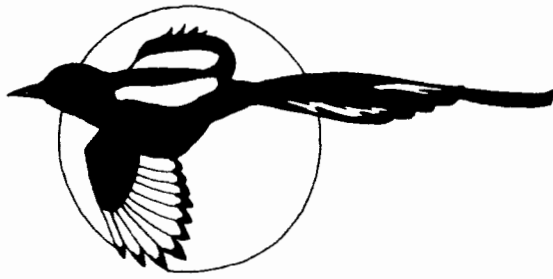




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<i>President:</i>	Mike Carter, 13401 Piccadilly Rd., Brighton, CO 80601
<i>Vice President:</i>	Dave Silverman, P.O. Box 362, Rye, CO 81069
<i>Secretary:</i>	Beth Dillon, 1225 W. Myrtle St., Fort Collins, CO 80521
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C.F.O. 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: Mona Hill, 3410 Heidelberg Dr., Boulder, CO 80303. Send rare bird reports to: *C.F.O. 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

An Open Letter from C.F.O. President	92
A Message from the Outgoing President	93
Note from the New Editor.....	93
Colorado Field Ornithologists Board Meeting	94
Field Trip and Board Meeting Announcement	95
Field Trip Report Correction.....	95
1991 Convention Report.....	96
Abstracts of Papers	100
Breeding Black-tailed Gnatcatchers? In Colorado?	103
Breeding Bird Atlas Update	104
News from the Field: Spring 1991	105
Sprague's Pipits Article.....	115
Sprague's Pipit Location Map	118
C.F.O. Records Committee Report 1989	119
Swainson's Warblers in Fort Collins Article	125
Food Items of Colorado Birds VI	130
Indices to Volume 25: 1991	137

Cover Photograph: *Black-tailed Gnatcatcher at Coal Canyon,
Colorado, Summer 1991 by Coen Dexter.*

An Open Letter From C.F.O. President

September 11, 1991

Dear Colorado Field Ornithologist:

Having just returned from one of the most successful Colorado Field Ornithologist Conventions ever, I can tell you that C.F.O. is in great shape. It is obvious that during the last three decades some people have contributed significant investments of their time to build this organization. As president, it is my duty to make sure that C.F.O. continues on the successful track it has followed for the last 30 years.

I imagine all new presidents come to C.F.O. with a set of goals that they would like to accomplish in their brief tenures. My first goal is to continue tradition: publish a quality journal about the birds of Colorado, maintain sighting records of the birds of Colorado, and schedule a yearly convention to an ornithologically diverse area of Colorado. If I had to sum up my personal goals in one sentence, it would be to do more of what is uniquely C.F.O.'s domain in Colorado. C.F.O. is the organization that lends continuity to Colorado ornithology. To fulfil this function I hope you will see more workshops on Colorado birds and more information about Colorado birds in the *C.F.O. Journal*. One example of what we are planning is a series of checklists published in the Journal that detail information from ornithologically poorly known areas in Colorado. We are developing a standard way to publish checklist information designed to build upon the work done by Bob Andrews and Bob Righter in their book about the birds in Colorado. These checklists will help birders find birds in Colorado. And they will also contribute to the conservation of Colorado birds because we really know little about them in some areas of Colorado. If you live in one of those far-flung areas of Colorado, begin compiling your records now, so that you can contribute to this project.

It is truly an honor to serve C.F.O. This was apparent to me when more than one of the old-timers came up to me and said, "Take care of C.F.O." I will.

Sincerely,



Michael Carter
President

A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

**Bill Prather
13810 Weld County Road 1
Longmont, Colorado 80501**

I could not resist one last chance to exercise the power of the C.F.O. President. Already I have extended my term to the maximum legal length by moving the convention from spring to fall. Now, however, the new officers have been installed and I must allow the power to be pried from my grasp.

With this issue we have a new editor for the *C.F.O. Journal*. Mark Janos has resigned to free up some of his time for his family and Mona Hill has been selected as new editor. I want to thank Mark once more for the great job he did and for helping to make this change a smooth one. I know Mona will do a great job, also, and I want to remind members to continue to help the editor by submitting articles and photographs for printing. Any interesting observations you have can make a short, interesting note for the *C.F.O. Journal* and add to our knowledge of ornithology. We also welcome reports of longer studies you have made.

I want to thank C.F.O. members for allowing me to be your president these last 2 years. Without your help and the excellent help of the other officers and board members, I could not have made it, but you all made me look good. I want to continue this support for Mike Carter and the other officers and board members. C.F.O. is in great shape and growing, thanks to all of you.

NOTE FROM THE NEW EDITOR

**Mona Hill
3410 Heidelberg Drive
Boulder, Colorado 80303
(303) 494-8135**

Even as I am surrounded by stacks of submitted articles, lists of what to include, notes of people to call, as I put together my first attempt to edit the *C.F.O. Journal*, I am very excited to be involved in C.F.O.'s task of communicating information about Colorado birds. I have been a member of C.F.O. who ordinarily does not attend conventions or go on the field trips. The *C.F.O. Journal* has been my link to the organization, my reason for being a member. I am pleased to be able to contribute in this way.

I too thank Mark Janos for leaving me with the *C.F.O. Journal* in

such good shape. It will not be easy to maintain his level of quality but it is a challenge I am looking forward to. I hope that now Mark has more free time, he will be able to write more articles.

The continued success of the *C.F.O. Journal* depends on everyone: I can edit only what is sent to me. Observations of unusual activities, even of common birds, are, I believe, of particular importance. Of course, reports of unusual occurrences are also important. And with the next issue, I hope to begin the Colorado checklist series.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS BOARD MEETING

August 31, 1991

Mike Carter
13401 Piccadilly Road
Brighton, Colorado 80601

A brief meeting was called at the Durango Annual Convention to discuss a few items. There was no agenda. The meeting began at 3:45 and ended at 4:15 pm.

Present: Steve Bouricius, Bill Prather, Mike Carter, Coen Dexter, Paul Opler, Mark Janos, David Leatherman and Mona Hill.

Topics:

Next convention: The next convention will be held in Boulder on Labor Day weekend. Discussion centered around whether we should have another Fall meeting and where in Boulder to have the meeting. Since the Durango meeting was one of the largest ever, it was generally agreed to try Labor Day weekend again. Craig in the Spring was approved for the 1993 meeting.

Reimbursements: Steve Bouricius and Bill Prather requested to be reimbursed for items relating to the convention. Receipts were received and they will be reimbursed. One of the items was for door prizes and it was agreed that these should continue.

Collins' request: Wally Collins requested that C.F.O. donate copies of the *C.F.O. Journal* to the C.U. Library. C.U.

Vol. 25, No. 4 C.F.O. Journal Fall 1991

now subscribes to the Journal and the Board agreed that the C.U. Library should have a complete set of the Journal. A motion to donate requested issues (with more than 5 issues left) was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Bouricius submitted a report detailing C.F.O.'s financial status with these account balances: C.D. = \$3,800, checking = \$3,721, and money market = \$12,180.

Thank you: The Board thanked Bill Prather and Mark Janos for their outstanding service to C.F.O. We welcomed Mona Hill as the new Editor of the *C.F.O. Journal*. The Board also constructed a list of people to be thanked for their help in planning the C.F.O. Convention. M. Carter publicly thanked these people at the banquet.

Next meeting: 5:30 and/or at the finish of the fieldtrip
November 3, 1991
CBO office at Barr Lake State Park
Pot-Luck with main dish provided by M. Carter

Field Trip and Board Meeting Announcement

There will be a field trip to look for waterbirds, gulls and late passerine migrants on Saturday, November 3, 1991. We will bird Union and other Weld County Lakes. The trip will end in the Barr Lake area around 4 PM. A pot-luck supper and C.F.O. Board of Directors' Meeting at the C.B.O. office at Barr Lake, State Park will follow. Meet at 8 AM at Jim Hamm Park on Weld County Rd. 1, East of Longmont. Leader: Bill Prather (776-2191).

Field Trip Report Correction by Bill Prather

The field trip report for the Longmont, Lyons and Berthoud area that was published in Vol. 25 no. 3 of the *C.F.O. Journal* stated Baird's Sparrows were seen. This was a mistake on my part when I wrote the report. It should have read Brewer's Sparrows; no Baird's Sparrows were seen on the trip. I apologize for the mistake.

1991 CONVENTION REPORT

Bill Prather
13810 Weld County Road 1
Longmont, Colorado 80504

The 29th annual convention of the Colorado Field Ornithologists was held in Durango August 30 through September 2, 1991. We received a warm welcome by the staff of the Red Lion Inn and members of the Durango Bird Club. On Friday evening there was information available in the beautiful lobby of the Red Lion for early arrivals. The Durango Bird Club had made up checklists especially for the convention.

Saturday Field Trips

Saturday morning field trips went to the Cortez area, Junction Creek Road, the Animas Valley below Durango and the Animas Valley above Durango. The Cortez area trip went to Mesa Verde National Park and to Summit Lake. In Mesa Verde a large number of Wild Turkeys were seen and a Blue Grouse was heard. Also a good selection of Warblers and other passerines were seen as the group hiked and birded around Prater Ridge. At Summit Lake a thorough search produced a Grace's Warbler and a number of other species. The Junction Creek trip explored the mountain habitat northwest of Durango. This group also saw Grace's Warbler as well as Band-Tailed Pigeons and a Goshawk. The Lower Animas group saw a lot of birds including great looks at Townsend's and Black-throated Gray Warblers. A stop at Pastorius Lake produced a Northern Waterthrush. Part of the group stopped at the Stransky home and watched hummingbirds coming to the feeder, including a female Blue-Throated. The Upper Animas group birded the beautiful valley north of Durango including the spectacular Baker's Bridge area.

Saturday Papers Session

Saturday afternoon members were treated to four excellent papers, presented by Jon Verner, Ron Ryder, Cate Ortega, and Bob Andrews, at the Red Lion. Abstracts of the papers are on page 100.

Annual C.F.O. Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Bill Prather, president. The main business of the meeting was election of officers. The bylaws of C.F.O. allow the President and Vice-President to serve a maximum of two consecutive 1 year terms. Both Bill and David Martin, as vice president, had served 2 terms

and had to retire. Each year two of the directors terms expire also. This year the terms of Coen Dexter and Paul Opler were up and both were eligible to be re-elected as they had served only 1 of the 2 allowed terms. The Board of Directors recommended the following slate of officers:

President:	Mike Carter
Vice President:	Dave Silverman
Executive Secretary:	Beth Dillon
Treasurer:	Steve Bouricius
Board of Directors:	Coen Dexter for a new 3 year term, Paul Opler for a new 3 year term, Dave Leatherman to replace Dave Silverman and finish the last 2 years of that term, and Bob Dickson to replace Mike Carter and finish the last year of that term.

The floor was opened for other nominations and, none being heard, it was moved that the nominations be closed. The motion was passed by a voice vote. The motion that the slate recommended by the board of directors be adopted was made and passed by a voice vote. Bill thanked the members for letting him be their president for the past 2 years. He noted that due to the excellent jobs done by the other officers and directors that the organization was in fine shape and vibrant. A lot of the credit for that was due to Mark Janos, who was retiring after over 4 years as *C.F.O. Journal* editor. Mark put out fine editions and got the schedule back on time. As a thank-you to Mark, C.F.O. presented him with a framed lithograph from an 1880 railroad survey report. The presentation read:

PRESENTED TO

**MARK JANOS
BY THE COLORADO FIELD
ORNITHOLOGISTS**

Thank you for your years of service as editor of the C.F.O. Journal

This bird appears to be an immature female Common Nighthawk although its overall coloration is more indicative of a Lesser Nighthawk. Also the white patch on the primaries touches less feathers than is normal for a Common Nighthawk but typical of a Lesser Nighthawk. Perhaps the artist was working from specimens of both species without realizing they were not the same. This is typical of the confusion over birds in the nightjar family. It was not until 1809 that Alexander Wilson started to dispel the widespread belief, held even by the experts of the day,

that Whip-poor-wills and Common Nighthawks were the same species. Today we are left with the Latin name of the Common Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*, meaning the smaller or lesser member of the genus even though it is actually the larger. The Latin name of the Lesser Nighthawk is *Chordeiles acutipennis*, meaning the member of the genus with pointed wings although its wings are less pointed than those of the Common Nighthawk. Mark Janos has helped increase our knowledge of the Lesser Nighthawk, as well as a number of other species of Colorado birds and has been a great editor and a good friend and birding companion.

Saturday Banquet

We were treated to a delicious meal and great service by the Red Lion staff. The birds seen that day were checked off the master list. 117 species were reported by members. Nominations for the bird of the day were Northern Waterthrush, Goshawk, Nashville Warbler, and Blue-throated Hummingbird. Blue-throated Hummingbird was voted the winner. Prizes were awarded to Kip Stransky for reporting the bird at his feeder just before the convention and to John Prather for originally identifying the bird. Mike Carter thanked members of the Durango Bird Club for their help in setting up the convention and leading field trips. Also Alan Versaw and Coen Dexter were thanked for leading field trips and Linda Vidal, Steve Bouricius, and Bill Prather were thanked for their work setting up the convention. Peter Gent then introduced the presenter of the evening program, Susan Allen. Peter noted that he met Susan when she was involved in South American tours for Wings and she now is Director of The Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Crested Butte. Susan's show of excellent slides, narration and music delighted us and sent us to bed happy.

Sunday Field Trips

Members had the same choices as Saturday. The Cortez area group again saw Wild Turkeys, and were delighted by the large number of Hummingbirds, including Calliope, feeding on the Indian Paintbrush at Mesa Verde. At Totten Reservoir the group got good looks at several Warblers including a Nashville and a large number of water and shore birds, including Pectoral Sandpiper. At Summit Lake, Grace's Warbler and Solitary Vireos, including one of the west coast race, were seen. The Junction Creek group had to climb to see the Grace's Warblers on Sunday. The Lower Animas group saw a Peregrine Falcon and part of the group, waiting at Stransky's, saw the Blue-throated Hummingbird.

Sunday Clinics

Members had a choice of Dave Leatherman's slides and discussion of how to take good bird pictures without spending a lot of money and John Prather's Hummingbird identification clinic. John used slides, some of which were borrowed from Steve Bouricius and Dave Leatherman, and a handout he had made from his research and experience.

