, Chickadees, and other birds may explain how these isolated infections originate. While searching for insects in infected trees, birds could come in contact with mistletoe seeds that stick to their bodies. The bird could then fly to a healthy tree and remove the seeds during grooming and bill-wipe them onto a branch where the seeds could adhere, germinate, and infect the tree. This has been observed by Ostry et al. (1983) and Hudler et al. (1979) for dwarf mistletoes on other conifers.

STUDY AREA

The Fraser Experimental Forest is a 36-square-mile outdoor research laboratory near Fraser, Colorado, maintained by the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station of the USDA Forest Service. The native vegetation of the experimental forest is typical of the Central Rocky Mountains (Alexander et al. 1985). Lodgepole pine is the dominant tree at lower elevations and on drier upper slopes. Englemann spruce/subalpine fir occurs at higher elevations, and extensive areas of tundra are above timberline. The forest floor generally is covered with a layer of

duff and litter and often a dense mat of whortleberry. Herbaceous vegetation is sparse except along streams and openings resulting from disturbance.

METHODS

Trapping was conducted from 1982 through 1988, mostly during the dwarf mistletoe seed dispersal period from August to September (generally the last 2 weeks in August and early September). In 1984 and 1985, birds were trapped in early August, before seeds dispersed. Birds were trapped in lodgepole pine stands ranging in elevation from 9,000 to 10,400 ft., using cell traps and Japanese mist nets in up to six areas each year (Table 1). All birds were banded and released. Birds trapped during the seed dispersal period were carefully examined for mistletoe seeds sticking to their feathers, then banded and released. In addition, mammals were cell trapped in 1982 and 1983, examined for seed, ear-tagged, and released.

RESULTS

Previous studies (Alexander et al. 1985, Scott and Crouch 1988) list 59 bird species in the Fraser Experimental Forest. Our trapping and observations have added an additional 14 species (Table 2).

We trapped a total of 1,123 birds (including retraps) of 35 species from 1982 through 1988 (Table 3). Sixty-six lodgepole pine dwarf mistletoe seeds were found on 58 birds of 10 species: Gray Jay, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, American Robin, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Hermit Thrush, Three-toed Woodpecker, and Townsend's Solitaire.

Also, 301 mammals (including retraps) of four species were trapped: least chipmunk (24 of 254 animals with seed), red squirrel (1 of 15 animals with seeds), golden-mantled squirrel (3 of 20 animals with seeds), and pine marten (1 of 1 animal with seed). Of these, we suspect that the least chipmunk and red squirrel may be involved in dwarf mistletoe seed dispersal because they are frequently seen in infected trees. We often observed red squirrels sitting and storing mushrooms in mistletoe-caused brooms.

Two Gray Jays banded in 1982 were retrapped in 1988. These birds were at least 6 years old. Through the study, they were retrapped up to nine times and always in the same location where they were banded.

DISCUSSION

These results show that dissemination of dwarf mistletoe on lodgepole pine found beyond the range of its explosive seed can be explained by animal vectors. At least two previous studies (Hudler et al. 1979; Ostry et al. 1983) have shown that birds, especially resident birds, frequently travel from infected trees to healthy trees and that seeds preened from their feathers can inoculate susceptible trees, if the seeds are viable and deposited where infections can occur. The distance seeds can be transported by birds depends upon how large the bird's home range is and whether the bird is migratory or resident. The most important vectors found on the Fraser Experimental Forest are resident birds. They are important in the local and short-distance spread of dwarf mistletoe between adjacent infected and healthy stands. Migratory birds, such as American Robins, warblers, Northern Saw-whet Owls, and Hermit Thrushes may be important in the long-distance spread. We suspect that mammals are of lesser importance in mistletoe seed dispersal than birds because mammals generally have much smaller home ranges.

Once a mistletoe infection pocket becomes established, it can become progressively larger by local spread due to the explosive fruits. Controlling the spread of mistletoe by removing infected trees is the commonly recommended practice (Hawksworth and Dooling 1984). No consideration is being given to limiting mistletoe spread by controlling the mistletoe's animal vectors. It is important to identify infection centers early in their development and to remove the infected trees to prevent or minimize the chance of mistletoe spreading to adjacent healthy trees.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Photograph by Thomas H. Nicholls

Fig. 1 Steller's Jay with dwarf mistletoe seed stuck to its tail.

Table 1. Trapping summary (including retraps) of bird vectors of dwarf mistletoe in the Fraser Experimental Forest, Colorado. August-September 1982 to 1988.

<u>Trapping Dates</u>	<u>Net Locations</u>	<u># of Nets</u>	<u>Total Net Length (ft)</u>	<u>Net Hours</u>	<u>Total Birds Trapped (Includes Retraps)</u>	<u># of Mistletoe Seeds on Birds</u>
1982 Aug. 16 - Sept. 18	5	29	880	1,191	312	26
1983 Aug. 13 - Sept. 23	5	25	820	1,275	307	25
1984 Aug. 7 - 16	4	12	445	171	55	--a/
1985 Aug. 5 - 16	4	12	460	220	83	--a/
1986 Aug. 18 - 29	5	15	570	328	115	1
1987 Aug. 18 - 27	6	19	720	425	203	6
1988 Aug. 21 - 26	6	10	380	349	48	8
				Totals	1,123	66

a/ Birds were not examined for seed in 1984 or 1985 because they were trapped before the dispersal period.

Table 2. Birds of the Fraser Experimental Forest and vicinity. M = migratory species, N = nesting species, R = resident species. Updated from Alexander et al. 1985 and Scott and Crouch 1988. Species first caught or observed during our study are noted by *.

Green-winged Teal (M)	Common Raven (R)
Mallard (M)	Black-capped Chickadee (M)
Northern Harrier (N)	Mountain Chickadee (N)
Sharp-shinned Hawk (N)	Red-breasted Nuthatch (N)
Goshawk (N)	White-breasted Nuthatch (M)
Red-tailed Hawk (N)	Brown Creeper (M)
Golden Eagle (M)	American Dipper (M)
American Kestrel (M)	Golden-crowned Kinglet (M)
Peregrine Falcon* (M?)	Ruby-crowned Kinglet (N)
Blue Grouse (R)	Mountain Bluebird (M)
White-tailed Ptarmigan (R)	Townsend's Solitaire (N)
Spotted Sandpiper (M)	Swainson's Thrush (N)
Long-billed Dowitcher* (M)	Hermit Thrush (N)
Mourning Dove (M)	American Robin (N)
Western Screech-Owl (N)	Water Pipit* (N)
Great Horned Owl (N)	Loggerhead Shrike* (M)
Boreal Owl* (N?)	Warbling Vireo (N)
Northern Saw-whet Owl* (N)	Yellow-rumped (Audubon's)
Common Nighthawk (N)	Warbler (N)
Broad-tailed Hummingbird (N)	Blackburnian Warbler* (M)
Rufous Hummingbird (M)	MacGillivray's Warbler* (M)
Red-naped Sapsucker (N)	Wilson's Warbler (M)
Williamson's Sapsucker (N)	Chipping Sparrow* (M)
Downy Woodpecker (R)	Savannah Sparrow* (M)
Hairy Woodpecker (R)	Fox Sparrow* (M)
Three-toed Woodpecker (R)	Song Sparrow (M)
Northern Flicker (N)	Lincoln's Sparrow (M)
Olive-sided Flycatcher (M)	White-crowned Sparrow (M)
Western Wood-Pewee (M)	Dark-eyed (Gray-headed)
Horned Lark (M)	Junco (N)
Barn Swallow* (M)	Red-winged Blackbird (M)
Hammond's Flycatcher (N)	Northern Oriole* (M)
Western Flycatcher (M)	Rosy Finch* (N)
Gray Jay (R)	Pine Grosbeak (N)
Steller's Jay (M)	House Finch (N)
Clark's Nutcracker (M)	Red Crossbill (N)
Black-billed Magpie (M)	Pine Siskin (N)
American Crow (M)	

Table 3. Birds trapped and retrapped August-September 1982 to 1988 and total number of dwarf mistletoe seeds found on these birds on the Fraser Experimental Forest, Colorado.

