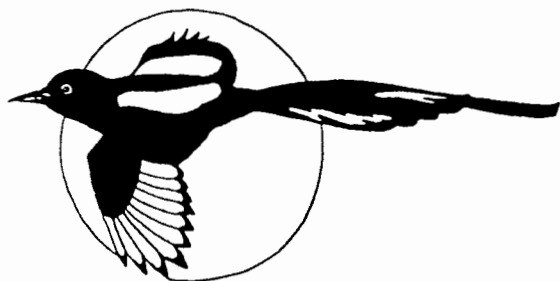

C.F.O. Journal

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly





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HAROLD R. HOLT: A BIRDER'S GUIDE

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Denver, CO 80214	Winter Park, CO 80482	Denver, CO 80224

Birders visiting a new area often experience both the thrill of discovery and the disappointment of missing the best local birds. This is especially true if the visitor has only a short time to explore the new location. Even in one's own town, it may take several years for a new resident or a new birder to discover the best spots for birding.

For the past forty years or so, birdwatchers have had the assistance of bird finding guides, which pinpoint the exact locations to find the most birds. Among the best known bird finding guides are the Lane Guide Series, begun in 1965 by the late Dr. James A. Lane.

Harold R. Holt of Denver has authored or co-authored the Lane Guides for the past twenty-two years. This article describes how Harold became increasingly involved in this important series. It also recounts his life-long interest in birds and some of his many contributions to the study and enjoyment of birds through service in bird clubs, photography, and record keeping.

Harold first met Jim Lane in 1972. Harold led an overnight field trip for Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO) toward Colorado Springs (and located a Flammulated Owl near Florrisant). Jim was on the field trip, having received Harold's name from Patty Echelmeyer. Jim gave Harold a copy of *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Southeastern Arizona*, which Jim had published in 1965 when he was living in Carr Canyon. Jim wanted to write a Colorado guide to be used at the National Audubon Society Convention in Denver in 1973. He asked if Harold would help, knowing that Harold had a lot of data about birds in Colorado.

They rushed to write the book, and in 1973, with the help of many of Colorado's leading birdwatchers, completed *A Birder's Guide to Eastern Colorado*. Thus began a long and very productive association between Harold and Jim. Harold said, "One of the best things that ever happened to me was meeting Jim Lane." According to Harold, more than 100,000 copies of the Colorado guide and its revisions and later editions have been sold.

A year or so later, Jim asked if Harold would take over the distribution and sale of all of the guides, which at the time was handled by Jim's sister. Harold agreed, and he and his wife LaVona (Vona) did this until 1990, when rights to the guides were sold to American Birding Association (ABA). This involved filling book orders, both retail and wholesale, for a worldwide market. Eventually, according to Harold, more than 1,000,000 guides were sold. The price was kept low enough that anyone could buy one.

In 1968, Jim had published his second guide, *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Southern California*. This was followed by guides to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas (1971), the Texas Coast (1973), and Florida (1981), written by Jim, and North Dakota and Churchill, Manitoba guides written by others.

Jim became like a son to Harold and a brother to Vona. Jim moved to Denver for several years, and was active in DFO and in Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO). In 1982 he asked if Harold would help him make revisions to the various guides, which needed periodic updating. Harold had retired in 1980, after forty-three years as a bus driver. He now had the time to do the field work and writing, and so he agreed. They co-authored revisions for several years. In 1985 Jim called Harold, saying that his health wasn't good and asked Harold if he was willing to take over the entire business, which he did.

At the ABA convention in Tucson in June 1986, Jim received ABA's Griscom Award for his Lane Guides. This is discussed in a recent issue of *Birding*, vol. 26, no. 1, Feb. 1994, p. 47, which has a picture of Jim and Harold, and states that Harold presented the award to Jim. Jim died shortly after this in March 1987.

Harold spent several months each year out of state doing the field work needed for revisions. What had once been wetlands and was now condos? What new roads had been constructed? Harold also received information from a large network of birders in the areas covered by the guides. In Arizona he stayed at the Santa Rita Lodge in Madera Canyon and showed the resident Elf Owls to the guests.