Sunday Barbecue

Elva and Maynard Fox graciously allowed us to use their beautiful yard for the Sunday meal. Members sitting in the yard and strolling the River Walk, right outside the back gate, saw a number of birds including Eastern Kingbird. A Black-chinned Hummingbird nest in the garage a couple of houses down held 1 young about a week old. A delicious meal of Barbecue chicken, baked beans, and salads was served and the Durango Bird Club members provided drinks. The check-off of the birds seen produced 124 birds for the day and 138 for the 2 days. Nominations for the Sunday bird of the day were Eastern Kingbird, Pectoral Sandpiper, the west coast (*Cassini*) Solitary Vireo, Peregrine Falcon, and Red-Eyed Vireo, seen at Pastorius Reservoir. Winner was the Peregrine Falcon and the prize went to Steve Bouricius who identified it first. Steve then held the drawing for the 4 door prizes. Another round of thank-yous was given the Durango Bird Club, the field trip leaders, the Stranskys for allowing us to infringe on their privacy numerous times to look for the Hummingbird, and especially Elva and Maynard Fox for use of their yard and house.

Owling Trip

Those intrepid members, who still had energy, left on an owling trip after the barbecue. We tried to find Western Screech-Owl in the large trees along the Animas River. No responses were heard so we went to a place on missionary ridge to try for Pygmy and Saw-Whet Owls. Here we were able to spotlight a small bat and follow it to until it clung to the side of a ponderosa pine tree where we could study it. No owls were found, however. The spot we were going to try for Flammulated Owl was occupied by a wild party (a number of students at Ft. Lewis College had not found housing yet and were camping out), so we called it a night.

Monday Field Trips

The trip led by Coen Dexter and Brenda Wright first went to Stransky's to give the Blue-throated Hummingbird one more chance. With no success there, they went over Red Mountain pass to Ouray. Here they saw

Black Swift nests with young in them at close range. Some migrants were seen at Ridgeway and then a number of shore and water birds were seen at Hart's basin near Delta. The trip ended at Cameo canyon but due to the late hour no Black-Tailed Gnatcatchers or Chukars were seen.

The other trip went directly to the overlook on Wolf Creek pass. Here White-throated and Black Swifts were seen. The next stop was a wooded area on the other side of the pass where a number of mountain birds were seen and heard. In the San Luis Valley we watched hawks while traveling to Del Norte to look for Bendire's Thrasher. We did not find any but saw a number of other sage habitat birds. The last stop was a Smith Reservoir where a young Peregrine Falcon gave us a good show. Other waterbirds and migrants were seen also. The total list for all convention field trips was over 160 species.

1991 C.F.O. Convention: Abstracts of Papers

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF COWBIRD PARASITISM ON
YELLOW-HEADED AND RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS IN
COLORADO**

Catherine P. Ortega
Department of Biology, Fort Lewis College
Durango, Colorado 81301

Breeding parameters were investigated and experiments were conducted with Yellow-headed Blackbirds (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) and Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) to determine possible explanations for the lack of Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) parasitism on Yellow-heads. Red-wings were significantly more aggressive than Yellow-heads towards cowbird mounts placed close to active nests. Twenty-three cowbird eggs were cross-fostered from Red-wing nests to Yellow-head nests. Eleven of the cross-fostered cowbird eggs hatched, and seven fledged. Of the four which hatched but failed to fledge, three disappeared, and one starved as did all except one of its Yellow-head siblings. Eight of the twelve cowbird eggs that did not hatch disappeared, and four were inviable. Cowbirds grew at the same rate in Yellow-head and Red-wing nests. However, the additive effect of small differences in breeding characteristics between Yellow-Heads and Red-wings may help explain the lack of cowbird parasitism of Yellow-head nests. The breeding season of Yellow-heads had an earlier peak of nest initiation, the abandonment rate of active Yellow-head nests was dramatically higher at the end of the season, Yellow-heads are larger than Red-wings, and nest densities of Yellow-head colonies are greater than Red-wing colonies.

MEXICAN SPOTTED OWL DISTRIBUTION IN COLORADO

Jon Verner
Pike/San Isabel National Forest
1920 Valley Drive
Pueblo, Colorado 81008

The Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) occurs primarily in mixed conifer forests in steep rocky canyons. Multistoried tree stands are typical with a closed canopy of more than seventy percent. Three years of intensive surveys for spotted owls in Arizona and New Mexico have yielded an estimated total of about 1,037 pairs of owls (Fletcher 1990). For Colorado, there are 20 historical records, including four specimens. The owl has been known to be a resident of Mesa Verde National Park for some time. Until recently little was known about the status of the owl in other parts of the State of Colorado. Beginning in 1989, surveys were begun in the four southern National Forests of Colorado and other adjoining Federal and State lands to determine the status of the owl in other parts of Colorado. Prior to the 1991 field season, ten spotted owl sites were located. Pairs of owls were confirmed at four sites. Five of the sites were on National Forest System lands, three were in Mesa Verde National Park, and one site each was on Ute Mountain and Southern Ute Tribal lands.

Literature Cited: Fletcher, Keith, 1990. Report to Fish and Wildlife Services, on status of Mexican Spotted Owl in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah.

UPDATE ON THE NEW COLORADO BIRD BOOK

Robert Andrews
Department of Environmental, Population, and Organismic Biology
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80309

The last comprehensive book on Colorado's birds was *The Birds of Colorado*, by Alfred Bailey and Robert Niedrach, published in 1965 by the Denver Museum of Natural History. In the 25 years since that book was published, there has been as much, or more, ornithological fieldwork conducted in Colorado than in the previous 25 years. In 1986, Bob Andrews, Bob Richter, and Charlie Chase began work on a new book, entitled *Colorado Birds*, which will be published by the Denver Museum of Natural History in the spring of 1992. *Colorado Birds* will present information in a concise, easy to use format, consisting of a summary statement, and sections on status, habitat, records, notes, and references. There will be extensive use of graphics

(maps, elevation charts, and seasonal charts). For most species, these will be the first published detailed maps or elevation charts, and the seasonal charts will also be different in some ways from previously published charts. The lack of detailed and standardized local checklists has been a problem, and we suggest a series of local checklists be prepared, using the format and codes as used in the book. The extensive computerized database developed while researching the book will be continually updated and made available for general use.

DISTRIBUTION, STATUS, MIGRATION AND HARVEST OF COLORADO REDHEADS

Ronald A. Ryder

Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology
Colorado State University, Fort Collins

The Redhead (*Aythya americana*) is a widespread and abundant migrant in Colorado. In 1988, it probably nested in at least 18 of the 28 latilong blocks. In all, 4,332 Redheads have been banded in Colorado, mainly in North Park and the San Luis Valley. As of 5 June, 1991, 370 recoveries had been reported from these bandings. North of Fort Collins, 835 have been banded at Hamilton Reservoir. Most recoveries were in Colorado, Texas and Mexico (both east and west coasts), but reports came from as far away as Michigan and New York. Legal hunting accounted for most recoveries, but some birds died from lead poisoning, botulism, fowl cholera, and a variety of accidents. In addition to the Colorado bandings, 340 Redheads banded elsewhere (mainly Utah and Wyoming) have been recovered in Colorado.

The species has been declining seriously since about 1980. In the Central Flyway it received total protection from hunting in 1972, but most years it is hunted as a "high point" bird under the point-system of hunting regulation. Since 1964, approximately 100 to 4,000 (high in 1976) Redheads have been shot annually in the Central Flyway of Colorado; whereas Texas shoots as many as 46,500 some years (1967). Although hunting losses are important, the loss of suitable nesting habitat is probably the primary cause of the Redheads' decline in numbers.

BREEDING BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHERS? IN COLORADO?

Coen Dexter
3227 D Road
Clifton, Colorado 81520

On July 7, 1991, Rich and Nanette Armstrong of Austin, Texas were hiking in Coal Canyon, 15 miles north of Grand Junction. It was a hot afternoon; heat was radiating from the reddish-grey Mesa Verde sandstone walls. The Armstrongs had Chukars on their minds as they searched this western Colorado canyon, not more than 35 miles from the Utah border.

The Chukars were not cooperative. However, this Mesa County canyon did have other species to keep their interest. To be found in the rabbitbrush, greasewood, saltbrush, sagebrush and scattered junipers were Gray and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Gray Vireo and Black-throated Sparrows. Also on the Armstrongs' list: Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura*). Could the heat and sun have taken their toll in the desert?

As the Armstrongs drove towards Aspen and cooler, greener places, the Chukar disappointment was soon gone. Curiosity somehow alerted them to check the range map of the Black-tails. Much to the Armstrongs' surprise, the non-migratory species did not occur in Colorado, or even close to it.

At this point, the word was spread. Over the next several weeks, many birders came to Coal Canyon to get their first look at a Colorado Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. Several birds were found: males, females, and fledged young. Also, a nest being built was found in a juniper on July 15. This was an attempt at a second clutch.

The birds were still present at the end of August. Will they attempt to winter? Will they be found next year? Have they always been there? Are there more populations of this species scattered in the vast desert canyons of the Southwest? Could this be another wind-blown species?

We have more questions than answers. Time will answer some. Maybe the Armstrongs would like to visit more canyons of the Southwest. I bet we can find someone who can find them a Chukar.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS UPDATE

Hugh E. Kingery
869 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206

As usual for this C.F.O. Journal column, the deadline (September 1) comes too early for complete information. We do not have results from the field yet--that will take until the end of the year. We do have a few anecdotal bits of information.

Information on three breeding species of interest came from non-Atlas sources--Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Spotted Owl, and Black Rail.

The most spectacular breeding bird of 1991 is the Black-tailed Gnatcatchers nesting near Cameo. First found by a Texas bird-watcher looking for Chukars, this first state record turned into a first state breeding record as well. One pair of birds nested twice during the summer. Another pair may have been present. Theories abound about them; suffice it to say, Western Slope bird-watchers should look for them in other places with similar habitat. The preferred habitat seems to be scattered junipers, fairly dry, the same sort of places which attract Gray Vireos.

Spotted Owl researchers found the first actual nest in Colorado, in a side canyon of Mesa Verde National Park. Not surprisingly, the owls picked an old ruin as their nesting site. A Forest Service team found Spotted Owls at least three sites in the Wet Mountains and banded three young birds; the Bureau of Land Management found one between Cripple Creek and Florence.

The Black Rail which Dan Bridges found between La Junta and Las Animas had set up a territory in an Atlas block; apparently no one found a mate for this bird (or birds), and its behavior corresponded purportedly to that of unmated males in the East.

Atlas observations are less spectacular. Least Flycatchers nested again in Chatfield State Park, Littleton Atlas block (39105E1); in fact the block had two singing males, one nest found. The same block had a territorial Eastern Wood-Pewee, but no sign of a mate (Atlas code "T").

Bill Prather found a pair of territorial Field Sparrows which continually dove into a thicket--a likely breeding site--but he could not find the nest this year: breeding code "V", Julesburg Res. Atlas block (40102H6). He also confirmed Bell's Vireos nesting in this block--in fact he had five singing males, with one nest in a Russian olive tree (Atlas code "ON").

New Latilong records turned up by Atlasers include confirmed breeding for Chimney Swift in Latilong 28 (Springfield), Ash-throated Flycatcher in Latilong 25 (Alamosa), Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspurs in Latilong 13 (Limon), Great-tailed Grackles in Latilong 14 (Burlington); Pueblans also confirmed their breeding, not in an Atlas block, in Latilong 19.

The Atlas Rendezvous trips attracted a large number of participants--an average of 10 per Rendezvous. The combined groups explored 30 blocks, most of which had had no prior field work. It appears that, with the help of the Rendezvous observers and a lot of other old and new field workers, the Atlas effort made substantial progress in 1991 towards its ambitious goal.

**NEWS FROM THE FIELD: SPRING 1991
(MARCH, APRIL AND MAY)**

**Bill Prather
13810 WCR 1
Longmont, Colorado 80504**

The spring season of 1991 in Colorado was most notable, I think, for the number of southern and southwestern birds that made rare appearances in Colorado. Brown Pelican, Reddish Egret, Lesser Nighthawk, Lucy's Warbler, Bronzed Cowbird, Scott's Oriole and Buff-breasted Flycatcher startled many Colorado observers. (They were followed by more Brown Pelicans, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, and Streak-backed Oriole in the summer, but that's another report). The Warbler migration started out with lots of promise, fizzed out, and closed stronger. All in all, it was a very interesting season.

Statements of the status of species are my opinion only and are included to give you an idea what I mean when I list reports. Generally "rare" means less than 10 accepted records or an endangered species, "uncommon" means less than 10 sightings a season. I just listed the reported sightings from the sources I had; I did not make any judgements about authenticity.

Observers who see very unusual birds should document their sightings and send reports to Hugh Kingery for *American Birds* and to the Denver Museum of Natural History for the C.F.O. Records Committee. (This advice comes to you from the world's worst birdwatcher when it comes to documenting sightings). For common or fairly common species I listed only unusual numbers or comments birders made about trends in their areas. (Reports of trends in more common bird populations in areas you bird regularly are most appreciated when articles like this are written). Anyway,

thanks to everyone who made reports. *Indicates a rare-bird report was sent to the C.F.O. Records Committee. Look for the committee report on these sightings in future *C.F.O. Journals*.

Yellow-billed Loon rare winter migrant. 1 which wintered at Hamilton Res. N of Wellington was still present 5/31. (It never changed to alternate plumage.) RR

Horned Grebe fairly common to common migrant over much of state. 2 seen at Totten Reservoir near Cortez were considered unusual AV.

White Pelican common summer resident and local breeder on eastern plains, uncommon in west. 24 near Carbondale 4/19 JM; 1 on 4/24 and 4 on 5/1 at Dotsero were first Eagle County sightings for JM; 22 at Crystal Springs Lake 4/16 and 40 flying over Glenwood 5/25 were first area sightings for VZ; 40 nests at new breeding area, MacFarlane Res. in north park, on 6/6 MS.

Brown Pelican 1 accepted record before 1991. 1 (immature?) was photographed on the roof of the Limon McDonald's restaurant by Shelly Hendrix of the *Limon Leader* newspaper 5/9.

Double-crested Cormorant common breeder and migrant in much of state. AV recommended change from "accidental" status in latilong 22 to fairly common migrant.

Least Bittern uncommon migrant and breeder. 1 in Longmont 5/19 and 20 MLR; 1 at McClellan Res. 5/19 CB.

Great Blue Heron common local breeder. 25 nests at Pueblo Reservoir was almost double previous total DS; Those nesting at Chatfield Reservoir have finally chosen 2 new sites to replace old heronry that is falling down. HK

Little Blue Heron uncommon migrant, rare breeder. 1 at Cheraw 5/1 CL; 1 adult at Cherry Creek Res. 5/16 JRe; 1 near Broomfield 4/13 MR

Reddish Egret 1 accepted record before 1991. 1 was found by Karl Overman of Detroit, Michigan on 5/27 at Horse Creek Reservoir (Blue Lake) near Las Animas. It was seen by a number of birders-last on 5/29. MJ*

Cattle Egret uncommon migrant over most of state, locally more common and a breeder. 3 near Grand Junction 5/11 and 6/1 CD; at Silt sewage pond 5/3 VZ (fewer records in NE latilongs).