Species Trapped	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	# Seed
Gray Jay	42	75	22	44	47	64	32	33
Steller's Jay	10	14	0	0	5	1	3	8
Mountain Chickadee	23	53	7	14	17	73	1	7
Gray-headed Junco	39	63	11	7	25	31	1	3
Audubon's Warbler	50	12	0	0	1	1	0	3
American Robin	21	11	2	9	3	2	2	3
Saw-whet Owl	4	5	0	0	0	3	1	2
Hermit Thrush	32	39	3	3	4	3	3	5
Three-toed Woodpecker	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Townsend's Solitaire	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Blackburnian Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boreal Owl	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Creeper	3	2	1	1	3	2	0	0
Chipping Sparrow	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Downy Woodpecker	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Fox Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Loggerhead Shrike	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
MacGillivray's Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Northern Oriole	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Grosbeak	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Pine Siskin	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Crossbill	18	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	6	0	0	1	2	1	0
Northern Flicker	6	10	2	2	4	1	2	0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	32	9	0	1	1	5	0	0
Savannah Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0
Williamson's Sapsucker	5	0	3	0	2	1	1	0
Wilson's Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-naped Sapsucker	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Western Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
35 BIRD SPECIES	312	307	55	83	115	203	48	66
TOTAL					1,123			



Photograph by Thomas H. Nicholls

Fig. 2 Mountain Chickadee perched on branch with dwarf mistletoe.

THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT
FOR RECORDS SUBMITTED IN 1987 (PART I)Richard L. Bunn
2727 Main
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

This report contains approximately half of the records acted upon by the Official Colorado Field Ornithologists Records Committee in 1987. Records and reports reviewed by the Committee receive an A, B or C designation, according to a majority vote by the Committee. A Committee member can alternatively cast a No Opinion vote. An A designation supports the claimed identification, a B record is considered a misidentification, and a C record is regarded as incomplete.

Each record is assigned a permanent file number, eg., 1-87-1. These codes represent the family code number, the year the report was first routed through the Committee, and chronological record number. Family code numbers do not reflect recent changes in The A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds. The Committee desires written, photographic, tape-recorded or other documentation of the presence of bird species previously unrecorded, and those species that have occurred rarely in the state. A list of these species has been published by Gent (1988). The Committee also desires reports of breeding birds new to the state or to any of the state's 28 latilongs.

PART 1 Class A Records:

Yellow-billed Loon (Gavia adamsii) 1-87-1. A basic-plumaged bird was seen at Pueblo Reservoir (Pueblo County) on 6 February 1987. This is the first record for Latilong 19 and the 5th state record. Mark Janos.

Tricolored Heron (Egretta tricolor) 5-87-2. Dan Bridges found one adult on 1 May 1987 on the northwest side of Lake Henry in Crowley County (Latilong 20). Eleventh state record.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (Nycticorax violaceus) 5-87-5. One adult was seen on 31 May 1986 at the ponds below Two Buttes Reservoir dam in Baca County (Latilong 28) by Beth Dillon. This

is the 35th state record.

Eurasian Wigeon (Anas penelope) 8-87-6. Jerry Cairo saw an adult male on 23 March 1987 at Carbody Lake near Greeley in Weld County (Latilong 5).

Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus) 12-87-9. One was reported from Grand Junction in Mesa County (Latilong 8) on 12 December 1986 by Walter and Claudia Rector.

Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus) 12-87-25. John Merchant saw 1 adult on the south rim of the White River Plateau (elevation 9500') on 4 July 1986 in Garfield County (Latilong 9).

Common Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus) 17-87-17. Judy Ward saw 1 on 27 April 1987 near the golf course at Craig, Moffat County. This is the first Latilong 2 record and the 7th state record.

Whooping Crane (Grus americana) 16-87-13. Two adults and 1 immature were seen on 6-7 April 1984 at Hart's Basin near Eckert, in Delta County (Latilong 16) by Mark Janos.

Lesser Golden-Plover (Pluvialis dominica) 18-87-19. Mark Janos found 1 in basic plumage on 7 October 1983 at Hart's Basin (Delta County). This is the first record for Latilong 16.

Snowy Plover (Charadrius alexandrinus) 18-87-38. A male in alternate plumage was seen at the Delta Sewage Ponds in Delta County on 13-14 April 1986 by Mark Janos and Coen Dexter (Latilong 15).

Hudsonian Godwit (Limosa haemastica) 19-87-23. David Leatherman reported 1 in alternate plumage from a farm pond near Severance in Weld County on 5 May 1987 (Latilong 5). According to Leatherman, Kevin Cook saw 2 of this species at this location earlier the same day. One of the birds seen by Cook was reported to be in basic plumage. Fourteenth state record.

Western Sandpiper (Calidris mauri) 19-87-21. Two very early arriving migrants were seen by Mark Janos on 22 March 1984 at Hart's Basin near Eckert, in Delta County (Latilong 16).

Dunlin (Calidris alpina) 19-87-20. Twelve birds, in alternate or prealternate molt, were seen by John Rawinski on 20 April 1986 at

San Luis Lake near Mosca in Alamosa County. This is the first record for Latilong 25.

Short-billed Dowitcher (Limnodromus griseus) 19-97-22. Mark Janos reported 1 in juvenal plumage from Cheraw Reservoir in Otero County (Latilong 20) on 5 September 1987.

Parasitic Jaeger (Stercorarius parasiticus) 22-87-27. Charles Duncan reported a non-adult dark phase bird from Antero Reservoir, Park County on 30 August 1987 (Latilongs 11 and 18).

Laughing Gull (Larus atricilla) 23-87-29. A second-winter bird was seen on 6 September 1987 at Lake Meredith, Crowley County (Latilong 20) by Mark Janos.

Thayer's Gull (Larus thayeri) 23-87-28. Mark Janos reported one from Sweitzer Lake State Recreation Area in Delta County on 8 December 1986. This is the first record in Latilong 15.

Caspian Tern (Sterna caspia) 23-87-31. Jerry Cairo reported 1 in alternate plumage at Jumbo Reservoir near Crook (Latilong 7) on 13 May 1987. Jumbo Reservoir straddles Sedgwick and Logan Counties.

Caspian Tern (Sterna caspia) 23-87-32. One was seen on 26 May 1987 by Dan Bridges at Cherry Creek Reservoir in Arapahoe County (Latilong 12).

Boreal Owl (Aegolius funereus) 28-87-33. Larry Sanders found 1 on 25 April 1987 east of Echo Lake Lodge near Idaho Springs in Clear Creek County (Latilong 11) at an elevation of approximately 10,500'.

Boreal Owl (Aegolius funereus) 28-87-34. A calling bird was seen by Mark Masteller on 20 February 1987 east of Breckenridge, off Boreas Pass Road in Summit County, elevation 10,300' (Latilong 11).

Whip-poor-will (Caprimulgus vociferus) 29-87-41. One was seen by Dan Bridges on 27 September 1987 at the South Platte River downstream from Wayside Park, east of Julesburg in Sedgwick County. This is the first record for Latilong 7 and the 4th state record.

Black Swift (Cypseloides niger) 30-87-43. Ivan Getting saw 5 on

the plains in Longmont, Boulder County (Latilong 4) on 9 June 1987. This is about 22 miles east of where Black Swifts regularly nest at Ouzel Falls in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Chimney Swift (Chaetura pelagica) 30-87-42. There are few records of this species from western Colorado, and this one is the first from Latilong 15. On 29 August 1987, Mark Janos saw 3 in Delta, Delta County. Identification was made by the swifts' twittering calls.

Chaetura sp. 30-87-46. Chuck LaRue saw 2 Chaetura sp. swifts in Nucla, Montrose County (Latilong 15) on 27 May 1987. No calls were heard during the observation. This is the first record for a Chaetura sp. swift from this latilong.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus varius) 33-87-4. A bird in first basic plumage was seen by Mark Janos on 20-24 November 1987 at Sweitzer Lake State Recreation Area in Delta County (Latilong 15).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus varius) 33-87-8. Mark Janos saw a first basic bird at Highline Reservoir in Mesa County (Latilong 8) on 29 October 1987.

Black Phoebe (Sayornis nigricans) 34-87-51. Mark Yaeger and Peter Gent reported an adult female with a nest with 2 eggs on a protected cliff about 3.5' above the water in Peck Cove, Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo County (Latilong 19). The bird was seen 7-26 June 1987. This is the third nesting record for this species in Colorado. The first nest was reported in Latilong 19 in 1972.

Vermilion Flycatcher (Pyrocephalus rubinus) 34-87-53. Robert Cohen found a male in breeding plumage on 4 April 1987 in Rollinsville, in Gilpin County (Latilong 11).

Field Sparrow (Spizella pusilla) 56-87-39. One seen on 13 November 1987 at Sweitzer Lake State Recreation Area in Delta County by Mark Janos. This sighting was the first record for Latilong 15.

PART 2 Class B and C Records:

Gyr Falcon (Falco rusticolus) 12-87-11. The Committee felt that

the description of the raptor seen in October 1986 in Weld County was too brief.