Harold, with the help of other Colorado birders, revised the Colorado guide in 1987 to cover the entire state as *A Birder's Guide to Colorado*. A new Colorado edition is now being prepared under the direction of Cindy Lippincott of ABA, and is scheduled to be released in March 1995. (ABA hopes to revise two guides each year.) Harold has been doing field work around Trinidad, Walsenburg, and the San Luis Valley to add more information about those areas. New areas will be included, such as Roxborough Park and the Hogback Hawkwatch near Golden. Many local birders are helping. The new Colorado guide will change the order in which locations are presented, and will be in the new ABA format with spiral binding and a photograph of Harold.

Harold had some fifty years of bird study experience before he became involved in the Lane Guides. He became interested in birds at an early age, at least by the age of five. He was born March 11, 1915, in the small northwestern Ohio town of Sylvania, where there were woods, a little creek and open fields. His first recollection of birds was in the fall, out among big trees on dirt roads, where flocks of grackles would gather. His brothers had shotguns and would blast down the grackles from their roosts in maples. Harold picked up the grackles and placed them in piles, admiring their bright fall plumage.

He spent his time out of doors. For Christmas, his brothers gave him books about birds. He recalls receiving little guides by Reed, in which he checked off the land or water birds he saw. He also collected baking soda

cards with bird pictures. He had no binoculars. In school he was called "the Bird Boy."

Harold did very well in school. Students with an average of 90 or more in a course were not required to take the final examination. He never took a final exam! The other students called him "Professor," and he helped them with their studies. He took zoology and biology his sophomore year in high school, and still has his flower and tree leaf collections. He liked geometry and chemistry. (His high school class held its 60th reunion last year, and 26 of the 52 graduates were there.)

Harold graduated from high school in 1933, during the middle of the Depression. He wanted to continue his education, but there was no money for that. Since he didn't want to be cooped up working in an office, he took a job driving a delivery truck for three years. Then he began driving buses for Greyhound, based in Toledo.

As an adult, he lived one block from Lake Erie. He was active in Toledo Naturalists Association, helping with Christmas and spring counts. At the suggestion of the nature writer for a Toledo newspaper, he began keeping detailed records of the birds he saw and the dates. Harold provided migration dates and other information for *Birds of Lucas County*, by L. W. Campbell (Toledo, 1940). He worked with Harold Mayfield on protection of Kirtland's Warblers. Birding was well-developed in Ohio; birding in the East had a big headstart over the West.

There weren't many bird books available in the 20's and 30's. The first field guide by Roger Tory Peterson (1934) greatly helped, with its identification marks and plates. Harold's life list was under 200 species when he joined the Toledo club. He purchased his first binoculars and telescope in the early 1950's, and his life list took off.

Harold moved from Ohio to Denver in August, 1959. He made a long, looping drive around the West and picked Denver as his new home, because birds from the East and from the West met at the foothills.

The Denver Museum of Natural History put him in touch with Don Thatcher, who compiled Colorado Bird Notes five or six times a year. There was no Colorado checklist, so Harold wrote one in 1960, a distributional checklist of Colorado birds, which was published in Bird Notes. In 1961, Don published the first of a series of reports by Harold on migration arrival and departure dates, which inspired birdwatchers to try to find the first or last bird of the season. Harold kept detailed seasonal records, incorporating into them information from club records and from Bailey and Niedrach of the Museum. Harold suggested that the club, then known as Colorado Bird Club, hold field trips each week, and he led many of them. At his urging, the trip reports were published by Thatcher in the Bird Notes.

Harold became President of Colorado Bird Club in September 1962. In 1964 the name of the club was changed to Denver Field Ornithologists. He revised his 1961 migration data report in 1967 and again in 1969. In 1965, he wrote his first migration calendar, with a line down the center; to the left

was the average arrival date, to the right was the average departure date.