Green-backed Heron uncommon migrant and breeder, less reports in west. 1 at Lucy Ela near Grand Junction 5/30 and 31 CD; numerous reports from eastern Colorado.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron uncommon migrant, rare breeder. 1 at Rocky Ford 4/27 AVAS.

Trumpeter Swan formerly considered a rare migrant, reports have increased in recent years. 1 immature in a field E of Las Animas on 4/21 DJ*; 1 near Boulder 3/24 WS.

Greater White-fronted Goose uncommon migrant. 3 near Grand Junction 3/19, 26 and 27. CD, RL; 1 in Canyon City 3/1 BPe, VT; 1 at Swink 3/29 AVAS.

Ross' Goose uncommon migrant, reports increasing over last 10 years. 10 found on small pond near Cortez 4/15 AV. Up to 103 at Highline Reservoir 3/4 to 3/31 RL, CD; 1 at Silt sewage pond 4/13 VZ; 1 at Walsh 3/18. (Listed accidental for latilong) JT; numerous reports from eastern Colorado.

Canada Goose common breeder or migrant over most of state. "Seems to be flourishing in this (McCoy) area since they were transplanted 10 years ago" ME.

Wood Duck has become a fairly common local resident in eastern Colorado, JT* recommended that the "accidental" status be dropped for latilong 28 on the basis of repeated sightings at Walsh.

American Black Duck rare migrant. 2 at a small lake SW of Lake George on 5/18 KH*, LD; 1 seen in Pueblo area in same locations as last year when it stayed through the spring at least. DS, MJ, BD, BPe.

Eurasian Wigeon uncommon migrant. 1 in Weld County 4/22 MN.

Canvasback fairly common migrant and rare breeder. CD saw only 5 individuals on 3 dates this spring which he considers alarmingly low.

Redhead RR considers this a species in decline. No observers reported any noticed trends, but we should all pay more attention to this species.

Greater Scaup uncommonly reported but possibly fairly common migrant. 4 at Highline Res. 4/2 CD; 1 female at Clifton Marsh 4/30 until end of period CD, RL; 1 in Pueblo 3/8 VT; 1 in Ordway 4/14 BPe, MJ; 2 at Walsh 3/3 JT; 2 at Rocky Mountain Arsenal 4/24 LM; 1 pair at McClellan Res. 3/1 CBA; 10 near Boulder 3/2 CBA.

Oldsquaw uncommon winter visitor. A pair at Pueblo Reservoir until 3/30 was late. DS; 1 stayed near Golden until 3/23 DN, CBA.

Barrow's Goldeneye uncommon winter visitor. 1 female at Union Res. 3/3 and 4 JP; 1 male near Boulder 4/9-20 SB; 2 male, 1 female at Grand Lake 4/10 PE.

Osprey uncommon local breeder, fairly common migrant. 1 pair was observed attempting to nest at Pueblo Reservoir where nest was abandoned last year. The Colorado Division of Wildlife closed a nearby road to limit people pressure. DS; 45 observed at hawkwatch near Morrison 3/1 to 5/3 DN.

Mississippi Kite common local breeder in SE, uncommon migrant elsewhere. 1 in Fort Collins 5/14 RR.

Bald Eagle fairly common winter resident, uncommon breeder. 1 pair failed in nest attempt near Fruita in April, EP, RL, CD; a large group was at Union Res. in early May, high of 31 on 3/5 IP.

Sharp-shinned Hawk fairly common migrant and breeder. 292 were seen at hawkwatch near Morrison 3/1 to 5/3 compared to 1 in a similar period of 1990. DN.

Cooper's Hawk fairly common migrant and breeder. 256 were seen at hawkwatch near Morrison 3/1 to 5/3 compared to 2 in a similar period of 1990. DN.

Northern Goshawk uncommon breeder in mountains, uncommon migrant

elsewhere. 1 nest found on 4/22 in Boggy Draw near Cortez fledged 1 young by 5/29 LB; 1 at Bents Old Fort 3/2 DB.

Broad-winged Hawk uncommon to fairly common migrant, rare breeder. "Banner year-3 observations of 1 or 2 birds in Olive Marsh 4/25 to 5/4." MJ; 27 were seen at hawkwatch near Morrison 3/1 to 5/3 compared to 8 in 1990. DN; 1 Dark Morph 5/1 in Morgan Co. and 5/16 at Cherry Creek Res. JRe; 1 near LaJunta 4/28 DSP.

Red-Backed Hawk 1 female has spent summers near Gunnison since 1987. How it got there and where it spends winters is unknown. It returned to same area for 5th summer.

Rough-legged Hawk common winter resident. 1 N of Cheraw 4/4 (MJ) and 1 near Mosca 4/5 (JR) were late.

Peregrine Falcon returning to its former status as an uncommon breeder and fairly common migrant after becoming rare in the 1960s and 70s. A pair was observed defending territory in March in Mesa Verde National Park; 10 total at hawkwatch near Morrison 3/1 to 5/3; 1 pair defending a traditional Prairie Falcon nest site near Lyons 5/5 to 5/31 DWK.

Gyr Falcon rare migrant and winter resident. 1 at Switzer Lake State Rec. Area 3/30 CD*

Black Rail a rarely reported summer resident and possible breeder. An unknown number of birds (possibly 3 or more) were present at a marsh at Bent's Old Fort from 5/7 when found by DB until the end of the report period. MJ*

Black-bellied Plover fairly common migrant. 32 at Lake Meredith 5/12 MJ; 65 at Ordway 5/11 AAS.

Piping Plover rare migrant and local breeder. 3 nesting attempts in Nee Noshe area, 1 at Blue Lake DN.

Mountain Plover a fairly common local breeder in eastern Colo. 2 males and 1 female exhibiting courtship behavior 5/11 near Saguache JR* "Generally low numbers on the Pawnee Grassland." FK

Willet common migrant. 1 4/14 at Cheraw was early MJ.

Whimbrel uncommon migrant. 2 at Lake Meredith (listed as accidental in latilong) 5/13 VZ; 8 at Ordway 5/1 CL; 3 at Hamilton Res. 4/28 RR; 9 at Prospect Res. 5/17 DL; 3 at Bijou Res. and 7 at Jackson Res. 5/1 JRe; several at Union Res. 4/30 and 5/1 MN.

Hudsonian Godwit rare to uncommon migrant. 3 near Ordway 5/7 DGr; 1 at Cherry Creek Res. 5/16 JRe; 4/28 at Lake Meredith DSP.

Marbled Godwit fairly common migrant over much of Colo. 2 at Walsh on 4/27 were the first seen in Baca County by JT*. 35 at McPhee Reservoir near Cortez 5/4 AV.

Red Knot uncommon migrant. 1 at Hamilton Res. 5/26 RR.

Sanderling fairly common migrant in east, rarer in west. 4 at Totten Reservoir near Cortez were a new latilong report AV. 1 at Union Res. 3/24 was very early BP, JP.

Semipalmated Sandpiper fairly common migrant in east, rarer in west. 1 at Silt (1st latilong record?) 5/5 VZ; 130 at Nee-So-Pah Res. 4/21, an exceptional number MJ.

White-rumped Sandpiper fairly common late spring migrant in east. 120 at Horse Creek Res. 5/26 MJ.

Dunlin uncommon migrant. 1 at San Luis Lake 5/18 JR; 1 at Pueblo 5/4 TB, CL; 1 at Eastlake 4/30 JTe.

Short-Billed Dowitcher an uncommon migrant. 2 at Jim Hamm Park, E of Longmont, 4/28 to 5/1 were thought to be of the west coast *Caurinus* race BP*, JP, IP; 2 at Lake Meredith 5/12 MJ; 1 at Cheraw 5/26 MJ; 5 on 4/29 (BD) and 2 on 4/30 (DS) at Pueblo.

Little Gull rare migrant. 1 at Bonny Res. 5/12 JTe*, JMg.

Bonaparte's Gull fairly common migrant. At least 100 at Lake Meredith 4/27 MJ.

Mew Gull uncommon migrant. 1 immature at Union Res. 4/28 IP.

California Gull common migrant and local breeder. Nesting for first time on the island at Blue Lake. DN is concerned they may prey on the Least Terns and Piping Plovers that the Department of Wildlife is trying to protect in the area.

Caspian Tern uncommon migrant. 1 at Hart's Basin near Delta 5/27 and 6/1 CD; 1 at Ordway 5/11 BPe, VT.

Common Tern an uncommon migrant. 1 at Hart's Basin near Cedaridge on 5/27 CD*; 1 at Lake Henry 5/26 MJ; 3 at Ordway 5/7 DGR; 1 at Cherry Creek Res. 5/16 JRe.

Least Tern breeder at Blue Lake last year, rare migrant. 1 at Lake Henry 5/26 MJ; 8 pair at Blue Lake and 2 pair at Nee Noshe-all with 3 eggs compared with 2.2 average last year DN; 1 at Cherry Creek Res 5/24 JTe.

Black Tern fairly common migrant, uncommon breeder. No sightings in Pueblo area had observers concerned about status.

Black-billed Cuckoo uncommon migrant, rare breeder. 1 on 5/25 3 miles east of Ovid DB.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo uncommon to fairly common migrant and breeder. 8 to 10 pair reported nesting near Pueblo DS.

Barn Owl CD and RL reports finding 8 inhabited burrows and several other suspected burrows in latilongs 8, 9, 15, and 16 on the western slope where they were previously regarded as accidental or absent.

Eastern Screech-Owl locally common breeder in NE-range not completely known. 2 were 4 miles E of Lamar 3/23 DB.

Western Screech-Owl locally common breeder W and SE-range not completely known. 1 in Canyon City 5/11 BPe, VT (new latilong record?); 3 in Las Animas area 3/9 DB.

Great-Horned Owl Fairly common breeder. JR noted he found considerably more nests in the San Luis Valley area this year and most seemed to have fledged 1-3 young.

Burrowing Owl fairly common breeder but decreasing in recent years. JR has hope for an upward trend in the San Luis Valley with 2 sightings this spring.

Spotted Owl a rare breeder in the SW, rare migrant elsewhere. Surveys in Mesa Verde National Park had 2 individuals respond.

Long-Eared Owl uncommon to fairly common migrant and breeder. 7 nests at Rocky Mountain Arsenal produced 8 young. DR; 1 pair at Chatfield Res. 3/28 VW.

Short-Eared Owl uncommon migrant any time of year, rare breeder, seems to be seen less often. 1 at LaJunta 5/1 AVAS, AAS; 5 on 3/15 and 2 on 4/13 SE of Berthoud BC; 1-3 near Wellington 3/16 and after RR.

Boreal Owl uncommon local breeder in high mountains. 1 calling on Cameron Pass throughout period but "generally low numbers after a promising early spring census" RR.

Common Nighthawk 1 3/19 near Grand Junction-early CD.

Lesser Nighthawk a few previous records from the southern half of the state. Up to 5 were seen from 5/7 when first found by CD* until 6/1 at Clifton.

Black Swift fairly common local breeder in west and mountains, rare migrant elsewhere. 1 at Mt. Falcon Park 5/19 LM.

Calliope Hummingbird an uncommon summer migrant, usually not seen until July. 1 reported on Durango Bird Club spring count 5/18.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker uncommon migrant and winter resident. 1 still present until 3/13 after wintering in Fort Collins DL; 1 near Evergreen 5/7 TuB.

Red-Bellied Woodpecker uncommon resident in far east, rare migrant elsewhere. 1 at Lamar 4/21 through period MJ.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker fairly common resident in southeast, may be expanding range. 1 female making nest hole at Hanna Ranch 4/5 MJ.

Northern Flicker common resident. JT saw fewer than usual this spring and wondered if decrease was tied to increase of Starlings.

Eastern Wood-Pewee uncommon migrant. 1 singing 5/21 until end of period S of Chatfield Res. SM; 1 W of Chatfield 5/25 BS.

Willow Flycatcher fairly common local breeder in the west, uncommon migrant elsewhere. 1 S of Cortez (listed as accidental in latilong) AV.

Least Flycatcher fairly common migrant in east, rare breeder. A pair nesting on Plum Creek near Chatfield HK.

Buff-breasted Flycatcher no previous records. 1 at Hanna Ranch on 5/19 JP*, BP*, JC.

Black Phoebe rare migrant and breeder. 1 near Fountain on 3/31 TB*

Eastern Phoebe locally fairly common breeder in far east, uncommon migrant elsewhere. 1 in Evergreen 4/13 WWB; 1 on Arkansas River E of Lamar 3/24 very early DB; 1 at Crow Valley late May JMa; 1 at Castlewood Canyon 5/12 (DFO) and 5/21 JRe; 1 in Wheat Ridge 5/10 BR, DM.

Vermillion Flycatcher uncommon migrant, rare breeder. 1 at Chatfield 4/17-20 CW.

Ash-throated Flycatcher fairly common breeder in west and south, uncommon migrant elsewhere. 1 near Briggsdale 5/30 BA.

Great Crested Flycatcher uncommon migrant and local breeder in far northeast, rare elsewhere. 1 at Lamar 5/15 DN; 2 at Bonny Res. 5/18 JK, SST.

Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher fairly common local breeder in extreme SE Colorado, rare migrant elsewhere. 1 in Pueblo 4/26 BPe; 1 near Ft. Collins 3/7 CBA.

Purple Martin uncommon breeder in west, rare in east. 3 or more at Watson Lake near Bellvue on 5/18 JB*

Canyon Wren fairly common resident over much of state. "1 observation numbers seem to be down." CD.

Carolina Wren uncommon migrant, rare breeder. 1 near Lyons 3/3 DWK; 1 near Morrison 5/26 CBA.

Bewick's Wren fairly common resident in south and west. "Numbers seem to be down." CD; 1 E of Longmont 5/5 JMa.

Winter Wren uncommon winter visitor. 1 or 2 at Hanna Ranch 4/14 JM, DL.

Eastern Bluebird uncommon breeder in far east, rarer elsewhere. A nesting pair first reported by DR* on 5/8 at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal fledged 4 young by 5/25; 2 (1 observed carrying nesting material) in Pueblo 3/30 DFO; 1 pair at Hanna Ranch 4/14-5/19 DL, BP.

Western Bluebird locally common breeder in west, uncommon migrant on eastern plains. 2 at Crow Valley near Briggsdale 4/17 JB.

Veery fairly common migrant and local breeder. "More than usual." DL.

Swainson's Thrush common migrant, local breeder. "Fewer than normal" DL and other observers.