Common Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus) 17-87-18. The report of a bird described from Adams County on 14 May 1987 was determined by the Committee to contain insufficient details.

Whip-poor-will (Caprimulgus vociferus) 29-87-37. Most of the Committee felt that the observer most likely is describing a Whip-poor-will, however the report lacks details, particularly those of the tail, that would eliminate other species. This bird was seen at Crow Valley Campground near Briggsdale, 17 May 1987 in Weld County.

Magnificent Hummingbird (Eugenes fulgens) 31-87-47. The Committee felt that the details provided in this report were insufficient to rule out Blue-throated Hummingbird. Seen near Buena Vista 30 June 1986 in Chaffee County.

Magnificent Hummingbird (Eugenes fulgens) 31-87-49. This report seems to describe a Blue-throated Hummingbird seen in Upper Blanco Basin, in Archuleta County, from 30 May to 21 June 1987.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (Tyrannus forficatus) 34-87-54. The Committee felt that this report did not provide an adequate description of the bird seen in Larimer County on 27 May 1987.

Purple Martin (Progne subis) 36-87-55. The Committee felt that this report did not provide an adequate description of the bird seen in Montrose County on 27 May 1987.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The Records Committee thanks the observers who support their activities and those of the C.F.O.

REFERENCES CITED:

Gent, P. 1987. The CFO Checklist of Colorado Birds. C.F.O. Journal 21:50-58.

ERRATA:

The following corrections to the Colorado Field Ornithologists' Records Committee Report for records submitted in 1986 (C.F.O. Journal 22:85-90) should be noted:

- a) Page 87. The file number for Red Knot should be 19-86-47.
- b) Page 88. The file number for Mourning Warbler should be 52-86-21.
- c) Page 89. The file number for Kentucky Warbler should be 52-86-12.
- d) Page 89. The record (55-86-49) by Dan Bridges at Chatfield State Recreation Area, Jefferson County was of a male Summer Tanager (Piranga rubra), not Scarlet Tanager.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

WINTER 1988-1989 (December, January and February)

David E. Martin
9330 W. 90th Drive
Westminster, CO 80020

This issue's News From the Field will consist of two parts. The first part covers reports from Fall 1988, which were received after our last publication deadline and are mostly gleaned from reports sent to American Birds. An article about last fall's sightings appeared in the last C.F.O. Journal (22:120-133), so I will not discuss birds included in that issue. The second part is a report for this winter: December, January, and February. We will continue to publish on a schedule where News From the Field will feature birds reported for the previous three months. At that same time I will discuss birds seen in previous seasonal report(s) which I received too late to include in the usual report. To report any sightings, please drop me a note, or just leave a message on the Colorado Bird Report at (303) 423-5582.

Fall 1988 (September, October, November)

The only reported Red-throated Loon of the fall was seen by Jerry Cairo on November 14 at Prewitt Res. Common Loons were widely reported from eastern Colorado in the fall, and Pacific Loons were seen in above-average numbers. Eared Grebes were reported as down by David Jasper who said that only 50-75 were seen this fall in Grand County. A late American White Pelican was also seen by Jasper through November 29 on Lake Granby. Jasper reported a few Great Blue Herons seen each month at the heronries located at Kremmling, Green Mountain Res. and Windy Gap Res. He also reported that the Canada Geese transplanted into North Park reproduced very well with many remaining in the area this fall. Jasper noted that Northern Shoveler numbers were down in Grand County with only 30 seen in the season, down from 200 in an average year. Very unusual was a Greater Scaup found by Coen Dexter and seen October 10-21 in Grand Junction. This species is occasionally reported from the West Slope in the fall. Two Surf Scoters were seen on La Jara Res., southwest of Alamosa by John

Rawinski on October 27, and a White-winged Scoter was reported at the Greeley gravel pits by Cairo on November 25.

Thirty-two Turkey Vultures were seen by Jim and Rosy Watts on September 16 at Canyon City, including one seen bathing in the Arkansas River! A late report was received of two Ospreys seen in early July by Nick DeSimone at Steamboat L., north of Steamboat Springs. Could they nest here? Ospreys were reported as common in migration at John Martin Res. by Mark Janos October 10-23 where up to 6 could be seen at once. To successfully bird this huge body of water, Colorado's largest, would probably require a boat because of its poor access by roads.

Northern Harriers were reported by Dave Hallock as present on alpine tundra the first half of September, where they appear each year to take advantage of the summer's excess rodents. Eight each of the 3 Accipiter sp. was an outstanding count on September 11 on the Indian Peaks Fall Bird Count. Jack Merchant reported that 5 Sharp-shinned Hawks in the Eagle area this fall was a high number. Merchant also reported 5 Cooper's Hawks including a pair seen at 12,000 feet in elevation in the mountains on September 24. He reported that these Cooper's Hawk numbers were not as good as last year's, but were above average. A dark phase Broad-winged Hawk was seen by Hugh Kingery at Chatfield Res. on September 22. The dark phase breeds only in Alberta, and must migrate through Colorado, but is rarely reported. Is it because it is difficult to identify and confuses observers, or is it truly a rare migrant in Colorado? Over 1,755 Swainson's Hawks were seen in eastern Colorado by Brian Wheeler September 20-27, with a high of 810 on September 22. On the 27th, Wheeler reported over 600 Swainson's Hawks in a hay field near Lamar. Wheeler reported 30 "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks between October 28-November 30 in Northeastern Colorado and commented that these birds were still migrating. A wave of Ferruginous Hawks was noted by Rawinski on October 13 when 4 were seen at Monte Vista. Wheeler reported 18 in Thornton on November 18. Although some of these birds winter here, Wheeler says that this species has a very extended migration. There was a poor Rough-legged Hawk migration with only 47 seen during November, as reported by Wheeler. Of special concern was the fact that only one immature was seen, perhaps indicating that this was a poor nesting year. Kevin Cook reported seeing no Rough-legged Hawks on a November "Rough-legged Hawk outing" onto the plains east of Fort Collins.

Blue Grouse were seen in Mesa Verde National Park along park roads during the last 3 weeks in October, where they were feeding on sweet clover seeds under the guard rails. John Rawinski also found Blue Grouse plentiful south of Monte Vista in September. Sixteen White-tailed Ptarmigan were found by Merchant on a September 24 trip above timberline. Nineteen Wild Turkeys were seen on November 29 by Bill Brockner at their usual Bergen Park haunt, with the same number reported by Dick Schottler in the same area on February 12. A Sora on November 30 was a late find for Dexter in Grand Junction, and a Common Moorhen was reported by Alex Brown at Sawhill Ponds in Boulder on November 15. About 20 Sandhill Cranes were seen by Merchant on September 24. From his vantage at 11,800 feet in elevation, he first heard and finally located the flying cranes with his binoculars as they flew at least one mile overhead at about 17,000 feet. To be visible at this great distance these must surely have been "Greater" Sandhill Cranes. Janos reported 1,500 Sandhill Cranes flying overhead October 20 at La Junta, 550 at Cheraw on October 22, and saw cranes as late as November 13 at nearby Holbrook Res. Fifty Sandhill Cranes seen in Fruita on November 20 by Dexter were late. Merchant saw 24 Band-tailed Pigeons southeast of Eagle on September 15.

Several Greater Roadrunners were reported around Pueblo by the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society and were seen throughout the fall. And in La Junta a Roadrunner was still at the Janos's house through December. A Common Barn-Owl seen by Ebright in Salida on September 3 was the first in the area this fall. A late report of 5 baby Flammulated Owls seen in late July was the first brood known from Mesa Verde since 1964. Also at Mesa Verde, a family of 6-8 Northern Pygmy-Owls was seen huddling together in late September. A Burrowing Owl seen for 4 days in mid-October at Eagle by Merchant was a new Latilong record, and the individual seen by Rich Levad at Fruita on October 14 was a late date. Pat Monoco reported many Burrowing Owls this summer and fall in Wetmore, in contrast to the state-wide decline reported for this species. A Short-eared Owl was heard the entire first half of August by Clark and Margaret Ewing in McCoy. A pair of Boreal Owls was seen by Rob Brazie north of Taylor Park Res. in mid-September and another Boreal Owl was heard by Dexter on Grand Mesa on November 17. Two Whip-poor-wills were reported with little comment at Wetmore by Monoco from September 2-4.