Several birders, including Thompson Marsh, Lois Webster and Lynn Willcockson, began urging that a state bird club be formed. Harold Holt, then president of Colorado Bird Club, appointed Lois as chairman of a committee to organize a convention (Camille Cummings, "The History of the C. F. O.", *C. F. O. Journal*, vol. 14, no. 3, p. 58, 1980). A convention of the "Colorado-Wyoming Field Ornithologists" was held in Denver, May 25-26, 1963, with field trips, a banquet at the Wellshire Inn and a picnic at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. The second meeting was in Fort Collins. The third meeting was in Colorado Springs, May 15-16, 1965, when the group was formally organized. Everyone present signed up as charter members.

A new monthly publication was begun by DFO in September, 1965, to publish birds seen on field trips, called *Monthly Report of Field Observations*. In 1971 DFO members voted to change its name to *The Lark Bunting* (Harold's choice was *The Magpie*). Harold was editor of *The Lark Bunting* from October 1967 through December 1972.

On a prairie field trip led by Hugh Kingery in the spring of 1968, Harold met Jack Reddall, who had been in Denver for three years,. Harold and Jack became inseparable friends and went out on weekends all over the state. Harold showed Jack 13-14 life birds. They are still very close, although Jack began to spend more time with his children, and Harold with his wife, Vona, whom he married on Valentine's Day, 1970.

During these years in Denver, Harold drove a city bus until he retired April 24, 1980. For the first eight years he also drove chartered buses on weekends on scenic routes, acting as tour guide and talking into a microphone about wildlife. When he drove city buses, he would look for birds for a few minutes during layovers at the end of the line. The other drivers called him "The Birdman of Tramway."

Harold compiled detailed records of Colorado migration dates for twenty-eight years. No one has done this for the past seven years. (Harold would be delighted if someone else would take over this project.) These are in three big notebooks, and include information from books, newsletters of bird clubs all over the state, and Harold's own records.

Bird photography became one of Harold's great interests. Shortly after moving to Denver, he asked Dr. Bailey whether he should work with movie or still cameras. Dr. Bailey replied, "Harold, you can't beat the clarity of still." A new type of camera, the "focus through the lens camera," was just coming out. He bought an Exakta, which he used for four or five years with a big 400 mm lens that was the equivalent to eight powers. He often used a 2x doubler, so he then had a magnification of sixteen. This allowed him to take good photographs from as much as 25-30 feet away without disturbing the birds. He now uses a 100-300 mm zoom with a 2x doubler, taking the doubler off if there is not enough light. He now uses Kodachrome 200, but sets the camera at ASA 300, so it won't be overexposed. For hand-held shots he uses 1/250 second or faster so the picture isn't blurred.

Harold has photographed on slides over 550 species, nearly 400 for Colorado. Harold has presented a slide program for DFO nearly every year since 1961. At the American Ornithologists Union (AOU) convention in Fort Collins in 1980, Harold put on a slide show of Colorado birds. He has about 65 trays, some 7,000 slides, separated by states such as Arizona, Colorado, Florida and Texas. Colorado birds are further separated by resident, spring migrant, fall migrant, winter, and nesting. Harold commented, "I've had so much enjoyment in photography."

His favorite birding spot is the Pawnee National Grasslands. Here he has spent much time, living in a van which doubles as a blind. He camped all over the area and enjoyed the wide open countryside. Another favorite birding route is the highway from Bergen Park to Echo Lake. He also spent a lot of time at Red Rocks, as he lived in Morrison for a number of years. He showed Roger Tory Peterson his first Virginia's Warbler nest, at Red Rocks, when Peterson was in Denver for the National Audubon Convention in 1973.

Harold never considered moving away from Colorado. In his opinion, the birding hot spots further south, featured in the Birder's Guides, are too hot in the summer. He did travel widely, including three trips to Mexico. At Cape May, New Jersey he saw flocks of little songbirds such as warblers, land on the water with their wings out, rest for five seconds and then fly on. They can't do that on the Gulf, as the water there is too rough.