Wood Thrush rare migrant. 1 at Hanna Ranch 5/23 JTe.

Sage Thrasher fairly common breeder in west, uncommon breeder and fairly common migrant in east. "Either more birds than usual or more willing to be seen." JM.

Brown Thrasher fairly common breeder in east, uncommon in west. 1 near Mosca 5/11 was only 2nd JR had seen in San Luis Valley in 10 years.

Curve-billed Thrasher fairly common breeder in SE. Pueblo area observers report 25-30 pair in area 4/15-5/31.

Bohemian Waxwing fairly common to abundant winter migrant. 800+ in Drake to Glenhaven area 3/15 JB.

White-Eyed Vireo rare migrant. 1 at Bonny Res. 5/8 TC.

Yellow-throated Vireo uncommon migrant. 1 at Wheat Ridge 5/24 DN; 1 singing male at Chatfield 5/13 until end of period JK.

Golden-Winged Warbler formerly considered rare, more frequently reported in recent years. 1 male at Barr Lake on 5/11 JP; 1 male 5/19 and 20 at Hanna Ranch. JP, MJ*; 1 male at Pruett Res. 5/5 JK; 1 at McClellan Res. 5/16 MZ.

Tennessee Warbler uncommon to fairly common migrant. MJ thinks they may be getting scarcer-only 1 observation this year. At least 4 other reports from

eastern Colorado.

Nashville Warbler uncommon to fairly common migrant. 1 at Lamar 5/5 MJ, BPe; 1 in Baca County 5/12 VZ.

Lucy's Warbler 1 accepted record before 1991. 1 was found in Grand Junction by Thomas Tustison*, now of Minneapolis, Minnesota, on 5/11 RL*

Northern Parula Warbler uncommon migrant in east, rare in west. 1 in Loveland on 5/5 AM*; 1 at Hanna Ranch on 5/20 DB, BP, 5/24 MJ; 1 Cottonwood Canyon, Baca County 5/4 and 5 MJ; 1 in Pueblo 5/6 MJ; 1 in Lamar 5/12; 1 on Durango Bird Club's spring count 5/18; 1 Wheat Ridge green belt 5/7 PH; 1 5/6 in Pueblo VT; 1 in Lyons 5/17 DWK; 1 at Chatfield 5/16 and 17 JK, SS; 1 at Cope 5/8 TC.

Chestnut-sided Warbler uncommon migrant, declining? 1 in Pueblo 5/1 (VT), 5/8 MJ; 1 at Lake Henry 5/9 (DB) and 5/14 VZ; 1 at Wheat Ridge 5/24 DN; 1 in Lyons 5/11 JCo; 1 in Boulder 5/18 BA, PG; 1 5/21-28 near Morrison AH.

Magnolia Warbler uncommon migrant. 1 at Crow Creek near Briggsdale 5/21 WWB; 1 at Rocky Ford 5/8 DB.

Black-throated Blue Warbler uncommon migrant. 1 male near Burlington 5/6 and 7 HK; 1 in Ft. Collins 5/21 DL, BTB.

Townsend's Warbler fairly common fall migrant, less common in spring and in east. At least 10 reports from around the state, mostly eastern Colorado.

Hermit Warbler rare migrant. 1 male in Pueblo on 4/30 MJ*; 1 male near Fountain on 5/4 by TB; 1 female near Burlington 5/6 HK*

Black-Throated Green Warbler uncommon migrant. 1 male near Loveland on 5/3 and 4 AM*, RH*; 1 near Briggsdale 5/13 DL.

Blackburnian Warbler formerly considered rare, more reports in recent years in east, rarer in west. 1 10 miles NW of Cortez on 5/7 AR*; 1 in Cortez on 5/10, 12, and 13, TBM*. 1 5/19 and 20 at Hanna Ranch JP.

Yellow-throated Warbler uncommon to rare migrant. 1 at Ft. Collins 4/15 DL*

Palm Warbler uncommon migrant. 1 at Burchfield State Recreation Area 5/12 VZ; 1 near Ft. Collins 5/3 CBA; 1 in Wheat Ridge 5/6 and 5/15 CBA; 1 at Bonny Res. 5/8 TC.

Bay-Breasted Warbler uncommon migrant. 1 at Hanna Ranch on 5/19. JP, MJ*

Blackpoll Warbler fairly common migrant in east. More than 10 reports from eastern Colorado.

Black and White Warbler fairly common migrant in east, rarer in west. 1 female at Great Sand Dunes Country Club near Alamosa on 5/18 JR.

Prothonotary Warbler formerly considered rare, more reports in recent years. 1 seen at Pueblo Reservoir on 4/20 VD*; 1 in Salida RE; 1 pair near Briggsdale 5/29 JTe, RBo; 1 in Longmont 5/18 SB.

Worm-eating Warbler uncommon migrant. 1 at Lamar 5/15 DN.

Ovenbird uncommon migrant and local breeder. 3 singing males near

Morrison 5/27 Br, BB, RW; 1 at Rye 5/11 AVAS; 1 in Wheat Ridge 5/22 TF.
Kentucky Warbler uncommon migrant. 1 at Olive Marsh in Pueblo on 4/18 and 20. MJ*, NJ; 1 at Ordway 5/9 DB; 1 at Barr Lake 5/9 JP; 1 at Lake Henry 5/8 DB.

Hooded Warbler uncommon migrant. 1 at Lykins Gulch W of Hygiene on 4/27 to 5/6 JP, AM*; 1 at Rocky Mountain Arsenal 5/12 DR; 1 at Bonny Res. 5/10 DB.

Scarlet Tanager rare migrant. 1 male at Longmont on 5/5 SBB*; 1 near Burlington 5/24 HK; 1 in SE Denver 5/16 and 17 CBA.

Summer Tanager uncommon migrant. 1 male at Monte Vista by JR* on 5/7. 1 imm. male at Chatfield Res. 5/7-9 BJC; 1 imm. male in SE Aurora 5/13 CBA; 1 female near Morrison 5/25 S&E.

Western Tanager fairly common breeder in coniferous forests and migrant elsewhere. "Unprecedented numbers" in Delta, Montrose and Gunnison counties with over 100 seen on the BCAS spring count 5/11 and 12 DG.

Northern Cardinal uncommon resident in far east, rare elsewhere. 1 male on 5/27 near Loveland GCC*; 1 on Arkansas River E of Lamar 3/24 DB.

Rose-Breasted Grosbeak uncommon breeder locally in east, rare migrant elsewhere. 1 male was reported on 5/7 at Monte Vista JR*; 1 at Florence 5/14 and 15 NP.

Blue Grosbeak fairly common breeder over much of state. 1 near Rifle 5/29 (first latilong record?).

Indigo Bunting fairly common local breeder in east, uncommon in west. 1 near Rifle 5/29 (first latilong record?) VZ.

Painted Bunting rare migrant. 1 female at Bonny Res 4/6 JTe*, JMg.

Baird's Sparrow rarely reported migrant. 1 was seen on 4/16 near Walsh by JT*

LeConte's Sparrow rare migrant. 1 in Longmont 2/18. SB.

Lincoln's Sparrow common breeder in mountains, migrant elsewhere. 1 4/9 in Pueblo very early MJ; 1 wintered in Ft. Collins, seen until 4/27 RR.

Swamp Sparrow uncommon to fairly common winter visitor. 1 in Pueblo County 4/13 DB.

White-throated Sparrow uncommon to fairly common winter resident and migrant, mostly in east. 1 in Pueblo 5/31 was late MJ.

Golden-crowned Sparrow uncommon migrant. 1 at Red Rocks Park 4/27 and 29 C&S; 1 W of Grand Junction 5/4 CD.

Bobolink fairly common to uncommon local breeder and migrant. 4 to 5 near Eagle 5/18 and 19 JM, VZ; 1 E of Longmont 5/17 AD.

Great-tailed Grackle increasing, now a fairly common migrant and local breeder in southern 3/4 of state. 1 at Bent's Fort 5/27 VZ; 2 at Ft. Lyons 5/26 MJ (Still listed as accidental in latilong) 2 building a nest N Pueblo 5/13; 3 pair near Burlington 5/24 HK (new latilong record?); 4 males displaying and 1 female at Wellington 5/17 JB; 1 at Windsor 5/19 JB; 3 in Weld County 4/2 AH, GH, JRe; 1 nest at Barr Lake 4/23 to 5/10 CBA.

Bronzed Cowbird 1 record, a bird in Lakewood the spring and summer of 1990. A male, apparently the same bird, was visiting a feeder in Lakewood from 5/10 until the end of the period BJC.

Orchard Oriole common breeder in eastern 1/3, uncommon migrant elsewhere. 1 at Jim Hamm Park E of Longmont 5/10 DWK, 1 in Mead 5/11 JH, SS, 1 9 miles E of Loveland 5/21 AM.

Scott's Oriole uncommon local breeder in far west, rare elsewhere. 1 was seen in Denver on 6/2 GA*; 1 male seen in Boggy Draw near Cortez on 5/6 LB.

Purple Finch uncommon migrant. 1 male was seen and heard at Colorado City on 3/3-9 SW, DS.

Pine Siskin common breeder and migrant over most of state. "I have seen none of the large flocks I used to see years ago." JM.

White-winged Crossbill common migrant, unproven breeder. 5 near Conifer 3/7 HK; up to 30 first seen on the Guanella Pass road by JK and SS on 2/16 were still being seen 3/30.

Lesser Goldfinch common local breeder and migrant except on eastern plains. 1 in Cortez 4/2 was very early AV.

Cited Observers: AAS Aiken Audubon Society, AD Ann Delzell, AH Al Hay, AM Ann Means, AR Andrea Robinson, AV Alan Versaw, AVAS Arkansas Valley Audubon Society, BA Bob Andrews, BD Bob Dickson, BC Bobby Christensen, BJC Bill and Jan Carter, BLB Bob and Lee Ann Brown, BP Bill Prather, BPe Brandon Percival, BR Bob Righter, BS Bob Spencer, BTB Bruce and Tony Baker, CB Claire Boehm, CBA Colorado Bird Report run by DFO (I could not always identify the cited reporter from the print-out I had), CD Coen Dexter, CL Cindy Lippincott, CW Chris Wood, C&S Carter and Stroud, DB Dan Bridges, DBo Dave Bolton, DFO Denver Field Ornithologists field trips as reported in the *Lark Bunting*, DG Dick Guadagno, DGr Dave Griffiths, DJ Dave Johnson, DL Dave Leatherman, DM Diane Mullineaux, DR Donna Rieckman, DS Dave Silverman, DSP Dave and Sherrill Pantle, DWK D.W. King, EP Bud Pearson, GA Gladys Alexander, GCC Gail and Charles Clark, GD Greg Dickinson, GH Glen Hageman, HK Hugh Kingery, IP Inez Prather, JB John Barber, JC Jerry Cairo, JCo Jack Coss, JH Joe Harrison, JK Joey Kellner, JM Jack Merchant, JMa Joe Mammoser, JMg Jean Maguire, JP John Prather, JR John Rawinski, JRe Jack Reddall, JRW Jim and Rosie Watts, JT Janeal Thompson, JTe Joe TenBrink, KH Katie Humrick, LB Lucille Bainbridge, LD Lois Drury, LM Larry Malone, ME Margaret Ewing, MJ Mark Janos, MLR Marilyn and Lee Rowe, MN Mark Nikas, MR Mart Rust, MS Mike Szymczak, MY Mark Yeager, MZ Martha Zoetewey, NJ Nathan Janos, NP Norma Peterson, PE Patty Echelmeyer, PG Peter Gent, PH Paula Hansley, RE Ruby Ebright, RBo Roberta Boyer, RH Ron Hardin, RL Rich Levad, RR Ron Ryder, RW Ronda Woodward, SB Steve Borichevsky, SBB Steve and Bev Brittenham reported by

Mary Griest, SM Scott Menough, SS Sally Seitz, SSSt Steve Stachowiak, SW Sylvia Wheelock, S&E Sanders and Ensko, TB Toni Brevilier, TBM Traute and Bob Maynes, TC Tim Crisler, TF Terry Flageolle, TuB Tuesday Birders field trip as reported in the *Lark Bunting*, VD Virginia Dionigi, VT Van Truan, VW Virgil Williams, VZ Vic Zerbi, WWB Winston William Brockner, WS Wes Sears.

SPRAGUE'S PIPITS AND SOME ASSOCIATED BIRD SPECIES IN EXTREME NORTHEASTERN COLORADO

Dan Bridges

1925 South Vaughn Way, #207

Aurora, Colorado 80014

and

David A. Leatherman

2048 Whiterock Court

Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Prior to this report, Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) had not been reported in Colorado since 1981. None has been reported from Sedgwick County in extreme northeastern Colorado. Because their known migration path is east of Colorado, this county is perhaps the most logical place to expect them in our state. The historical lack of sightings can be explained in part by a lack of resident birders. A shortage of information on habitat use along the edge of its migration route also probably contributes to the lack of sightings.

On October 25, 1986, Jerry Cairo and Bridges began to search for Sprague's Pipit in Sedgwick County. A lack of success inspired an educational visit to Kansas, where Pipits are seen annually. Having experienced a Sprague's Pipit with local expert Scott Seltman in tallgrass prairie near Nekoma, Kansas, on April 22, 1988, Bridges was re-encouraged to search Sedgwick County on October 8, 1988. This also was unsuccessful. However, on September 30, 1989, Bridges finally looked in the right place at the right time and found a Sprague's Pipit.

The sighting occurred north of Sedgwick County Road (CR) 30, about 8.5 miles east-southeast of Julesburg (or 4.5 miles south-southwest of Colorado's extreme northeastern corner). Sprague's Pipits were seen here from September 30 through October 22. On October 9 and 12 Leatherman photographed 2 separate individuals. From October 10-13, the apparent peak of Pipit migration, as many as ten individuals were observed by Warren Finch, David Martin, Duane Nelson and Dick Schottler.

For a description of the first Sprague's Pipit seen by Bridges, the reader is referred to his Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form: C.F.O.-ORC File #46-89-35.

During his October visits Leatherman studied the agricultural area

utilized by the Sprague's Pipits. As indicated by the location map, pipits were seen in a variety of micro-habitats. The fallow wheat field was a frequent pipit haunt. Cured green foxtail (*Setaria viridis*), undergrown with lovegrass (*Eragrostis cilianensis*), dominated this field. Green foxtail, also called green bottlegrass or green bristletail, and lovegrass are common introduced weeds. Between the fallow field's south edge and the north side of CR 30 was a strip of "volunteer" wheat resembling "crabgrass." Pipits were often seen here. Fields south of CR 30 and east of the fallow field were mostly furrowed, bare soil with a stand of three-inch winter wheat sprouts. These fields also attracted pipets (see photo).