Hummingbird migration showed higher numbers state-wide with the best showing from Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds. A Magnificent Hummingbird was seen at Barbara Wipple's feeder in Salida on September 2. Lewis' Woodpeckers are still present in the front range foothills, with one seen in Golden on August 9 by Else Van Erp and another seen in Evergreen on September 15 by Dieter Kamm. This species nests in small numbers in the foothills west of Denver. A very early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker seen east of Westcliffe on August 6 was well described by Silverman. Hairy Woodpecker numbers were way down from last fall in the areas surveyed by Merchant around Eagle, who also commented that Northern Flicker numbers were down from last year's bumper crop.

An eastern Phoebe was a surprise for Dexter on September 11 in Grand Junction. This is a very unusual West Slope sighting. After 4 years of below average numbers, Jasper reported Gray Jay numbers up in Grand County this fall, and Merchant found Clark's Nutcracker numerous around Eagle in September. Forty Bushtits were seen at Brush Hollow Res. by the Watts on November 25, and 11 were seen there on January 21 by David Leatherman and Joe Mammoser. Very unusual was the fact that Merchant could find neither Rock nor House Wrens around Eagle this fall. Reporting birds not found is very valuable information, but is seldom done, probably because it is much easier to report what you see instead of what you don't see. An American Dipper was found this fall by Jasper along a creek at 11,200 feet in elevation in the Never Summer Range. Another was seen November 1 by Bob Righter at Muir Springs on the eastern plains. This is a very unusual location for this species which usually winters in, or within a few miles of, the foothills. Golden-crowned Kinglet numbers were up, at least in Grand County, where Jasper found up to 20 per day in migration during September.

The only Bohemian Waxwings found this fall were in McCoy where the Ewings saw up to 75 from October 17-24. A Northern Shrike found by Dexter on October 23 in Grand Junction was early but earlier yet was one seen on October 17 in Evergreen by Kamm. A Solitary Vireo, of the eastern race, several of which are seen annually in migration in Colorado, was reported by Janos in Holly on September 4. Jasper reported Warbling Vireos abundant in Granby until they disappeared in mid-September.

Jasper also reported that Grand County had a small increase in Lark Sparrow numbers from the last couple of years. Two White-

throated Sparrows were seen on November 26 in Colorado City by Dave Silverman. This species winters in very small numbers across eastern Colorado. Eighteen Great-tailed Grackles were seen by Rawinski at the Del Norte Sewer Ponds on November 23. They have wintered here the last couple of years--not bad for a bird that was once considered almost tropical in occurrence. It now not only breeds all over Colorado, but winters in the San Luis Valley where winter temperatures often drop to -30F and usually get to -40F at least once a year. Rosy Finches were coming down from the high elevation and were seen at Jasper's Grand County feeders by November where up to 30 were seen daily. At Roberta Winn's feeder in Westcreek, they were first spotted on November 19. A flock of 100 Pine Grosbeaks was seen by Jasper on November 28 in Fraser. Reporters in the mountains and foothills this fall and winter were asking, "Where are the Cassin's Finches? Where did they go?" Not only were they absent from the higher mountain finch flocks, they were also scarce in the foothills and valleys. Up to 20 Red Crossbills per day were seen at higher elevations in the subalpine zone by Jasper this fall in Grand County. Merchant noted that Lesser Goldfinches were less abundant than in any previous year around Eagle, and the last one was seen on August 18, one month earlier than usual. At the same time, American Goldfinches were more common than usual and were seen in several places in Eagle, mostly at feeders in November.

Winter 1988-89 (December, January, February)

The Colorado winter weather during this period was a real mix. There was a warm and dry December and January, followed by one of the coldest snaps of the decade at the first of February. In Denver it was February 9 before the temperature rose above 32F for the first time that month and it was February 23 before Denver experienced its first above average temperature for the month. A low of -24F was recorded in Denver on February 4, followed by a high temperature of -14F. Add 16 inches of snow and it was a rare combination. Cold and snow then spread to the mountains where the World Ski Championships were postponed due to 3 feet of snow at Vail on February 5. On to the West Slope where Grand Junction had up to 2 feet of snow west of town and a temperature of -10F. During the same cold wave, Craig recorded a low of -51F. Statewide, the month continued above normal in snowfall and below normal in temperature, giving us the coldest, and probably the most miserable, February in the last 75 years.

Several observers and the Front Range foothills Christmas Bird Counts (hereafter C.B.C.) found almost no montane seed-eating birds this winter. This mystery was solved with reports in early February of huge numbers of these same birds seen high in the Rockies, usually above 9,500 feet in elevation where the spruce and fir cone crops were very heavy. It now appears that a simultaneous failure of the cone crop below 9,500 feet and the bumper cone crop at the higher elevations were responsible for this remarkable difference in concentrations. Not only were these birds wintering in the high country, but a dearth of Accipiter sp. this winter on Colorado's eastern plains would indicate that these raptors, which principally prey upon birds, were also staying with their food supply, high in the mountains. This event highlights the ability of these species to rapidly adapt to changing food sources and to thrive.

The Yellow-billed Loon found by Dave Farmer and Dave Leatherman in early November was last seen at Hamilton Res. on January 18. During most of this period, a Common Loon was also at Hamilton. Hamilton Res. also played host to a Red-necked Grebe seen in late November and early December, found by Bill Howe, and a second (or perhaps the same) individual seen again from December 31 to January 20. A single Tundra Swan was seen by Alex Cruz, Jr. at Longmont's Terry L. on December 3, and Leatherman found another at Hamilton Res. on December 10. Up to 3 Mute Swans were seen at Hamilton Res. and in Fort Collins all through the period as they moved around the area. These Mute Swans are believed to be part of a group released by the City of Fort Collins Park and Recreation Department. Can they do that? An adult Trumpeter Swan, first found in November by Dave Silverman, wintered at C.F. & I. Ponds, south of Pueblo, and was last reported on January 28. Two immature Trumpeter Swans were also found by Silverman on December 4-5, three miles west of Walsenburg on a nearly frozen Walsenburg Res. Two immature Greater White-fronted Geese were seen in early December by Leatherman in Ft. Collins and an adult was seen on December 8. Two greater White-fronted Geese were found by Claude Vallieres from January 2-14 at Sloan's L. in Denver, and Mark Janos watched 7 land with Canada Geese in a cornfield bordering Cheraw L. Another, found in Boulder by David Bolster, was at Viele L. from February 19-23. An immature Snow Goose was found by Norm Lewis in Lakewood on January 12. On February 25, Arkansas Valley Audubon Society reported 10,000 Snow Geese at Meredith Res., and Janos estimated 8,000 more the next day at John Martin Res. For the second year in a row, Coen Dexter

reported four geese species at Highline Res. north of Mack. On January 8, he found 3 Greater White-fronted Geese, 15 Snow Geese, and 1 Ross' Goose mixed in with the Canada Geese there. Another Ross' Goose was seen by Ryder on Hamilton Res. on February 20. When the spring's first Cinnamon Teal arrived in Grand Junction on February 26, Dexter found them all on the Colorado R. as all their usual ponds and lakes were still frozen solid. Lewis reported over 1,000 Northern Shovelers at Sloan's L. on December 3 where they were actively feeding. As has been its tradition for the past 5 years, a male Greater Scaup was at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt from December 28-January 10, and, as has been his tradition, Duane Nelson found this bird. A male White-winged Scoter first found in mid-October at Hamilton Res. by Norm Erthal was still present on January 31. A female Oldsquaw was found here by Nelson on January 1, a day after the Rawhide C.B.C., and it lingered to February 12. A pair of Barrow's Goldeneyes was found by Glenn and Jeane Hageman on Sloan's L. on December 1. These goldeneyes were also reported there on January 22 by Joey Kellner. A female Barrow's Goldeneye, seen January 7-26 along the South Platte R. in Denver, was found by Schottler, and a single male was found by Joe TenBrink in Thornton along the South Platte R. at 88th Ave. on February 23. Leatherman reported over 20 Hooded Mergansers and a female Red-breasted Merganser at Hamilton Res. during December and January. He also reported 10 male Red-breasted Mergansers at C.F. & I. Ponds on January 21. Over 650 Common Mergansers were seen by Leatherman at Hamilton on January 19. All three Merganser species were found both by Lewis on Sloan's L. in Denver on December 3 and by Nelson in Golden on February 23.

