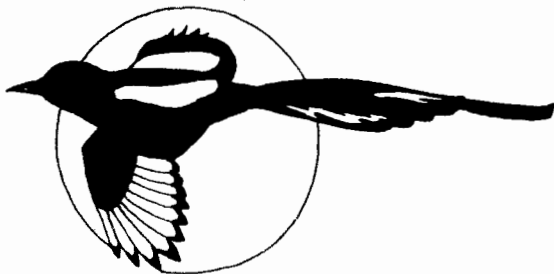

C.F.O. Journal

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly





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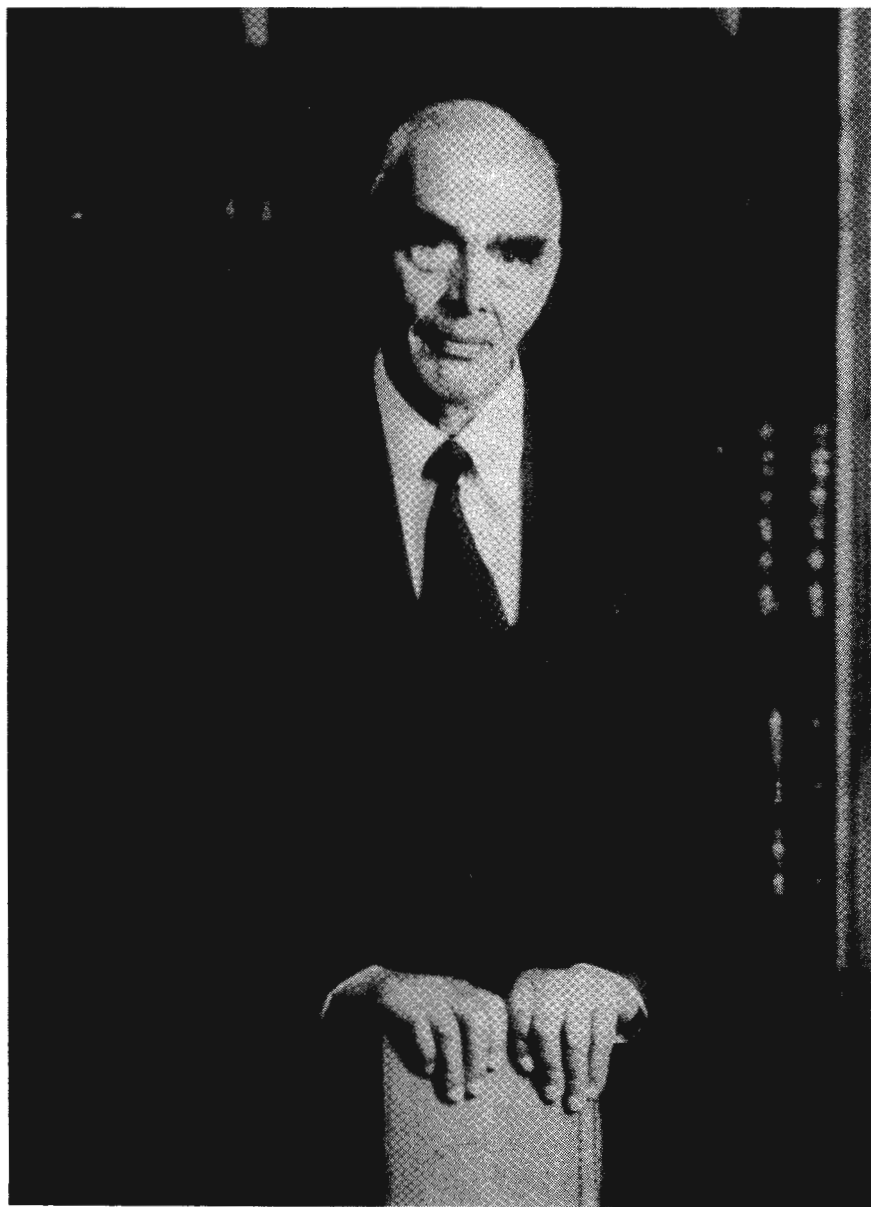
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Thompson Marsh
March 15, 1903 - December 5, 1992.

A CONVERSATION WITH PROFESSOR THOMPSON MARSH:

COLORADO'S LEADING BIRDER

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Thompson Marsh retired in 1987 as professor of law at the University of Denver College of Law after teaching there for sixty years. This is the longest service on the DU law faculty by anyone. On November 12, 1992, he saw an Inca Dove, bringing his Colorado bird list to 428 species. This is the longest Colorado bird list ever compiled by anyone.

Thompson consented to an interview with the three of us for this article, commenting, "This should be entertaining." It was. He met with us (Patty, Lynn and David) on November 27, 1992 at his home. Thompson was recovering from an automobile accident on July 2, which occurred when he was driving to the airport at Cortez on his way home from searching all day for the Common Moorhen, which would have been a new Colorado bird for him.

We had a pleasant, wide-ranging conversation which we would like to share with Thompson's many birding friends. This article will present what Thompson told us, and the way he said it. We have added some information from brief interviews with others, and a few opinions of our own. We realize that we are not telling the full story about Thompson. Many of you have your own Thompson Marsh stories, which we would like to collect. Please send them to the CFO editor, Mona Hill.

Thompson was 89. He had been a birder for a long time. His oldest bird record is dated 1918. Thompson recalled that he first became interested in birds when he moved to Denver from Illinois in 1912, and discovered that a bird called "Catbird" in Colorado did not look like the bird that had been called "Catbird" in Illinois. That is probably the reason his mother purchased a bird book for him when he was home sick from school. This book showed him that the bird in Colorado should properly be called "Western Kingbird."

He grew up in the Park Hill area of Denver, and for years walked through City Park on his way to the DU Law School which was then downtown. He moved to his present home in the Hilltop area in 1935, and continued to walk downtown, carrying his binoculars and looking for birds. Lynn recalled riding a bus home with Thompson in the evening some twenty years ago, and that Thompson said that he walked to school because he was in no hurry to get there but that he rode the bus home because after school he was in a hurry to get home.

Walking and looking with binoculars in residential areas gave rise to

some of the legends about Thompson, repeated year after year by his law students. There has been a persistent rumor that Thompson was once arrested for window peeping when he was looking at a bird. Lynn asked Thompson whether it was true that he had been nabbed by the police as a peeping Tom on his way to work.

Thompson retorted, "You can combine two stories and come pretty close to the myth. I usually walked to work in any kind of weather; in bad weather it helped build up my image." One day when the weather was terrible, he was crossing Colorado Boulevard and a Denver police car was there and "offered me a ride. I had to say no." The other part was "I was walking on Seventh Avenue, looking at a bird, behind the bird was a window, one of my students went by and recognized me."

Students embellished the story. "Once a year the students would get together and make fun of the faculty. They would give the same answer to a lot of questions. The answer was 'a peeping Thompson.' I've forgotten the questions." (We were tempted to title this article: "Professor Marsh: A Peeping Thompson", but didn't want to plagiarize.)

Thompson told us another story invented by law students. According to his students, when Thompson was walking to school one day he had gotten to Cheesman Park where there were lots of squirrels. He asked a man if he would like to see him feed the squirrels. According to the law students, "I reached down and picked up a squirrel and fed it to a big dog."

We asked Thompson about another rumor that he used to dismiss classes early when he would hear about an unusual bird that he wanted to see. Thompson thought for a few moments and conceded: "I may have. But I did not ever miss a class in sixty years. What I did was to leave school as soon as possible." Thompson was off from school all summer long and looked at birds then. However there were a couple of weeks in the spring during migration when people would call and tell him about birds to see.

He then related another story. One day someone came by his home and told his wife, Susan, about an unusual bird. Susan called his office and left this message for him. His secretary knew that he was in a faculty committee meeting on campus. "She sent me word. I got her note in the meeting. I said that I had to leave because 'I think there has been a death in the family.' I left the meeting. Maybe this was for some bird in Arizona."

Thompson maintained that as a law professor "I taught reading and cynicism." He pointed out to lawyers that accurate reading was not enough. A proofreader would read with extreme accuracy, but at the end of the book was still a proofreader. What was needed was reading to understand the significance of a court opinion. Initially he attempted to teach by a process of logic, without success. Then some forty years ago he hit upon a method of having students underline different elements of court opinions in different colors. Red was for who sued who, "for what, and what did they get. Rules of law stated by the court were underlined in black. Facts stated in the opinion

required to make those rules applicable were underlined in green. Thompson declined to answer directly our question whether he had anything to teach now to birdwatchers.

Among his former law students who are birders are Bob Montgomery and Hugh Kingery of Denver and Judge Joe Cannon of Colorado Springs. Bob recalls that one day in class Professor Marsh began to chuckle to himself after a particular year was mentioned. Finally he let the class in on the joke, saying "The only thing the General Assembly did that year that was worth a damn was to name the Lark Bunting the Colorado State Bird."

"I never considered a career in ornithology. I was a lawyer," said Thompson. He was awarded four degrees by the University of Denver, an A.B., an L.L.B. (law degree), an M.A. in history and political science in 1931, and an Honorary Doctorate. He also earned a master's degree in law (L.L.M.) from Northwestern in 1931 and a doctor's degree (J.S.D.) in law from Yale in 1935. Thompson began teaching law at DU in 1927. The school had a policy of mandatory retirement at age 68, but the Trustees could and did continue to extend his tenure one year at a time after that. "They would keep asking me to teach just one more year, and raise my salary each year. Finally, after 60 years, I said, 'That's enough.'"

The *C.F.O. Journal* has twice published the introduction to his thesis for his degree of Master of Arts (No.3, Winter 1968; Vol.15, No.2, Spring 1981) entitled "A History of the First Records of all the Birds Reported to Have Been Seen Within the Present Boundaries of the State of Colorado Prior to Settlement." The title had led us to assume that his master's degree was in science. A Dean on his master's committee had the same reaction, "What does this have to do with the field of history?" Another member of the committee successfully defended Thompson, pointing out that to identify the birds he had had to read all of the original journals of early explorers and other visitors. Thompson told us that the journals had not identified, but only described, most of the birds. One journal recounted a trip from Santa Fe to a mission in California, and meeting Indians in the mountains who killed and ate a grouse. By deduction, he concluded that it must have been a Blue Grouse.

