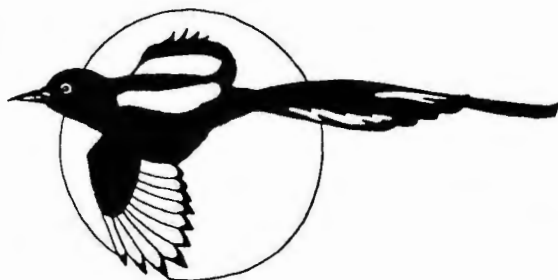

C.F.O. Journal

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly





C.F.O. JOURNAL (ISSN- 1066-7342) is published quarterly by the Colorado Field Ornithologists, 1782 Locust St., Denver, CO 80220. Subscriptions are through annual membership dues. Second Class Postage paid at Denver, CO 80202. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: *C.F.O. Journal*, PO Box 481, Lyons, CO 80540

OFFICERS OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS:

Dates indicate end of current term. * means eligible for re-election.

- President:** Dave Silverman, P.O. Box 362, Rye, CO 81069
1993* (719) 489-3565
- Vice-President:** Steve Bourcius, 50152 Hwy. 72, Peaceful
Valley, Lyons, CO 80540 1993* (303) 747-2367
- Secretary:** David Pantle, 1782 Locust St., Denver, CO
80220 1993* (303) 333-8352
- Treasurer:** Raymond Davis, P.O. Box 481, Lyons, CO
80540 1993* (303) 823-5332
- Directors:** Mike Carter, Brighton 1993* (*ex officio*); Beth
Dillon, Fort Collins 1995; Coen Dexter, Palisade
1994; Bob Dickson, Pueblo 1995; David Leatherman, Ft.
Collins 1993*; Paul Opler, Fort Collins 1994; Brandon
Percival, Pueblo West 1996*; Kim Potter, Arvada 1996*;
Linda Vidal, Aspen 1995.
- Journal Editor:** David Leatherman, 2048 Whiterock Ct., Fort
Collins, CO 80526 (303) 484-5445
- Editorial Board:** Paul Opler, Mona Hill, others to be named

C.F.O. OFFICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE:

Bill Prather (Chairman), Longmont 1995; Peter Gent, Boulder 1994; Joe Himmel, Greeley 1994; Rich Levad, Grand Junction 1995; Paul Opler, Ft. Collins, 1995; Dick Schottler, Golden 1994; Van Truan, Pueblo 1993.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable at the beginning of the year): Regular \$12; Contributing \$20; Supporting \$30; Sustaining \$100. \$12 of the annual membership dues pays for a one-year suscription to the *C.F.O. Journal*. All members receive the *C.F.O. Journal*. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. **Send membership inquiries, renewals, and change of address to Colorado Field Ornithologists, Raymond Davis, P.O. Box 481, Lyons, CO 80540.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
EDITOR'S REMARKS	2
CFO FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE: WINTER	3
Brainard Lake Ptarmigan	3
Grand Valley & Grand Mesa Owls	3
Shorebird Identification Workshop	4
Park County Waterbirds & More	4
CFO Field Trip Leaders	4
NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT UPDATE	
Brandon Percival	5
CORNELL LAB ANNOUNCEMENT	
Bob Righter	5
CFO BOARD MEETING MINUTES / DAVID PANTLE'S MEMO TO THE BOARD.....	7
CORRECTION OF ESPOSITO ADDRESS	10
CFO FIELD TRIP TO MORGAN COUNTY REPORT	
Joe Rigli	11
CFO FIELD TRIP TO PUEBLO REPORT	
Brandon Percival	12
NEWS FROM THE FIELD: SUMMER 1993	
Coen Dexter	14
RECORDING BLACK SWIFT VOCALIZATIONS	
Bob Righter	22
FIRST STATE RECORD OF RED-FACED WARBLER	
Dick Schotler	24
ID OF CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN IN COLORADO	
David Blue	26
OBSERVATIONS OF BLUE JAY COOP BREEDING	
Ruth Kuenning	29
FOOD ITEMS OF CO BIRDS (XI) in part	
David Leatherman	34
INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS	42

ILLUSTRATIONS

White-tailed Ptarmigan. Brainard Lake Willow Carr Boulder County, 5 April 1988 By Steve Bouricius.....	Cover
Common Redpoll. Ward Boulder County, March 1990 By Steve Bouricius	6
Scarlet Tanager. CU Campus Boulder, 10 Oct 1992 By Duane Nelson	10
Black Swift Vocalization Sonograms By Bob Righter	23
"Skimmer" the Blue Jay By Ruth Kuenning	33



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE--Dave Silverman

The field trip and C.F.O. Board Meeting in Pueblo on November 13, 1993 were very well attended. Viewing conditions at Pueblo Reservoir were excellent. Common Loons and Bonaparte's Gulls were carefully scrutinized for similar-looking rarities. Though just one observer saw our resident Great Black-backed Gull, many of us had good looks at a flying Thayer's Gull, which circled around us at lunch time. (For more details, see Leader Brandon Percival's trip account in this issue).

At the Board Meeting, Mona Hill officially resigned as Editor of the Journal. We all thanked her and agreed the quality of the Journal was outstanding under her direction. Fortunately, David Leatherman volunteered to replace her. David's qualifications for this job have already been demonstrated. His excellent bird photographs have appeared in the Journal, American Birds and other publications. His writing exhibits much knowledge and always holds my interest.

In order to continue publishing a journal of high quality, the Board decided to raise membership dues in 1995 to \$18. Our current dues of \$12 barely paid for the Journal's publication in 1993. Dues for your 1994 membership will remain \$12 and will probably not even cover costs to publish the Journal.

Please continue supporting C.F.O. We need volunteers for the slots of Board members whose terms soon expire. New Board members will be officially appointed at the Trinidad Convention. Contact me or Steve Bourcius if you wish to serve on the Board.

THE CONVENTION DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO JUNE 10-12, 1994. These dates fall near the height of the breeding season. Since 1994 will be the last year of the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, the Convention's theme will focus on nesting residents of southern Colorado. The Journal's next issue will provide an agenda and registration form for this important Convention. Plan to attend.



EDITOR'S REMARKS--Dave Leatherman

The last time I felt this way was just before tip-off. As a former college basketball player, I remember the feeling well. It was the same every game: a little nervous and a lot excited. At our last Board meeting my appointment as Editor was approved. After the meeting Mona Hill handed me a few heavy boxes, which constitute the official Editor files. It was then the feeling arrived.

All past Editors have contributed greatly to C.F.O. I am most familiar with the past two, Mark Janos and Mona. They set a wonderful standard for the C.F.O. Journal. With your help, we can maintain that standard. I have a lot to learn about the nuts and bolts of putting together a quarterly journal but have the benefit of building on an established product. Paul Opler, an editor of extensive experience, is nearby. And unless she makes a change, Mona's phone is still in the book.

This is a journal by and for C.F.O. and is concerned with Colorado's wild birds. I would hope we can continue its traditional blend of science and articles of general interest. Appropriate topics include, but are not limited to: documentation of unusual species or bird situations; identification tips; behavior descriptions; special site guides; range and habitat extentions; population studies and trends; field trip and survey reports; birder biographies and interviews; book and equipment reviews; and general communications.

My only recommendations to prospective authors would be: write that article you have been thinking about; consult relevant literature as best you can; check your spelling; submit articles early; be patient with our (me and the as-yet-unappointed Editorial Board) decisions regarding whether and when to publish your article; and, please keep in mind I have a strained relationship with computers (mine is a Macintosh that reads only disks intended for Macintosh's or those converted to ASCII text). PS: try to include a printed copy of your articles when you send a disk.

If you appreciate the hard work and integrity Mona Hill brought to our C.F.O. Journal over the last two years, please give her a call at (303) 494-8135 or drop her a note at 3410 Heidelberg Drive, Boulder, 80303. [At this time, Mona, close your eyes and hear the heartfelt applause of hundreds of C.F.O. members throughout our state and across the nation].

Lastly, due to teaching commitments in November and December, this issue was largely an act of desperation. I thank Mona, Steve Bouricius, my wife Joan and David Pantle for bailing me out. Let me hear about outright mistakes or suggestions for improvement. The earlier in my evolution you contact me, the more likely you are to affect the final animal.



C.F.O. FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE: WINTER

BRAINARD LAKE PTARMIGAN

Meet at 8:03 AM, Saturday, 12 February 1994, at the Brainard Lake road closure, 2 1/2 miles west of Ward off CO Highway 72.

Join us for a cross-country ski and snowshoe excursion to see the White-tailed Ptarmigan in its winter habitat. We will look for other species previously seen on this trip, including Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Three-toed Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Bohemian Waxwing. The tour will cover approximately five miles roundtrip, starting at an elevation of 10,500 feet. Bring your good humor, a lunch and be prepared for severe winter weather conditions.

Leader: Steve Bourcius (303) 747-2367

GRAND VALLEY AND GRAND MESA OWLS

Meet at 4 PM Saturday, 26 March 1994, at the Central High School parking lot, 3130 E 1/2 Road in Grand Junction. From I-70, take the Clifton Exit (37) west to 31 1/2 Road (fourth stoplight), turn right, then left only E 1/2 Road, go 1/4 mile to Central High.

Do not miss this special trip for a possible eight species of owls! We will go west in the Grand Valley to see Burrowing, Long-eared, Western Screech, Barn and Great Horned Owls, returning to Central High by 7 PM. Then, if scouting trips are successful, we will drive to the Grand Mesa or Unaweep Canyon in search of Boreal, Northern Pygmy and Saw-whet Owls. If we go to the Grand Mesa, snowshoes or cross-country skis might be needed.

Last year a large group, including 18 birders from the East Slope, enjoyed this fun and very successful outing. See Rich Levad's account in the C.F.O. Journal, July 1993, p131. This field trip is co-sponsored by the Grand Valley Audubon Society.

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

SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

From the elegant to the obscure, shorebirds present us with some of the most difficult identification challenges. Conducted by Bob Righter, this full-day course will use slides and workbooks. The more one studies, the more one learns. Bob Righter is a longtime C.F.O. member and co-author of Colorado Birds: A Reference to Their Distribution and Habitat.