Bald Eagles wintered in good numbers in eastern Colorado, with one at Cherry Creek seen by Scott Fitzmorris on February 25, and 23 reported at Bonny Res. by Schottler on February 26. Good news was that the pair at Barr L. was preparing to attempt to nest again. Keep your fingers crossed. A Cooper's Hawk was looking for birds too when spotted by Leatherman in Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins on January 13. A single Northern Goshawk was seen at Bonny Res. from December 28-February 26 by Wade Leitner, and was the only Goshawk reported on the plains this winter. A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was seen by Leatherman at Lindenmeir L. in Fort Collins from January 8-19. In December, the keen eyes of Neal Ward spotted a pair of Merlins as they terrorized the birds of lower downtown Denver. Another Merlin was found by John Bregar below the dam at Prewitt Res. on January 3, and another was spotted by Bill Brockner on February 12 at Barr L. Joe Himmel

reported one north of Nunn on February 22, making this an average year for Merlins. A Peregrine Falcon was reported by Dexter wintering in Grand Junction for the second year in a row. Another Peregrine was seen in downtown Denver by Ward January 8-26 and was believed to be one of those released last year, in the Downtown Peregrine Project.

An unusual wintering Sora was seen in a snow-covered marsh at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt from January 14-27 by C. W. Kelley, and Vallieres reported 3 Virginia Rails seen there during the same period. Another Virginia Rail was heard on January 20 by Leatherman at the marsh below Horsetooth Reservoir's north dam. Virginia Rails are uncommon winter residents in eastern Colorado in marshes where there is open water, such as at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt and Cherry Creek Res. Fifteen White-tailed Ptarmigan were seen on January 22 roosting in stunted spruce trees at Guanella Pass by Finnish visitor Harry Lehto, and two more ptarmigan were seen here on the 29th by Alan Hay. The Colorado R. in Grand Junction continued to be the winter shorebird hotspot, and is where Dexter found a Greater Yellowlegs January 7 and again on February 25.

Gulls were poorly reported this winter. An immature Mew Gull was found December 1 at Cherry Creek Res. by Leitner and another found by Glenn and Jeane Hageman was seen all of January in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt. Leitner pointed out that the Mew Gull at Wheat Ridge was an immature of the European race, Larus canus canus, called Common Gull over there. Thayer's Gulls were hard to find this winter also, with one seen on December 1 at Cherry Creek Res. by Joe TenBrink and an adult spotted by Nelson on the South Platte R. in Denver on February 15. The winter's only Glaucous Gull was an adult found by Janos at John Martin Res. on February 26. A single Black-legged Kittiwake, first found by Randy Lentz, hung around until December 1 at Cherry Creek Res.

A Common Barn-Owl was seen by Leitner at C.F. & I. Ponds at Pueblo on January 1 and was seen again there on the 13th. Eastern Screech-Owls were seen by Leatherman and Joe Mammoser during January in Fort Collins at Grandview Cemetery and in a Wood Duck box at the Flatiron Marsh. In a study of Western Screech-Owls in the Grand Valley west of Grand Junction, Levad found them in almost every farm with a grove of cottonwoods, and in riparian habitat along the Colorado R. in high enough numbers to state that they are the most common predatory bird in that area. If you are

looking for Northern Pygmy-Owls in Colorado, look in January, and look along rivers in the mountains below 8,000 feet in elevation. Dexter found one sitting on a guardrail post in Plateau Canyon, and was able to stop the car and size him up eye to eye. Almost expected was the N. Pygmy-Owl found by Nelson at Mount Falcon Park on December 17 for the Denver C.B.C. Others were found on January 21 along the South Fork of the South Platte R. at Deckers by Leitner, and on January 22 along the North Fork of the South Platte R. at Foxton by Bregar. Two different Northern Pygmy-Owls were reported by Victor Zerbi coming to feeders in Glenwood Springs January 27-31. On February 20, Steve and Debbie Bouricius watched as one had a White-winged Junco for lunch at his Peaceful Valley feeder. A Long-eared Owl was found roosting in a Blue Spruce on the Arapahoe County C.B.C. on December 31 in Louviers by Jean Maguire. Others looking for this bird the next day reported back in exasperation that Louviers consists of about 100 houses and 1,000 huge Blue Spruces. Smart Owl! Three Long-eared Owls were also found at Cherry Creek Res. during the new Denver Urban C.B.C. on January 2, and a single was found by Nelson at Bonny Res. on February 26. A Short-eared Owl seen at Bonny Res. by Leitner on December 28 was found in the same shelter belt later on February 28. Another Short-eared Owl was seen at Cherry Creek Res. on January 2 by Leitner and was still there at the end of January. The Douglas County C.B.C. also produced a very cooperative Northern Saw-whet Owl watching the watchers in Sedalia. While looking through the finch flocks on Guanella Pass at 11:00 a.m. on February 12, Dick Schottler and Warren Finch heard a calling Boreal Owl. Boreal Owl has not been reported from Guanella Pass, and certainly not calling during the day.

A Red-bellied Woodpecker was found on January 3 by John Bregar at Prewitt Res., and another was seen by Leitner at Muir Springs on January 12. Both were probably resident birds. Also resident were five Red-bellied Woodpeckers found by Nelson in February at Bonny Res. This winter, an adult male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found by Leatherman from December 15-February 20 in Fort Collins' Grandview Cemetery. Dave says that the sapsucker that wintered last year was an immature that was starting to molt into an adult male by March, so this winter's bird may be the same bird. The opposite story holds for an immature Yellow-bellied Sapsucker seen all winter at Susan Ward's feeder in Boulder. The bird coming to Susan's feeder for the last several years had been an adult, so this winter's bird, an immature, is a different individual. How did it know to come to the Ward's? The secret is

in Susan's special peanut butter suet. Downy Woodpeckers were very common at Bonny Res. on February 26 where Schottler reported seeing over 10 individuals, and an abundance of habitat consisting of lots of dead snags, with evidence of many wood-boring insects. Four Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in the beetle-killed Douglas Firs at Mile 98 in Poudre Canyon on January 20 by Leatherman. Another was seen on January 22 on Guanella Pass by Lehto, and Bill Brockner reported that the pair in Evergreen was seen in December and January.

First Say's Phoebes of the year awards go to Mark Janos at Lake Meredith and Coen Dexter in Grand Junction who found one each on February 26. Unusual was a lone Steller's Jay visiting the yard of Rodney Mullis east of Brighton near Barr L. Could this bird have left the foothills because of the cone crop failure below 9,500 feet? Bill Prather reported up to 50 Pinyon Jays coming to a feeder in Lyons throughout the period, and Coen Dexter commented on their absence from Pinyon-Juniper woodland on the West Slope, where the cone and berry crop failure was complete. A Canyon Wren heard by Leatherman at Watson L. near Bellevue on January 20 was at the extreme northern edge of this species' reported range along our eastern foothills. A Carolina Wren found last summer in Holly by Scott Seltman stayed at least through December 17 when Janos was able to find it on the new Holly C.B.C. Meanwhile, up north, two Carolina Wrens showed up in Marty Poole's Englewood backyard and were seen from December 24-January 10. At the same time, Maguire found another in Denver. The most amazing report of this species came from Marge Armitage, who first found a Carolina Wren at her feeder on January 19. After spending six sub-zero nights away, including one night when the temperature dropped to -24F, this bird returned to stay February 1-14. Not bad for a species known to be only semi-hardy. Winter Wrens were seen in mid-January in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt by Leitner, and all of January at the U.S. Highway 287 turnoff to Owl Canyon, 10 miles north of Ted's Place, where it was found by Todd Bodner.

Six Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen during December and January by Leatherman in Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins. An Eastern Bluebird was seen on December 24 on the Fort Collins C.B.C. by Larry Sanders, and 4 were found on January 3 below Prewitt Res. by Bregar, in an area where they probably nest. The 6 Eastern Bluebirds seen at Bonny Res. by Schottler on February 26 are resident birds. Why do these bluebirds stay here year round, when others migrate? Sanders also found a Western Bluebird on the

Fort Collins C.B.C., and migrant Western Bluebirds were reported by Dexter in Grand Junction on February 26. Over 200 Mountain Bluebirds wintered in the Grand Junction area where Dexter reported that they were sustained almost entirely on the fruits of the introduced Russian Olive. The first migrant Mountain Bluebird of the year was one found by Nelson on February 26 at Bonny Res. A partially albinistic, white-headed American Robin was seen on December 8 in the Armitage yard in Denver. The West Slope's only Varied Thrush report came from Dexter who found one in Grand Junction on November 30. He returned on December 1 just in time to see the thrush being killed by a cat. Dexter salvaged the bird for the Denver Museum of Natural History, and reported that upon further investigation the cat did not possess a permit to collect birds. Cindy Lippincott reported a male Varied Thrush that came to eat crab apples in a Manitou Springs yard from December 17 to January 27. A wintering Northern Mockingbird was found by Joe and Adam Mammoser below Prewitt Res. on January 28. The Denver Urban C.B.C. had a pleasant surprise on January 2 when Virginia Bleck found a Sage Thrasher eating berries with American Robins at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

Leatherman commented on the abundance of Northern Shrikes, which were seen in unusually high numbers during January in north-eastern Colorado. A pair of Yellow-rumped Warblers was found on the Denver Urban C.B.C. along the South Platte R. on January 2. The Pine Warbler seen at Phyllis Fisher's feeder in Denver from February 14-February 20 had just come through a week of below zero weather. This amazing sighting is even more remarkable when one realizes that this is the same feeder that hosted a Pine Warbler December 1986-January 1987. A male Common Yellowthroat was seen by Lee and Marilyn Rowe along the South Platte R. for all of January.