Thompson said that he had published only one other article about birds. In the 1920's he published a note in *Auk* (the journal of the American Ornithologists' Union) about the first Blue Jay reported in the Denver area.

Thompson didn't mention to us an article which he had written for the *C.F.O. Journal* (then called the Colorado Field Ornithologist, No. 7, Winter 1970) entitled "The Founders of Colorado Ornithology." After describing various observers, he had concluded: "With such observers it is small wonder that Colorado has the fourth largest state list of species." Thompson would have modestly denied it, but we would include him in those "such observers" who have done much to discover the bird riches of Colorado for all of us.

Patty asked whether he had had any boyhood birder heroes, such as Roger Tory Peterson. Thompson replied: "One of my nonheroes was Roger

Tory Peterson." For a few years, Thompson was a merit badge counselor for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts for the bird study merit badge. One of the requirements was to identify 40 species, which was hard to do. "Why was a House Finch not a Cassin's Finch or a Purple Finch?" Thompson thought that instead of learning 40 species it would be better to learn 15 families. Peterson was coming to a reception at the Denver Museum of Natural History to which Thompson was invited. He thought it would be nice to talk about this to someone who might have some influence over requirements for the merit badge. He asked Peterson if he knew the requirements for the merit badge, who replied "I wrote them." Thompson persisted and explained his suggestion to learn 15 families instead of 40 species. Peterson's reply was that requirements had to be uniform throughout the United States, and there were not that many families in Hawaii. Thompson asked why not limit Hawaii to the number of families that were there. Peterson was not receptive. "End of story."

Patty asked whether the story was true that Thompson had kept his life list in Latin. "I never had a life list in Latin." Instead he used forms like the ABA form. However, "For many years I did keep my daily notes in Latin, mostly as a showoff." Latin had its disadvantages, however. The meaning of a Latin word may be inaccurate in describing a bird. For example, the Latin word "minor" is part of the name of the Common Nighthawk, rather than of the Lesser Nighthawk which is the smaller.

Thompson birded much of the time by himself until the early 1960's, when he began to go on organized field trips as well. He once told Bob Spencer that he wished he had done this before, as with more ears and eyes everyone saw more birds. Thompson had long legs and much energy. While others covered one side of a field, he covered three sides.

Lynn recounted a story which was not myth, because Lynn had observed the event. After Lynn came to Colorado in 1960, on one of his first field trips he rode with Thompson. At lunchtime, Thompson opened the hood of his car and retrieved his lunch from on top the engine. Thompson conceded: "I used to warm my food that way."

Thompson recalled that Lynn told him that Lynn had been a member of an Iowa state bird group and suggested that Colorado should have a state group. A Colorado group was formed a few years later. The first informal meeting was held in 1963 at the Denver Museum of Natural History. A second informal meeting was held in Fort Collins in 1964. At the third annual convention, in Colorado Springs in 1965, the group was formally organized as Colorado Field Ornithologists. Thompson Marsh was elected as the first president and prepared the by-laws. (Lynn became the fourth president of CFO in 1968).

Thompson coined the phrase "Denver Field Ornithologists" when the Denver Bird Club was seeking a new name. This led to the similar name for the state group of Colorado Field Ornithologists. Thompson recalled that the

Denver Bird Club had needed to change its name because favorable postal rates could not be obtained for a "club" but could be obtained for a scientific organization. Denver Field Ornithologists sounded "scientific" to the Post Office. (Lynn recalled that a new name was needed because of confusion with the Denver Caged Bird Club.)

Thompson has never called himself an ornithologist. "I would not dare call myself an ornithologist. There is a difference between an ornithologist and a field ornithologist. I always called myself a birdwatcher." Later he changed to calling himself a "birder", presumably under the influence of the ABA (the American Birding Association, not the American Bar Association).

The ABA reports (*Winging It*, Vol.4, No.4, April 1992) that one Marsh, Thompson (CO) has seen 762 species in the ABA Area (out of 884 possible) placing him 16th on the list. Thompson noted that he was once second on the ABA Area List, but five years ago he gave up chasing rare birds around the country and he expected to keep slipping on that list. A frequent birding companion was a physician, Karl Stecher (number 46 on the ABA Area List).

Five years ago, Thompson had been searching for a Fan-tailed Warbler in Sycamore Canyon, Arizona, and got lost. By the middle of a very hot day, he had used all of his water. "I began to drink water from the creek, as I would rather die in a hospital than be a rotting corpse on the trail." He became very tired, realized that he was not going to see the bird, and gave it up. His hands were shaking, and he was sick. He would walk thirty yards, rest in the shade, and walk again. "I began to wonder if I would get back to the ridge before dark." Finally, there was his car. He had unknowingly come back by a different route than he had gone down. "I swore off birds outside Colorado." (Some of us dispute that, recalling that he hastily left the C.F.O. annual convention in Durango in September, 1991, to go on a pelagic trip off the California coast.)

He claimed that he was never an avid overseas birder. "I went to Africa a couple times, to Europe three or four times, spent a whole summer in England. I kept a list of the birds I saw incidental to doing other things." Here called that in Oslo he heard a song like our Robin and found that it was their Blackbird, which was indeed a thrush. Also, "it was nice to see Black-billed Magpies in Europe."

A favorite distant birding spot in the United States was Saint Lawrence Island, 90 miles west of Nome, Alaska. He went there three times. A rarity, which Susan saw first, was the Indian Tree Pipit (Olive-backed or Olive Tree-Pipit, *Anthus hodgsoni*). Thompson was amused by his conversations with the Eskimos who would keep asking him: "Have you seen tomorrow?" The International Date Line was between the island and some mountains across the Bering Strait in Siberia. If you could see the mountains, you had seen tomorrow.

The ABA lists Thompson as having seen 427 species in Colorado out of a possible 443. Others have been cheering him on. The *C.F.O. Journal* of Summer 1984 (Vol.18, No. 2) reported that at the Twenty-Second Annual C.F.O. Convention, Thompson saw his 400th and 401st birds, Scott's Orioles and Boreal Owls. The D.F.O., at a monthly meeting in the bird room at the Denver Museum of Natural History, surprised Thompson with a celebration for reaching 400 species. Patty dressed up as a court jester, with black tights, bells, and funny hat, and held up a poster of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Birders were proud to claim him as one of their own.

Several years ago, when Duane Nelson heard through the grapevine about Brown Pelicans at Chatfield, he called Thompson within minutes. Bob Spencer drove Thompson to Lamar to see the White Ibis and to Coal Creek Canyon for a Blue-throated Hummingbird. Thompson was very gracious and recognized that a lot of people had helped him.

At the suggestion of Duane, Bob Spencer called Thompson about the Inca Dove, never before reported in Colorado. Thompson's housekeeper and two strong men helped him out of bed, drove him to see the bird, and the two men carried him into the yard in Lafayette. After fifteen minutes, an Inca Dove came by for a split-second, long enough to be identified. This was number 428. Duane placed the following tribute on the Colorado Bird Report tape recording on Thursday, November 12, 1992:

"Those of you who know Thompson Marsh will be pleased to hear that he was able to see the bird on November 12. He has been recuperating from a serious automobile accident and complications since mid-summer. Thompson has been a friend and inspiration to all who know him, and we wish him the best. The Inca Dove is his 428th Colorado bird species."

Listing is only part of what kept Thompson excited about birds all these years. When the ABA was being started, he paid no attention to its listing reports. Simply seeing more birds didn't prove much. "The ABA had an article about listing. Those who find the rare birds are the lions. The rest, who then go to see those birds, are the jackals. That is true." "I do think that looking at a bird for ten seconds is not enough. You should watch the bird for a while, see how it acts. Bird watching is more than bird listing, but you can do both at the same time."

Thompson and Susan met at a dance at the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park. Thompson asked her what she wanted to drink, and was amazed (and favorably impressed) when she replied, "Orange juice." Their first date was to climb Long's Peak together. They were married a year later, after Susan had returned home to Connecticut and completed her senior year at Smith College. According to Bob Montgomery, the witty conversation of Thompson and Susan made them the life of any party they attended, even though they didn't

drink. "And I have been to many parties with them," added Bob.

Susan and Thompson climbed all of the Colorado Fourteeners. All four daughters joined them for his last fourteener, Castle Peak. Daughter Nancy is a librarian in an elementary school in Fort Collins. Alice went to Africa and now lives with her husband in London. The other two daughters became law school professors, Lucy at DU and Mary at Columbia.

Susan was an accomplished musician and played viola in the Denver Symphony for some twenty years. Thompson was a self-taught musician, told his friends that he "owned a cello" rather than played a cello, refused to take lessons from Susan, and played in string quartets with the family at home. Susan said that he played at least the first note of each measure. Viola and cello were in cases by the grand piano during our interview.

Their way of doing things was different. They were at home in many different circles, but were non-conformists, doing things in their own way, and getting a kick out of it. Others viewed them as being extremely independent, even odd-balls. We were all fortunate to have them with us, and relished their wit and friendship.

Thompson was in bed during the interview, lying flat in a hospital type bed. At times his voice was weak, and we worried whether we would overtax his energy. But he was cheerful and eager for more questions. His bed was in the livingroom, next to the grand piano, facing full length windows where he could see the back yard with bird feeder and bushes. "Once when I was looking out these windows, I saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk come by and pick off a chickadee."

Books and magazines about birds were stacked nearby, the "Bob and Bob Book" (Andrews and Righter, *Colorado Birds*, 1992) on a table, Birding magazine on the piano. Bookcases from floor to ceiling filled the end of the room opposite the tall windows. Most of the books were not about birds, but about politics, literature, and music. Next to *The Warblers of America*, by Griscom and Sprunt, was Asimov's *Guide to Shakespeare*.