Meet at 8:00 AM Saturday, 9 April 1994, in the Nature Room of the Denver Museum of Natural History. We will lunch at the Museum and should conclude around 2:00 PM. Bring your shorebird book.

Class size limited to 15, so please **pre-register** with Steve Bouricius (303) 747-2367 by 6 April 1994.

Workshop Leader: Bob Righter (303) 692-8529

PARK COUNTY WATERBIRDS, RAPTORS & MORE

Meet at 8:00 AM, Saturday, 30 April 1994, at the boat launch parking area of Antero Reservoir (use the west entrance to the reservoir off US Highway 24, **not** the east entrance).

After working Antero Reservoir, we will continue on to Spinney Mountain Reservoir (a State Park). We will look for raptors, migrant shorebirds, ducks, gulls, terns and perhaps a loon or two, plus early-arriving nesters. An extension of the trip, especially for those headed back toward Colorado Springs, could be a trip through Elevenmile Canyon, ending at Lake George. This fieldtrip should be a last good shot at some early-departing migrants, while still allowing you a weekend off before the North American Migration Count on May 14th. Bring a scope!

Leader: Alan Versaw (719) 598-7130



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: March 1.



NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT UPDATE

Brandon Percival

On May 8, 1993, Colorado participated in the North American Migration Count. Two counties were counted for a total of 200 bird species. Pueblo County had 180 species and El Paso County had 159. I would like to ask if anyone would be interested in being a county coordinator. This year's NAMC will be May 14 and I would hope to have many more Colorado counties counted. The object is to have a CBC type day, with county boundaries. This project is free. If you can help, please let me know soon. I am the Colorado Coordinator for NAMC in 1994. The only county coordinator so far for 1994 is listed below:

Pueblo Co.: Van Truan 812 W. 14th Street
Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 543-4744



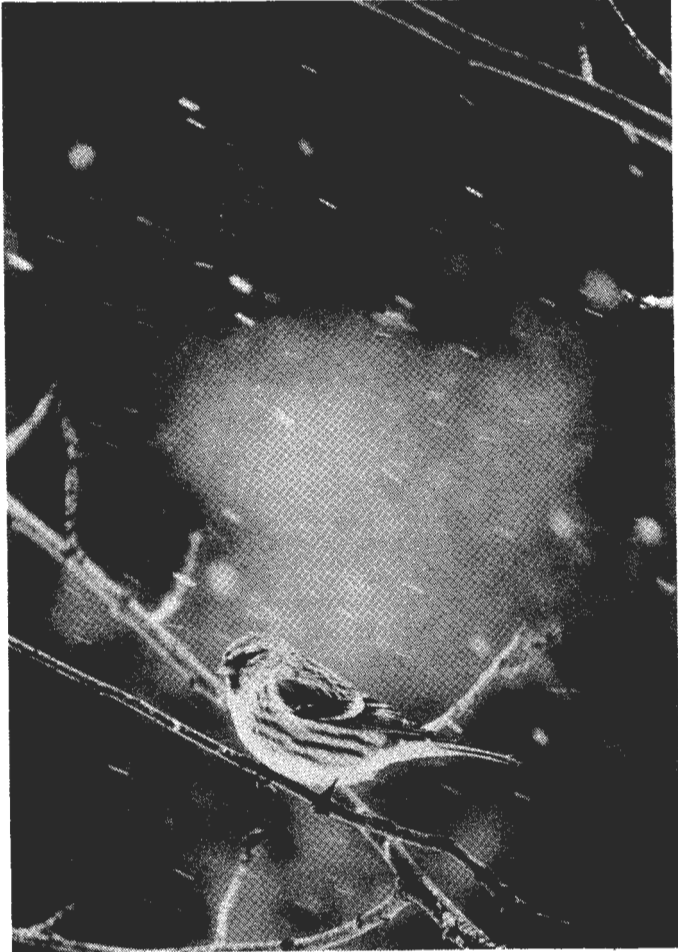
ANNOUNCEMENT

Bob Righter
2358 South Fillmore
Denver, CO 80210

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is pleased to announce that a regional bird vocalization guide to the Rocky Mountains and adjacent Great Plains and Great Basin areas is scheduled to be published spring 1995. It will be authored by Bob Righter, Geoff Keller and Kevin Colver. This publication will be one of several to be published by the Laboratory of Ornithology, with other regional guides to follow or to be published simultaneously. The objective is to showcase a broader range of vocalizations per species for a more defined geographical region. The guide will be offered in the standard cassette form, as well as in compact disc. A new software program will also be available that will allow the computer to interface with the compact disc through a C.D. Rom. This will open all sorts of possibilities. For example, if one wanted to play bird songs of just the Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands or just the Spruce-Fir Forest, or if one wanted to play all the robinlike sounds, or to randomly quiz on a variety of combinations and then re-quiz on the sounds that were missed, all this can be easily accomplished with just the pressing of a few buttons.

If anyone has any recordings of birds from the Rocky Mountain Region and would like to have them considered for the guide please feel free to contact Bob Righter. The same applies to anyone with suggestions and comments or those who would like to just chat about the project and/or the recording of bird songs.





Common Redpoll
Ward, Boulder County
March 1990
by Steve Bouricius

**C.F.O. BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 11, 1993**

**Mona Hill
3410 Heidelberg Drive
Boulder, CO 80303**

Board members present: Dave Silverman, Steve Bouricious, Raymond Davis, Bob Dickson, Dave Leatherman, Paul Opler, Brandon Percival, Linda Vidal, Mona Hill.

1. Thanks. Dave Silverman thanked the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society for the potluck supper and Mark Yeager for allowing us to meet at his art gallery.

2. Brochures. The membership brochures have been completed; copies were distributed to all board members present.

3. Minutes. Minutes of the May 29, 1993 Board meeting were approved as published in the C.F.O. Journal Vol 27(3).

4. Financial. Raymond Davis presented an interim treasurer's report. A number of people have taken advantage of the multiple-year membership option. Davis suggested an insert in the October issue each year, encouraging gift memberships.

5. Journal Editor. Dave Leatherman was approved as the new editor of the C.F.O. Journal. The Board indicated that hiring Mrs. Joan Leatherman to type the Journal would not be considered inappropriate.

6. Records Committee. The Records Committee was discussed. Concerns included the organization of files at the Denver Museum of Natural History (especially those records since 1990), whether a simple majority is adequate to add a new state record (as the bylaws now allow), the frequency of circulation of the records among Records Committee members, and whether a non-voting secretary is needed by the Records Committee (especially to improve communication between the Committee and persons submitting records). Dave Silverman will write Records Committee Chair Bill Prather and outline these concerns.

7. Liability Insurance. The need for liability insurance was discussed. It was moved and seconded that C.F.O. obtain liability insurance to cover the Board of Directors, convention and field trips. After discussion of the cost (estimated to be 8% of the current budget) and of whether the current release forms are adequate, the motion failed. David Pantle was requested to update and retype the current release forms, which should be signed by all field trip participants and to report at the next meeting on the possible consequences of not having insurance.

8. Bylaw Changes. When David Pantle retyped the C.F.O. Bylaws, he proposed a number of minor changes to correct typographic errors, misspellings, etc. It was moved and seconded to adopt all of these corrections and to remove from Section V 3. Content the statement concerning publication of site guides. *[Note: Pertinent excerpts from David's memo follow these minutes. Items 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9 and 11 were clearly approved. Item 6 refers to the site guides and was not approved.

Item 10, which refers to the Records Committee, represents a significant change and was briefly discussed. I do not believe it was voted on. MKH] Appreciation was expressed for all of David Pantle's work in researching changes in and proposing changes to the Bylaws. David Pantle will be requested to include the above amendments to the Bylaws. Copies then will be sent to all Board members for review before they are published in the Journal.

9. Photo Album of Past Conventions. It was suggested that an album of photos from past conventions be organized for the enjoyment of future convention goers. Linda Vidal will accept and organize any photographs anyone can donate. Please label with date and names as completely as possible.

10. 1994 Annual Convention. Names for suggested speakers and presenters of paper and workshops were taken for the Trinidad convention. Pearle Sandstrom Smith and Toni Brevillier are selecting a site in Trinidad for the convention. Dave Johnson, Hugh Kingery and Beth Dillon are organizing field trips; please send any suggestions to them.

11. Membership Dues. It was moved and seconded to increase membership dues, starting in 1995, to \$16 for regular members, \$25 for contributing members and \$40 for supporting members. The motion was amended to include a review of the 1997 dues in 1995. The motion passed on a voice vote. It was then moved to institute a new dues category for library subscriptions beginning in 1995 at a rate of \$30. The motion died for a lack of a second. Paul Opler will investigate comparable organizations to determine their library subscription rates and will report at the next board meeting.

12. C.F.O. Checklist. Linda Vidal will investigate places to contact to place the C.F.O. checklist for sale in parks and bird stores.

13. Colorado Division of Wildlife Long-Range Convention. C.F.O. participated in the CDOW Long-Range Convention on July 10, 1993 in Denver. Seven members distributed 175 membership brochures from a display booth.

14. Mission Statement. Dave Silverman will write the C.F.O. Mission Statement.

*Changes of the Records Committee Bylaws will be discussed at future Board Meetings.



EXCERPTS: DAVID PANTLE'S AUGUST 8, 1993 MEMO TO THE CFO BOARD TITLED "AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED TO CFO BYLAWS"

(1) II.3, Board of Directors-Meetings, add word "by" so that final clause concerning means of holding meetings will read "or by whatever means of communication the Chairman may find advisable."

(2) III.3, Officer-President, here an in all other provisions avoid use of sexist "he" and instead use "he or she." This is already the usage in the Rules of the CFO Records Committee which were drafted by Bob Andrews after others had drafted the basic Bylaws. Make a similar change to replace "chairmen" wherever it appears with "chairperson"; again this is already the usage in the Rules of the CFO Records Committee.

(3) III.4, Officers-Vice President, add a sentence that, "He or she shall be responsible to plan and arrange for field trips." Delete VII.5.a, Committees, Field Trips Committee.

(4) III.5, Secretary, move to III.6, Treasurer, sentence which reads: "He shall record the membership and changes of address, not those members in default, and keep the Editor apprised of the membership to receive the CFO Journal." These functions are now performed by the Treasurer, who prepares the mailing labels for the CFO Journal and sends them to the Secretary.