To summarize the habitat associated with this sighting, nothing about it is particularly unique that we can see. Similar habitats with components in comparable juxtapositions exist extensively in eastern Colorado. The entire eastern third of the state is a similar patchwork of fallow fields, wheat fields, pivot-irrigated corn plots and weedy areas. It is certainly possible Sprague's Pipits at the site under discussion were keying in on features unknown to us. However, our feeling is that birders hoping to maximize their chances of seeing this species in Colorado need to frequent areas in the extreme eastern tier of counties with a similar mix of vegetation **during late-September to mid-October**. The timing and number of visits may be more critical than special habitat features, assuming one begins in a winter wheat/fallow field type area.

Of interest, Meredith Morris and Dr. Ronald A. Ryder observed two Sprague's Pipits on May 13, 1967 on the northeast side of Riverside Reservoir (Weld County, CO). These birds were associated with mid-grasses adjacent to sand sage (*Artemisia filifolia*).

Attempts during fall 1990 to duplicate the 1989 Sprague's Pipit successes failed. The fallow field shown on the location map was cultivated during the fall of 1990 and apparently made less attractive to Sprague's Pipits. Several nearby fallow fields were checked about ten times for this species by Bridges and others from September 29 to October 22 with no success. Also, the fall of 1990 was an exceptionally non-productive fall for vagrant migrating passerine birds in eastern Colorado and Kansas. Some birders speculate strong westerly winds in Montana and the Dakotas moved southbound migrants more to the east than is normal. It is unclear whether the lack of Pipits in fall 1990 is the result of habitat modification, unfavorable weather conditions and/or other factors.

During Bridges' repeated trips to this area during 1988 and 1989, several other bird species of interest were observed. The following documents these and other little-known species with the potential to be seen, as a corollary to the Sprague's Pipit story.

On October 14, 1989 Bridges saw three Baird's Sparrows fly from the edge of the fallow field into the edge of the corn field. On September 30, November 4 and November 23 (all 1989), Bridges also flushed a Greater

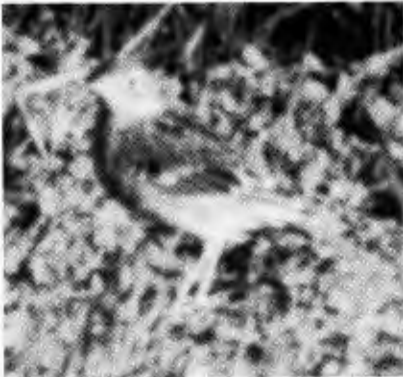
Prairie-chicken from the fallow field into the corn stubble.

Seltman reports seeing LeConte's Sparrows and Sharp-tailed Sparrows in alfalfa, wheat stubble and corn stubble fields in west-central Kansas from October 20 through November 10. He sees about twenty LeConte's for every Sharp-tailed Sparrow. In light of these observations, Bridges checked the Sedgwick County Pipit site for Sparrows nearly every weekend from Mid-October through early December 1989. These visits were unsuccessful. Nonetheless, it seems likely these Sparrows pass through Sedgwick County in small numbers. Their Colorado habitat preferences during migration remain unknown. In Colorado certain sedge/cattail marshes provide the LeConte's Sparrow overwintering habitat, as indicated by the small group Bridges found adjacent to Bent County's John Martin Reservoir during the mild winter of 1990-91. The sedge component of such wetlands is thought to be the more important element, with cattails serving primarily as escape cover (as in, escape from overly-enthusiastic birders!).

The shortgrass prairie north of the CR 30 fallow fields was also checked for Smith's Longspurs from early November through early December 1989 without success. The Lapland Longspur population in the fallow field peaked on December 2, 1989 with a count of 300. These Longspurs were soon replaced by flocks of Horned Larks.

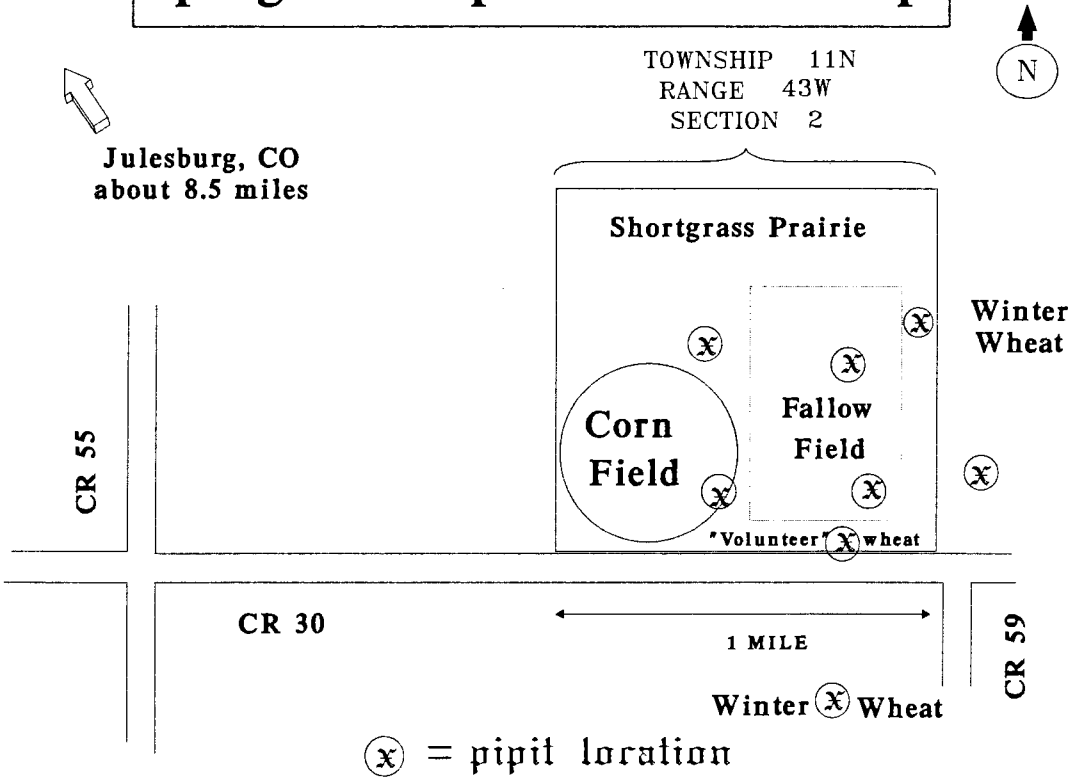
The authors gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Colorado State University faculty members Dr. Deiter Wilkin (Department of Biology), Dr. Philip Westra (Department of Plant Pathology and Weed Science) and Dr. Frank Peairs (Department of Entomology) for their help in identifying and discussing the potential attractiveness to pipits of plant samples from the Sedgwick County site. Help in this regard was also provided by Mr. Ronald Knipp, father of a local farmer in the area.

We thank Mike Schomaker and Ron Ryder for their reviews and helpful suggestions for improving this manuscript. And, of course, Scott Seltman deserves much credit for the findings reported here. His willingness to share key information from Kansas is greatly appreciated.



Sprague's Pipit in "Volunteer" Wheat
9 October 1989 Dave Leatherman

Sprague's Pipit Location Map



THE C.F.O. RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1989

Duane Nelson
1619 Ford Street
Golden, Colorado 80401

This report contains records received by the Committee for the year 1989, plus new decisions for a few older records.

The members who voted on these records include Bill Brockner (Evergreen), Coen Dexter (Clifton), William Howe (Laurel, Maryland), Mark Janos (Pueblo), David Silverman (Rye), Van Truan (Pueblo) and Nick Watmough (Norfolk, UK).

Part 1. Species Added to The C.F.O. State List.

Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) 56-89-53. This bird (a female) was discovered on December 17, 1989. It was found near Holly, in a weedy field south of the Arkansas River near the Kansas state line in Prowers County by Mark Janos and Kendall Knaus during the annual Holly Christmas Bird Count. The following day, several birders were able to relocate it and Duane Nelson was able to secure several diagnostic photographs. Kansas had its first record of Pyrrhuloxia earlier in the same winter season, and Scott Seltman of Kansas had alerted Coloradans to the possibility of its occurrence only weeks before it happened. *Thanks, Scott.*

Part 2. Species Deleted from The State List.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) 8-80-84. This bird was well described, and its identity is not a problem. However, it is commonly kept in aviaries, and most records to date away from its known range have been viewed as possible escapes. Some duck species have well documented patterns of vagrancy (Eurasian Wigeon, Garganey, Tufted Duck). It is interesting to note that Chatfield Reservoir, where this duck was found, has hosted feral Muscovies and even a Common Pochard previously.

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) 10-80-83. This bird was well described, and its identity is not in question. The species is quite sedentary and uncommon throughout its restricted range. A factor of importance is that to date, no Common Black-Hawks have been observed as far north as the Sandia Mountains in New Mexico. Because the issue of where the bird came from has not been resolved, the majority of committee members felt that until a pattern of vagrancy in the species is discerned, it is best considered hypothetical on the state list.

Part 3. Reported Species Not Added to The State List.

Red-backed Buzzard (*Buteo polyosoma*) 10-87-45. No individual bird in Colorado (and perhaps in the U.S.) has been at the center of so much controversy as this bird, first, reported in 1987 in the Gunnison Valley, Gunnison County. Reams of notes, many photographs and much conversation has centered, not on its identity, as much as how, or why, it continues to return yearly to the banks of Ohio Creek. The committee members, while wanting to believe that the bird somehow confused its species affinities with wintering Swainson's Hawks on the Pampas of South America and that it migrates north with them in spring, feel that adding the species to the North American list would be in error. The Red-backed Buzzard is essentially non-migratory and would probably not be able to undertake long-distance migrations (if for no other reason than an inability to put on fat for a long journey without eating). While we believe that anything is possible, it seems presumptuous for us to leap from the possible level to saying with certainty that it arrived here on its own.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) 31-89-28. An immature male was seen on 5/16/89 at Tamarack Ranch SWA, Logan County. Expert opinion was sought, and the opinion given was that an immature male was highly unusual during spring migration. The experts felt that in all likelihood, this was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but that for a first state record, the record was not unassailable. The committee members agreed with their conclusions.

Part 4. Category A Records (Submitted Documentation Supports the Recorded Description.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) 7-89-5. One to two were seen well with White-faced Ibis North of Erie on Weld County Road 1 between 5/7 and 5/9/89. (Bill Prather).

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) 8-89-6. One was found at Union Reservoir, Weld County on 3/23/89, and it settled in at nearby Foster Res., Weld County until at least 6/11/89. (Bill Prather and D. W. Bolton).

Black Duck x Mallard (*Anas rubripes x platyrhynchos*) 8-89-7. A male was seen on the Platte River in Adams County near its confluence with Clear Creek on 12/30/89. Nelson photographed it on 12/31. (David Martin, Duane Nelson, Dick Schottler).

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) 13-89-9. Three were seen in Sedgwick County in extreme NE Colorado between 9/30/89 and 11/23/89. (Dan Bridges).

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) 18-89-10. Six to seven adults and young

were seen at Nee Noshe Reservoir, Kiowa County, confirming nesting for the first time since 1949 in Colorado. (Mark Janos and Peter Gent).

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) 18-89-11. One to two were observed on 5/14-15/91 at Lake Cheraw, Otero County, possibly pioneers from the Nee Noshe colony. (Mark Janos).

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) 18-89-12. A male in breeding plumage was seen at Lake Cheraw, Otero County, on 5/14/89. (Mark Janos).

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) 18-89-13. One first-winter bird was seen at Lake Cheraw, Otero County, on 9/16/89. (Mark Janos).

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) 18-89-14. One adult in slightly fading breeding plumage was seen at Lake Meredith, Crowley County on 8/27/89. It must have made an impression on the viewer as "Rednot" now adorns the license plate on his car. (Mark Janos).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) 19-89-15. One juvenile was seen at the Plum Creek Delta at Chatfield SRA, Douglas County on 9/3/89 by many observers. (Mark Janos).

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) 22-89-16. One adult in breeding plumage was seen at Holbrook Reservoir, Otero County, 9/14-15/89 as it harassed nearby gulls and terns. (Mark Janos).

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) 23-89-17. One adult in breeding plumage was seen and photographed at Lake Cheraw, Otero County, on 7/31/89. Adults are very rarely seen in Colorado at any season. (Thomas H. Kent).

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) 23-89-18. One in first-winter plumage was seen by many observers between 7/23 and 7/31, 1989 at Lake Cheraw, Otero County. (Mark Janos, Thomas H. Kent, David Silverman).

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) 23-89-19. One in first-winter plumage was seen at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Denver County, on 8/30/89. (Bob Righter).

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) 23-89-20. A first year bird, beginning to molt into 2nd summer plumage, was seen by many observers at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Denver County, on 4/15-16/89. (Mark Janos).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) 23-89-21. A bird in first-winter plumage was seen at Blue Lake on the Kiowa/Bent County border on 4/22/89. (Mark Janos).

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) 23-89-22. Three were seen flying from Red Lion SWA toward Jumbo Reservoir, Logan County, on 5/20/89. (Dan Bridges).

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) 23-89-22. One was seen at Lake Beckwith, Colorado City, Pueblo County, on 4/9/89. (David Silverman).

Blackbilled Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) 26-89-25. One was seen and heard in woods on the west side of Bonny Reservoir in Yuma County, on 5/14/89. (Dan Bridges).

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) 29-89-26. A male was flushed from the grove on the west side of Lake Henry, Crowley County, 5/13/89. (Duane Nelson).

Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) 31-89-27. This bird, probably an immature male, was seen feeding in cactus flowers at the Haviland Lake Campground, La Plata County, on 6/20/89. (Juliet A. Howard).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) 34-89-30. An unusual summer record from the San Luis Valley, this bird was observed at Monte Vista NWR, Rio Grande County, on 6/19/89. (Juliet A. Howard).

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) 44-89-31. One was seen at Fairview Cemetery in La Junta, Otero County, on 9/16/89. (Mark Janos).

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) 43-89-32. One wintered at a feeder in Crawford, Delta County between 1/11 and 2/25/89. (Mrs. Albert Moore).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) 43-89-33. One was found at the Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver County, on the Denver Urban Christmas Count, on 1/2/89. (Urling Kingery).

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) 43-89-34. One wintered in Aspen, Pitkin County, and was photographed. (Linda Vidal).

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) 46-89-35. Two or more individuals were seen by many observers between 9/30 and 10/21/89 in winter wheat and tall-grass prairie east of Julesburg, Sedgwick County. While not a first state record, this is perhaps the first unassailable record for Colorado. Excellent photos were taken by Dave Leatherman. (Dan Bridges, Dave Leatherman, Joseph Mammoser).