Thompson's droll wit was unflagging. Thompson insisted that "You have to see my Penguins." Next to two pairs of binoculars on the dining room table was a children's game, which Patty turned on. Two little penguins marched up and around a metal ramp, chirping incessantly, while Thompson grinned at us. As we were leaving, Thompson added: "Remember, none of this was under oath."

We were eager to complete this article so that Thompson could read our fondness and respect for him. That was not to be. Eight days after the interview, Lynn received a telephone call from Susan that Thompson had died during the night. Thompson had been pleased to be interviewed, and that was some consolation for us. Bill Brockner summed up our feelings well, when he told Lynn: "A giant is gone."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Dave Silverman
P.O. Box 362
Rye, Colorado 81069**

The start of a new year is a good time to consider the goals and future of C.F.O. What activities of C.F.O. do you like best? Are there some new directions worth exploring? How can we expand our membership? If you have any ideas regarding these questions, contact your Board members. We are eager to hear your suggestions. Meanwhile, invite a guest to a C.F.O. field trip or to our next Convention.

The Convention will be Memorial Day Weekend, 1993, in Craig. Many birders including myself are not familiar with this part of Colorado. New and exciting experiences await us! But we need your help. If you have experience birding around Craig or know someone who does, please inform us, preferably before our next Executive Board meeting to be held February 13. We need field trip leaders and guest speakers.

The Division of Wildlife will be contacted to lead us to Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse. Though the end of May is late in the breeding season, our chances are still good for finding grouse at the leks. More Convention details will be published in the next *C.F.O. Journal*. Let's think of people to invite. The Convention is a great way for birders to get acquainted with C.F.O. and boost membership.

CORRECTIONS

Mark Janos has not yet assumed chairmanship of the Official Records Committee. This change was prematurely announced in Vol. 26(4).

C.F.O. WINTER FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

LEFTHAND PARK AND BRAINARD LAKE PTARMIGAN

Meet at 8:30 a.m., **Saturday February 13, 1993**, at the Brainard Lake road closure, 2 1/2 mile west of Ward off Colo. Hwy. 72.

Join us for a vigorous cross-country ski and snowshoe excursion for White-tailed Ptarmigan and Blue Grouse. We'll look for other species previously seen on this trip including Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Bohemian Waxwing, Three-toed Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Common Redpoll. The tour will cover approximately six miles round trip starting at an elevation of 10,500 feet and gaining 750 feet. Bring your good humor, a lunch, and be prepared for severe winter weather conditions. This C.F.O. field trip is co-sponsored by the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department.

Hot chocolate and a C.F.O. Board meeting (open to all) will follow at Steve Bouricius's house in Peaceful Valley.

Leader: Steve Bouricius (303) 747-2367

CASTLEWOOD CANYON OWLS

Meet at 7:00 p.m., **Friday February 26, 1993**, at the entrance station to Castlewood Canyon State Recreation Area, (east of Castle Rock). Take Hwy. 86 about 1/2 mile west of Franktown, turn south on the gravel road to the entrance station.

Come along in a search for Saw-whet Owls along Cherry Creek in the Castlewood Canyon. We will travel about one mile on the developed trail, which may be clear of snow. Bring snowshoes and/or skis if you have them, and a light. (This one's for you, Harold.)

Leader: Dan Bridges (303) 755-7665

GRAND VALLEY AND GRAND MESA OWLS

Meet at 4 p.m. **Saturday March 13, 1993**, at the Central High School parking lot, 3130 E 1/2 Road in Grand Junction.

Don't miss this special trip for seven species of owls! We will go west in the valley to see Long-eared, Western Screech, Barn, and Great Horned Owls, returning to Central High by 7 p.m. Then we will drive to the Grand Mesa in a search for Boreal, Saw-whet, and Pygmy-Owls. The Grand Mesa trip will include two teams: one calling along the roadway by auto/foot travel, the other touring on cross-country skis along a trail where a Boreal Owl was located last year. This C.F.O. field trip is co-sponsored by the Grand Valley Audubon Society.

Leaders: *Coen Dexter (303) 464-7971 and*
 Rich Levad (303) 242-3979

WELD COUNTY SHOREBIRDS AND WATERFOWL

Meet at 7 a.m., **Sunday April 25, 1993**, at Jim Hamm Park, Weld County Road 1 and 17th St. (east of Longmont).

This all-day trip is the perfect time to look for migrating spring waterbirds. Carpooling at Jim Hamm Park, we will visit Union and Latham Reservoirs as well as other Weld County hotspots. Bring lunch. This C.F.O. field trip is co-sponsored by the Foothills Audubon Society.

Leader: *Bill Prather (303) 776-2191*

WANTED: C.F.O. FIELD TRIP LEADERS

If you would like to lead a field trip in your area of special interest, please write or call Steve Bouricius at (303) 747-2367. The C.F.O. welcomes the opportunity to co-sponsor field trips with other organizations. Deadline for inclusion in the next *C.F.O. Journal* is March 1.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS UPDATE

**Hugh E. Kingery
869 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206**

Even though the 1992 field season ended four months ago, we don't have a complete report on 1992 because not all the field cards have arrived at Atlas headquarters. So far we have 416 field cards in 1992. They include 146 blocks completed in 1992 and 166 blocks newly started in 1992.

We have put together field work for the years 1987-1991, with some interesting statistics. The combined computer database contains 43,716 records. These include 15,131 Confirmed records, 9,928 Probables, 14,994 Possibles, and 3,665 Observed.

Interesting discoveries for 1992 included:

- Norm Barrett's nesting Buffleheads east of Rabbit Ears Pass,
- Boreal Owls from Steamboat Springs to Pagosa Springs,
- Grand Junction birders' discoveries of more and more Purple Martins on the Uncompahgre Plateau and Grand Mesa,
- Grand Junction birders' work to extend northerly the Grace's Warbler's breeding range to the Uncompahgre Plateau.

For 1992 we will concentrate on the goal of completing at least one block in each group of four blocks. The parts of the state which need the most field work are Moffat County, Bent, Kiowa, and Kit Carson Counties, Las Animas County, San Luis Valley, western Dolores and San Miguel Counties, and wilderness areas all over the state.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

SEASONAL REPORT

SUMMER 1992 (JUNE - JULY)

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

The weather this summer in eastern Colorado was wetter and cooler than usual. Several observers felt this may have prolonged the nesting season of some species and affected nesting success. One case in point was there nesting of Piping Plovers after initial failure - the first time this has been noted. Western Colorado observers noted nothing very unusual about the weather. It is interesting to see how seasons blur - note the late "spring" migrant White-rumped Sandpiper on 6/30 and the early "fall" migrant Marbled Godwit on 6/16. We are getting more and more good information from the breeding bird atlas - more new breeding species and areas are being found. I encourage everyone to join in this massive project - please contact Hugh Kingery. The report of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker with immature was very interesting - did some of the many that wintered in the state stay to breed? A number of reports of unusual warblers makes me wonder if we will be getting breeding confirmations in the future. As I did this report, I was reminded that Colorado is blessed with having populations of a number of birds that are rare or endangered. These include Piping Plover, Mountain Plover, Least Tern, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon and Northern Goshawk. We need to help the Colorado Department of Wildlife protect these by using the wildlife checkoff on the state income tax form and by working locally and through national and international groups like the Nature Conservancy to protect vital habitats.

All the statements of status for species in the state are taken from *Colorado Birds - a reference to their distribution and habitat* by Robert Andrews and Robert Righter. The abundance definitions are:

Abundant:	more than 100 per day in appropriate season and habitat.
Common:	25-100 per day.
Fairly	Common: 10-25 per day.
Uncommon:	1-10 per day; usually seen daily.
Rare:	1-5 per day; usually not seen every day.
Very Rare:	10-40 records (for the state as a whole, or within certain areas or seasons).

Casual: 4-9 records.

Accidental: 1-3 records.

I included all sightings classified as "Rare" or less common than "Rare." Also any statements of trends in more common birds or exceptional numbers were included. I made no judgements of authenticity - the reports will live or die based on the documentations that were sent in. *Colorado Birds* is a terrific book, full of information that is known about Colorado birds and shows where we need to report and document our sightings. I recommend every one to have access to a copy.

Please continue to send your reports to your regional reporters or Hugh Kingery. Look in *Colorado Birds* to see what needs to be documented. When making documentations make sure that you put down everything you saw so that there will be absolutely no doubt when the report is read by the CFO Records Committee or in 100 years by someone who has never heard of any of us. Thanks to Scott Menough, Duane Nelson and the Denver Field Ornithologists for providing reports on the Colorado Bird Report. Thanks to Phil Hayes for the reports in the *Lark Bunting* and for compiling the field trip reports for the last 8 years. Thanks to the regional reporters and Hugh Kingery for forwarding information. * Indicates an observer has sent a documentation - watch for the CFO records committee report on these sightings in a future *C.F.O. Journal*. Thanks to everyone who sent in reports, keep them coming!

Pacific Loon accidental in summer. 1 remained at Chatfield Res. until at least 6/11 (Jack Reddall and many observers).

Common Loon very rare nonbreeding summer resident. 1 at Brushy Hollow Res. 6/3 (Joe Roller); 1 northwest of Gould 7/26 (Dan Bridges).

American White Pelican now breeds at 3 sites in state. "A very good breeding season" Riverside Res. colony produced 1,200 young, Antero Res. produced 200 and Macfarlane Res. in North Park produced 65 (Ron Ryder).

Great Egret very local breeder on eastern plains. Again present in breeding area east of Boulder and seen in ponds and lakes in the same area throughout the summer.

Snowy Egret rare to uncommon summer resident in western valleys, mountain parks and on the eastern plains. Very poor season in San Luis Valley, no young or nests seen. (Ron Ryder); 1 at Ordway 7/20 (Dave Griffiths); total of 13 seen on early June D.F.O. fieldtrips.