(5) III.5, Secretary, add a sentence: "He or she shall mail, or arrange for the mailing, of the CFO Journal." (This is the current practice and has been for some years.)

(7) VI. Editor, add headings to the three sections and move the last sentence of section 3 to section 1. Section headings would be 1. Appointment, 2. Duties, 3. Voting Director. This is the only article which lacks section headings, both in the published form and in the typed form which was adopted by the Board. The sentence to be moved concerns term of office and fits better into section 1 after the sentence concerning appointment to office.

(8) VII.2, Committees-Membership, use preferred spelling "judgment" without an "e", as is used elsewhere. I have already corrected the spelling of three other words, changing "indefinate" to be "indefinite," "occurring" to be "occurring" and "solititation" to be "solicitation."

(9) VII.4, Rules of CFO Records Committee, IV.F.1, supply a missing "of" and change "know" to "known", so that latter part of sentence concerning research will in part read, "but which are of sufficient interest to maintain a listing of all known sightings..."

(11) IX.2, Bylaws-New Bylaws or Amendments, add a comma after board and delete a comma after first use of "Annual Meeting", so that it is clear that the Board can amend the Bylaws at any time and not just at an Annual Meeting, so that the first sentence would read: "The Bylaws may be amended or added to by a two-thirds vote of the Board, or by majority vote of the members attending the Annual Meeting at the Annual Meeting."

David Pantle, Secretary, CFO



***** CORRECTION *****

The correct address for member Tony Esposito is:
1317 South Grant, Longmont, CO 80501



Scarlet Tanager
University of Colorado, Boulder Campus
10 October 1992
by Duane Nelson

**CFO FIELD TRIP TO MORGAN COUNTY
OCTOBER 23, 1993**

**Joe Rigli
6877 County Road 14
Fort Morgan, CO 80701**

Good weather prevailed for a small but amiable group of birders who visited the Rigli Ranch and surrounding area southwest of Fort Morgan. We covered 22 miles by car and 2 miles by foot to find 34 species in riparian woodlands, short-grass prairie, sandhill-sagebrush, ponds creeks and San Arroyo Reservoir.

Highlights of the day included Merlin, an early-arriving Northern Shrike, about 1200 Sandhill Cranes and a one-legged Lesser Yellowlegs (some yellowlegs are lesser than others - ED). After lunch, participants enjoyed a tour of the Rigli's "Oasis On The Plains" Museum. Everyone had a good time.

TRIP LIST

Mallard 7	Horned Lark 3
Northern Harrier 5	Black-billed Magpie 10
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Black-capped Chickadee 6
Red-tailed Hawk (western) 3	Mountain Bluebird 10
Ferruginous Hawk 1	Townsend's Solitaire 2
Merlin 1	American Robin 35
Prairie Falcon 1	Northern Shrike 1
Sandhill Crane <u>1200</u>	European Starling 40
Killdeer 4	American Tree Sparrow 3
Lesser Yellowlegs 2	Song Sparrow 2
Common Snipe 1	White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's
Mourning Dove 2	Dark-eyed Junco
Barn Owl 1	(slate-colored-1, Oregon-14)
Great Horned Owl 4	Red-winged Blackbird 10
Downy Woodpecker 1	Western Meadowlark 12
Northern Flicker (red-shafted) 3	House Sparrow 50



C.F.O FIELD TRIP TO PUEBLO
NOVEMBER 13, 1993

Brandon Percival
835 Harmony Drive
Pueblo, CO 81007

At 8:00 AM on November 13, 1993, 22 birders gathered in Pueblo. It was not warm like we had wished but everyone was eager to find birds. We went to the Arkansas River at Olive Marsh first and riders in the lead few cars were able to see a male American Black Duck (which had been present for two months). It was along the river and quickly flew away. Walking in this area produced a White-crowned Sparrow and a Belted Kingfisher. Our next stop was the City Park Pond and we were rewarded with many Wood Ducks and American Wigeon. At this location many people with cameras were able to take photos of an attractive but non-countable species, two males and a female Mandarin Duck. Everyone "oohed" and "aahed".

Our next stop was Valco Ponds on Highway 96, just east of the Pueblo Reservoir Dam. We located many ducks, including three Hooded Mergansers and a Canvasback. There was also a dark-phase Red-tailed Hawk, a Bewick's Wren and some Song Sparrows.

The appearance of a Mew Gull on the tires at the South Shore Marina the weekend before made that our next stop. There were "only" about a thousand gulls to look through. With a lot of searching, we located Herring, California and Ring-billed Gulls but no Mew Gull. Van Truan was here when we arrived and he had seen the 2nd-winter Great Black-backed Gull just before our arrival. We looked for it in vain.

As people were getting hungry, it was time to go to Rock Canyon and have lunch. During and after lunch, we birded this area hoping for the Cape May Warbler to reappear after a two-week absence. It did not. We were able to locate a Great Horned Owl, Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker and an immature Thayer's Gull (in 1st-winter plumage).

During the afternoon hours we looked for birds on the north side of Pueblo Reservoir. At the Sailboat Launching Area, we found Common Loons, Red-breasted Mergansers, and many other ducks and gulls. In the pinyon-juniper trees birders located Mountain Bluebird, Pine Siskin and American Goldfinch. Around the North Shore Marina we found a Bald Eagle, Bonaparte's Gulls, five species of grebes, a Loggerhead Shrike and a Ferruginous Hawk.

We finished the day back at the South Shore Marina, where we looked at the many gulls coming into the tires. We did not find anything different.

It was a cold day but it did not seem to bother the birders who found the accompanying list of 73 species (plus one exotic) during the day. Thanks for coming and birding in the Pueblo area.

TRIP LIST, PUEBLO, NOVEMBER 13, 1993

Common Loon	Thayer's Gull
Pied-billed Grebe	Great Black-backed Gull
Horned Grebe	Rock Dove
Eared Grebe	Mourning Dove
Western Grebe	Great Horned Owl
Clark's Grebe	Belted Kingfisher
American White Pelican	Downy Woodpecker
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker
Canada Goose	Horned Lark
Wood Duck	Blue Jay
[Mandarin Duck] - exotic	Scrub Jay
Green-winged Teal	Black-billed Magpie
American Black Duck	American Crow
Mallard	Common Raven
Northern Pintail	Black-capped Chickadee
Gadwall	Mountain Chickadee
American Wigeon	Bushtit
Canvasback	White-breasted Nuthatch
Redhead	Brown Creeper
Ring-necked Duck	Canyon Wren
Lesser Scaup	Bewick's Wren
Common Goldeneye	Mountain Bluebird
Bufflehead	Townsend's Solitaire
Hooded Merganser	American Robin
Red-breasted Merganser	American Pipit
Bald Eagle	Loggerhead Shrike
Northern Harrier	European Starling
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Rufous-sided Towhee
Red-tailed Hawk	Canyon Towhee
Ferruginous Hawk	Song Sparrow
American Kestrel	White-crowned Sparrow
American Coot	Dark-eyed Junco
Killdeer	Red-winged Blackbird
Bonaparte's Gull	House Finch
Ring-billed Gull	Pine Siskin
California Gull	American Goldfinch
Herring Gull	House Sparrow

Observers: Raymond Davis, Bob Dickson, Johnie Dickson (feeder watcher), Sharon Dooley, Jake Edge, Walt Hackney, Mona & Dean Hill, Joe Himmel, Dave Johnson, Mike Ketchen, Lindsay Lilly, Brandon Percival (leader), Karleen Schofield, David Silverman, Clif Smith, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith, Bob Spencer, Tim Starkweather (weather-arranger? ED), Van Truan, Linda Vidal, John and Mark Yaeger.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD: SEASONAL REPORT
SUMMER 1993 (JUNE & JULY)

Coen Dexter
175 Sunset Circle
Palisade, Colorado 81526

This spring report was generated from American Birds reports, the "CO Rare Bird Alert" telephone log, BBS routes and the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas Project. The amount of information collected each summer is staggering. The Atlas Project is sending people to remote nonbirded areas of the state and birders are finding new breeding populations of some bird species.

The summer was dry and windy. The spring that preceded, however, was wet and cool. Many mountain species nested later than normal. Most shorebirds were reported southbound in July. Also, many were still northbound in the first week of June. I did list early fall migrant dates for most shorebird species. Nonbreeding shorebirds may just be wandering about, however. Water birds have had average breeding success the past summer. Only a few were reported down. Many duck species were reported in early June in areas not recognized as within their normal breeding ranges.

Common Loon - very rare nonbreeding summer resident. Reported at Hamilton Res. June & July, 2 at Little Jumbo Res., near Meeker and at Mineral.

Pied-billed Grebe - confirmed breeding in San Juan Basin at two new locations (Rich Levad & Hugh Kingery).

American White Pelican - now breeds at 3 sites in the state, with very good success this year.

American Bittern - rare to uncommon summer resident on eastern plains. Reported from Boulder 6/29 and Home Lake 7/7.

Great Egret - very local breeder on eastern plains. Nested at Riverside Res., San Luis Lake and Hiram Prince Res. (Ron Ryder). 6 nests were observed along Boulder Creek (Janet George). One reported 7/25 Ordway (Dave Johnson).

Green-backed Heron - rare summer resident on eastern plains. Reported from Pueblo 7/13-14, Rocky Ford 7/25, and a nest at Ft. Collins from which 5 young hatched (4 fledged) (Ron Ryder and David Leatherman).

Yellow-crowned Night-heron - very rare nonbreeding visitor during early summer on eastern plains. 1 Loveland 6/30 (E.S. Marshall and Eileen Wright).

Snow Goose - very rare nonbreeder in summer on eastern plains. 1 at Hamilton Res. 7/21-25 (Ron Ryder).

Canada Goose - locally common to uncommon summer resident. Breeding was reported north of Navajo Res. along the San Juan River, a first for the area (Hugh Kingery).

Wood Duck - were reported breeding in two new locations: Baca County 7/8 (Kenneth Nanney) and 6/8, a first for Lat.#21 (Hugh Kingery).

Ring-necked Duck - was found breeding 7/4 south of Craig for a Lat.#2 first (Randy Lentz). Also found by Hugh Kingery for first breeding record in Lat.#24.