Harold has kept a life list, now at 687 for North America and close to 400 for Colorado. He is not a compulsive tinker, however, and was too busy, and found it too expensive, to run off to add one more bird when it was reported. "I love to add to my life list, but I won't go out of my way to do it." For example, he declined to drive 100 miles out of his way to see a Little Curlew in California. He did go to Gunnison to see the Red-backed Hawk (i.e. the "buzzard" which has been coming back for seven years and has bred with a Swainson's Hawk), and he did go to Evergreen last winter to see the Baikal Teal. A bird he would like to add to his Colorado list is the Snowy Owl, but he won't drive far to see one.

Harold is still actively involved in CFO and other birding groups. He believes that the content of CFO conventions, with papers, field trips, and social events, is good. However, he would like to see better planning, so that everyone knows where to go and when, and to avoid conflicts with other events. He couldn't attend the CFO convention in Durango in 1991 because it conflicted with an ABA meeting in Monterey. He attended the convention in Northglenn in 1992 and the convention last year in Craig. He plans to attend the CFO convention in Trinidad in June 1994, but then must leave immediately for the ABA meeting in Minot, North Dakota. He believes that the C. F. O. Journal has "been getting better and better".

He laments the decline in the numbers of birds, in his opinion a decline of approximately 35% during the past 35 years. As Vona put it, because of the fewer birds, "bird watching is now becoming bird hunting." One doesn't just go hiking and see birds along the way, but has to go to suitable habitats

and search for them. There have been other changes in birding: more competition among birders for lists, more scientific studies, more record-keeping. But birding is still mostly done in the same old way--going out into the hills with binoculars and field guide. Now, of course, one also takes along a bird-finding guide.

We asked Harold what he would do differently if he could live his life over. His immediate response was "I would do the same things I did." Harold has had a long and very fruitful career as a student and fan of birds. Jim Lane made a wise choice when he picked Harold Holt to be the co-author and, eventually, the successor for the Lane Guides.



HAROLD R. HOLT

CFO MISSION STATEMENT

Dave Silverman, President

CFO's Board of Directors has made recent efforts to operate in a more organized and businesslike manner. We have up-dated and tried to act more in conformity with CFO bylaws; we are trying to do things in a timely manner, and publish a journal of high quality. The Board also feels there is a need to define CFO's goals more clearly, and asked me to write a mission statement.

Such statements might imply a crusade. I'll try to limit this one since our purpose is somewhat different. The Board only wished to provide better guidance to promote CFO's future and birding's future in Colorado. We realize that goals are subject to evolution and change, like the birds we study and enjoy.

CFO's main objective is to provide a well-documented, published record of bird distribution in Colorado--its past and current trends. We publish a state checklist and a good *Journal*. We have many expert birders, and a growing number of people submitting written reports to our Records Committee. Ability and enthusiasm are not lacking. But we need to do a better job of records management, such as those on file at the Denver Museum and with the Records Committee. It, plus other dedicated volunteers, have spent much time improving the system. Persons managing our records should not only be good birders; their will and ability to manage records may even be more important.

Conservation issues may become a growing concern of CFO and other groups. CFO aims to respect all persons, their property rights, the welfare of birds, and their environment. We encourage our members to be in the field and publish their finding in the *Journal*, to explore, to prove things, to criticize, and to exchange ideas. But no point is worth proving if it damages another person's reputation, their property, or wildlife habitat. Disagreements and criticism can be constructive and healthy for CFO. But they must be confined to issues and not become personal. So ends the crusading portion of the mission statement.

Last and not least, CFO members should have a good time. Let's make membership in CFO fun, as well as informative. People serving CFO and attending our field trips, conventions, and all our activities, should come away with positive feelings. One Board member will propose annual service awards--a good idea.

CFO does have important missions. All of us stand to lose without our organization, which seeks to represent the entire state. How can you contribute to CFO and motivate others to join us?



**HELP WANTED IN DEVELOPING
CANON CITY RIVERWALK CHECKLIST**

**Rockin' W Ranch
Jim and Rosie Watts
518 A Street
Penrose, CO 81240**

The Canon City Recreation & Park District is preparing to publish a checklist for the Canon City Riverwalk. Data collection has been ongoing for over five years, and compilation is being done by Sylvia Wheelock and Jim and Rosie Watts.