Cattle Egret rare non-breeding summer resident in western valleys, mountain parks and on the eastern plains. Uncommon breeder in the San Luis Valley and on northeastern plains. 1 south of Kremmling 6/5. (Probably the same bird in same place 5/22 - see spring report) (Norman Barrett*); 5 at Hart's Basin near Delta 6/17 (Coen Dexter); none found in the San Luis Valley (Ron Ryder); 2 near Walsh 6/13 (Janeal Thompson).

Green-backed Heron rare summer resident on eastern plains. 1 pair in

Pueblo throughout period (Dave Silverman); 1 near Walsh 6/12 (Janean Thompson); up to 3 near Fountain during period (Toni Brevillier); 1 at Hamilton Res. 7/5 (Ron Ryder); 3 south of LaJunta 7/17 (Dave Leatherman); 1 at Atwood SWA 6/13 (D.F.O. fieldtrip).

Black-crowned Night-heron rare summer resident in western valleys, common to abundant locally in San Luis Valley. 1 or 2 heard at night and 3 immature 7/30 near Cortez (Lucille Bainbridge); fewer nests than usual in San Luis Valley (Ron Ryder).

Yellow-crowned Night-heron very rare nonbreeding visitor during early summer on eastern plains. 1 in June and July at Fountain Creek Regional Park near Fountain (Toni Brevillier).

White-faced Ibis very rare nonbreeding summer visitor in western valleys, mountain parks, and on eastern plains, common breeder in San Luis Valley. 19 near Cortez 7/26; total of 25 on 6 dates in Grand Junction area (Coen Dexter, Rich Levad); 1 south of Glenwood Springs 7/8 (Jack Merchant); better than average nesting season in the San Luis Valley with 100-200 nests in 4 locations (Rick Schnaderbick), 56 in South Park 7/11 (D.F.O. fieldtrip).

Snow Goose very rare nonbreeder in summer on eastern plains. 1 at Nee Noshe 6/2 (Duane Nelson); 3 on eastern plains "big day" 7/19 (Glenn Hageman, Joey Kellner, Jack Reddall, Chris Wood).

Canada Goose locally common to uncommon summer resident. "Production down a bit this year compared to years since 1986, only about 200 moulters at Hamilton Res. on 6/13" (Ron Ryder).

Mallard abundant summer resident. "Production down this year at Hamilton Reservoir - less than 10 broods" (Ron Ryder).

Gadwall rare to uncommon summer resident on eastern plains. "Numbers were down this summer" around Pueblo (Dave Silverman); 200 moulters 7/5 increasing to over 400 by August at Hamilton Reservoir (Ron Ryder).

Canvasback rare and very local in summer. 1 near Loveland 7/14 (Ann Means).

Redhead rare summer resident outside of Brown's Park, North Park and the San Luis Valley. 1 pair with young in tow west of Cortez 7/8. (Alan Versaw); a total of 15 reported on 4 D.F.O. fieldtrips around the state in June and July; 160 on eastern plains "big day" 7/19 (Glenn Hageman, Joey Kellner, Jack Reddall, Chris Wood).

Barrow's Goldeneye casual summer resident in mountains and mountain valleys. 1 eclipse male in Flattops area 7/11 (Brenda Wright); 1 west of Yampa 7/11 (Hugh Kingery).

Bufflehead no breeding records outside of the Park Range in Jackson County. 1 nest fledged 4 young 7/4 near Kremmling (Norman Barrett).

Hooded Merganser very rare nonbreeding summer visitor. 1 at Blue Lake 6/4 (Duane Nelson); 1 in Red Lion area 7/25, 26 (D.F.O. Fieldtrip).

Osprey rare to uncommon local summer resident in mountains and mountain parks, 2 possible previous breeding records on eastern plains. 2 young fledged

from a nest at Pueblo Reservoir 7/27 (John Yaeger); 2 young produced in nest at Parvin Lake in Larimer County (Ron Ryder); 1 at Chatfield Res. 6/4 (Karleen Schofield).

Mississippi Kite fairly common summer resident very locally in the Arkansas valley from Pueblo eastward and in Baca County. A high of only 4 could be found in Lamar City Park possibly due to the massive tree kill caused by severe early freeze in October 1990 (Mark Janos).

Bald Eagle rare summer resident very locally. 1 on Colorado River near Utah State Line 7/27 (Coen Dexter); 1 immature in Grand County in June (Bill Rowe); 3 immatures 6/14 and 1 adult and 1 immature 7/25 at Barr Lake (D.F.O. fieldtrips).

Cooper's Hawk rare to uncommon summer resident in western valleys, foothills and lower mountains. 2 adults and a nest at Bonny Res. - first breeding record in latilong 14 (Dave Leatherman).

Northern Goshawk rare to uncommon resident in foothills and mountains. 1 adult 6/10 and 1 immature 7/27 near Cortez (Lucille Bainbridge); 1 seen on 7 dates in Grand Junction area and a nest with young in Montrose County (Coen Dexter, Rich Levad); 2 on Indian Peaks Breeding Bird Count 6/13 (Dave Hallock); 1 in Evergreen 6/29 (Peg Hayden); 1 in Eagle area 6/18 (Jack Merchant), 1 west of Trinidad 6/22 (Dave Johnson); 1 at San Isabel 6/27 (C.F.O. fieldtrip); 2 fledged from nest near Kremmling 7/3 (Norman Barrett); 1 near Peaceful Valley 6/21 (D.F.O. Fieldtrip); 2 sightings in June in Rocky Mountain National Park (Ron Ryder, William Rowe); nest with 3 young at Golden Gate SP 6/30 (Alan Hay, Phil Hayes); 1 adult and 1 immature in Park County 7/14 (Tina Jones).

Ferruginous Hawk rare to uncommon summer resident locally on eastern plains. "Apparently a good year on the Pawnee National Grassland" (Ron Ryder).

Prairie Falcon rare local summer resident. Only 1 seen during period around Grand Junction (Coen Dexter); 1 near Kremmling 7/5 (Norman Barrett); 1 north of Gypsum 6/7 (Jack Merchant); 1 at Olney Springs 6/6 (Brandon Percival, Van Truan); 1 at Walsenburg 6/20 (Cliff Smith, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith); 1 near Lyons 7/28 (DW King); 1 in Sedalia area 6/16 (Tuesday Birders).

Peregrine Falcon rare summer resident in foothills and lower mountains. 1 adult south of Gunnison 7/30 (Rich Levad); a pair seen several times in July near McCoy (Margaret Ewing), 1 immature at Blue Lake 6/2 (Duane Nelson); 1 north of Broomfield 7/26 (Bill Kaempfer, Steve Feldstein); "a good year 39 young fledged from about 50 sites statewide" (Jerry Craig); 1 in Gunnison County 7/1 (Joe Roller).

Ring-necked Pheasant fairly common to common resident on eastern plains. "Up considerably throughout eastern plains" (Dave Leatherman).

Common Moorhen accidental in western valleys. 1 at Totten Res. near Cortez 7/1 (Alan Versaw*).

Whooping Crane rare migrant, no previous summer records, in western valleys. 1 immature north of Steamboat Springs 7/22 (Marilyn Overly*).

Black-bellied Plover accidental in early summer on eastern plains. 1 in nonbreeding plumage at Nee Noshe Res. 6/10 (Duane Nelson).

Mountain Plover rare to fairly common summer resident on eastern plains, rare in South Park. 2 at Olney Springs 6/6 (Brandon Percival, Van Truan); 1 at Blue Lake 7/11 (Mark Janos); 30 in July near Two Buttes (Lewis Griffin); "Apparently a good year north of Ft. Collins and on the Pawnee National Grasslands" (Ron Ryder); 1 at Antero Res. 6/20 (Dan Bridges).

Snowy Plover uncommon summer resident on south eastern plains, numbers fluctuate widely. Apparently a good year with 1 pair at Blue Lake, 30 at Nee Noshe Reservoir, 4 at Nee So Pah reservoir and sightings at Cheraw Lake and Lake Meredith (Duane Nelson).

Piping Plover confirmed breeding 4 times on eastern plains prior to 1992, very rare spring and fall migrant. Duane Nelson found 4 nesting pair in 1992: 1 at Nee Noshe Res. which was unsuccessful on both first attempt and re-nest attempt; 1 at Nee Grande Res. which fledged 1 young; 1 at John Martin Res. which fledged 1 young; and 1 at Blue Lake which fledged 4 young.

Willet rare in early summer on eastern plains. 15 at Lower Latham Res. 7/7 (Bill Lisowsky, Charles Mills).

Upland Sandpiper uncommon to fairly common summer resident on northeastern plains west to Logan County and south to Yuma County, rare to uncommon west to Morgan County, very local in Weld County, accidental elsewhere. 10 south of Ft. Morgan 7/16 (Joe Rigli); 1 in North Park 7/39 (D.F.O. fieldtrip).

Long-billed Curlew accidental breeder in western valleys. 1 at Maybell 6/6 - possible breeding in area (Coen Dexter).

Marbled Godwit very rare nonbreeding summer resident on eastern plains. 2 in Vineland Quadrangle 7/1 (Bob Dickson, Brandon Percival); 1 at Nee Noshe 6/16 (Duane Nelson); 1 at Jackson Res. 7/7 (Bill Lisowski, Charles Mills).

White-rumped Sandpiper fairly common to common spring migrant on eastern plains, accidental elsewhere, summer and fall status uncertain - need to be documented. 1 at Nee Noshe Res. 6/30 (Duane Nelson); 1 near Alamosa 7/20 (Ed Holub, Linda Holub).

Short-billed Dowitcher very rare fall migrant on eastern plains, accidental in western valleys. 8 at Hart's Basin near Eckert on 7/17 (Rich Levad*, Tom Moran); 1 at Blue Lake 7/11 and 3 near Las Animas 7/26 (Mark Janos); 1 at Lower Latham Res. 7/23 (Joe Roller).

Red-necked Phalarope uncommon to fairly common fall migrant on eastern plains. 80 at Cheraw on 7/11 were very early (Mark Janos).

Red Phalarope accidental spring and very rare fall migrant on eastern plains - no previous summer records. 1 in nonbreeding plumage at Nee So Pah Reservoir 6/22 (Duane Nelson).