Red-breasted Merganser - accidental in summer. 2 first-summer males reported from Kenney Res. near Rangely 6/22 (Coen Dexter & Brenda Wright).

American Swallow-tailed Kite - accidental summer on eastern plains. Reported 7/5 in Lamar (Walter Hackney).

Bald Eagle - rare summer resident and very local. 2 nests at Meeker and Craig produced 4 young.

Broad-winged Hawk - accidental in summer. Reported at Pueblo 7/24 (Joey Kellner, Chris Wood & Steve Stachowiak).

Black Rail - casual eastern plains. Heard calling throughout June at Bent's Old Fort (Norm Erthal).

Common Moorhen - casual on eastern plains. Reported 6/23 Huerfano Res. (Bob Dickson and David Silverman) and on 7/5 at Monte Vista NWR (Kenneth Nanney).

Sandhill Crane - rare summer breeder in mountain parks. Found nesting SW of Grand Jct. in Unaweep Canyon over 100 miles from its nearest known nesting sight. Two young were hatched and last seen 7/10. (Coen Dexter & Brenda Wright).

Black-bellied Plover - early fall date 7/28 Cherry Creek.

Snowy Plover - uncommon summer resident on southeastern plains, numbers fluctuate widely. 5 adults and 5 young at Cheraw Lake 6/5.

Semipalmated Plover - early fall date 7/16.

Piping Plover - confirmed breeding 4 times on eastern plains prior to 1992, very rare spring and fall migrant.

Mountain Plover - rare to fairly common summer resident on eastern plains, rare in South Park. Sheridan Lake 6/7 confirmed breeding (Hugh Kingery). Janeal Thompson reported 28 plovers at Two Buttes in June and July. 36 plovers reported 7/4 north of Olney Springs (Bob Dickson and Van Truan). Poor breeding success reported on Pawnee National Grasslands (Fritz Knopf and Ron Ryder). Of 41 nests monitored by Knopf, only 18 were successful. Various predators were mostly to blame. Also, Knopf reports all plovers apparently gone from the Pawnee by late July (early).

Black-necked Stilt - uncommon to fairly common summer resident on southeastern plains. 28 at Cheraw 6/11 (David Leatherman) and 1 at Alamosa SWA 7/21.

Greater Yellowlegs - early fall date 7/5 NE Colorado.

Lesser Yellowlegs - early fall date 7/5 NE Colorado.

Solitary Sandpiper - early fall date 7/11.

Willet - rare in early summer on eastern plains. 1 to 4 birds near Lay in Moffat County 6/14 to 7/1 (Rich Levad). 1 at Alamosa NWR 7/5 (Kenneth Nanney).

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. Plovers were reported southbound in SE Colorado 7/14.

Long-billed Curlew - accidental breeder in western valleys. 1 was seen at Little Snake River SWA in Moffat County 6/30 (Rich Levad). 20 were reported at Two Buttes 6/17 (Janeal Thompson). 37 adults were seen on Baca County BBS 6/10 (David Leatherman).

Marbled Godwit - very rare nonbreeding summer resident on eastern plains. 2 birds were at Walsh 6/16 (Janeal Thompson) and at Blue Lake 6/10.

Sanderling - rare to uncommon migrant on eastern plains. Early fall date 7/21 Lake Meredith (Chris Wood).

Semipalmated Sandpiper - early fall date 7/18 and late spring date 6/5-6, both at Cheraw.

Western Sandpiper - early fall date 7/5 San Luis Valley.

Least Sandpiper - early fall date 7/5 Red Lion SWA.

White-rumped Sandpiper - fairly common to common spring migrant on eastern plains, accidental elsewhere, **summer and fall status uncertain-needs to be documented**. Several hundred birds were reported the first week in June on eastern plains.

Baird's Sandpiper - early fall date 7/18.

Pectoral Sandpiper - early fall date 7/14.

Stilt Sandpiper - early fall date 7/14 and late spring date of 6/6.

Short-billed Dowitcher - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains, accidental in western valleys. 4 birds were at Cheraw 7/18-22 (Mark Janos) and at Queens Res. 7/22 (Chris Wood).

Long-billed Dowitcher - early fall date 7/25.

Red-necked Phalarope - Late spring date 6/6 Lake Cheraw.

Caspian Tern - very rare nonbreeding summer resident on eastern plains. Reported from Neenoshe Res. 6/18 (Duane Nelson), Jumbo Res. 7/28 (Chris Wood) and 3 birds Colorado City 7/4 (Dave Silverman).

Least Tern - uncommon local summer resident on southeastern plains.

White-winged Dove - casual in summer on the eastern plains. Reported 6/26 in Pueblo (Van Truan), near Walsh from 6/14 into August (Janeal Thompson).

Black-billed Cuckoo - rare summer resident on eastern plains. Reported 6/20 to 7/28 at Tamarack Ranch (Joe Roller) and at Waterton Bridge (Kellner).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - rare to uncommon summer resident on eastern plains. Reported from Pueblo, Indian Hills, Colorado City, Grand Jct., Dixon Res., Tamarack SWA, Ft. Morgan and Illiff.

Eastern Screech-owl - only one previous record of red-morph. Red-morph found 6/23 Larimer County (T. Carol Agee).

Burrowing Owl - rare to uncommon in western valleys and mountain parks except in the Grand Valley. 2 pairs found near Rangely by Atlas workers, the only individuals of this species found in northwest CO. DOW survey recorded 325 burrowing owls in Boulder, Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson Counties.

Boreal Owl - rare to locally uncommon resident in higher mountains. The NFS placed 400 nest boxes on the Grand Mesa and surrounding area. 16 boxes were used by this owl. More than 30 individuals were banded.

Lesser Nighthawk - casual in spring and summer. 1 Carrizo Mountain 6/10 (Dan Bridges).

Common Poorwill - uncommon to fairly common summer. A nest with eggs, first confirmed breeding in Lat.#4 (D.W. King).

Black Swift - were in Pueblo 7/28 for a city first (Dave Johnson).

Calliope Hummingbird - rare to uncommon late summer migrant in western valleys, foothills and lower mountains. Many reports beginning 7/17.

Red-bellied Woodpecker - rare to uncommon on extreme northeastern plains, casual in summer elsewhere on eastern plains. 6/10 Wray (Bill Kaempfer) and 7/15 Bonny Res. confirmed breeding (Chris Wood).

Three-toed Woodpecker - rare or very locally uncommon resident in higher mountains. Lat.#2 first record 7/4, breeding record 30 miles south of Craig (Hugh Kingery) and several other reports.

Willow Flycatcher - the valley population of this flycatcher in western Colorado may be the endangered subspecies of the Southwest. Found 7/20 in San Juan Basin (Hugh Kingery).

Least Flycatcher - very rare summer resident on eastern plains. Campo 6/10 (Alan Versaw).

Eastern Phoebe - rare to uncommon, local in summer, eastern Colorado. Lamar 6/8 confirmed breeding first Lat.#21 record (Hugh Kingery).

Black Phoebe - 3-5 fledged young near Uravan Lat.#15 on 6/12 and were present until after 7/6. These phoebes will be looked for again next year. (Coen Dexter & Brenda Wright).

Cassin's Kingbird - rare to uncommon and very local in western Colorado north to Mesa County. Pair near Maybell 6/20 and a single bird west of Meeker 7/15, both Lat.#1, where it is listed as "accidental".

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - very rare summer visitor on eastern plains away from breeding area in Baca County, casual in mountains and mountain parks. 7/28 and maybe some time before, Glenwood Springs, 1 female built a nest (Vic Zerbi).

Purple Martin - several new places were found again this summer where they may be breeding. Near Craig, Rifle and Longs Canyon near Trinidad for a Lat.#26 first (Brandon Percival).

Blue Jay - casual visitor in summer to mountains west of Continental Divide and western valleys. 1 at Jack Merchant's feeder in Eagle 6/21 until Tree Swallows drove it off.

Chihuahuan Raven - documented from Southwest Colorado, reported as confirmed breeder 6/18 upstream from Navajo Res. This is a Lat.#23 record (Hugh Kingery).

Brown Creeper - confirmed in Lat.#2 as a breeder and reported NW of Meeker as a Lat.#1 first by Atlas workers.

Winter Wren - reported 6/10 at The Pinery development near Parker (Sheryl Scott).

Sedge Wren - reported in an irrigated pasture at Wellington 6/15-27 (Steve Martin & others).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher - reported from Cortez 7/17, where 1 was seen in Gambel oak habitat (Lucille Bainbridge). A second report came from Red Rocks Park west of Denver 6/24-27 (B.J. Rose). **This species needs good documentation anywhere in the state.** Remember, recently-fledged Blue-gray Gnatcatchers grow their outer tail feathers last and often appear to have an all-black tail (Coen Dexter).

Veery - rare to fairly common local summer resident in foothills, lower mountains and mountain parks. The only report came from a BBS route in Larimer County 6/25 (Bill & Paula Lisowski).

Swainson's Thrush - 1 was singing 7/19 in the San Juan Basin for a Lat. first in #24 (Atlas workers).

Gray Catbird - rare to uncommon very local summer resident. Several birds were found in northwestern Colorado along the Yampa River drainage (Atlas field workers).

Bendire's Thrasher - local summer resident in foothills of San Luis Valley. Two reports northwest of Del Norte 6/19 (Hugh Kingery).

Bell's Vireo - uncommon to fairly common local summer resident on extreme northeastern plains. Several observers reported this vireo down. 1 reported 7/28 at Tamarack Ranch (Chris Wood).

Philadelphia Vireo - casual spring migrant on eastern plains. 1 reported 6/3 Fountain Creek, Colorado Springs (Toni Brevillier).

Red-eyed Vireo - rare to uncommon very local summer resident. Reported from Boulder 6/11, Lyons 6/14 and Colorado Springs 6/7.

Golden-winged Warbler - very rare spring migrant, accidental in summer. Found feeding young at Roxborough State Park 7/15-19 (J.B. Hays, Steve Stachowiak, Joey Kellner & Chris Wood).

Chestnut-sided Warbler - accidental summer resident in western valleys, casual in lower mountains. Reported 6/5 Ft. Collins, 6/3-4 Colorado Springs and 6/14 Lyons.