We would like to have a list of animals included as well.

Anyone having information on birds, mammals, reptiles or amphibians at the Riverwalk is encouraged to contact Jim & Rosie Watts or call (719) 372-6679 before June 30, 1994.

Publication is expected by September 1, 1994 and a free copy can be obtained by contacting the Canon City Recreation & Park District, 503 Main, Canon City, CO 81212, (719) 275-1578.



**ANNOUNCEMENT FROM
THE COLORADO BIRD OBSERVATORY**

The Colorado Bird Observatory seeks breeding bird lists for small birding hotspots in Colorado. The information will be used to identify areas that contain large numbers of species with high management concern scores, as determined by the *Partners in Flight* species/habitat prioritization project. The observatory will then request funding for acquisition of exceptional hotspots through Habitat Conservation Grants from Colorado Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) programs. Each grant will consist of a small portion of the available \$150,000 set aside for land acquisition.

Funding is limited, so please restrict lists to small areas or areas that will provide buffer zones for adjacent protected lands. Remember, these species lists are intended to guide us toward acquisition of land, so exclude areas that are already protected.

If you are interested in protecting a favorite birding hotspot, please send a brief description of the area and its location along with a list of breeding species to:

**Jim Bradley
Colorado Bird Observatory
13401 Piccadilly Road
Brighton, CO 80601**



BREEDING BIRD ATLAS UPDATE

Summer 1994--it's your last chance to work on the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas. Contact a Regional Coordinator or me and sign up for a block near or far.

Even though we have come close to the end, we still have blocks available--even a couple close to Denver, like Gray's Peak. Most of those available are farther from the Front Range--lots along the east, south, and west borders of the state.

You can explore new territory for different birds--Sage Sparrows and Thrashers, Roadrunners, Grace's Warblers, and other intriguing birds. Atlasing offers a different kind of bird watching, and opens your eyes to behavior you may not have noticed before.

We will investigate some blocks around Trinidad during the C.F.O. convention in June. The maps look enticing.

The Atlas Rendezvous schedule will appear in the next Atlas newsletter--drop me a note if you would like to receive that announcement.

Every time you confirm a bird it's like adding a species to your life list: "Wow--that kinglet has food in its bill!" or, "Hey--that dusky flycatcher acts as if it's close to its nest." Urling and I found two Dusky nests last summer--one in a rose bush near Buena Vista and another in some bush in an aspen grove south of Pagosa Springs.

Owling--an off-and-on satisfying experience--produced interesting results for me last spring and summer: 5 Eastern Screech Owls, 3 Flammulateds, 2 Great Horneds, 1 Barn Owl, 1 Common Nighthawk, 2 Wild Turkeys, and 1 porcupine. We did not match last year's thrill of the juvenile Boreal mobbed by chickadees.

In 1993, Atlas field workers turned in more cards on more blocks than in any other year of the project: we received cards on 525 blocks (more or less--some procrastinating field workers turn in cards each week, it seems). We have now worked in 1422 blocks and completed 961 of them, according to our annual report. We will mark some others complete as we review the records and determine where to concentrate our work in 1994.

The database has 52,653 individual bird records (not counting those in the observed category). We have a lot of information; at the end of this year we will have a satisfying result to which C.F.O. and its members have made a major contribution.



NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT

Brandon Percival
835 Harmony Dr.
Pueblo West, CO 81007-2604
(719) 547-3722

The NAMC will be held on May 14, 1994. So far a total of 11 Colorado counties will be counted. If your county is not one of them and you want to be the county coordinator please let me know. The county coordinator will compile the list of all the groups birding in that county that day and send me the form-back filled out, which I will send to all the county coordinators. If your county has a coordinator, please call or write to them. If you are planning to bird on May 14, and want to help this project, let the county coordinator or me know. The current county coordinators are as follows:

Alamosa County: John Rawinski 719-852-3830
Baca: Janeal Thompson 719-324-5473
Eagle: Linda Vidal 303-925-7134
Fremont: Rosie Watts 719-372-6679
Garfield: Jack Merchant 303-328-6349
Montrose: Ron Meyer 411 N. Pine St., Gunnison, CO 81230
Morgan: Joe Rigli 303-432-5200
Pueblo: Van Truan 719-543-4744
Rio Grande: John Rawinski 719-852-3830
Weld: Jo Ann Kozan 303-356-2698
Yuma: Will be counted by the DMNH field trip



CORRECTION

In Ruth Kuenning's interesting article "Observations On Blue Jay Cooperative Breeding, May Through July 1993" in the *C.F.O. Journal*, Volume 28(1), pages 29-33, editing of the author's original manuscript mistakenly implied that Alexander Skutch's book *Helpers at Bird's Nests* is mostly about brown and scrub jays. This book contains information about many bird families worldwide. Most of the material provided for jays pertains to these two species.

Also within this article, the first two sentences of the May 14 account should read: "The white cup piece was still the most conspicuous nest part. But this day the builders began to peck and nibble at it until it gradually disappeared." The Editor regrets and accepts responsibility for these errors.



**C.F.O..... FIELD TRIP TO EMPORIA, KANSAS
DECEMBER 4, 1993**

**Scott Seltman
RR1 Box 36
Nekoma, KS 67559**

Trip co-leader Linda Vidal's prediction of a "million" longspurs, as advertised in the *C.F.O. Journal*, turned out to be a rather spectacular exaggeration. Only a few hundred longspurs representing but two species were encountered on our early December trip to central Kansas. But the underlying purpose of the field trip, the familiarization of a few Colorado birders with Smith's Longspurs, was definitely achieved.

Thirteen intrepid observers, eight Coloradans and five Kansans, began our field trip at Lyon County State Lake just northeast of Emporia, Kansas on Saturday morning, 4 December '93. Smith's Longspurs were heard and seen within seconds of our arrival, but we spent the next two hours walking the hayfields south of the lake trying for better looks at this elusive species. Lapland Longspurs were also present in the same habitat, so all observers had an excellent opportunity to study the subtle differences in calls, behavior and plumage between the two species. We learned that flushed Laplands rise from the ground in fairly direct flight while Smith's bounce from side to side in a more erratic fashion. Also, the Lapland flight rattle sounds as if coming from inside a wooden box, while the Smith's rattle sounds more like a Lapland trapped in a tin can. The call notes can be very similar. Laplands most often give the single "tew" call, while Smith's frequently give a two-part "tee-ew" call. Twelve Greater Prairie Chickens were also seen by everyone. Smith's Longspur was a life bird for about half the group and we celebrated our success at an Emporia restaurant.

The balance of the day was spent driving west, with stops at Marion Reservoir, the Lyons City Cemetery and Quivira NWR. Birds of note included: Greater White-fronted Goose (3000), Ross' Goose(3), Sandhill Crane (3000), Bonaparte's Gull (150), Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Northern Cardinal, Swamp Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow and Great-tailed Grackle (200). Birding had to be canceled on Sunday because of a strong north wind blowing at 30-50 MPH.

Observers: Don Beltz, Mark Corder, Bob Dickson, Bob and Judy Miller, Diana Mullineauz, Mike Rader, Scott Seltman (leader), Tom Shane, Jean Schulenberg, David Silverman, Linda Vidal (leader), Amy Young.

Lyon County State Lake northeast of Emporia is recognized by Kansas birders as the easiest and most reliable place to encounter Smith's Longspurs in Kansas. The best times to visit are during November, February and March. (See "Points To Ponder" later in this issue-Ed)



PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

The Editor is always looking for special Colorado bird photographs for use in the *C.F.O. Journal*. Of particular interest are great shots of common species and identifiable shots of uncommon species. It would be best if photographs of rare species were taken within a year or two of the date submitted, but this is not absolute. At a minimum, be sure to include the bird species, place, date and name of photographer for each photograph. It would be preferable if this information were written on the back of the photo or coded somehow, so as to be easily connected with the appropriate photo. Entomologists are fond of saying, "a specimen without a data label is all but worthless." The same generally applies to a photograph.