Caspian Tern very rare nonbreeding summer resident on eastern plains. 1 at

Union Res. 7/17 (Bill Fink); 1 at Cherry Creek Res. 6/2 (Steve Stachowiak, Jenkins).

Common Tern casual nonbreeding summer resident on eastern plains, no previous summer records in western valleys. 1 at Hart's Basin near Delta 7/17 (Coen Dexter, Rich Levad); 1 immature in Pueblo 7/26 (Dave Silverman); 1 at Nee Noshe Reservoir 6/9 (Duane Nelson).

Arctic Tern accidental fall and late spring migrant on eastern plains. 1 at Nee Noshe Reservoir 6/9 (Duane Nelson).

Least Tern uncommon local summer resident on southeastern plains. Duane Nelson found 21 nests at Nee Noshe Res. and Blue Lake, 18 of which hatched young and about 25 young were fledged.

Band-tailed Pigeon locally fairly common to common summer resident in foothills and lower mountains. "Continued decline" around Evergreen (Bill Brockner); Indian Hills Breeding Bird Count found an average of .74 per hour compared to 10 year average of .25 per hour (Dave Hallock).

Mourning Dove "rather scarce this year, seen on only 7 dates" around Eagle (Jack Merchant).

Black-billed Cuckoo rare summer resident on eastern plains. 1 near Strausberg 6/25 (Marina Graves).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo rare to uncommon summer resident on stern plains. 8 in Pueblo area during reporting period (Dave Silverman); 1 7/17 (Bill Kaempfer) and 3 6/21 (D.F.O. Fieldtrip) near Lyons; 1 west of Loveland 7/25, 31 (Ron Hardin); 1 6/21 - early July south of Ft. Morgan (Joe Rigli); 1 at Atwood SWA 6/7 (D.F.O. Fieldtrip); 1 on D.F.O. northeast Colorado fieldtrip 7/25-26; 1 on eastern plains "big day" 7/19 (Glenn Hageman, Joey Kellner, Jack Reddall, Chris Wood); 1 in Lakewood 7/30 (Joe Roller).

Common Barn-Owl rare, and probably locally uncommon summer resident in western valleys and on eastern plains. 3 occupied nest holes were observed in Grand Junction area (Rich Levad); 1 at Ordway 6/6 (Brandon Percival, Van Truan); "Appeared to be a very good year based on active nests in Ft. Collins area and the number of birds seen in central and southern plains" (Dave Leatherman, Ron Ryder).

Northern Pygmy-owl rare resident in foothills and mountains. 1 near San Isabel 7/20 (Brandon Percival); 2 near Manitou Springs 7/19 (Wilson).

Long-eared Owl rare and very local in summer. 2 in the South San Juan Wilderness in late July (John Rawinski); 1 near Nunn (Tanya Schenk); 1 in Grand County 7/25 (DanBridges).

Short-Eared Owl rare nonbreeding summer resident in mountain parks other than San Luis Valley, status in western valleys is poorly known - very few recent records. 1 near McCoy 7/19 (Margaret Ewing); 1 in north park 6/10 (Bill Lisowsky, Delores Harrington, Donald Harrington, Paula Lisowsky).

Continued on page 22



Juvenile Least Sandpiper at Jackson Reservoir, August 17, 1992.
Photo by Joe Roller.



Juvenile Least Sandpiper at Jackson
were greenish and upperparts were
Photo by



Reservoir, August 17, 1992. Legs
e bright rusty and neatly fringed.
oe Roller.

Boreal Owl rare to locally uncommon resident in higher mountains. 1 calling near Kremmling 6/4 (Norman Barrett); 1 near Estes Park in July (Warner Reeser); 1 on Ripple Creek Pass, Rio Blanco Co. 6/7 (Dan Bridges); 1 north of Pagosa Springs 7/24 (Hugh Kingery).

Lesser Nighthawk casual in spring and summer. 1 in Grand Junction area 7/6-7 (Jack Reddall, Dorothy Reddall).

Blue-throated Hummingbird casual in summer and early fall. 1 seen twice in upper Poudre Canyon (Luise Bennett); 1 near Estes Park 6/21 (Barbara Baldwin, Dennis Baldwin).

Magnificent Hummingbird very rare in summer and early fall in foothills and lower mountains north to Mesa, Jackson and Larimer counties. 1 at Great Sand Dunes National Monument 7-17 (Alan Versaw*).

Black-Chinned Hummingbird fairly common summer resident in western valleys. "Population definitely off in Montezuma County this year (Alan Versaw).

Anna's Hummingbird casual in summer. 1 in Ft Collins 7/9 through period (Carol Simmons, David Steingraeber, Dave Leatherman* and others).

Calliope Hummingbird rare to uncommon late summer migrant in western valleys, foothills and lower mountains. 1 in Penrose 7/16 (Rosie Watts); 2 at San Isabel 7/18 (Brandon Percival); 1 7/30-8/8 (Paula Hansley); 1 near Boulder 7/18 (Bill Kaempfer), 1 near Lyons 7/6-8 (Judy Smith); 1 about 7/20 west of Ft. Collins (Carol Simmons); 1 windowkill in Ft. Collins 7/29 (Dave Leatherman); 1 near Monte Vista 7/20 (Ed Holub, Linda Holub); 1-2 7/17-21 at Peaceful Valley (Steve Bouricius).

Lewis' Woodpecker rare and local in valleys of northern Colorado. 4 young fledged near Lyons (DW King); 5 pair observed in Rist Canyon, 2 near Masonville, 1 in Buckhorn Canyon - 2 of these were feeding young (Bill Lisowsky; pair nesting in Sedalia 6/16 (Tuesday Birders).

Red-headed Woodpecker now a very rare breeder on eastern plains near foothills, casual visitor in mountain parks and western valleys. 1 in Pitkin County 6/1-24 (Dot Foster); breeding along Little Thompson River near Lyons (Bill Kaempfer); 1 pair in nest hole near Longmont 6/1 (Ann Delzell); 1 at Red Rocks Park 6/7 (Karleen Schofield).

Red-bellied Woodpecker rare to uncommon on extreme northeastern plains, casual in summer elsewhere on eastern plains. 1 male remained at Lamar at least to 7/18 (Mark Janos); 1 at Tamarack Ranch 6/2 (Joe Roller) and 7/25-26 (D.F.O. fieldtrip); 1 at Crow Valley Campground 6/6 (Tom Parker).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker no previous summer records. 1 adult with a fledged young in Elkhorn block 7/15 (Marilyn Overly).

Three-toed Woodpecker rare or very locally uncommon resident in higher mountains. 1 breeding pair observed 12 miles north of Dolores 7/10 (Alan Versaw); 1 seen on 3 dates in Grand Junction area (Coen Dexter, Rich Levad); up to 3 at San Isabel including a nest with young 6/28 (Brandon Percival); 5 on Indian Peaks Breeding Bird Count 6/13 (Dave Hallock); 1 near Allenspark

6/18 (Idabelle Arndt); 1 in northwest Boulder County 7/19 (Bill Lisowsky, Paula Lisowsky); 2 adults with young north of Craig 7/10 - first record for latilong 2 (Hugh Kingery); 1 adult and 2 immatures on D.F.O. South Park field trip 7/11.

Olive-sided Flycatcher uncommon summer resident in mountains. "None in usual areas around Evergreen" (Bill Brockner).

Western Wood-pewee fairly common to common resident in foothills and lower mountains. "None in usual areas around Evergreen" (Bill Brockner).

Eastern Wood-Pewee accidental summer resident. 1 in Colorado City 7/26,31 (David Silverman*); 1 on D.F.O. northeast Colorado fieldtrip 6/13.

Least Flycatcher very rare summer resident on eastern plains. 2 adults and 2 immatures at Chatfield State Park 6/30 (JB Hayes), 2 on D.F.O. northeast Colorado fieldtrip 6/25-26.

Cordilleran Flycatcher uncommon to fairly common summer resident in foothills and lower mountains. "Only a few censused-numbers down from past 27 years" around Evergreen (Bill Brockner); "Increasing since 1990 - this year more Cordilleran than Dusky encountered" around Eagle (Jack Merchant).

Eastern Phoebe rare to uncommon local summer resident in eastern Colorado. 1 on nest 6/21 near Beulah (Brandon Percival, Anne Whitfield); breeding confirmed in 2 atlas blocks around Branson (Hugh Kingery).

Black Phoebe very rare summer resident in Pueblo County - 3 breeding records. 1 juvenile observed 6/21 in same area near Beulah that 2 adults were seen nest-building in April. (Brandon Percival*, Anne Whitfield).

Ash-throated Flycatcher very rare nonbreeding summer visitor to northeastern plains. 1 south of Castlewood Canyon SP 7/18 (Aaron Sell).

Great-crested Flycatcher accidental in summer on southeastern plains. 2 at Lamar 7/18 (Mark Janos); 1 on D.F.O. southeast Colorado fieldtrip 6/3.

Western Kingbird fairly common to common in western valleys. "A shortage - there should be some" around Eagle (Jack Merchant).

Eastern Kingbird uncommon summer resident in western valleys. None around Eagle - usually a few. (Jack Merchant).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher very rare summer visitor on eastern plains away from breeding area in Baca County, casual in mountains and mountain parks. 1 near Estes Park 7/5 (Bill Rowe); 1 in Pueblo 7/12 (Dave Barber); 1 near Kit Carson 6/10,11,25 (Dave Leatherman); 1 in Loveland 6/8 (Frank Hawksworth); 1 south of Chatfield SP 6/8 (Jenkins); 1 near Orchard 6/10 (Kelly).

Blue Jay casual visitor in summer to mountains west of continental divide and western valleys. 1 near Aspen 7/30, 8/1 (Linda Vidal*); 1 in Kremmling 7/5 (Norman Barrett).