Black-throated Blue Warbler - rare spring and fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 singing male in Rocky Mountain National 6/20 (Joan Tedford).

Blackburnian Warbler - rare spring migrant. Pair, 6/4 Boulder (Susan Ward & Bill Kaempfer).

Grace's Warbler - found singing near Wetmore 6/19 (Dick Roth).

Prairie Warbler - casual in spring migration. Reported in Boulder 6/2 (Steve Jones).

American Redstart - rare summer resident in summer in canyons at base of eastern foothills and immediately adjacent plains. Reported from Kremmling 6/19 (Norm Barlett) and Chatfield State Park, where at least 2 pairs nested (Chris Wood).

Prothonotary Warbler - very rare spring migrant. Reported at Chatfield State Park 6/11 (the Richmonds) and 6/1-8 at Colorado Springs (Brevillier, Percival & the Romeros).

Ovenbird - rare to uncommon local summer resident in eastern foothills and lower mountains from southern Larimer County to northern Huerfano County. 2 birds near Rye 6/13 (Dave Silverman), also Rist Canyon west of Fort Collins 6/29 (Dave Leatherman).

Hepatic Tanager - uncommon and very local summer resident in Las Animas County, suspected breeder near Royal Gorge, Fremont County. 1 reported west of Loveland 6/5 and several reported in the Pueblo area. Dave Silverman commented this tanager is probably nesting regularly in Pueblo, Fremont and Las Animas Counties.

Summer Tanager - accidental in mid-summer on eastern plains. 1 reported 6/18 Lakewood (Norm Lewis).

Scarlet Tanager - rare spring and fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 reported 6/12 Evergreen (Peg Hayden).

Northern Cardinal - two populations found in Wray this summer.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - casual in summer in foothills, lower mountains and western valleys. Reported from Evergreen 6/3, Indian Hills 7/9, Breckenridge 6/5 and Chatfield Res. 6/11.

Lazuli Bunting - was confirmed as a breeder for the first time in Lat.#21 on 6/8 and possible breeding in Lat.#20 on 6/9 (Hugh Kingery).

Indigo Bunting - rare or locally uncommon summer resident on eastern plains and in western valleys. 3 singing males south of Durango 7/15 on Animas River (Rich Levad).

Field Sparrow - uncommon local summer resident along eastern border. Found breeding at Tamarack Ranch 7/28 (Chris Wood).

Fox Sparrow - fairly common summer resident. Found singing in two locations in Lat.#10 near Vail Pass 6/1 and south of Kremmling 7/6, where they are listed as unconfirmed breeders.

Bobolink - uncommon to fairly common on eastern plains. In July found breeding (5 young) near Wellington (in habitat created specifically to attract them!) (Steve Martin). They were also reported from Boulder 6/2.



**RECORDING BLACK SWIFT VOCALIZATIONS
IN OURAY, COLORADO**

Bob Righter
2358 South Fillmore Street
Denver, Colorado 80120

According to the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, there is no known previous recording of vocalizations of the Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*). The subject of this article is a recording of this species made using a Sony TC-D5PRO11 stereo tape recorder and a Telinga parabolic microphone at approximately 6 AM, 22 June 1993, at Box Canyon in the town of Ouray, Ouray County, Colorado; elevation 7706 feet; coordinates N 38-01-15, W 107-40-32.

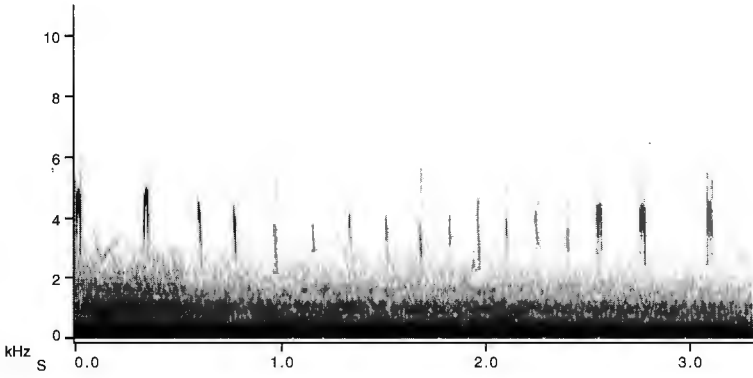
During 21-22 June 1993, an estimated 25-30 Black Swifts were very actively flying between 5:45 and 7:15 AM near Box Canyon. Curiously, White-throated Swifts (*Aeronautes saxatalis*) were also present at this location, but none were observed between 5:45 and 6:15 AM. They only became apparent after 6:45 AM, and by 8 AM greatly outnumbered Black Swifts in the Box Canyon area. Whether any swifts of either species were flying before daylight during those dates is unknown.

Vocalization episodes were most apparent when one Black Swift would seemingly make an attempt to fly very close to another of the same species. I can not be certain, but other than such situations, the Black Swifts were generally silent.

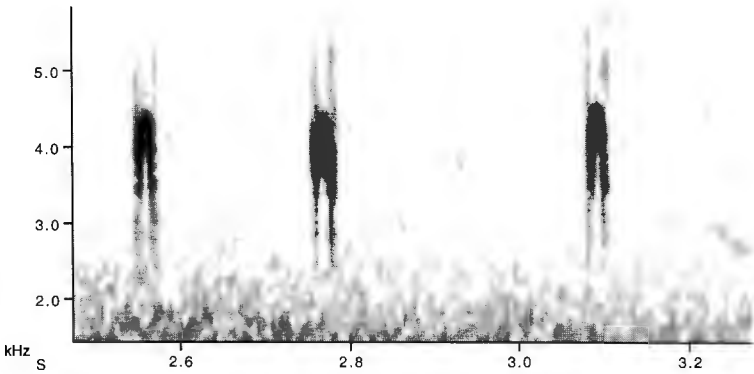
As an aside, during the period of this report I observed two occasions of aerial, physically-coupled Black Swifts tumbling downward as a unit. This was probably part of courtship or copulation, but possibly was some type of agonistic behavior.

The accompanying spectrogram was produced from a Canary 1.1 program and was reproduced on a 600 dots-per-inch printer. Lower frequencies on the spectrogram are predominately wind and water background "noise".

I would like to thank Russ Charif of the Bioacoustic Lab at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, who helped me understand how to produce a spectrogram. The original recording of the sounds represented by the spectrogram was deposited with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology on 8 December 1993 and has been assigned Catalog Number 56196.



Sonogram of Black Swift
From 22 June 1993 Recording
Box Canyon, Ouray, Ouray County
by Bob Righter



Detail of Black Swift Sonogram Above
(2.4 - 3.3 kHz portion)



**FIRST COLORADO RECORD OF
RED-FACED WARBLER (Cardellina rubifrons)**

**Dick Schottler
25 South Indiana Place
Golden, CO 80401**

The first Colorado record of Red-faced Warbler (Cardellina rubifrons) occurred on May 3, 1993 in the Wheatridge Greenbelt, Jefferson County. The bird was first found by me at 6:45 AM, and was subsequently seen by many observers throughout the day on the 3rd until darkness at about 8:00 PM that evening. The warbler was not refound, despite searches at first light on the 4th, during the day of the 5th and later.

I had just arrived at the Greenbelt for an hour of birding before going to work on a clear, mild, calm spring morning. After parking on W. 40th Circle as usual, I started down the path toward a well-known birder landmark, the "Tree Bridge". I heard an unfamiliar bird song coming from a tree in a private home backyard on the crest of the slope forming the Greenbelt's south edge. While I did not recognize the song, I thought it sounded like a warbler. Fortunately, the unknown bird was a persistent singer, vocalizing every 30 seconds or so. This made pinpointing its location quite easy. However, getting a clear view of the particular tree without trespassing in the yard took several minutes of maneuvering, and at one point I almost gave up in frustration. However, my curiosity got the better of me, and I finally found a spot at the slope bottom where I could see the tree of interest. A few seconds later, I spotted a small bird moving in the foliage. The first look with binoculars revealed a gray bird with a scarlet red face, throat, and upper breast and a black patch on the crown and sides of the head. Having seen Red-faced Warblers on several occasions in Arizona, I instantly recognized the unique head pattern as being that species. It was not a subtle or difficult identification problem! A few seconds later, the significance of the sighting sank in: this bird had never been seen in Colorado before! For about ten minutes I was able to leisurely observe the warbler in the bright morning sunlight, seeing additional field marks such as the white patch on the nape. All observed characters were recorded in descriptive field notes made at the site.

At this point, I recognized other birders had to see, and hopefully photograph, the bird to confirm it as a First State Record. It is usually not difficult to find birders in the Greenbelt on a beautiful morning in early May, but none could be found after searching several minutes. Even though I was reluctant to leave the warbler unattended, I decided the best plan of action was returning home to make some phone calls. The first call was to Duane Nelson, voice of the "Colorado Bird Report". Duane had the bird on the "hot line" within a few minutes, even though it meant his kids were a few minutes late for school. Thanks to Duane's promptness in getting the sighting on the CBR, many more birders were able to see the warbler on the one day it was present than would have

otherwise. I also phoned Joe Roller, who lives close enough to the Greenbelt to be there in a few minutes. I think Joe was out of the house before I could finish telling him about the bird. After making the calls, it was time to get to the office and hope the bird was refound.

An hour or so later, I got a phone call from Joe saying he and several other birders had seen the warbler and that it had been photographed. What a way to start a Monday morning!

After I had left for home to make phone calls, birders Paula Hansley and Terry Cookro were walking through the Greenbelt and also heard the singing warbler. The song was unfamiliar to Paula and, thus, warranted attention. Paula and Terry found the singer and also identified it as a Red-faced Warbler. They were watching the warbler in a tree near the slope base when Joe Roller arrived. Paula went to her office and phoned Suzi Plooster and other birders in the Boulder area. As a result of Duane getting the warbler on the tape early and Paula alerting Boulder birders, an estimated 50 to 100 Colorado birders were able to see this beautiful vagrant and add it to their lists during its one-day appearance.