A male Northern Cardinal was the first David Silverman had ever found in Colorado City, and livened up an otherwise dull December 4. Janos reported two male N. Cardinals December 17 on the Holly C.B.C. at the Arkansas R. bridge south of Holly, where he found them all fall. Brown Towhees were well reported in good numbers in southeastern Colorado during the period. They were seen from C.F. & I. Ponds at Pueblo, to backyards in La Junta, to Baca County's Cottonwood Canyon. Large numbers of American Tree Sparrows were found at Bonny Res. on February 26 by Schottler, a good winter for this species there. A well-described Field Sparrow was found by Nelson on January 2 along Clear Cr. at the

Washington Street bridge during the Denver Urban C.B.C., for the only report of this rare winter species. Very unusual was a Savannah Sparrow found by Dexter west of Grand Junction on February 19. This, his second February sighting, is either a very early migrant, or a wintering bird. Bregar found a Swamp Sparrow on January 8 along the South Platte R. below the Waterton bridge, and Tom Parchment found another on January 15 at Barr L. At least 3 White-throated Sparrow were seen from early December through January 15 in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt by Nelson, who also reported an elusive immature Golden-crowned Sparrow, seen through mid-January. This sparrow was first found by Bob Spencer on Halloween day. Another Golden-crowned Sparrow was found by Leitner at Muir Springs in Fort Morgan on February 12, where it was briefly seen with hundreds of White-crowned Sparrows. Harris' Sparrows were reported during the period, with one seen on December 1-3 in Wheat Ridge Greenbelt by Nelson, and 3 seen on December 3 in Boulder at Walter Collins' feeder, and another found by Bregar at the Waterton bridge on January 8. Five more Harris' Sparrows were found by Nelson at Bonny Res. on February 26 where they are regular winter residents. They were found in the large flocks of White-crowned Sparrows. Only a few Lapland Longspurs were reported by diligent searchers in December and January. The best estimate was 1 longspur per 250 Horned Larks, although Hugh Kingery found modest numbers on January 23 north of Linden. Great-tailed Grackles again wintered in the Grand Valley with 13 reported on January 7 at the Clifton Water Plant by Dexter. Every year Himmel and Cairo report a large flock of "Gray-crowned" Rosy Finches wintering at Rockport in northern Weld County. This is along U.S. Highway 85, 6 miles from the Wyoming state line, in an area of rocky escarpments. Nine Pine Grosbeaks were found on January 22 on Guanella Pass by Lehto. Fifteen Pine Grosbeaks were seen by Scott and Diane Seltman on February 11 in the mountains above Breckenridge.

Corrigendum: The Pine Warbler found in November in Pueblo (C.F.O. Journal 22:132) was actually found by Van Truan, who submitted an excellent written description. Van has been absent from Colorado for some time but returned last spring. While Van was gone, he was missed by the entire Colorado birding community, and so it is with great pleasure that I can say "Welcome home, Van."

COLORADO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS BEGINS THIRD SEASON

Hugh Kingery
869 Milwaukee St.
Denver, CO 80206

Colorado Bird Atlas workers have already started on the third season of Atlas field work. By 1988, field workers had checked out 414 blocks and completed 84 of them. To meet our goal of completing 1800 blocks by 1991 or 1992, we need lots more field work and lots more field workers. We urge all members of C.F.O. to participate. You may sign up by contacting one of the Regional Coordinators or the Atlas office at the Denver Museum of Natural History.

To assist in getting started, the Atlas has scheduled a series of orientation workshops and field trips:

PUEBLO

March 10 (Friday). Workshop. 7:30 p.m., Columbia Savings & Loan, 5th and Santa Fe.

March 11 (Saturday). Field trip. 7:00 a.m., meet at the Town House Restaurant at 8th and Santa Fe (come early for breakfast). We will explore the NE Pueblo block which has riparian habitat along the Arkansas and where Dave Johnson found a Curve-billed Thrasher on a Pueblo Christmas count one year.

Contact Dave Johnson (545-5548) for information.

NORTHEAST COLORADO WORKSHOP

March 19 (Sunday). 1-5 p.m. At Office of Information Transfer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1025 Pennock Pl., Suite 212, Ft. Collins. From I-25 take Mulberry west; left on LeMay (2nd light) to Pennock Place (by Pizza Hut).

For information and reservations contact Paul Opler (493-8401 office, 226-2433 home).

GRAND JUNCTION

April 23 (Sunday). Field trip to Roubideau block. 8:30 a.m., Mesa County Public Library, or 9:15 a.m. at Gunnison R. bridge, 2 miles west of Delta.

April 23 (Sunday). Workshop. 7:00 p.m. BLM building, 764 Horizon Dr. (north of freeway 1/2 mile from Walker Field).

Information from Ron Lambeth (434-7106 home, 243-6561 work).

DENVER

May 10 (Monday). Workshop. 7:30 p.m., West Auditorium, Denver Museum of Natural History.

May 16 (Sunday). Field Trip to a Douglas County block. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Park & Ride, I-225 and Parker Road.

Contact Dave Martin (422-9143) or Dick Schottler (278-8035) for information.

Finding breeding birds in the spring can be slow business, but atlasers can find a number of valid records. Many nests from last year can be found and identified in bare deciduous trees. Great Horned Owls, Rock Doves, House Sparrows, and a few others start nesting in late winter.

Engelmann Spruce in the high country, both Eastern Slope and Western Slope, have a bumper crop of cones. This means that crossbills, which time their breeding with the conifer seed production, may have nesting underway in February and March this year.

The computerization of the records proceeds, though slowly. We have combined all the records from 1987 into one database and learned that the number of species reported from each block added together totaled 7271.

Categorizing the species most frequently reported in 1987 produced a few surprises. Of the species reported from 100 or

more blocks, none are introduced, half are passerines, and half are non-passerines. Here is the list with the number of blocks reporting them:

- 174 American Robin
- 151 N. Flicker (Red-shafted)
- 134 Mourning Dove
- 128 Western Meadowlark
- 127 Black-billed Magpie
- 125 Red-winged Blackbird
- 124 Barn Swallow
- 123 Killdeer
- 121 Brown-headed Cowbird
- 120 Mallard
- 111 Red-tailed Hawk
- 108 Broad-tailed Hummingbird
- 108 House Wren
- 106 American Kestrel
- 106 Common Raven
- 103 Common Nighthawk
- 100 Violet-green Swallow

Question: Are these 17 the most common birds in Colorado, the most conspicuous, or the most common in the most accessible parts of the state? In fact, how directly does frequency of recording translate into abundance? By gathering abundance estimates from Atlasers we hope to have some data on that subject.

The Atlas acknowledges with appreciation the contributions by C.F.O.--both the financial support (C.F.O. provided the initial seed money) and the participation by C.F.O. members as Atlasers, on the Steering and Technical Committees, and as Regional Coordinators.