Carolina Wren very rare visitor to eastern plains. 1 at Muir Springs 7/29 (Jack Reddall).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet "Seen on 4 days in June and 5 in July - nowhere near as often as I would expect" around Eagle (Jack Merchant).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher rare to fairly common very locally in northeastern foothills. 2 nests in 2 areas near Lyons produced young. (DW King); several at Castlewood Canyon State Park 6/29 (Dave Leatherman); 1 in Ft. Collins 6/15 (Frank Hawksworth).

Eastern Bluebird casual in summer in eastern foothills and lower mountains with one breeding record. A nest fledged 2 young by 6/27 in Colorado City (Dave Silverman).

Veery rare to fairly common local summer resident in foothills, lower mountains and mountain parks. 1 singing near Lyons 6/18-21 (Ray Davis and others).

Hermit Thrush fairly common to common summer resident in foothills and mountains. "Aren't as many" around Evergreen (Bill Brockner).

Gray Catbird rare to uncommon very local summer resident. 1 near Eagle 6/29 "Only the second since 1988" (Jack Merchant); "More numerous than usual, 35-40 pair in Rye - Colorado City this year" (Dave Silverman).

Bendire's Thrasher local summer resident in foothills of San Luis Valley. 3 on 6/10 (Bill Fink) and 8 on 7/1 (Joe Roller) in usual spot near Del Norte.

Cedar Waxwing rare to uncommon very local summer resident. A flock of about 20 seen in Rangely 5/16-8/2. (Dave Hawksworth*); 10 sightings in 2 months around Eagle (Jack Merchant); 1 nest near Loveland had 4 young (Bill Becker); several at Bonny Reservoir 6/16-18 (Dave Leatherman); 2 in Lyons 6/21 (D.F.O. Fieldtrip).

Bell's Vireo uncommon to fairly common local summer resident on extreme northeastern plains. Reports from usual areas at Tamarack Ranch and Bonny Res.

Yellow-throated Vireo casual in summer. 1 in Denver 6/14 (Tina Jones).

Red-eyed Vireo rare to uncommon very local summer resident. 1-2 in Lyons several times in June (DW King, Bill Prather); 1 at Crow Valley Campground 6/8 (Warner Reeser); 1 at Boyero 6/15 (Dave Leatherman); 2 on eastern plains "big day" 7/19 (Glenn Hageman, Joey Kellner, Jack Reddall, Chris Wood).

Blue-winged Warbler very rare spring migrant, accidental in summer. 1 male remained at Castlewood Canyon state park from 5/16 to at least 6/30 (Cooper and many observers).

Golden-winged Warbler very rare spring migrant, accidental in summer. 1 at Roxborough SP 5/26-6/10 (JB Hayes), 1 at Chatfield SP 6/8 (Peterson).

Tennessee Warbler casual in summer. 1 singing male 10 miles SW of Poncha Springs 6/17 (Hugh Kingery*).

Orange-Crowned Warbler uncommon to fairly common summer resident on mesas, foothills and lower mountains of western Colorado. "Few and far between this summer" around Eagle (Jack Merchant).

Northern Parula casual in summer. 1 at Red Rocks Park 7/2 (Jack Stewart).

Chestnut-sided Warbler accidental summer resident in western valleys, casual in lower mountains. 2 singing males on Grand Mesa 7/2 (Chris Schultz); 1 on Indian Peaks Breeding Bird Count 6/13 (Jim Holitzka, Carol

Newman-Holitz, Merle Miller, Sally Miller).

Black-throated Blue Warbler rare spring and fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 at Chatfield State Park 6/11 (Knaak).

Black-throated Gray Warbler rare spring migrant in northeastern foothills and adjacent plains. 1 at Waterton 6/5 (Karleen Schofield).

Townsend's Warbler accidental in summer. 1 near Ward 7/25 (Bill Kaempfer).

Yellow-throated warbler very rare spring migrant - previous records in June. 1 male in Pueblo city park until 6/22 (Van Truan and many observers); 1 male in Pueblo Mineral Palace Park 6/11 - thought to be a different bird than other which was about 3 miles away (Mark Janos*).

Palm Warbler accidental in summer. 1 near Fountain 7/16 (Toni Brevillier).

American Redstart rare summer resident in summer in canyons at base of eastern foothills and immediately adjacent plains. 1 near Fountain 7/17 (Toni Brevillier); 1 near Lyons 6/21 (D.F.O. Fieldtrip).

Swainson's Warbler casual spring migrant - no previous summer records. 1 at Fountain Creek regional park near Fountain 7/16, 17, 23 (Toni Brevillier*, Mark Janos, Brandon Percival* and others).

Ovenbird rare to uncommon local summer resident in eastern foothills and lower mountains from southern Larimer County to northern Huerfano County. 1 near Aguilar 6/6 (Dave Johnson); 2 or 3 pair nesting in Rye (Dave Silverman); 16/7, 7/5 in Rist Canyon (Bill Lisowsky); 4 in Sedalia area 6/16 (Tuesday Birders); 1 in Denver 6/4 (Patty Echelmeyer).

Hooded Warbler casual in summer - previous records were in northeastern foothills. 1 near Fountain 7/10 (Toni Brevillier); 1 near Boulder 6/25 (Walters).

Wilson's Warbler fairly common to common summer resident in higher mountains, locally in mountain parks. "I had trouble locating them in several places where I thought they should be" (Jack Merchant).

Hepatic Tanager uncommon and very local summer resident in Las Animas County, suspected breeder near Royal Gorge, Fremont County. 1 pair in Tobe Canyon, Las Animas County 6/13 (Dan Bridges); 1 pair near Royal Gorge 7/19 (Jim Watts, Rosie Watts); breeding confirmed in 2 atlas blocks near Branson (Hugh Kingery, Brent Bannon).

Summer Tanager accidental in mid-summer on eastern plains. 1 adult male near Lyons 7/3-6 (Pauline Smith, Joe TenBrink, D. W. King*).

Scarlet Tanager rare spring and fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 at Chatfield SP 6/10 (Miller).

Western Tanager fairly common summer resident in foothills and lower mountains. "Down" around Evergreen (Bill Brockner); "Only one recorded in Rocky Mountain National Park 6/25-29 - something is wrong here" (Bob Righter).

Rose-Breasted Grosbeak casual in summer in foothills, lower mountains and western valleys. 1 in Aspen 6/1 (Nancy B. Marsh); 1 in Colorado City 7/26

(Dave Silverman); 1 near Lyons 6/28 (Bill Kaempfer); 1 at Castlewood Canyon SP 7/4 (Van Remsen).

Indigo Bunting rare or locally uncommon summer resident on eastern plains and in western valleys. At least 5 (all male) south of Rangely 5/29-7/13 (Dave Hawksworth*, Jay Graham); 1 male south of Cortez 6/2 (Alan Versaw); several along Gunnison River south of Grand Junction in July (Steve Bouricius); 1 on 6/28 and 2 on 7/28 in Colorado City (Dave Silverman); 1 in Lyons 7/21 (DW King); 1 in Lamar 7/11,25 (Dave Leatherman); 1 in Ft. Collins 6/25 (Dave Leatherman); 2 in Boulder area 6/20 (D.F.O. fieldtrip); 1 in Golden Gate Canyon 6/24 (D.F.O. Fieldtrip); 1 on D.F.O. northeast Colorado fieldtrip 7/25,26; 1 on eastern plains "big day" 7/19 (Glenn Hageman, Joey Kellner, Jack Reddall, Chris Wood).

Dickcissel irregular rare to common summer resident on eastern plains from Morgan and Otero Counties eastward, rare and very local west to base of foothills. 1 16/28 in Cheraw (Dave Johnson); 2 north of Lamar 7/18 and 4 near Holly 7/26 (Mark Janos); 2 at Union Res 6/21-23 (D.F.O. Fieldtrip); found in 3 atlas blocks around Cheyenne Wells; 1 on 6/13, 5 on 7/25,26 on D.F.O. northeast Colorado fieldtrips; 1 or 2 pair first seen 6/23 apparently nested south of Castlewood Canyon State Park (Joe TenBrink); 2 in northeast Adams county 6/24 (Bill Kaempfer); 1 near Coaldale 6/23 (Royal).

Chipping Sparrow no confirmed breeding records on eastern plains. 3 or 4 juveniles being fed by 2 adults along the South Platte at Red Lion 7/18. (Bill Prather*, John Prather).

Field Sparrow uncommon local summer resident along eastern border. Numerous reports from usual areas along eastern border.

Black-throated Sparrow rare and local on southeastern plains. 5 in south Otero County 6/14 (Van Truan, Brandon Percival).

Lark Bunting rare to uncommon on mesas of northwestern Colorado. Several pair observed during June with 1 nest with 4 young found on 6/16 south of Rangely. (Dave Hawksworth*); "Breeding all over the western slope this year" (Coen Dexter).

Eastern Meadowlark accidental on eastern plains away from Red Lion, no confirmed breeding records. 1-2 SW of Holly 6/24-8/5, 1 fledged young seen on 1 occasion (Mark Janos*, Duane Nelson, Joe Roller).

Common Grackle very local in lower mountains, mountain parks, and western valleys, mostly rare to uncommon but may be fairly common at some sites. "More than ever" in Breckenridge (Linda McMenamy).

Brown-headed Cowbird fairly common to common summer resident except in mountains where less common and local. "Taking a toll" around Evergreen (Bill Brockner); "In abundance" around Breckenridge "Counted 5 different species feeding cowbirds at golf course" (Linda McMenamy).

Scott's Oriole rare to uncommon very local summer resident along western border. 1 pair near Utah border west of Cortez 7/8 (Alan Versaw); no reports from west of Grand Junction.

House Finch uncommon in foothills and lower mountains. "Burgeoning population continue to make life miserable for Cassin's Finches and other feeder birds" around Evergreen (Bill Brockner).

Red Crossbill irregular resident in foothills and mountains. "Zooming back to all our feeders - increasing daily since 6/15" around Evergreen (Bill Brockner).

White-Winged Crossbill irregular year round in mountains - usually rare. 1 pair in Rocky Mountain National Park 7/3 (Ed Holub).