The Red-faced Warbler is mostly a Mexican/Central American species. In the United States it is a locally common summer resident of high mountain mixed-conifer forests, and regularly occurs only in central and southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico. There it nests in mountain canyons generally between 6,500 and 9,000 feet in elevation. It usually arrives on its U.S. nesting grounds by mid-May and returns in September to its wintering grounds in Mexico and points south. According to the AOU Checklist (6th ed., 1983), the Red-faced Warbler is casual in southern California (possibly breeds) and central New Mexico, and there are sight reports from southern Nevada and western Texas. Of particular relevance to this first Colorado record is the fact Wyoming's first record of Red-faced Warbler occurred almost exactly four years earlier (April 29-May 3, 1989) in a residential area of Green River in the southwestern part of the state (American Birds, Fall 1989, V. 43, n. 3).



IDENTIFICATION OF THE CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN
IN COLORADO

David Blue
1013 Heritage Drive
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

The Chihuahuan Raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*), previously known as the White-necked Raven, is a bird of the arid Southwest. During the late 1860's and early 1870's, it was abundant throughout the eastern plains of Colorado. Winter flocks contained up to a thousand individuals. This may have represented a population explosion, due to intense bison slaughter supplying a ready food source. But in the last one-hundred years, both the numbers and the range of this species have greatly declined. Currently, it is resident in the southeastern part of Colorado and has bred in the far northeast. (See information in this issue's "News From The Field" for recent discoveries - ED).

In Colorado the range of the Chihuahuan Raven overlaps that of our two other black corvids: the American Crow (*C. brachyrhynchus*) and the Common Raven (*C. corax*). Separating these three in the field is not always easy, and the Chihuahuan Raven presents the greatest challenge.

In order to identify Chihuahuan Ravens, it is important to distinguish crows and ravens. Five separation characters are used:

1. Calls. Crows "caw", whereas ravens "croak."
2. Bill Size. Ravens have larger bills than crows. The bills of ravens are huge and very deep at the base, giving them a "Roman nose" appearance.
3. Neck Profile. Ravens have pointed neck feathers, which give them a shaggy neck profile (or "goitered" look).
4. Tail Shape in Flight. Ravens have longer central tail feathers, giving their tails a rounded or wedge-shaped appearance versus the squared-off look of crows.
5. Flight Behavior. Crows seldom ever soar, whereas ravens soar much of the time and are often mistaken for hawks at a distance.

There are eight characters that can be used to identify the Chihuahuan Raven. Note that many of these characters are not diagnostic alone and must be used in combination with other characters.

1. White Neck Feathers. The white at the base of the neck feathers is diagnostic but difficult to see (the scientific name means "hidden white"). It can occasionally be seen when the wind lifts the neck feathers or when a

bird is displaying or agitated. Note that the Common Raven has grey at the base of the neck.

2. Voice. Voice is a good distinguishing character. The American Crow makes a "caw, caw, caw" call. The Common Raven has a throaty "croak", along with other, higher-pitched calls. The Chihuahuan Raven makes a dry, flat "craack" call, always on the same pitch. Rich Stallcup suggests that the most common call of the Chihuahuan Raven is a simple quack which sounds a lot like that of a female Green-winged Teal.
3. Size. Note that size is always a difficult character to use and that some overlap exists in these three species. In general, though, the American Crow is smallest (17-20 inches), and the Common Raven is largest (at 21-26 inches it may be the largest passerine [songbird] in the world). The Chihuahuan Raven (at 19-21 inches) is generally only slightly larger than the American Crow and much smaller than the Common Raven. However, there is much overlap with both these species.
4. Tail Shape. The tail of the Chihuahuan Raven is smaller and not as wedge-shaped as the Common Raven, but this is difficult to see. Crows have squared-off tails that can appear rounded when spread for landing.
5. Habitat. The Chihuahuan Raven is a bird of the arid grassy plains and desert scrub, whereas the Common Raven inhabits the rocky deserts, canyons, and mountains. This is not necessarily diagnostic onto the plains in winter and there is sometimes overlap. Crows are found in riparian and agricultural areas, often near human habitation.
6. Distribution. The breeding range of the Chihuahuan Raven in Colorado is confined to the plains, while the Common Raven breeds in the mountains. The American Crow has been found in all areas of the state but is most abundant in the Northeast and the Southwest. Richard Bunn points out, though, that in Baca County, breeding Common Ravens often forage out onto the plains, and all three corvids are found there during the breeding season.
7. Flight Behavior. Due to its smaller size, the Chihuahuan Raven has a slightly faster flapping rate than the Common Raven, which soars more. Large flocks of Chihuahuan Ravens often soar high into the air on thermals. Crows seldom soar except in strong updrafts or when descending.
8. Flocking Characteristics. Chihuahuan Ravens are often seen in large flocks during the nonbreeding season. Common Ravens are usually seen singularly or in pairs, rarely in small flocks. Except in breeding season, crows are often found in large flocks.

References

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Checklist of North American Birds, 6th Edition. Washington, D.C., American Ornithologists' Union.
- Bailey, Alfred M., and Robert J. Neidrach. 1965. Birds of Colorado. 2 vol. Denver, Denver Museum of Natural History.
- Chase, Charles A., III, Steven J. Bissell, Hugh E. Kingery, and Walter D. Graul. 1982. Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong Study. Denver, Colorado Field Ornithologists.
- Farrand, John, Jr. 1983. The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding. 3 vol. New York, Alfred A. Knopf.
- Holt, Harold R. and James A. Lane. 1987. A Birder's Guide to Colorado. Denver, L&P Press.
- National Geographic Society. 1983. Field Guide to the Birds of North America. Washington, National Geographic Society.
- Robbins, Chandler S., Bertel Bruun, and Herbert S. Zim. 1983. A Guide to the Field Identification, Birds of North America, rev. ed. New York, Golden Press.
- Stallcup, Rich. 1985. Birds for Real. Inverness, CA, published by the author.
- Terres, John K. 1980. The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds. New York, Alfred A. Knopf.



OBSERVATIONS ON BLUE JAY COOPERATIVE BREEDING
MAY THROUGH JULY 1993

Ruth R. Kuenning
1228 North Farragut Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Introduction. On May 12, 1993 we observed four Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*) interacting in our Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus aristata*). In this exact location a short while later, two of the jays began to build a nest and made us suspicious an unusual situation might develop. One of the jays involved in nest-building, which was accomplished May 12 to 14, had an unusually long lower mandible and was conveniently distinguishable from the other jays.

From May 15 through June 9 we saw only two normal-billed jays at the nest. We concluded the abnormal-billed jay was a helper, but perhaps only during construction. However, on June 10 the involvement here of two normal-billed jays and the abnormal-billed jay in feeding young and nest-cleaning confirmed three adults were involved in more than just nest-building. Feeding, cleaning and protective activities by at least three adults, both at the nest and after the young fledged, continued through June and into July. Since the two normal-billed jays could not be differentiated, it is possible more than three adults were involved.

After June, the adults reappeared in the yard infrequently at intervals of three to six days. We saw no more feeding after mid-July, although the abnormal-billed adult was seen until the end of July.

In Alexander Skutch's Helpers At Birds' Nests there is much information about cooperative breeding in jays. Most of this book deals with Brown Jay (*Cyanocorax morio*) and the Florida race of Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma c. coerulescens*). Only one sentence pertains to Blue Jay, in which E. H. Forbush states they are said to care for old and infirm individuals.

Although cooperative breeding in Blue Jays may have been observed before, the author is not aware of any such records. Others who shared in observing the behaviors reported here were: Roberta Winn (81 Hedges Circle, Sedalia, CO 80135), Joan and Richard Reid (67 New Garden Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603) and Walter Kuenning (same address as the author).

Location and Setting. The reported observations are from 1228 Farragut Avenue, in east-central Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado. This falls near Latitude 38 North, Longitude 104 West and within Colorado Latilong #19. The nearby Front Range is currently considered the western edge of the Blue Jay's westward-expanding range. However, numerous individuals are being sighted further west on an increasingly-regular basis. Colorado Springs also falls within the northeastern portion of Gambel Oak's (*Quercus gambeli*) native range. The acorns of this plant, along with those from other oak species planted as ornamentals, contribute greatly to this bird's diet. Specifically, our

residential neighborhood yard contains no oaks but many other trees, shrubs and a lawn.

Specific Observations.

May 12: My husband and I saw four Blue Jays flying, fussing, calling and chasing each other about the yard. Activities were particularly centered in a large Bristlecone Pine south of the house. This tree is forty years old, forty feet tall, seventeen inches in diameter near the trunk base and has a lower crown thirty feet in diameter, which contains many distorted branches. From within the house, I discovered the jays starting a nest fifteen feet up in the tree about fifteen feet from the house. The nest was eye-level to observers from the living room window.

One jay began the nest by bringing long strips of tissue paper. These often floated down and were retrieved by the bird and jammed into a crotch between two two-inch branches. The other jay kept bringing sticks that were often too long or forked to conveniently fit the crotch, and they, too, often fell. They were retrieved like the tissue.

As we observed with binoculars from chairs placed eight feet inside the window, we wondered if these were birds inexperienced at nest-building. We also discovered the two jays were distinguishable because one had an abnormal lower mandible which projected one-quarter inch beyond the upper mandible. We christened it "Skimmer."

May 13: Skimmer and a normal-billed jay, which I will hence refer to as an "NBJ", were industrious all day. They, especially Skimmer, wasted much time and effort trying to incorporate half a white styrofoam cup into the structure.

May 14: The white cup piece was still the most conspicuous nest part. But this day the builders began to peck and nipple at it until it gradually disappeared. We assumed the nest was now lined with soft pellets of styrofoam. No white showed and the nest blended beautifully into the tree needles and branches.

May 15: No more material was added to the nest. An NBJ sat in it, apparently shaping it with its breast.

May 16: After nest completion, we scarcely saw the birds. We did glimpse them copulating on the ground, but it was over so quickly we did not determine their individual roles.

May 17: An NBJ began to sit on the nest and we assumed eggs had been laid and incubation begun. To our amazement, we did not see Skimmer but two NBJs were simultaneously at the nest. This was our first proof of two jays being involved in addition to Skimmer.

May 18-29: We only observed an undetermined number of NBJ's sitting on the nest during these twelve days. We did not observe the bird(s) doing the incubating being fed, nor did we observe a change of birds. At times the nest was left unoccupied for up to fifteen minutes. We did not see Skimmer.