ATLAS REGIONAL COORDINATORS
10/15/88

REG.	PHONE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP
A/B	245-4501 (H) 248-7175 (O)	John Toolen	2010 Mesa Ave.	Grand Jct.	81501
C	484-8791 (H) 226-9277 (O)	Jim Sedgwick	Wildlife Research Ctr. 1300 Blue Spruce Dr.	Ft. Collins	80524
D	226-2433 (H) 493-8401 (O)	Paul Opler	5100 Greenview Ct.	Ft. Collins	80525
E	243-6561 (O) 434-7106 (H)	Ron Lambeth	3202 D 1/4 Road	Clifton	81520
F	328-6349	Jack Merchant	Box 291	Eagle	81631
G	278-8035 (H) 236-0423 (O)	Dick Schottler	25 So. Indiana Pl.	Golden	80401
H	939-8005 (H) 492-4486 (O)	Bill Kaempfer	850 - 20th St.	Boulder	80302
J	422-9143	Dave Martin	9330 W. 90th	Westminster	80020
L	719-336-3505 (H) 719-336-4852 (O)	Jennie Slater	1610 S. 8th	Lamar	81052
M	241-9531	Coen Dexter	560 29 1/2 Road	Grand Jct.	81504
N	719-635-3838	Toni Brevillier	1440 Wood Ave.	Colo. Spgs.	80907
P	259-1266	Jeanne Willetto	829 Florida Rd.	Durango	81301
Q	232-7421	Phil Hayes	42 S. Balsam St.	Lakewood	80226
R	719-784-4773	Pat Monaco	Route 1, Box 9A	Wetmore	81253
S	719-545-5548	Dave Johnson	1920 Greenwood	Pueblo	81003
T	490-2610 (H) 484-2836 (O)	Beth Dillon	1225 W. Myrtle	Ft. Collins	80521

LATILONG REVISION PENDING

Hugh Kingery
869 Milwaukee St.
Denver, CO 80206

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has received the manuscript for a revised Latilong study with 1760 changes to the now out-of-print 1982 edition. Publication is on hold pending funding. Judy Sheppard, terrestrial non-game biologist, hopes to have copies available early in 1989.

The 1760 changes affect 360 of the 442 species currently on the Colorado list. It includes the Ruffed Grouse, documented by a specimen obtained in October 1988. The revision adds 12 species to the species maps as well as listing 15 with no records since 1965.

The revision incorporates data from 1965 (since publication of Bailey and Niedrach's Birds of Colorado) through 31 December 1987. It also incorporates new information from the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas Project for 1988. These additions are Little Blue Heron, and Least and Great Crested Flycatchers (C.F.O. Journal Vol. 22(3)104; 22(4)141).

Other changes include new latilong records, changes in status, habitat and abundance codes, species removed from, or added to the Accidental category, and species removed from the Colorado Field Ornithologist's list of species requiring documentation. This edition also deletes a number of records included in previous editions but for which documentation or details of observation are now felt to be lacking.

As always, the C.F.O. and the Colorado Division of Wildlife solicit data to reflect distribution and habitat changes. In regards to status, the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas Project is already filling in some of the blanks. Send information on changes to the Atlas c/o Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80205.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN
February 18, 1989Bill Prather
13810 Weld County Rd., #1
Longmont, CO 80501

Seven C.F.O. members gathered at Steve Bouricius' house in Peaceful Valley for the start of the trip. We were pleased by the many species of mountain birds that were visiting the feeders right outside the windows. Most birds were close enough to see well without binoculars. We then traveled to the parking area for the Brainard Lake cross-country ski trails. As we traveled through the woods on skis, Steve pointed out many signs of wildlife. A snowshoe hare, beautiful in its winter plumage, was seen. When we reached the open area around Brainard Lake, Steve instructed us to spread out and look for signs of ptarmigan, while being careful of the willow carr habitat. Although we found much evidence that ptarmigan were using the area, the birds eluded us. Probably they were dug into the snow and we didn't pass close enough to flush them. Steve led another group of skiers, including some C.F.O. members, to the same area the next weekend and found the ptarmigan. All participants had an enjoyable time searching for the ptarmigans. On C.F.O. field trips we don't always find all the birds but we can always enjoy the companionship of other interesting people. Plan now to join us on some of the upcoming trips. We thank Steve for a fun day.

Species list:

Downy Woodpecker	Mountain Chickadee
Clark's Nutcracker	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Black-capped Chickadee	Pine Siskin
Brown Creeper	Gray Jay
Red-winged Blackbird	Common Raven
Steller's Jay	Red-breasted Nuthatch
American Crow	"White-winged" Junco

BOOK REVIEWS

Hawks in Flight. Pete Dunne, David Sibley, and Clay Sutton. Illustrated by David Sibley. \$17.95 (hardback). Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 254 pp.

Reviewed by Hugh Kingery
869 Milwaukee St.
Denver, CO 80206

Fieldguides which specialize in one group of birds have appeared in the last five years: gulls, shorebirds, and hawks. This "semi-fieldguide" covers identification of just what the title says: hawks in flight, only. Colorful language combines with practical and detailed advice on how to distinguish hawks by plumage, shape, and behavior, thus making it a useful addition to C.F.O. members' libraries. Advanced birdwatchers will find it more useful, I think, than beginners. It articulates many things I have seen, and thereby reinforces ideas which I may not have known I had.

Even with the copious information on identifying hawks in flight, it contains lyrical prose which makes the book a pleasure to read. (And the authors want you to read it at home as well as take it into the field). Example: "A falcon is a mechanism of muscle and feathers designed to capture prey in flight. Accipiters are bushwhackers, masters of the artful dodge, with hair-trigger reflexes and agility that allows them to weave between branches. Falcons prefer wide open spaces; their mode of hunting is a one-on-one shootout, with all the chips going to the better flier."

Use of the lyrical language and unexpected comparisons helps implant identification characters in your mind. Example: "A Merlin is to a Kestrel what a Harley-Davidson motorcycle is to a scooter. ... When a Merlin takes flight, however, all similarities between the two disappear. The difference between them is not just a matter of degree but involves a quantum leap." Buteos says he, "...are keen-eyed wind masters, able to tease lift from temperature-troubled air and to soar for long periods on set wings."

The illustrations, all in black and white, show well the points described in the text. Seventy-eight pages of photographs of hawks in flight, resemble those in the Peterson series Hawk guide which came out last year. They adopt the rationale of the early Peterson field guides--"Black-and-white illustrations. . . closely approximate what an observer will actually see in the field."

Check the illustrations and their captions carefully--I found two mislabeled plates. On page 80, the falcon captions labeled C, D, and E actually describe pictures E, C, and D. On page 150, two pictures labeled adult and immature Golden Eagles show the same plumage of, perhaps, immature Golden Eagles although I'm not sure. To me, the two sketches do not even correctly present head, wings, or tail of an immature golden (if that's what it is). I rarely see the golden sheen on the head, and it has never looked so white as shown here. If you read the captions, you will discover the mistakes, and the overall quality of the book overcomes these little deficiencies.

The book originates partly from the ability of eastern hawk watchers to identify migrant hawks at the places where they migrate in huge numbers (places like Cape May and Hawk Mountain). It carries an eastern bias, which the authors specifically admit. Those two problems, minor in a book of this caliber, do not detract from its desirability. This is a good book.

The Complete Birder. Jack Connor. Illustrations by Margaret LaFarge. 1988. \$8.95 (paperback). Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 278 pp.

Reviewed by Hugh Kingery
869 Milwaukee St.
Denver, CO 80206

This book tries to do for the intermediate birder (probably 95% of us) what Roger Tory Peterson's "How to Know the Birds" tried to do for beginners. It suggests varied avenues in which you can funnel your bird watching activities, and offers suggestion on how to become a better birdwatcher.

The author writes in an engaging personal style, yet offers lots of ideas. He covers things like seasons, identification of difficult groups, and migration. The chapter on optics discusses both binocular and telescope selection, and explains why a 60 power scope does not produce twice as good an image as a 30 power scope. He thinks you'll be satisfied with a 30 power scope, or with a pair of 7 x 35 binoculars instead of 10 x 50's. He also tells you what features to seek in buying your optical equipment.

Connor offers lots of ideas on different kinds of bird watching. We in the West have lots of scope for more investigation of our bird life. While California and the East Coast have lots of hawk watches and banding centers, we have in Colorado only the one-year old Colorado Bird Observatory which bands at Barr Lake.

In the chapter on acoustics, he explains about sonograms --those mysterious sound charts which appear in the Golden field guide (Birds of North America, by Robbins et al.). He emphasizes the importance of sound in identification by using entertaining anecdotes.

Four identification chapters cover warblers, hawks, shorebirds, and gulls. These are not definitive discussions with feather by feather descriptions or illustrations. Rather the discussion involves personal experiences and principles of identification.

The book has the inevitable drawback for us in Colorado: an eastern bias or perspective. This occurs for two reasons, I suppose: he lives in the East, and the East offers a bigger market. However, only an easterner would refer to the country along the 105th meridian (in Colorado it follows, roughly, I-25) as midwestern. The warbler discussion especially deals with eastern species--somewhat understandably since the East has so many more warblers of so many more species.

The book reads well, and offers useful tips on bird watching and bird identification.

Atlas of Wintering North American Birds: An Analysis of Christmas Bird Count Data by Terry Root, University of Chicago Press, 1988.