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) 48-89-36. One immature female was seen and photographed at the home of Jim and Rosie Watts in Penrose, Fremont County, between 9/9 and 9/11/89. (Peter Gent, Mark Janos, Jim Watts, Rosie Watts, Sylvia Wheelock).

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) 42-89-38. Two were found at the home of Marti Poole in Englewood, Arapahoe County, in the fall of 1988, and were seen on 1/2/89 on the Denver Urban Christmas Count. They remained through the early summer and provided the first nesting record for Colorado. (Hugh Kingery).

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) 42-89-39. One was seen about two miles east of Two Buttes SWA, Baca/Prowers County, on 10/9/89. (Dan Bridges).

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) 52-89-39. A male was seen by several observers in suburban Lyons, Boulder County, on 5/5/89. (Ann Means, John Prather).

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) 52-89-40. One immature female, distinctive in having no tail, was seen along the Platte River upstream from Kingfisher Bridge, Chatfield SWA, Jefferson County, on 11/5/89. (Duane Nelson).

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) 52-89-41. One was seen in the Wolf Pack Woods at the Denver Zoo in City Park, Denver County, on 10/14 and 11/18/89. (Mary B. Patterson).

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) 52-89-42. One was seen in SW Loveland, Larimer County, on 5/5 and 5/6/89 by several observers. (Ann Means).

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) 52-89-43. A male made a brief appearance at a suet feeder in SW Denver, Denver County, on 2/14/89, and was photographed as it fed. (Phyllis Fischer and Duane Nelson).

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) 52-89-44. An adult female was seen at Two Buttes SWA, Baca County on 9/4/89. This was seen by many competent observers and was the first of this species documented in the state since 1959. (Dan Bridges).

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) 52-89-45. One was seen by many observers along the S. Platte above Kingfisher Bridge in Chatfield SRA, Jefferson County, on 10/29/89. (Randy Lentz).

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) 52-89-46. One was seen in Colorado City, Pueblo County on 8/27/89. This is a new record for Latilong 26. (David Silverman).

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) 52-89-47. One was seen at Burchfield Lake SWA, Baca County on 9/6/89. This is a first autumn record for the state. (Mark Janos).

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) 52-89-48. One was seen in a backyard in Ft. Collins, Larimer County, on 9/3/89. (Mary Alice Root).

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) 52-89-49. A male was seen and heard near the Wagon Wheel Campground on the south side of Bonny Res., Yuma County, on 5/21/89. (Dan Bridges).

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) 52-89-50. An adult male in basic plumage was found at Chatfield SRA, Jefferson County, above Kingfisher Bridge on 10/29/89. Many observers relocated this bird the following day. (Randy Lentz).

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) 52-89-51. A male was seen at the Wagon Wheel Campground at Bonny SRA, Yuma County, on 9/2/89. (David Silverman).

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) 55-89-52. An adult male was seen on the south side of the Royal Gorge, Fremont County, on 6/17/89. (Juliet A. Howard).

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) 56-89-54. A male was photographed at a feeder in Northglenn, Adams County, in May, 1989. (H. Ross Sibley).

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) 56-89-55. An adult was found along Clear Creek, near its confluence with the Platte River, Adams County, on 1/2/89. (David Martin and Duane Nelson).

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*) 56-89-57. Three were seen and carefully described from Sedgwick County, in the same location that the Sprague's Pipits were found on 10/14/89. (Dan Bridges).

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca zaboria*) 56-89-58. A bright eastern race bird

was seen by 9 observers, including 5 members of the records committee at CF&I Lake, Pueblo County on 11/12/89. (Duane Nelson).

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) 56-89-60. An adult was seen in Hygiene, Boulder County on 12/27/89. (The Records Committee will no longer review this species, or similarly fairly-common birds). (Virginia Dionigi).

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) 56-89-61. An immature was seen in Colorado City, Pueblo County on 9/24/89. (David Silverman).

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*) 56-89-62. A female was observed and photographed along Plum Creek, Douglas County, on 12/17/89. (Duane Nelson and Dick Schottler).

Part 5. Category B and C Records. (Submitted documentation probably indicates a misidentification or is too brief or incomplete to support the stated identification).

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) 1-89-1. One seen on a small private pond 1/2 mile west of Lagerman Reservoir, Boulder County, on 5/13/89. Committee members felt that Common Loon was not ruled out.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisigena*) 2-89-2. One seen at CF&I Lakes, Pueblo County, on 3/24/89. Committee members felt that Horned Grebe was not convincingly ruled out.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) 3-89-3. One seen at Blue Mesa Reservoir, Gunnison County, on 7/5/89. The committee was split on this vote, some members stating that the description was too brief.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) 3-89-4. One seen at CF&I Lakes, Pueblo County, on 12/9/89. The committee split on this vote, with some members feeling that the description was too brief, or failed to eliminate female Cormorants or Pacific Loon.

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolis*) 12-89-8. One seen 1/4/89 west of Lazear, Delta County. The description was felt to be too brief, and did not eliminate Northern Goshawk.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) 25-89-24. One seen near Wetmore, Custer County, on 5/27/89. The committee felt that the description was too brief.

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) 42-89-29. One was seen in a willow carr near Nederland, Boulder County. There was a split vote on this bird, with some members feeling that the description was too brief.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodrammus bairdii*) 56-89-56. Two were seen near Thornton, Adams County on 9/21/89. The committee split on this vote, with some members feeling that the description was too brief.

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) 56-89-58. One seen at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Adams County, on 1/2/89. The committee split on this vote, dissenters feeling that the description was too brief. (This species is

regular enough that the committee is not seeking additional reports for it).

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- American Ornithologist's Union, 1989. Checklist of North American Birds, 37th Supplement.
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SWAINSON'S WARBLER IN FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

William H. Howe
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Migratory Bird Management
Laurel, Maryland 20708

David A. Leatherman
2048 Whiterock Court
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

The Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) is a large, ground-dwelling warbler that breeds in canebreaks and wooded swamps in the southeastern states and in laurel and rhododendron ravines in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Its summer range extends west to eastern Texas and northeastern Oklahoma, and north to the southern parts of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, the western parts of West Virginia and Virginia, and southern Virginia and Delaware (AOU 1983). The species winters primarily on islands in the Caribbean Sea, the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, and Belize.

The Swainson's Warbler is one of the rarest warblers to occur in the western United States. Extralimital records west and northwest of the states in which it breeds include four accepted records (two specimens) along the eastern border of Kansas (C. Ely, pers. commun.); two accepted reports from Nebraska west to Kearney (Bray et al. 1986); four documented reports in Colorado (see below); two sight records from New Mexico (one documented) for Arizona (Rosenburg et al. 1981; Stejskal and Witzeman 1986). At this time there are no reports of Swainson's Warbler in South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, or, amazingly, California.

On 27 May 1990 I (WH) located a Swainson's Warbler in a dense grove of cottonwoods (*Populus sargentii*) north of Prospect Road along the

west side of the Cache La Poudre River in Fort Collins, Colorado. The bird attracted my attention when it flew up from near my feet and uttered a loud rising "seeet" call-note, with which I was unfamiliar. In flight the fairly large size and short, square tail reminded me of an ovenbird. The call was wrong for that species, however, and fortunately the bird landed about 15 feet away on an exposed branch. I could barely believe my eyes when I saw a large Warbler with a long, heavy bill, solid rusty-brown crown, buffy superciliary, brown back and wings, no wingbars, and light gray, unmarked underparts. After half a minute, the Warbler dropped to the dense, dead branches of a Russian olive (*Eleagnus angustifolia*) and then to the ground. It proceeded to walk around and forage among dead leaves under the small tree. I watched the bird for about ten minutes, and then departed hastily to contact local birders. After numerous unsuccessful phone calls, I reached Joe Mammoser. Joe, his son Adam and I returned to the spot and relocated the bird. Later in the day both Ron Ryder and Kevin Cook saw it as well.

Because this Warbler was exceedingly faithful to the dense Russian olive in the depression where initially discovered, and to a thick boxelder (*Acer negundo*) at the top of the depression about 7 meters from the Russian olive, many people were able to observe the bird through 8 June.

I (DL) observed the Swainson's Warbler on the morning of 29 May (1.5 hours). I subsequently saw the bird during the early afternoon of 29 May (1 hour), morning of 30 May (0.5 hours), and morning of 7 June (0.5 hours). Photographs were obtained on both 29 May and 30 May with Kodak KR64 and EK1000 film, using a Minolta SRT-II body equipped with a flash and Tokina 100-300 zoom telephoto lens. Locating and photographing this bird was an exercise in patience.

During those quiet and intensely exciting minutes, I had the opportunity to note aspects of the bird's behavior. When perched in woody vegetation, the bird was rarely higher than 5 feet from the ground and was usually motionless. It was predominately in the aforementioned Russian olive or boxelder, but also was seen nearby in two species of willow (*Salix spp.*).

When on the ground, it was either motionless or slowly-but-steadily foraging for food. Periods of motionless are apparently typical of this species when disturbed (Oberholser, 1974). While foraging both the heavy bill and feet were used to probe under fallen, decaying leaves and/or to flip them over. The method of flipping leaves was side-to-side, as if turning the pages of a book. During leaf-turning the bird's tail and rump quivered at high frequency. It was as if abdominal vibration was being transferred through the leg to the foot doing the turning. As the foot lifted a leaf, the vibration apparently aided in shaking the woody debris and in dislodging potential prey.

Although foraging was observed at length, sometimes at very close range (to within 1 meter), I could not generally tell what the prey items were. The items did not appear to be large (i.e., no annelid worms, centipedes, caterpillars, etc.) except for one noctuid moth. This moth was startled into

flight by the Warbler turning the leaf under which it was resting. The moth, most likely an army cutworm (*Euxoa auxiliaris*), appeared to be swallowed whole. Paul Opler also saw the Warbler catch a noctuid moth later this same morning (31 May). During one observation period, the Warbler's gape appeared "gummed up" with cottonwood and/or willow seeds. Both trees were releasing copious amounts of fluffy seed in late May. This required the bird to engage in bill-wiping maintenance activities every several minutes.

On the morning of 30 May I found the bird about 50 yards west of the discovery site depression. The bird was on a north-facing bank of a small wet area. It foraged under a matted down patch of 18 inch-tall grass. Its emergence from under this grassy overhand was suggestive of a surfer reappearing from the curl of a large Hawaiian breaker wave.

On 7 June the Warbler was seen foraging inside the hollow of a short, rotten log lying in the discovery site depression.

On the evening of 8 June I (WH) re-visited the site to see if the Warbler was still present. My plan was to mist-net, band, measure and photograph it in the hand the next morning. As before, I located the bird that evening under the now-familiar boxelder. The water level in the Poudre River had risen considerably due to snowmelt runoff, and the depression containing the Russian olive was flooded.

The following morning (9 June) we and others arrived to band the Warbler, but it could not be found. We suspect high water prompted it to change locations. Whether the Warbler migrated is unknown. Even had it moved only a few hundred meters, chances of relocating it would have been small.

While this bird was subdued in its actions and secretive, we would not describe it as overly wary. It seemed to rely on its coloration, habits and microsite characteristics for protection. Once the bird was located during a given visit to the site, several quiet, slow-moving observers were commonly able to approach within 20 meters.

This observation represents the fourth documented record of Swainson's Warbler in Colorado. The one Colorado specimen is a female collected near Holly, Prowers, Colorado, on 12 May 1913 (Bailey and Niedrach, 1965 DMNH #2806). Sight records include one in Boulder, Boulder County, on 20-21 May, 1975 (Kingery, 1975); and one at Bear Creek Nature Center, El Paso County, on 17 May, 1986 (Bunn, 1988). There are two unconfirmed fall sight records, at Golden, Jefferson County, on 21 September, 1963; and near Golden on 22 August, 1964 (both Bailey and Niedrach, 1965). The former fall record was described to have "perched very still for a minute," which may lend credence to the record.

Interestingly, Spring, 1990 produced several other Swainson's Warblers west of their usual migration routes. One at Rattlesnake Springs on 3 May furnished New Mexico's second sight record (Williams and Hubbard, 1990). Other out-of-range reports came from Tulsa, Oklahoma, on 23 April

(J. Grzybowski, pers. commun.) and Comfort, Kerr County, Texas, on 5 May (Lasley and Sexton, 1990). The New Mexico and west Texas birds may have resulted from the same flight or weather conditions, but unless the Fort Collins bird had been present for three weeks prior to discovery, it probably was diverted west by other factors.

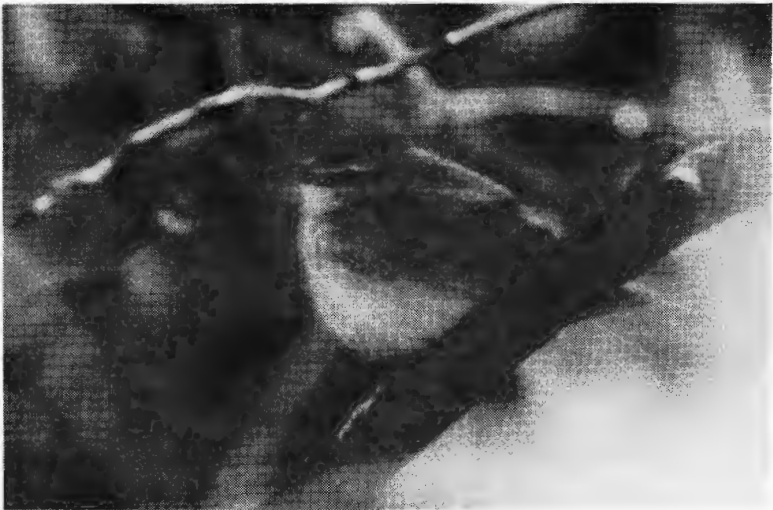
Swainson's Warblers undoubtedly occur somewhat more frequently in the West than records indicate. Nonetheless, the nonexistence of published California records attests to its extreme rarity. Most North American birds, regardless of abundance status, have eventually been detected in California by its large cadre of birders. Those who saw the bird at Fort Collins can count themselves among the fortunate few who have had the pleasure of watching Swainson's Warbler in the western United States.

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**Swainson's Warbler Resting Motionless Under a Small Russian Olive
31 May 1990 Dave Leatherman**



**Swainson's Warbler Under a Small Boxelder
29 May 1990 Dave Leatherman**

FOOD ITEMS OF COLORADO BIRDS VI

David A. Leatherman
2048 Whiterock Court
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

A general description of the format, purpose and reporting procedures for this column can be found in the introduction sections of Columns I through IV (see CFO Journal, Volumes 24(2), 24(3), 24(4), and 25(1)).