Pine Siskin irregular, uncommon to abundant resident in foothills and mountains. "We have had a Pine Siskin explosion. Everyone has mentioned the large numbers at their feeders" around Breckenridge (Linda McMenamy).



Least Tern Nest at Nee Noshe Reservoir,
July, 1992. Photo by Duane Nelson

INCA DOVES IN VINELAND, COLORADO

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221 South Union Avenue
Pueblo, Colorado 81003**

On the afternoon of November 16, 1992 I received a phone call from Joan Williams who was one of my students in a beginning birdwatching class that I teach through the Education Department at the Sangre de Cristo Art Center in Pueblo. Joan, who was one of the more experienced birders to take my class, called to tell me about some small doves at her feeder. I give all of my students a checklist of Pueblo area birds and she had found some birds that she knew were not supposed to be here. She described their scaled appearance and that she thought they might be Ground Doves. I had heard only three days earlier about an Inca Dove in the northern part of the State and my excitement grew about these birds. I did not have a car available at the time so Joan volunteered to drive the ten miles into Pueblo from her house in Vineland and get me. By the time we got back to her house the birds were nowhere to be seen. We waited and looked around for about an hour to no avail and I had to get back to town. I told her to call me if they showed up again and to be sure to pay particular attention to the length of the birds' tails as they could possibly be Inca Doves. At ten thirty the next morning Joan called me at work and said the birds were back. She thought their tails were more like Inca Doves. I was at her house within twenty minutes and the birds were still perched in the ash tree that contains Joan's bird feeder.

The birds were sitting close together and I instantly knew that they were Inca Doves. The birds were quite tame and I was able to walk within ten feet of them and observe all of their field marks in good light. The birds were light gray with light scaling on the breast. Their backs were heavily scaled. The tails were definitely long and square tipped. The white edging on the tail was visible from underneath and the black tipped rufous primaries were flashed regularly. I was also able to get a good view of the pinkish underwing primary feathers while I was under the birds. A House Finch was perched near the Doves and I was able to judge their size as being about an inch and half longer than the finch's. A friendly cat appeared and the birds flew off to a neighboring elm tree.

Vineland is a rural community and the feeder and birdbath in Joan's yard has a vacant lot with a brush pile to the east of it. A large corn field is nearby. As far as Joan knows she is the only person feeding birds in the area. She has been feeding a mixture of red and white millet and sunflower seeds. The doves have not been appearing at the feeder in any regular pattern although they have been in daily attendance since November 15th. Many

birders have been able to enjoy them and they are still appearing as of this writing (November, 25th).

Except for a possible sighting at Bonny Reservoir in 1961 (Bailey and Niedrach) the recent Inca Dove in Lafayette the two in Vineland are the only known appearances of Inca Doves in Colorado thus far.

(Editor's note: Inca Doves are also reported in Lamar.)

Literature Cited

Bailey, A. M., and R. Niedrach. 1965. Birds of Colorado. Denver Museum of Natural History.



**Inca Dove (First State Record) Lafayette, Colorado, November 15, 1992.
Photo by Dave Leatherman.**

SHOREBIRD SURVEY OF NORTH PARK - FALL 1992

Bob Righter
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It was our opinion (Robert Andrews and Robert Righter) while researching for *Colorado Birds* (1992) that very little was known about the occurrence of shorebirds during fall migration in North Park. Because of North Park's northern geographic location within the state (comprising the vast majority of Jackson Co.), the park represents the first significant assemblage of shorebird habitat west of the eastern plains. It is this juxtaposition that makes this area curious as to how much of this area is being utilized and by what species of shorebirds, particularly by those shorebirds whose pattern of fall migration is not normally known to be west of the eastern plains in Colorado, notably the Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) and the Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*). A secondary goal of this paper is to also draw attention to the patterns of shorebird migration in the four large intermountain parks, which also include Middle Park, South Park and the San Luis Valley. It is hoped that this paper will stimulate interest in these regions as there is much to be learned.

The study was conducted in the Arapaho National Wildlife refuge "auto tour" section. Walden Reservoir was also surveyed for Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*). There was little or no suitable shorebird habitat at the edge of the reservoir, and consequently few, if any, shorebirds were detected.

The problem of shorebird movement within an immediate area as well as between areas made assigning accurate numbers to shorebird populations, difficult; consequently, I felt that giving rough estimates would be more appropriate. When only a few shorebirds were present, exact numbers could be given.

An assessment of age was made when it could be determined. Surveys were conducted on July 28th, August 10th and 17th, September 9th and 15th; no count was conducted between August 17th and September 9th.

Table 1. Species and number of shorebirds seen in North Park, Fall 1992.

Species		07/28	08/10	08/17	09/09	09/15
Semipalmated Plover (<u>Charadrius semipalmatus</u>)	No. Age				2 (1 Juv)	3 (?)
Killdeer (<u>Charadrius vociferus</u>)	No. Age	50-60 (Ad & Juv)	27-35 (Ad & Juv)	30-35 (Ad & Juv)	23-30 (?)	25-30 (?)
American Avocet (<u>Recurvirostra americana</u>)	No. Age	20-25 (Ad)	5 (?)	2 (Ad)		1 (?)
Greater Yellowlegs (<u>Tringa melanoleuca</u>)	No. Age		1 (Ad)		2 (Juv)	
Lessor Yellowlegs (<u>Tringa flavipes</u>)	No. Age	3-4 (?)	14-17 (Ad & Juv)	24-28 (Ad & Juv)	28-35 (Most Juv)	35-45 (Most Juv)
Willet (<u>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</u>)	No. Age	6-8 (Ad)	3 (Juv)	1 (?)		
Spotted Sandpiper (<u>Actitis macularia</u>)	No. Age		3 (?)	1 (?)		

Table 1. Continued

Species		07/28	08/10	08/17	09/09	09/15
Semipalmated Sandpiper (<u>Calidris pusilla</u>)	No. Age			7 (Juv)	1 (Juv)	
Western Sandpiper (<u>Calidris mauri</u>)	No. Age	4-6 (?)	1 (?)	7 (Ad & Juv)	2 (Juv)	
Least Sandpiper (<u>Calidris minutilla</u>)	No. Age		2 (1 Ad & 1 Juv)	6 (Juv)	4 (2 Juv)	3 (Juv)
Baird's Sandpiper (<u>Calidris bairdii</u>)	No. Age	6-8 (?)	18 (Ad)	28-34 (Ad & Juv)	8 (Juv)	40-50 (Most Juv)
Pectoral Sandpiper (<u>Calidris melanotos</u>)	No. Age					2 (Juv)
Stilt Sandpiper (<u>Calidris himantopus</u>)	No. Age	4 (Ad)	4 (Ad)	5 (2 Ad, 3 Juv)	4 (Juv)	
Short-billed Dowitcher (<u>Limnodromus griseus</u>)	No. Age				4 (Juv)	3 (Juv)

Table 1. Continued

Species		07/28	08/10	08/17	09/09	09/15
Long-billed Dowitcher (<u>Limnodromus scolopaceus</u>)	No. Age	5 (Ad)	23-28 (Ad)	6 (Ad)		2 (Juv)
Dowitcher Species	No. Age					90-100 (Ad)
Common Snipe (<u>Gallinago gallinago</u>)	No. Age		24 (?)	20-25 (?)		1 (?)
Wilson Phalarope (<u>Phalaropus tricolor</u>)	No. Age	100's (Ad & Juv)	300+ (Ad & Juv)	300+ (Ad & Juv)	10-15 (?)	3 (?)

Granted that with so few surveys conducted in such a short time period, the conclusions that can be drawn are limited; nevertheless, there are some results that do stand out. First, three new species were recorded for the region: Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), Semipalmated Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*). The Stilt Sandpiper, only recorded once before in fall (Andrews R., R. Righter 1992), was recorded on four separate weeks, indicating that the region is probably included on its regular fall migration pattern. The Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) recorded is only the second fall record (Andrews R., R. Righter 1992). Based on sighting for two weeks, I would also speculate that at least the juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper in fall probably regularly uses the region. Since so little is known about the patterns of migration of the Short-billed Dowitcher within Colorado, it would therefore be too speculative to make any assessment of its usage of the area during fall migration even though it was present for two weeks. The Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), the Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*), and the Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) all seem to be common species at this time of year. The Wilson's Phalarope was abundant during the period of 07/28 - 08/17 with numbers sharply declining by at least 09/09, if not before.

I would like to thank Eugene G. Patten, Refuge Manager for the Arapaho National Wildlife Service, who allowed me access to the refuge for the purpose of doing this survey.

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Andrews, Robert and Robert Righter. 1992. Colorado Birds. Denver Museum of Natural History.

OBSERVATIONS OF AN ALBINO COMMON NIGHTHAWK

Janeal W. Thompson
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On September 5, 1992, I received a call from a neighbor, Pat Buckhaults, saying her husband had seen a white "bull-bat" chasing insects being stirred behind their riding lawn mower. Not being raised locally, I was not certain as to the meaning of "bull-bat," but I wasted no time going there to find out.

As 5:13 p.m., I arrived at the Buckhaults' residence which is located on the southwest end of Walsh, Baca County, Colorado (N 37° 22', W 102° 15'; 3956') and is surrounded by approximately two acres of buffalo grass. A small grove of mature blue spruce, Scot's pine, ponderosa pine and Russian olive trees is on the southwest side of the acreage. The winds were calm, 0-1 mph, S-SW; the temperature was 78° F; and the sky was clear. At 5:15 p.m., I observed a small flock of ten Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) and one albino bird.

The albino bird was beautiful. It was all white, with a flat head, short, thick neck, slender body, and long, squared tail. The bird flew gracefully on long, pointed wings. After beginning a turn, but before broadly fanning its tail, a small notch in the tail was evident. I noted dark eyes, which because of the contrast to the white feathers, appeared larger than the eyes of the Common Nighthawks. I also noted the bird was approximately 2.5 centimeters smaller in length than the other nighthawks. The bird seemed well-tolerated by the flock and moved with them to another area of town at 5:45 p.m. Eleven other persons observed the albino on that day.