Reviewed by Peter Gent
55 S. 35th St.
Boulder, CO 80303

Did you ever wonder whether anything useful is done with all the data collected in the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts? Or were you like me and thought they were an excuse to freeze yourself a few times every December, and have to pay for the privilege too! Well, now you can rest assured that your efforts were not in vain, providing you went on counts between 1962/63 and 1971/72.

All the count data from this period has been used to produce in this book an atlas of wintering North American birds. In all, the distribution and abundance patterns of 508 species or subspecies are discussed in the text. Both contour and three-dimensional maps are given for 250 species and contour maps alone for another 96 species. In addition, there are transparent overlays for the maps which map elevation, vegetation, temperature, precipitation, humidity and the average length of the frost-free period as well as other factors affecting bird distribution. Thus if you are a weather buff, like myself, you can start to draw all sorts of conclusions about how the weather affects bird distributions.

Terry Root started this work when she was a graduate student in the department of E.P.O. Biology at the University of Colorado in Boulder. She is a past co-editor of the C.F.O. Journal and is still a C.F.O. member despite the fact that she is now an assistant professor in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan. This book represents a coherent synthesis of an enormous amount of data into a format that is easy and interesting to read. The book has several uses that range from being the standard reference with which to compare future Christmas bird count data to showing birdwatchers where to plan their winter vacations in order to maximise their chances of seeing certain species. There is fascinating information in this book for everyone from professional biologists to the occasional birdwatcher who goes on a Christmas count. I very highly recommend this book to all of you.

ANNOUNCEMENT

FIELD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Colorado Bird Observatory is recruiting volunteers for two projects. The first is an inventory of historical and confirmed breeding areas for the Least Tern, *Sterna antillarum*. This project is financially sponsored by the Nongame and Endangered Species Program of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, which will allow the observatory to pay your mileage at 20 cents/mile. The work will involve visiting potential breeding areas in northeastern and southeastern Colorado during the months of May, June, July, and August. During your visits to area reservoirs, you will spend most of your time looking for Least Terns and mapping locations of sightings and nesting areas. We are also interested in information on other species nesting in the area, and your work may also benefit the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas.

As a project participant, you will be asked to keep detailed records, attend a short orientation session, and pay for other expenses you may incur. You should also have good birding skills, especially with terns and shorebirds. The Observatory will be able to loan you a good quality spotting scope for your trip to one of the survey areas.

Second, the Observatory is recruiting people interested in becoming bird banders. Currently, CBO operates banding stations at Barr Lake and at the Alfred M. Bailey Bird Nesting Area. However, there are plans to open other stations, and banders will be needed for future studies. Beginning banders will be trained in a one day session held at the Denver Museum of Natural History on either April 7th or 8th, your choice. There is a \$10.00 registration fee for the workshop, and banders will be expected to help man CBO banding stations over the next year. At the workshop, techniques necessary to conduct banding work will be taught, including: age/sex determination, molt patterns, mist net use, taking measurements, and collecting and recording data.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Least Tern project or work as a bird bander for the Colorado Bird Observatory, please send your name, address, and phone number to: Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Piccadilly, Brighton, CO 80601. Please state which project interests you. We will then send you more information.

CONTINUING:
THE CFO TOUR OF COLORADO

A series of field trips to special places and special birds led by CFO Board and Record Committee members. More trips will be announced in coming issues of the CFO Journal.

Saturday and Sunday, April 29 & 30, 1989 Ruffed Grouse

During the hunting season of October 1988, a Ruffed Grouse was shot in a remote area of northwest Colorado. The purpose of this trip will be to search for Ruffed Grouse in the same area during the season when they should be drumming. Chances of finding the grouse are uncertain but many other interesting birds could be seen. Leaders will be David Martin and Bob Hernbrode, who is director of the Colorado Division of Wildlife's watchable wildlife program. The general plan will be to break up into small groups and cover as much good habitat as possible at dawn and dusk when the grouse will be most easily found. At other times we can bird at our leisure and possibly obtain information for the Breeding Bird Atlas and Latilong study. The area is very remote, with access from Vernal, Utah. We will camp in primitive conditions, get up early, and go to bed late. Physical activity will be moderate to strenuous. All who are interested should get in touch with David Martin for last minute details such as carpooling and meeting time and place. Call David at (303) 422-9143.

Saturday, April 29, 1989 Shorebirds and Southeast Colorado Specialties

Mark Janos will lead this trip. We will meet at La Junta and carpool to Cheraw Lake, Adobe Creek Reservoir and John Martin Reservoirs. Some local specialties such as Roadrunner and Brown Towhee should be seen and early migrant landbirds are possible, but main targets will be shorebirds. A large variety should be seen. Mark says "couch potatoes" are welcome on this trip so I assume it will not be strenuous. Motels and a KOA campground are available in La Junta and you can camp at John Martin Dam near Hasty. Meet at the central kiosk in La Junta city park at 7:00 a.m., reached by turning south off Highway 50 onto Colorado Ave., then to 12th Ave. Call Mark at (719) 384-8672.

Saturday, June 3, 1989 Western Colorado Specialties

Coen Dexter will lead us on a tour of the Grand Junction area. Target species include Chukar; Virginia and Sora Rails; Barn, Flammulated and Long-eared Owls; Western Screech-Owl; Band-tailed Pigeon; Bushtit; Purple Martin; Cassin's Kingbird; Gray Flycatcher; Gray Vireo; Black-throated, Sage and Fox Sparrows. Transportation will be by carpooling and hikes will be moderate. Anyone interested in rafting should contact Coen. There is a campground at Highline Lake and motels are available along I-25. Meeting place is the campground at Highline Lake at 8 a.m. To reach Highline Lake State Recreation Area, exit from I-70 10 miles west of Grand Junction and go north. Call Coen Dexter at (303) 241-9531.

Sunday, June 18, 1989 Evergreen Area Mountain Specialties

This will be a car and walking (2-3 miles) trip led by Bill Brockner. Possible species include Hammond's Flycatcher, White-tailed Ptarmigan, (Brown-capped) Rosy Finch, Blue Grouse, Three-toed Woodpecker, and Pine Grosbeak. Mountain weather is always changeable so be prepared for precipitation and cool conditions and bring food and drinks. Camping is available at Echo Lake; motels are at Idaho Springs and Golden. Meet at the parking lot on the southwest corner of the junction of Colo. Hwys. 74 and 103 in Bergen Park, north of Evergreen at 7:30 a.m. Call Bill Brockner at (303) 674-4851 for more information.

Sunday, July 8, 1989 Empidonax Flycatchers

We will attempt to find birds and nests of 5 different Empidonax Flycatcher species. We will carpool and hike, wade, and scramble to the nesting areas. Bring food and drinks and be prepared for warm and cool, wet and dry conditions. Overall the activity will not be very strenuous. Meet at Bill Prather's house 13810 Weld Co. Rd. 1 Longmont (the 3rd house south of Colo. Hwy. 66 on the Boulder/Weld County line east of Longmont) at 7:00 a.m. or at the visitor center in the middle of the town of Lyons at 7:30 a.m. You may camp at Barbour ponds (at I-25 and Colo. 119) or get a motel room in the same area. You are also welcome to "crash" at Bill Prather's home - be prepared for the unusual. For more information call Bill Prather at (303) 776-2191.

Sunday, November 12, 1989 Pueblo Reservoir

Dave Silverman is always turning up interesting birds at Pueblo Reservoir-we've been hearing about them on the rare bird alert and seeing them in the seasonal reports. Target birds

include loons, gulls, Bald Eagles, Rusty Blackbirds and surprises. We will carpool and take light, easy, short walks. Bring clothes appropriate for November, food and drinks, and a telescope if you have one. Camping (cold) can be done at Pueblo Reservoir and many motels are available at I-25 and U.S. 50 West. Meet at park headquarters of Pueblo Reservoir (near the South Marina) at 7:30 a.m. For more information, call Dave Silverman at (719) 489-3565 or (719) 543-1842 (12:30 to 2:00 p.m. only).

-----UPCOMING BIRD ECOLOGY SEMINAR-----

Longtime active C.F.O. member Dr. Ronald Ryder will be leading a Bird Ecology Seminar with Rocky Mountain Seminars. Dr. Ryder is an Emeritus professor of Wildlife Biology at Colorado State University and one of our region's best known ornithologists. Ron is a specialist in avian ecology relating to water birds, birds of prey, and endangered species. The seminar will be held from June 19-24 at Hidden Valley Ski Lodge on the east side of Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park. The fee for the weeklong seminar is \$150.

For more information or to register, write:

SEMINAR COORDINATOR
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURE ASSOCIATION
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
ESTES PARK, COLORADO 80517