This column contains mostly records for the period March 1991 through August 1991. As always, I thank those individuals who sent observations. I continue to be amazed by the variety and interesting nature of these anecdotes.

Observer Abbreviations:*

BA Brian Ayers
DH Dave Hawksworth
PH Phil Hayes
BH Barbara Hyde
JK Jackie King
JM Joe Mammoser
SM Sarah McKinley
JMe Jack Merchant
RR Ron Ryder
LS Lisa Sacarto
JT Janeal Thompson
AV Alan Versaw
JW Jim Watts
RW Rosie Watts

Location Abbreviations:

CSU Colorado State University, Fort Collins
CVCG Crow Valley Campground, Briggsdale
Dixon Dixon Reservoir, Larimer County
GC Grandview Cemetery, Fort Collins
NCELC Northern Colorado Environmental Learning
Center, Fort Collins
RMNP Rocky Mountain National Park

*Observations not accompanied by an abbreviation are those of the compiler.

BIRD	FOOD ITEM	LOCATION	DATE (OBSERVER)
Osprey	Rainbow trout (6" in length)	Dixon	9May'91 (DH)
Mississippi Kite	Unident. flying insect	Pueblo (Olive Marsh)	3June'91
	(Suspect the prey was one of the large "dogday" cicadas in the genus <u>Tibicen</u> . The bird was soaring in typical kite fashion when it suddenly dipped and captured something with its talons. While still on the wing with the prey held by its feet, the bird reached back and consumed the insect in 4-5 bites.)		
Bald Eagle	White sucker (estimated to weigh 3 lbs.)	Blue Mesa Reservoir	4March'91(BA)
	(This fish was discarded by ice fishermen seeking trout.)		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	House finch (at feeder)	Denver	Dec.'90(PH)
Swainson's Hawk	Unidentified snake	w of Pritchett	22July'91(SM)
Swainson's Hawk	Unidentified large rodent	NeeNoshe Reservoir	22July'91(JT)
		(Kiowa County)	
Red-tailed Hawk	Coachwhip snake fed to 2 nestlings by adult	Canon City	19May'91(RW)
Red-tailed Hawk	Unidentified snake (probably racer)	US Air Force Academy	28June'91
Kestrel	Nestling house finches	Fort Collins	20-25June'91
	(For the second consecutive year house finches attempting to raise a brood in a small blue spruce in our yard were thwarted by neighborhood kestrels. The predators captured the young birds at the rate of one per day. The finches did not attempt to renest in our yard but may have elsewhere.)		
Greater Yellowlegs	Small fish (about 1½" long)	Windsor Reservoir	15April'91(JM)
		(Weld County)	
Herring Gull	Unidentified lg. fish (10" long shad?)	Union Res.(BoulderCo.)	23March'91
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Unripened white mulberry fruits	FtLyon Canal(BentCo.)	1June'91(JT)
Common Barn-Owl	Ord's kangaroo rat	Hamilton Res(LarimerCo.)	June'91(RR)
Common Barn-Owl	Western jumping mouse (<u>Zapus princeps</u>)	Hamilton Reservoir	June'91(RR)
Common Barn-Owl	Unident. lg. rodent (poss. hispid cotton rat)	Bear Crk near Holt Dam	20July'91(JT)
	(<u>Sigmodon hispidus</u>)	(Baca County)	
	(This prey item was found on a ledge near a nest cave of the owl. A check of this site later in the day revealed a large prairie rattlesnake attempting to swallow the rodent. Thus, this appears to be a case of a reptilian predator stealing the prey of an avian predator. Rattlesnakes will prey upon cold-blooded lizards and certain amphibians, but it would seem uncommon for these snakes to find and consume a dead rodent that had cooled. Perhaps this individual rodent had only recently been killed and still retained enough body heat to allow the pit viper sharing the owl's ledge to locate it.)		
Great Horned Owl	Rock dove feathers and body parts at nest	GC	23April'91
Great Horned Owl	Crow, magpie and rock dove feathers at nest	GC	26April'91
Great Horned Owl	Cottontail rabbit species	Fort Collins	30July'91
Great Horned Owl	Koi goldfish?	Walsh	22August'91(JT)
	(While predation by the owl was not confirmed, the owl was seen and photographed perched on the bank and above (sat there for a period of hours) a backyard goldfish pond. A prize 16" fish was found to be missing a few days later. Great horned owls definitely are known to include fish in their diet and this incident may indicate they are cultivating expensive tastes.)		

BIRD	FOOD ITEM	LOCATION	DATE(OBSERVER)
Broad-t. Hummingbird	Currant (<u>Ribes aureum</u>) flowers (nectar)	CVCG	11May'91
Broad-t. Hummingbird	Firepit ashes	RMNP	12-15June'91(AV)
(This has been reported before in the literature and is apparently a type of dietary supplement).			
Broad-t. Hummingbird	Golden banner flowers	Monument Gulch(LarimerCo.)	15June'91
Broad-t. Hummingbird	Drinking "Mountain Dew" softdrink from can	Great Sand Dunes	26July'91
Broad-t. Hummingbird	Aphids on skunkbush sumac leaves	near Lyons	15July'91(BH)
Lewis' Woodpecker	"Flycatching" for flying boxelder bugs	Lyons	10March'91
Red-headed Woodpecker	Unidentified black beetle (probably a carabid or darkling beetle)	Sand Arroyo (Baca Co.)	1July'91
Yellow-bell. Sapsucker	Austrian pine sap wells	GC	5March'91
Yellow-bell. Sapsucker	Cottonwood sap wells (on a branch)	GC	13March'91
Williamson's Sapsucker	Siberian elm sap wells	Walsh	Dec.'78(JT)
(Note: this sapsucker (or any other sapsucker species) is not known from Baca County. Other reports of newly-cut sapsucker sap wells on ornamental pines (Scots and perhaps others) near Walsh from JT indicate sapsuckers are perhaps regular migrants and/or winter residents in extreme southeastern CO).			
Ladder-b. Woodpecker	Hackberry lacebugs (gleaned from leaves)	Corrizzo Creek CG(BacaCo.)	13July'91
Downy Woodpecker	Red elm bark weevil (<u>Magdalis armicollis</u>)	GC	18March'91
(These larval weevils were extracted from beneath the bark of a broken American elm branch).			
Hairy Woodpecker	Feeding at y-b.sapsucker sap wells (Aust.pine)	GC	22March'91
Northern Flicker	Russian olives	CVCG	15March'91
Northern Flicker	Russian olives	Hamilton Reservoir	9April'91(RR)
(Found in large numbers in the bottom of nest boxes erected for use by kestrels but taken over by flickers. The soft pulp around the hard seed is removed as the olive passes through the digestive tract of the bird. The germinability of the seeds may well be improved by this "treatment", as has been demonstrated for many seeds distributed in the droppings of birds and mammals).			
Eastern Kingbird	Redshank grasshopper (<u>Xanthippus corralipes</u>)	Jumbo Res. (Sedgwick Co.)	13May'91
Blue Jay	"Montmorency" cherries	Longmont	Summer'90(BH)
Blue Jay	Cottonwood catkins	Fort Collins	4April'91(DH)
Blue Jay	Wild sunflower seeds	Longmont	Fall'90(BH)
Black-billed Magpie	Female house finch?	Littleton	Dec'90(LS)
(Both birds were feeding together at a backyard feeder, when the magpie jumped on the finch and pecked it to death. It is not clear whether the finch was actually eaten by the attacker. It was <u>very</u> cold at the time and stress may have influenced this aggressive behavior.)			
Black-billed Magpie	Roadkilled cottontail rabbit (sp.?)	CSU	16July'91
Black-billed Magpie	Unidentified grasshopper sp. or spp.	Penrose	5August'91(JW)
(Much to JW's satisfaction, a flock of 12 magpies descended on his yard and fed exclusively on grasshoppers for a period of 30 minutes.)			
Black-billed Magpie	Great mullein seeds in seedheads	Cherry Creek Res.	10August'91
American Crow	Scots and ponderosa pine seeds from fallen cones	CSU	13March'91(DH)
American Crow	Annelid worms (earthworms)	CSU	17April'91(DH)
American Crow	House sparrow eggs	CSU	29April'91(DH)
(The sparrows were nesting behind a wire mesh erected to discourage rock dove nesting/roosting. The crow reached through a hole in the mesh to extract the sparrow eggs.)			

BIRD	FOOD ITEM	LOCATION	DATE(OBSERVER)
American Crow	Solidified grease (bacon?)	GC	22March'91
American Crow	Popcorn (popped)	CSU	25March'91
American Crow	Remnants of an Easter egg	Fort Collins	9April'91
American Crow	Cookie crumbs (vanilla wafer?)	Colorado Springs	25July'91(JT)
American Crow	Immature American robin	RMNP	14June'91(AV)
Common Raven	Trout (rainbow?)	Poudre Canyon Hatchery	1March'91
Common Raven	Roadkilled yellow-bellied marmot	Upper Poudre Canyon	16July'91
Black-capped Chickadee	Hackberry psyllid adults (prob. two spp.)	GC	15April'91(DH)
Black-capped Chickadee	Giant willow aphids (<i>Cinara</i> sp.)	Longmont	Spring'90(BH)
Black-capped Chickadee	Hackberry psyllid adults (prob. two spp.)	GC	19April'91
Black-capped Chickadee	Wild plum flower petals	Dixon	20April'91
Black-capped Chickadee	European elm scales (prob. nymphs & adult f.)	GC	1May'91
Mountain Chickadee	Giant willow aphids (<i>Cinara</i> sp.)	Longmont	Spring'90(BH)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Douglas-fir seed	GC	12August'91
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Black spruce seed	GC	12August'91
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Colorado blue spruce seed (being cached)	GC	August'91
Rock Wren	Unidentified grasshopper (lime green)	Picture Canyon (BacaCo.)	20June'91
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Overwintering hackberry psyllids on spruce	GC	20March'91
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Hackberry psyllid adults (prob. two spp.)	GC	19&23April'91
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Unidentified blue butterfly (family Lycaenidae)	Spring Creek Dam (Larimer County)	9May'91(DH)
Townsend's Solitaire	Eastern redcedar berries	Longmont	Fall&Winter'90(BH)
Townsend's Solitaire	Bittersweet berries (<i>Celastrus scandens</i>)	Longmont	Fall&Winter'90(BH)
Townsend's Solitaire	European buckthorn fruits	GC	5March'91
Veery	Annelid worms (earthworms)	GC	20May'91
American Robin	Russian olives	CVCG	15March'91
American Robin	European buckthorn fruits	GC	20March'91
American Robin	Unripe red mulberries	GC	24June'91
American Robin	Ripe red mulberries	GC	8July'91
Gray Catbird	Larval boxelder leafrollers (<i>Archips negundana</i>)	Watson Lake(LarimerCo.)	14June'91
Brown Thrasher	Unidentified lg. black beetle	Turk's Pond (Baca Co.)	8June'91(JT)
American Pipit	Unidentified insect larvae	RMNP (Trail Ridge Road)	14August'91(BH)
	(BH saw an adult pipit feeding a fledgling pipit larvae collected from an alpine willow (probably <i>Salix brachycarpa</i>). The larvae were very plump which may indicate they were those of leaf beetles (family Chrysomelidae) or flea beetles (also family Chrysomelidae)).		
Bohemian Waxwing	Mountain-ash berries	Longmont	Fall&Winter'90(BH)
Bohemian Waxwing	Green ash flower buds	CSU	12April'91
Cedar Waxwing	Mountain-ash berries	Longmont	Fall&Winter'90(BH)
Cedar Waxwing	White poplar catkins	Trinidad	5April'91
Cedar Waxwing	Russian olives	Fort Collins	11April'91
Northern Shrike	House sparrow impaled on lilac	Commerce City	22Dec'90(JK)

BIRD	FOOD ITEM	LOCATION	DATE(OBSERVER)
Northern Shrike	Pursuing dark-eyed junco	CVCG	15March'91
Loggerhead Shrike	Unidentified grasshopper impaled on fence	Walsh area	23June'91(JT)
Loggerhead Shrike	Redshank grasshopper impaled on juniper branch	Model	5April'91
	(Shrike, which was acting territorial (reluctant to leave certain small area, lots of scolding) perched atop a large juniper with bare limbs. It spied something at the base of a yucca nearly 25 yards away and made a quick foray. The prey was brought back to the juniper where it was promptly jammed in a V-shaped crotch of a splitting, dead branch about 3/4" in diameter. Upon inspecting the situation, I found a live redshank grasshopper nymph (wings not well-developed). At this time of year, having recently migrated to its breeding range, the shrike was probably trying to impress prospective mates with its hunting ability, more than caching food).		
Loggerhead Shrike	Redshank grasshopper impaled on honeylocust thorn	CVCG	28April'91
Starling	Red mulberries	GC	8July'91
Orange-crowned Warbler	Hackberry psyllid adults (prob. two spp.)	GC	19April'91
Orange-crowned Warbler	Chokecherry lacebugs (<i>Corythucha</i> sp.)	Fort Collins	2May'91
Yellow Warbler	Unidentified green caterpillars on spruce	Eagle	14&26June'91(JMe)
	(Egira simplex? or possibly western spruce budworms)		
Yellow Warbler	Hackberry psyllid adults (prob. two spp.)	GC	14May'91
Yellow-rumped Warbler	"Flycatching" for midges (family Chironomidae)	Dixon	22April'91
	(One bird in particular often caught more than one midge per flight.)		
Yellow-throated Warbler	Hackberry psyllid adults (prob. two spp.)	GC	15April'91
	(I watched this bird for a period of several minutes. It was snapping up psyllids from swelling leaf bud surfaces and along branch bark at the rate of about 50 per minute. Those of us who visited this bird during the day estimate it was present for at least 5 hours. All of us saw it actively pursuing psyllids. Simple mathematics shows this little bird was theoretically consuming 3000 psyllids per hour and perhaps as many as 15,000 during its brief stay in the cemetery. One has to wonder what it would have eaten had this food source not been present. Insectivores which migrate early like this one are apparently aware of where the early insects tend to be).		
Western Tanager	Ichneumon wasp (prob. genus <i>Ophion</i>)	GC	24May'91
Black-headed Grosbeak	Unidentified grasshopper	Penrose	8July'91(RW)
Lazuli Bunting	Skunkbush sumac fruits	Longmont	15July'91(BH)
	(BH reports that she has observed birds avoid eating items that are dust-covered. The fruits of this sumac (<i>Rhus trilobata</i>) are sticky in their own right and are often covered with the sugary excretions of aphids called "honeydew". These two facts often lead to dust-covered fruits. This site is on BH's normal birding route and she has never seen anything interested in this shrub. On this day the area received a very heavy rain shower. Following the rain the buntings were eating the fruits and hummingbirds were licking up the aphids. Did the rain eliminate the dust, thus making the available food more palatable?)		
Cassin's Sparrow	Unidentified grasshopper (green)	Walsh	14July'91(JT)
Chipping Sparrow	American elm seeds	GC	14May'91
Lark Sparrow	Unidentified grasshopper (green)	Burchfield Lake(BacaCo.)	3July'91(JT)
Red-w. Blackbird (imm.)	Unidentified grasshopper (green)	Colorado Springs	24July'91(JT)
Red-w. Blackbird	Cottonwood female flowers	NCELC	30April'91
Western Meadowlark	Unidentified grasshopper (both green & brown spp.)	Eads	21July'91(JT)