After my observation, I read about albinism in Terres (1980), but certainly did not expect an opportunity to again see the albino. However, on September 13, 1992, I was fortunate to again observe the bird at the Walsh Sewer Ponds. The two ponds are approximately 14,000 square meters each, surrounded by kochia weed, cattails, sunflowers, and buckwheat. During this observation the sky was partly cloudy; the winds were calm, 0-1 mph, SW; and the temperature was 75° F. The albino bird was observed with a flock of twenty Common Nighthawks from 6:55 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The flock was hunting the many flying insects that frequent the sewer ponds during this time of day and season. On more than one occasion, the albino bird flew within fifteen feet of me as it turned and maneuvered through the swarms of midges,

mosquitos and other flying insects. I noted the dark eyes, the light-colored legs, and its smaller size. At one point, the albino nighthawk dipped down to the water and adeptly skimmed the surface to catch an insect. Unfortunately, the light was too low for my slow film speed and I was unable to photograph this uncommon sighting. Two other persons observed the albino on this day.

There are two records of Lesser Nighthawks (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) in Baca County: In May of 1988 and May of 1990 (Andrews and Righter, 1992). The all-white bird did not exhibit the white, crescent wing patch contrasting with dark primaries, commonly used as a diagnostic field mark between the Lesser and Common. The bird flew high to hunt on several occasions, unlike the low-flying foraging typical of the Lesser Nighthawk. It did not have the bounding flight, checked by the erratic fluttering of the Lesser, but flew as the other Commons with slow, deep wingbeats. The albino's wings had a longer outer primary giving its wings a pointed look while the Lessers' outer primary is shorter than the adjacent inner one giving its wings a more rounded appearance. Common Nighthawks are more often seen flying during daylight with the Lessers being seen more commonly in early mornings and late evenings, especially during migration (Zimmer, 1985 and Farrand, 1985). Because of these differences, I feel the albino was a Common Nighthawk, even though its smaller size is characteristic of the Lesser.

There are four types of albinism (Terres 1980, and Gross, 1965). They are: 1. total albinism--a complete lack of pigmentation, 2. incomplete albinism--a lack of pigmentation in plumage, eyes or naked parts but not all three, 3. imperfect albinism--reduced pigmentation in any or all three areas but never being completely absent, and 4. partial albinism--pigmentation absent from a localized area, i.e., a few feathers. There are also cases of albinism from pathological conditions such as disease injury, shock, senility, diet and inbreeding (Gross, 1965).

Gross (1965) reported five albino individuals of two unnamed species of goatsuckers (*Caprimulgidae*) and Terres (1980) reported none. The nighthawk I observed was either a total or incomplete albino. Unfortunately, the bird was only observed in flight and without catching the specimen or finding it at rest, it would be nearly impossible to tell the exact color of the eye. The bird did exhibit a lack of pigmentation in plumage and feet; however, its eye color remains a question. Therefore, I am unable to make a determination as to the exact type albinism in this case. Perhaps because of dilemmas such as this, total albinism accounts for only 7% of North American albinistic bird records (Gross, 1965).

I would like to thank David A. Leatherman for reading this draft and

for offering comments to improve it, and to Beth Dillon for providing me with the Gross article.

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- Gross, A. O. 1965. The Incidence of Albinism in North American Birds. Bird Banding 36: 67-71.
- Terres, J. K. 1980. The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds. Alfred A Knopf, New York.
- Zimmer, Kevin J. 1985. The Western Bird Watcher. Prentice-Hall, Inc., New Jersey.



**Loggerhead Shrike near Cope, Colorado,
June 21, 1992. Photo by Joe Roller.**

C.F.O. TRIP

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1992
FOUNTAIN CREEK REGIONAL PARK**

**Toni Brevillier
2616 Ashgrove Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906**

The sky was a clear blue and the temperature was 48 F when ten C.F.O. members met in Area #1 of Fountain Creek Regional Park. We birded Areas #1, #2, and #3. We then drove south to the new Fountain Creek Nature Center. At this time, part of the group birded the Nature Center Loop while the rest ate lunch. Then we left for Pueblo.

Note: The Fountain Creek Nature Center is open Tuesday-Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The trails in Area #4 are now open to the public. The rest of the park will be open about January 1993.

As of November 23, 1992 bird species seen in the park total 196.

Species seen at F.C.R.P. (41)

Pied-billed Grebe	Hairy Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Song Sparrow
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Blue Jay	Lincoln's Sparrow
Wood Duck	Black-billed Magpie	White-crowned Sparrow
Mallard	American Crow	Dark-eyed Junco
Gadwall	Black-capped Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird
American Wigeon	White-breasted Nuthatch	Western Meadowlark
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown Creeper	Brewer's Blackbird
Virginia Rail	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Common Grackle
American Coot	American Robin	Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Snipe	Cedar Waxwing	House Finch
Rock Dove	European Starling	Pine Siskin
Belted Kingfisher	Tennessee Warbler	American Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler	

C.F.O FIELD TRIP

**OCTOBER 10, 1992
AT PUEBLO RESERVOIR AND PUEBLO WEST**

**Brandon Percival
835 Harmony Drive
Pueblo West, Colorado 81007**

On October 10, 1992 after lunch at the Fountain Creek Regional Park trip birders decided to go to Pueblo Reservoir. We first checked the south shore marina where we saw a few gulls, all of which were Ring-billed. The group saw many birds on the lake; all could be seen better from the north side of the lake. We went to the north side sailboat launching area. Many gulls were flying about the area. We located a juvenile Sabine's Gull here; most of the people needed this for a "lifer" or "state bird." This bird had been first seen two days before by Percival. We headed to the areas west and south of the North Shore Marina. We located another juvenile Sabine's Gull, three Common Loons and one Pacific Loon. An Osprey and some Buffleheads flew by.

The group was interested in some birds that are common in Pueblo West. There we saw many Scaled Quail, a Canyon Towhee, and a Curve-billed Thrasher. The latter two were seen at my house at 835 Harmony Drive. We ended a beautiful day there.

Species seen at Pueblo Reservoir and Pueblo West (20)

Pacific Loon

Common Loon

Eared Grebe

Western Grebe

Double-crested Cormorant

Mallard

Bufflehead

Osprey

Scaled Quail

American Coot

Ring-billed Gull

Sabine's Gull

Horned Lark

Black-billed Magpie

Rock Wren

Curve-billed Thrasher

Canyon Towhee

Western Meadowlark

House Finch

House Sparrow

C.F.O. FIELD TRIP TO SE PLAINS

**Brandon Percival
835 Harmony Drive
Pueblo West, Colorado 81007**

On November 7, 1992 10 birders from Greeley, Golden, Colorado Springs, Canon City, Rye, Pueblo West and Pueblo gathered in Pueblo at 8:00 a.m. The leaders of our trip were Mark Janos and Brandon Percival. Our plan was to go to points east of Pueblo. We birded Rocky Ford SWA, Lake Holbrook, John Martin Marsh, Fort Lyons Wildlife Easement and areas between.

On the way to the Rocky Ford SWA we found many Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, three Merlins, a Prairie Falcon and a Rough-legged Hawk. A large group of Snow Geese were seen near Rocky Ford.

At the Rocky Ford SWA we met Mona and Dean Hill of Boulder. The group located a White-throated Sparrow, some Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Bewick's Wren and many other birds.

At Lake Holbrook we added many birds to the list including ducks, a Bald Eagle, and many shorebirds, including five Dunlin, a Least Sandpiper, some Long-billed Dowitchers and many Sanderlings and Black-bellied Plovers. Two lucky people saw a Greater Roadrunner at Lake Holbrook.

We ate lunch at John Martin Marsh on the west side of John Martin Reservoir. At the marsh we saw a few Marsh Wrens and American Tree Sparrows. We were hoping to see LeConte's Sparrows and Swamp Sparrows here, but we had no luck on these species.

Our next stop was the Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement near the Fort Lyon VA Medical Center. We saw Dark-eyed Juncos, Black-capped Chickadees, and a Great Horned Owl. (Mark Janos has previously had many good birds here including Varied Thrush, Connecticut and Bay-breasted Warblers, and Long-eared Owls.)

We decided to go back to Pueblo and call it a day. Some people saw Great-tailed Grackles at Las Animas on the way home.

All and all a great day in Southeastern Colorado with many nice people to talk to and some good birds to make everyone's day. Thanks for coming and enjoying a wonderful day in the field.

Participants were: Toni Brevillier, Dean & Mona Hill, Joe Himmel, Mark Janos, Lindsay Lilly, Duane Nelson, Brandon Percival, David Silverman, Cliff Smith, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith, and Sylvia Wheelock.

Species seen (70)

Pied-billed Grebe	Ferruginous Hawk	American Crow
Horned Grebe	Rough-legged Hawk	Black-capped Chickadee
Eared Grebe	American Kestral	Bewick's Wren
Great Blue Heron	Merlin	Marsh Wren
Snow Goose	Prairie Falcon	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
"Blue Goose"	Scaled Quail	American Robin
Canada Goose	American Coot	Cedar Waxwing
Green-winged Teal	Black-bellied Plover	Northern Shrike
Mallard	Killdeer	Loggerhead Shrike
Northern Pintail	Sanderling	European Starling
Northern Shoveler	Least Sandpiper	Canyon Towhee
Gadwall	Dunlin	American Tree Sparrow
American Wigeon	Long-billed Dowitcher	White-throated Sparrow
Redhead	Common Snipe	White-crowned Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Dark-eyed Junco
Lesser Scaup	Mourning Dove	Red-winged Blackbird
Common Goldeneye	Greater Roadrunner	Western Meadowlark
Bufflehead	Great Horned Owl	Brewer's Blackbird
Hooded Merganser	Lewis' Woodpecker	Great-Tailed Grackle
Ruddy Duck	Downy Woodpecker	House Finch
Bald Eagle	Hairy Woodpecker	Pine Siskin
Northern Harrier	Northern Flicker	American Goldfinch
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Blue Jay	House Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Black-billed Magpie	

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