May 30: Before settling down to brood in turn, two NBJ's stood on the nest edge with cocked heads, as if listening to something in the nest.

May 31: The two NBJ's were very attentive at the nest, often being there together. They appeared to fly off with egg shells and to eat something in the nest by pecking.

June 1: The jays carried away fecal sacs but we saw neither feeding behavior nor young.

June 2: We first saw the little pink bills and throats, grayish heads and closed eyes of the nestlings. Because they did not stretch much above the nest rim, we were unable to agree on a count. The number of young was either four or five.

June 4-9: During these six days we observed frequent feedings and often the two NBJ's were at the nest together. We never saw food in their bills but noticed swollen throats, the contents of which they regurgitated deep into the young gullets. The only food item we glimpsed was an inch-long green caterpillar. The brooder sat higher and higher and the necks of the stretching babies increased also, allowing an apparently firm count of four.

June 10: The young exhibited more and more juvenile feathers in place of down and their eyes were open. The brooding NBJ was not large enough to cover all the young at once.

On this day Skimmer reappeared and fed the nestlings! We had not seen him for twenty-four days. We wondered if he (or she) had been participating during this time but that we had just missed it. We now knew at least three adults were involved in care of the young, also.

Many times we had seen two NBJ's together at the nest, feeding the young and carrying off fecal sacs. This was the first day we observed adults picking fecal sacs directly from the raised rear ends of the babies and apparently swallowing them on site.

June 11-12: Feeding had become frequent, with all three adults involved. Swallowing of fecal sacs was the norm. We wondered if they were held in the throat and disgorged later, in a reverse of the feeding process. The young were extremely active, stretching and fluttering regardless of adults being present. Juvenile feathering was complete and

only the bills and underside of the necks were pink. The young clearly displayed the black necklaces, white wingbars and bluish heads of more mature jays.

June 13-15: We could not always tell which adults were at the nest because they approached it from the side opposite our viewpoint. They began feeding the young immediately upon arriving on the nest edge, obscuring their bills. If they did remain to brood the young, they often settled with their heads obscured by a nest crotch branch. We never saw Skimmer brood, but can not say with certainty he did not.

The nest required lots of protection from squirrels and cats. On one occasion four squirrels occupied the nest tree simultaneously and it took the combined efforts of the three adults to keep the squirrels from the nest. Cats were an even worse problem. Whenever we heard the particular loud adult protest calls we learned to mean "Cat!", Walter found the predator and chased it out of the yard.

June 17: A violent rain storm, which included fifteen minutes of pea-sized hail, occurred for well over two hours in the afternoon of this day. Because in recent days the young had swollen much like a soufflé to overflow the nest edges, it was impossible for the brooding adult to totally cover them. Fortunately, the site selected for the nest provided protection of its own in the form of overhead pine needles.

June 18: Today we learned the storm had brought three inches of rain, more than the entire June average of two inches. But four young birds were still visible, so we felt all had survived the storm.

June 19: The first nestling ventured out of the nest onto an adjoining branch, teetered for a second, then floundered back into the nest, closed its eyes and slept. Skimmer then came to feed and twenty minutes later this first fledgling was really out of the nest. It seemed to fall out of the nest during one of its wing-stretching exercises and landed four feet down in the pine. Moments later, a second baby flutter-fell from the nest and came to a halt two feet above the first one. The lower bird immediately fluttered up beside its nestmate. On this same day I found a headless, smelly baby jay dead on the ground. We surmised it had been pushed from the nest during the June 17th storm, when the parent was trying to cover all the nestlings. We now knew there had been five nestlings.

June 20: Two babies were being fed in the thick pine top, while two babies remained in the nest. This confirmed a count of five. The two remaining in the nest engaged in vigorous wing-flapping whenever an adult approached. One made a circular trip around the nest and returned inside. Both babies were in the nest at dark.

June 21: At 8:30 AM the third fledgling tumbled out of the nest, caught briefly at a branch three feet down and then fell to the ground. A few

minutes later the last baby fluttered out and remained uneasily on a branch eighteen inches from the nest. This occurred while the two earliest nest-leavers (from June 19th) were being fed in the dense pine top. Baby #3, the only live one which had gone to the ground, had no visible tail. As it fluttered out onto the open lawn, we feared it might soon become cat food. In a sudden spurt of activity, the exposed baby started moving in fluttering hops away from the safety of the home tree, crossed the paved terrace at the house back and stopped under a spruce fifty feet away. Two adult jays called to it from above and eventually it managed to struggle twelve feet into the tree, where it stayed the day. A NJB fed it there and since the other jay in attendance was also a NJB, we concluded these two must be the parents. However, in a few minutes Skimmer came, chased a robin away and fed the young bird. So, we now knew no more than before about which jays were the actual parents.

June 22: Baby #3,, which was so far from the others, survived the night. It seemed slightly less-developed than the others and was readily identifiable by its shorter tail and paler coloration. Its face was whiter and its necklace was ashy gray instead of black. We wondered if these differences would continue into adulthood, or if it would resemble the others after its first moult.

June 23-27: We often saw the young ones on the ground being fed, chiefly under or in the Bristlecone Pine.

June 30: We did not see the jays for two days, but found three young again being fed under the pine in dense branches. The tangle was such that we could not distinguish the adults that came and went swiftly. However, the young stayed and we were able to see the first-fledged birds were now almost like the adults. They had three-inch tails, adult coloration and occasionally pecked at the ground, as if trying to forage for themselves. The pale baby was readily discernible. We had not been able to account for all four fledglings for a week and sadly realized one did not survive.

July: We continued to see the jays at intervals throughout July, but they were too active and stayed behind foliage too much for us to make any further observations on the care of the young by more than two adults. The young were apparently independent by mid-July.



"Skimmer"

An Abnormal-Billed Blue Jay

by Ruth Kuenning

FOOD ITEMS OF COLORADO BIRDS (XI)
(in part)

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

This column documents feeding episodes of Colorado birds at locations other than feeders provided by man for that specific purpose. Associated behaviors and other pertinent information are also included for certain observations. Although largely anecdotal in nature, it is hoped these published collections of bird-food item associations will contribute to the understanding of Colorado birds and perhaps be of help to researchers working on any of the organisms involved.

Contribution of material for this column is open to all. Minimum information requested includes: bird species involved, food item, location, and date. The more specific the information provided, the better. The author is available to attempt identification of food items (for example, insects, plants and so forth). Please send items for identification with care as to their condition and perishability. As general guidance, insects are best sent in some sort of preservative liquid (such as rubbing alcohol). Plants leaves can be pressed as an aid to identification.

In the near future, the author plans a summary of previous columns. The intent of this summary will be to identify clearly established relationships for which future documentation is not necessary.

This installment provides food item information for 39 species. Dates are within the year 1993, unless otherwise indicated. Entries are those of the author, unless initials follow the listed date. "Thank you" to those who sent materials and shared their very interesting observations.

<u>BIRD</u>	<u>FOOD ITEM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Great Blue Heron	10-12" carp (with difficulty)	Timnath Res, Weld Co	18April
Great Blue Heron	10" carp or sucker	NCELC	22November
Great Blue Heron	Great-tailed Grackle (attempt)	Timnath Res	1May

DE was watching through his scope two male great-tailed grackles display and call loudly atop cattails. Quietly the heron entered the field of view and approached to within 18 inches of one grackle. It stabbed at its potential prey but missed. The grackles retreated to a nearby shore and later moved away from the heron when it re-emerged from the cattails and came their direction.

B-c Night-heron (i)	Garter snake sp.	southern Denver Metro	28Sept KS/RS
Mallard (f&i)	Berries of bush honeysuckle	Cub Lake, RMNP	1Aug GD

GD observed these ducks eating ripe berries of this plant (Distegia involucrata), which botanist W. A. Weber considers as "possibly poisonous and very bitter."

Redhead	Food item(s) unknown	Coleman Res, w of Berthoud	8March
---------	----------------------	----------------------------	--------

Three redheads were seen swimming near an actively feeding tundra swan. The swan was in belly-deep water, stamping its feet as if making wine. After several seconds of foot action, it would tip and feed. Presumably it was after plant material dislodged from the bottom. The redheads dove directly beside and below the swan, in obvious response to its foot-stamping. Since both waterfowl feed on some of the same aquatic plants, this would seem to be a case of kleptoparasitism. The swan did not appear bothered by the presence of the ducks literally "underfoot".

Common Goldeneye	Small unidentified fish	Terry Lake, Boulder Co	11November
Barrow's Goldeneye	Small unidentified fish	Terry Lake	11November
Common Merganser	Small unidentified fish	Terry Lake	11November

This episode involved at least 50 common goldeneyes, 1 male Barrow's goldeneye, 1 male common merganser, 600-700 ring-billed gulls, 5 California gulls and 5 herring gulls. The ducks, particularly the common goldeneyes were

very actively diving for small fish (3-4 inches long) in a shallow bay. They were quite successful and constantly appeared at the surface with "cigars" of fish. Almost invariably, a few gulls would be waiting for them. As the ducks surfaced, the nearest gulls would immediately begin screaming. This triggered a chaotic response from an additional 40-50 gulls. The reinforcements would wildly pile on top of each other at the spot of the duck in a loud, wing-thrashing, splashing explosion. It was impossible to determine how successful these kleptoparasitic tactics were, but they were impressive if only, in the degree of their desperation.

Turkey Vulture	Dead, decaying fish (carp?)	Turk's Pond, Baca Co 3	30August JT
Turkey Vulture	Roadkilled mule deer	near Crook, Logan Co	7April
Osprey	Sucker sp.	Union Res, Weld Co	20 October
Osprey	Rainbow trout	North Lake, Las Animas Co	2September
Bald Eagle (a)	Chasing ring-billed gull	College Lake, Ft Collins	14March DE
Cooper's Hawk	Black-billed magpie	Poudre Canyon, Larimer Co	9May LB
Cooper's Hawk	Attempted kill of Virginia rail	Douglas Res, Larimer Co	21Mar RAR
	The hawk struck and stunned the rail but did not kill it. RAR caught, banded and released the rail.		
Red-tailed Hawk	Carrying unidentified snake	GC	31March
Red-tailed Hawk (i)	Garter snake sp.	Walsh, Baca Co	22October JT
Red-tailed Hawk (i)	W. terrestrial garter snake	Boulder, Boulder Co	31October

The hawk was observed carrying the snake in its feet into a tall cottonwood. Holding the snake against a branch with its talons, the hawk first ate the head. Next it began stripping meat from the skeleton, starting with the head-end. On one strong upward pull, the hawk pulled the snake from its own grasp. The snake fell and ended up draped over a lower branch. Close examination of the snake revealed its specific identity and, that of its first 5 inches, only the spinal cord remained. The rest of the snake was relatively intact. The date and recent snows would seem to make snake activity unusual, but a snake of this species was also seen here on 11 November. Also, see next account.