BIRD	FOOD ITEM	LOCATION	DATE (OBSERVER)
Common Grackle	Unidentified grasshopper	Penrose	7July'91(RW)
Common Grackle	Stale corn chips	Penrose	18August'91(RW)
	(These chips were put out for the birds. Before eating the stale offering, grackles dunked the chips in water to soften them up. This is a common practice for grackles (see next observation)).		
Common Grackle	Attempting to soften rocks in gutter water	Kit Carson	18June'91
Northern Oriole (Bull.)	Unripened white mulberry fruits	Ft. Lyon	1June'91(JT)
Northern Oriole (Bull.)	Hawthorn sp. flower buds	Wheat Ridge	9May'91
Northern Oriole (Bull.)	Larval boxelder leafrollers	Bellvue (Watson Lake)	14June'91
Pine Grosbeak	New aspen leaves	Mancos (north of)	19June'91(AV)
Pine Grosbeak	Roadside grit (not salty)	Guanella Pass	10March'91
Cassin's Finch	Engelmann spruce seeds from cones	GC	12April'91
House Finch	Dandelion seeds	Colorado Springs	23July'91(JT)
House Finch	Giant willow aphids (<i>Cinara</i> sp.)	Longmont	Spring'90(BH)
House Finch	Cherries	Longmont	Summer'90(BH)
House Finch	Apples (<i>Malus</i> sp.)	Longmont	Fall&Winter'90(BH)
House Finch	American elm seeds	GC	10&16May'91
House Finch	Unripe red mulberries	GC	24June'91
House Finch	Mountain-ash berries	CSU	23August'91
Red Crossbill	Douglas-fir seeds from cones	Lake City (north of)	3July'91
White-winged Crossbill	Engelmann spruce seed from cones	Guanella Pass	10March'91
White-winged Crossbill	Blue spruce seeds from cones	Indian Peaks Wilderness	19July'91(BH)
Pine Siskins	Hackberry psyllid adults (prob. two spp.)	GC	23April'91
Pine Siskin	Thistle seeds (wild)	Eagle area	15August'91(JMe)
Lesser Goldfinch	Thistle seeds (wild)	Lyons (nw of)	7August'91
American Goldfinch	Pussywillow catkins	Cortez	24March'91(AV)
American Goldfinch	Hackberry psyllid adults (prob. two spp.)	GC	15April'91
American Goldfinch	Creeping bellflower seeds (in pods)	Jumbo Reservoir	13May'91
American Goldfinch	Siberian elm seeds	CVCG	16May'91
American Goldfinch	American elm seeds	GC	20May'91
American Goldfinch	Redroot pigweed seeds	Longmont	Winter'90-91(BH)
American Goldfinch	Great mullein seeds	Longmont	Winter'90-91(BH)
American Goldfinch	Reed canary grass seeds	Longmont	Winter'90-91(BH)
American Goldfinch	Gumweed (<i>Grindelia</i> sp.) seeds from heads	Larimer County	4August'91
American Goldfinch	Thistle seed (wild)	Chatfield State Park	10August'91
American Goldfinch	Unripened white mulberry fruits	Fort Lyon	1June'91(JT)
American Goldfinch	Thistle seed (wild)	Eagle area	14August'91(JMe)
House Sparrow	Cookie crumbs (vanilla wafer?)	Colorado Springs	25July'91(JT)
House Sparrow	Jumping up to eat insects from car radiator	Canon City	4June'91
House Sparrow	Unidentified grasshopper nymph	Longmont	Summer'90(BH)
House Sparrow	Purslane seeds	Longmont	1August'91
House Sparrow	Rhubarb seeds	Fort Collins	4August'91

SUMMARY OF "MILLERMANIA"

Much of eastern Colorado experienced a massive migration flight of army cutworm moths (*Euxoa auxiliaris*) in late spring 1991. These crop pests from states just east of Colorado migrate as "miller" adults to flower-filled meadows in the mountains. Until fall they spend the summer feeding on nectar. The migration this spring was notable on two counts: the huge numbers of moths and the length of time they stayed at low elevations. The relatively mild winter is thought to be partly responsible for the former and the bloom sequence of low elevation plants, for the latter. As a result, migrating passerine birds encountered a bonanza food crop. One can only speculate whether this abundant food source improved migration survival and perhaps even led to improved brood survival among the early nesting species. The following lists species observed feeding on the army cutworm moths. The low elevation peak period was about 10 May through 5 June. After that, large numbers of millers were present at mountain elevations. Dates are not given except for mountain feeding observations.

BIRD	LOCATION(OBSERVER)	DATE(OBSERVER)
Olive-sided Flycatcher	GC	
Empidonax flycatcher sp.	GC	
Western Kingbird	Pueblo Reservoir (Pueblo Co.)	
Eastern Kingbird	Canon City	
Cliff Swallow	Pueblo Reservoir	
Barn Swallow	Various	
American Crow	Various	
House Wren	Dixon	
American Dipper	RMNP	12June(AV)
(AV reports the dipper was perched atop a rock and the miller kept flying closeby. After two jumps in pursuit, the dipper finally captured some uncharacteristically dry food).		
Mountain Bluebird	Monument Gulch (Larimer Co.)	15June
Veery	GC	
Swainson's Thrush	GC	
American Robin	Various	
European Starling	Various incl. Canon City(RW) & Dixon(DH)	
Solitary Vireo	CVCG	
Warbling Vireo	Dixon	
Yellow Warbler	GC	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Dixon	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	CVCG and GC	
Black-throated Green Warbler	CVCG	
Northern Waterthrush	Dixon	
Western Tanager	Various (low elevation)	
	Monument Gulch	15June
Black-headed Grosbeak	Various	
Lazuli Bunting	Dixon	
Chipping Sparrow	GC	
Lark Sparrow	Dixon	
Red-winged Blackbird	Canon City	
Brewer's Blackbird	Jefferson (South Park)	1July
Common Grackle	Various	
Northern Oriole (Bullock's)	Dixon	
House Sparrow	Various	

C.F.O. JOURNAL

INDICES TO VOLUME 25: 1991

Index by Title

- 1991 C.F.O. Field Trips. (1991) Vol. 25(2)52.
- 1991 Convention Report, B. Prather. (1991) Vol. 25(4)96-100.
- Abstracts of Papers, 1991 C.F.O. Convention (1991) Vol. 25(4)100-102.
- Announcements of Speech to be Given by Dr. George Powell. (1991) Vol. 25(1)28-29.
- Announcements. (1991) Vol. 25(1)30-31.
- Announcements. (1991) Vol. 25(3) 91.
- Bald Eagle Captures American Coot, M. Wüner and G. Meyer. (1991) Vol. 25(1)11-13.
- Breeding Bird Atlas Update, H. Kingery. (1991) Vol. 25(1)14.
- Breeding Bird Atlas Update, H. Kingery. (1991) Vol. 25(2)47-48.
- Breeding Bird Atlas Update, H. Kingery. (1991) Vol. 25(3)82.
- Breeding Bird Atlas Update, H. Kingery. (1991) Vol. 25(4)104-105.
- Breeding Black-tailed Gnatcatchers? In Colorado? C. Dexter. (1991) Vol. 25(4)103.
- Canon City Riverwalk Site Guide, R. Watts. (1991) Vol. 25(1)9-10.
- C.F.O. Fieldtrip Report (December 8, 1990), J. Kellner. (1991) Vol. 25(1)26.
- C.F.O. Records Committee Report for 1989, D. Nelson. (1991) Vol. 25(4)119-125.
- Colorado Field Ornithologists Board Meeting, B. Dillon. (1991) Vol. 25(3)79-81.
- Colorado Field Ornithologists Board Meeting, (August 31, 1991), M. Carter. (1991) Vol. 25(4)94-95.
- Daytime Torpor in a Broad-Tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*), D. Nelson. (1991) Vol. 25(2)45-46.
- Distribution of Small Forest Owls in Boulder County, Colorado, S. Jones. (1991) Vol. 25(3)55-70.
- Fieldtrip and Board Meeting Announcement. (1991) Vol. 25(4)95.
- Fieldtrip Report - Longmont, Lyons and Berthoud Area, B. Prather. (1991) Vol. 25(3)78.
- Field Trip Report, B. Prather. (1991) Vol. 25(4)96.
- First Record of Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) From Colorado, M. Janos. (1991) Vol. 25(2)41-42.
- Food Items of Colorado Birds IV, D. Leatherman. (1991) Vol. 25(1)19-25.
- Food Items of Colorado Birds V, D. Leatherman. (1991) Vol. 25(3)83-88.
- Food Items of Colorado Birds VI, D. Leatherman. (1991) Vol. 25(4)130-136.
- Instance of Food Catching in a Lewis Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*), M. Janos. (1991) Vol. 25(2)43-44.
- Message From the Outgoing President, B. Prather. (1991) Vol. 25(4)93.
- News From the Field: Summer 1990 (June, July and August), N. Erthal. (1991) Vol. 25(1)2-8.
- News From the Field-Fall 1990 (September, October and November), B. Fink. (1991) Vol. 25(2)35-40.
- News From the Field: Winter 1990 (December, January and February), B. Percival. (1991) Vol. 25(3)71-77.
- News From the Field: Spring 1991 (March, April and May), B. Prather. (1991) Vol. 25(4)105-115.
- Note From the C.F.O. President, B. Prather. (1991) Vol. 25(2)34.
- Note From the Editor, M. Janos. (1991) Vol. 25(3)54.
- Note From the New Editor, M. Hill. (1991) Vol. 25(4)93-94.
- Open Letter From the C.F.O. President, M. Carter. (1991) Vol. 25(4)92.

Index by Title (continued)

- Sandhill Crane (*Gus canadensis*) Recovery Plan, L. Stevens. (1991) Vol. 25(2)49-51.
 Spotted Owl Records in Colorado, H. Kingery. (1991) Vol. 25(1)15-18.
 Sprague's Pipits and Some Associated Bird Species in Extreme Northeastern Colorado, D. Bridges and D. Leatherman. (1991) Vol. 25(4)115-118.
 Swainson's Warbler in Fort Collins, Colorado, W. Howe and D. Leatherman. (1991) Vol. 25(4)125-129.
 Tamarack Ranch/Jumbo Reservoir Fieldtrip Report, B. Prather. (1991) Vol. 25(1)27.
 Western Screech-Owl at Sand Dunes is First Record for San Luis Valley, J. Rawinski and R. Ryder. (1991) Vol. 25(3)89-90.

Index by Author

- Bridges, D. and D. Leatherman. (1991) Sprague's Pipits and some Associated Bird species in Extreme Northeastern Colorado. Vol. 25(4)115-118.
 Carter, M. (1991) Open Letter From the C.F.O. President. Vol. 25(4)92. Colorado Field Ornithologists Board Meeting. Vol. 25(4)94-95.
 Dillon, B. (1991) Colorado Field Ornithologists Board Meeting. Vol. 25(3)79-81.
 Dexter, C. (1991) Breeding Black-tailed Gnatcatchers? In Colorado? Vol. 25(4)103.
 Erthal, N. (1991) News From the Field: Summer 1990 (June, July and August). Vol. 25(1)2-8.
 Fink, B. (1991) News From the Field-Fall 1990 (September, October and November). Vol. 25(2)35-40.
 Hill, M. (1991) Note From the New Editor. Vol. 25(4)93-94.
 Howe, W. and D. Leatherman. (1991) Swainson's Warbler in Fort Collins, Colorado. Vol. 25(4)125-129.
 Janos, M. (1991) First Record of Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) from Colorado. Vol. 2 25(2)41-42. An Instance of Food Catching in a Lewis Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*). Vol. 25(2)43-44. Note From the Editor. Vol. 25(3)54.
 Jones, S. (1991) Distribution of Small Forest Owls in Boulder County, Colorado. Vol. 25(3)55-70.
 Kellner, J. (1991) C.F.O. Fieldtrip Report (December 8, 1990). Vol. 25(1)26.
 Kingery, H. (1991) Breeding Bird Atlas Update. Vol. 25(1)14. Spotted Owl Breeding Records in Colorado. Vol. 25(1)15-18. Breeding Bird Atlas Update. Vol. 25(2)47-48. Breeding Bird Atlas Update. Vol. 25(3)82. Breeding Bird Atlas Update. Vol. 25(4)104-105.
 Leatherman, D. (1991) Food Items of Colorado Birds IV. Vol. 25(1)19-25. Food Items of Colorado Birds V. Vol. 25(3)83-88. Food Items of Colorado Birds VI. Vol. 25(4)130-136.
 Nelson, D. (1991) Daytime Torpor in a Broad-Tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*). Vol. 25(2)45-46. C.F.O. Records Committee Report for 1989. Vol. 25(4)119-125.
 Percival, B. (1991) News From the Field: Winter 1990 (December, January and February). Vol. 25(3)71-77.
 Prather, B. (1991) Tamarack Ranch/Jumbo Reservoir Fieldtrip Report. Vol. 25(1)27. Note From the C.F.O. President. Vol. 25(2)34. Fieldtrip Report - Longmont, Lyons and Berthoud Area. Vol. 25(3)78. Message from the Outgoing President. Vol. 25(4)93. 1991 Convention Report. Vol. 25(4)96-100. News From the Field: Spring 1991 (March, April and May). Vol. 25(4)105-115.
 Rawinski, J. and R. Ryder. (1991) Western Screech-Owl at Sand Dunes is a First Record for San Luis Valley. Vol. 25(3)89-90.
 Stevens, L. (1991) Sandhill Crane (*Gus canadensis*) Recovery Plan. Vol. 25(2)49-51.
 Watts, R. (1991) Canon City Riverwalk Site Guide. Vol. 25(1)9-10.
 Witmer, M., and G. Meyer. (1991) Bald Eagle Captures American Coot. Vol. 25(1)11-13.

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