Red-tailed Hawk	Carrying pine (= "bull") snake	Lory St Pk, w Ft Collins	<u>20Dec</u> 92 JS
	JS reported 30% snow cover on this date.		
Ferruginous Hawk	Black-tailed prairie dog	Larimer Co Dump area	13April
American Kestrel	Dragonflies	Stonington, Baca Co	21Aug JT/PF
American Kestrel	Prairie vole (<u>Microtus ochrogaster</u>)	e Lower Latham Res	1May DE
Blue Grouse	Oregon grape berries (<u>Mahonia repens</u>)	Spruce Crk, RMNP	1August GD
Black-bellied Plover	Small unidentified fish	Blue Lake, Bent Co	19Sept KS
Lesser Golden-plover	Small unidentified fish	Blue Lake	19Sept KS
	The two shorebird species were catching fish lengthwise in shallow water amid 6-10 inch "reed" stems. The fish were eaten headfirst.		

Long-tailed Jaeger (i) Unidentified fly, etc. Union Res 20 October

As might be expected, this very interesting bird was observed in acts of piracy, although somewhat more forcefully than accounts of this species describe as typical. Its usual victims were ring-billed gulls and the food items sought (and occasionally obtained) were presumably fish or fish parts. Besides thievery, the young jaeger was observed on the cool morning of the indicated date "exploring" the shore. During this episode, the jaeger pursued, caught and ate a poorly-flying fly as the insect skittered along the mud. It also leisurely picked apart the side of a styrofoam bait cup (it apparently did not ingest any of this material), pecked at a small plastic medicine bottle and tugged at a large, white garbage bag. According to Terres, long-tailed jaegers feed on a broad variety of food items, including insects, carrion and berries. Thus, these latter activities were to be expected, perhaps just as much as piracy. (See, also, following account under ring-billed gull for 20 October).

Ring-billed Gull	(See account under common goldeneye for 11 November)		
Ring-billed Gull	Annelid worms in wet fields	s Lower Latham Res, Weld Co	28March

Ring-billed Gull	Crayfish claw	Sheldon Lake, Ft Collins	23November
Ring-billed Gull	Unidentified fish or fish parts	Union Res	20October

As a sidebar to the long-tailed jaeger feeding account, it appeared that between observations of the jaeger on 16 October and 20 October, ring-billed gulls had dramatically improved in their ability to take advantage of the jaeger's harassment of other gulls. More than once, the jaeger singled out a gull to pirate; chased the gull in low, swift flight from behind; swooped up under the fleeing gull; dislodged food from its victim and then lost the fallen item to another gull or two which followed behind the primary participants. This could be termed "hyperkleptoparasitism": the act of one animal stealing prey from another animal which had, in turn, stolen the prey from a third animal.

California Gull	Tortilla chip (slightly soggy)	Chatfield Res, JeffCo	1May KS
After offering the chip to another gull, which ate half, the offerer ate the rest. (Some sort of courtship ritual?)			

Herring Gull	(See account of common goldeneye for 11 November)		
--------------	---	--	--

Thayer's Gull (1st winter)	Dead fish (carp?)	Cherry Crk Res, Arapahoe Co	6Nov KS
Ring-billed gulls nearby made no attempt to share this carrion. (Observing an apparent pecking order?)			

Great Horned Owl	Norway rat (large)	GC	31August
This owl ate his prey at midday in the top of a large American elm.			

Northern Pygmy-owl	Stellar's jay	Rist Canyon, Larimer Co	9April
Northern Pygmy-owl	"Vole" sp., fed to fledglings	Slide Crk, 20 m ssw Hayden	July HEK

Calliope Hummingbird	White paintbrush nectar	Crooked Crk Pass, Eagle Co	20July JM
----------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------	-----------

Broad-t Hummingbird	White paintbrush nectar	Crooked Crk Pass	20July JM
---------------------	-------------------------	------------------	-----------

Belted Kingfisher No food item observed GC 20November
 The ditch which runs through the cemetery has a good compliment of minnows and often serves as a kingfisher haunt. However, on this day a male kingfisher perched in a blue spruce, a Douglas-fir and an American elm, all of which overhang the ditch. Perching in conifers has not been observed in hundreds of previous cemetery visits.

Belted Kingfisher Unidentified fish South Denver Metro 2May KS
 A male gave a 3 inch fish to a female, who flew off with the gift (to eat herself or feed to young?).

Red-headed Woodpecker Large black beetle Pueblo Co. 24August KS
 The beetle, probably a darkling beetle in the family Tenebrionidae, was taken into a phone pole hole.

Red-naped Sapsucker Aspen catkin insects (unidentified) Horseshoe Park, RMNP 21May

Sapsucker sp. or spp. Rocky Mountain juniper sap wells Hugo, Lincoln Co 17November
 Numerous wells in several trees growing within the Railroad Park were observed. The holes appeared to be at least one year old, but definitely indicate sapsuckers in winter or during migration visited this location. Very few documented sapsucker records exist for eastern Colorado. Based on this and other incidences of sap wells and sightings of unidentified sapsuckers at locations like Nunn, Crow Valley Campground and Walsh in southeastern Baca County, a small to moderate number of sapsuckers of undetermined species migrate through or winter in eastern CO, at least during some years. **The author welcomes reports of eastern sapsuckers and/or reports of which hosts show rows of sap wells indicative of sapsucker visitation.**

Downy Woodpecker Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?) GC 1-2 October
 Downy Woodpecker Willow aphids Dixon Res, Larimer Co 18October
 Downy Woodpecker Extracting willow twig midges Flatiron Site, Ft Collins 21November

Hairy Woodpecker Scots pine sap GC 28November
 From far out on the nearby golfcourse, a male hairy woodpecker flew directly into a Scots pine. This tree was being heavily used by a yellow-bellied sapsucker during this period and contained several recently worked sap wells. The hairy woodpecker appeared to know this prior to landing in the tree.

Three-toed Woodpecker	Mountain pine beetles	Estes Park	22July
Two woodpeckers were observed removing bark from ponderosa pines infested with this bark beetle (<i>Dendroctonus ponderosae</i>), just prior to the insect's anticipated emergence period (early August). The insects on this date were pupae, young ("callow") adults and mature, black adults.			
Northern Flicker	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	1-2 October
Northern Flicker	Concord grapes on the vine	Denver	9 Oct KS
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Bumblebee sp.	GC	16August
Most reported flycatcher diets consist largely of insects from the Order Hymenoptera (bees, wasps and ants). Perhaps we should really call them "beecatchers" or "waspcatchers".			
Western Kingbird	Redshank grasshopper	CVCG	18May
Horned Lark	Spilled wheat on road	NeeGrande Res, Kiowa Co	29July JT
Gray Jay	Unident, lg. green caterpillars in aspen	Camp Hale, s of Redcliff, Eagle Co	12SeptJM
Blue Jay	Ripening apples	CSU	26August
Blue Jay	Bur oak acorn	Ft Collins	8September
Scrub Jay	Gambel oak acorns	Roxborough St Pk, Jeff Co	30August
Scrub Jay	Ornamental sunflower seeds	Ft Collins	10 October

a adult
 Co. County
 CSU Campus of Colorado State University, Larimer Co., Fort Collins
 CVCG Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee Grasslands, Weld Co., near Briggsdale
 f female
 GC Grandview Cemetery, west end of Mountain Avenue, Fort Collins
 i immature
 NCELC Northern Colorado Environmental Learning Center, east side of Fort Collins
 m male or mile(s), whichever fits the context of its use
 n,e,s,w north, east, south, west
 Res Reservoir
 RMNP Rocky Mountain National Park, Larimer and Jackson Co's

JB	John Barber	JM	Jack Merchant
LB	Luise Bennett	DN	Duane Nelson
BC	Bernard Cipolletti	RAR	Dr. Ronald A. Ryder
GD	Gerald Dunphy	JS	James A. Sedgwick
DE	Dave Ely	KS	Karleen Schofield
PF	Pete Frost	MES	Mike Schomaker
HEK	Hugh E. Kingery	RS	Ray Sperger
ML	Margaret Long	JT	Janeal Thompson
JMam	Joseph Mammoser		



INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS OF THE C.F.O. JOURNAL

The *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. Articles are informal and are not restricted to any particular style, but authors are asked to consult recent issues for the general format. Photos and drawings reproduce best if black and white, showing good contrast. Other material will be used if it can be printed in black and white. Please send negatives or slides, as well as prints, to save on costs of printing: both will be returned.

Contributors who use a computer are encouraged to send a hard copy of articles, as well as a disk. The editor would prefer computer-generated articles that use Microsoft Word for Macintosh or Word Perfect for IBM. Please attach a note to each disk, indicating the software used. After the article is published, the disk will be returned. Please double-space all typed or computer-printed material. Authors may receive one extra copy of the *Journal*. Additional copies are \$3.00 each. Authors who anticipate needing additional copies of their articles should contact the editor prior to printing.

Send manuscripts, photographs, drawings and questions to David Leatherman, 2048 Whiterock Court, Fort Collins, CO 80526 [phone: (303) 484-5445]. Deadlines are December 1, March 1, June 1 and September 1, for issues dated January, April, June and October, respectively. More instructions available on request.

HOW TO SUBMIT RECORDS TO THE C.F.O. OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

Standard reporting forms are available in the "Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong Study", from the *C.F.O. Journal* Editor, or an *American Birds* Mountain West form is available from Hugh Kingery. Forms are preferred, as completion of all sections ensures most pertinent information is included.

If photographs are submitted, please send two copies, as the records are duplicated before being sent to committee members.

Send records of rare birds to the C.F.O. Official Records Committee, c/o Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver, CO 80205.