Now, you say you photographed a Bachman's Warbler at the "Tree Bridge" last December? Prove it.



Scarlet Tanager (winter male)
Backyard of 240 Abbey Place
Boulder, CO 18 February '94
By David Ely

**RAPTOR IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP AND FIELD TRIP
JANUARY 20, 22, 1994**

**Kim M. Potter
440 East 7th Street
Rifle, CO 81650**

Thursday evening, 24 people attended the workshop presented by Dr. Charles Preston at the Museum of Natural History, Zoology Dept., Denver, Colorado. The common field marks of diurnal raptors were reviewed and with the aid of slides and museum raptor skin specimens, we explored individual unusual plumages, color morphologies, sub-adult plumages, and sex and age-related differences occurring within like species. Red-tailed hawk subspecies were also covered.

Dr. Charles Preston is the Curator of Ornithology at the Denver Museum of Natural History. He is often involved with raptor studies at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Slides from these studies depicted inventive leather-thong-wrapped, step-in traps devised for large raptor capture. These specially made, baited, and closely monitored traps allow collection of large raptors without injury. Once the raptor is in hand, it can be photographed, banded, have its blood drawn for toxin testing, or be fitted with a transmitter for range studies using radio telemetry, depending on the study being conducted.

The slides from these raptor projects and slides taken during Dr. Preston's extensive work with red-tailed hawks were very helpful. The slides were close-up and detailed.

A considerable number of raptor specimens were available for hands-on study. This aided tremendously in sex and size comparisons. All of Colorado's common diurnal raptors were displayed, both sexes usually represented, as well as individuals showing size or plumage variations.

The vast assortment of close and detailed slides, access to museum skins, and the knowledge and good humor of Dr. Preston, provided a quality and quantity of information rarely available in this area of science.

The field trip on Saturday, January 22, was to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, a future National Wildlife Refuge site. The Arsenal is 27 square miles of open grasslands, wetlands, rolling hills, and lakes, located on the outskirts of urban Denver. It was used in the mid-1900's for the manufacture of chemical munitions.

Sixteen people attended the field trip, beginning with an early stop at the Eagle Watch Area. The Eagle Watch Area is an observation point which overlooks a winter communal bald eagle roost in a stand of mature cottonwood trees. This area of the arsenal is free of cost and open to the public between the months of December and March.

On this particular day, we observed 15 bald eagles, adults as well as immatures in many stages of sub-adult plumage. Coyotes, mule deer, prairie dogs, and three kinds of hawks were located. It is impossible not to have one's emotions stirred at the early morning sight of these bald eagles roosting, while the sun begins to touch the snow-covered Front Range mountains in the distance. I would strongly encourage a visit at least once a year to this site.

On route to the west gate entrance to the Arsenal, the group observed a pair of prairie falcons fly over the vehicles. A Merlin perched on a telephone pole just ahead, affording good views to all.

Once on the Arsenal, the wildlife was abundant and concentrated. There were many satisfying views, at close range, providing many opportunities to practice field identification skills. It was easy to observe species preference for specific habitat. Many behaviors unique to a species were easy to identify, compare and contrast in this setting.

At the Arsenal, our list consisted of rough-legged hawks, red-tailed hawks, ferruginous hawks, a dark morph rough-legged hawk, golden eagles, bald eagles, northern harrier, American kestrels and other non-raptors. White-tailed deer and mule deer were everywhere and many older, large-racked bucks impressed us all.

Thank you to Dr. Preston for a very educational and enjoyable workshop and field trip.



MISCELLANEOUS (long word for editor's filler)

- * Have you been to the Dakota Hogback Hawkwatch yet?
- * 1994 is our last chance to help with the Breeding Bird Atlas (until the next one, a decade or more from now).
- * Think about introducing a young person to birding this spring or summer.
- * When was the last time you discovered a new, untrampled spot to bird and decided to keep track of its bird life? Maybe "your" area could be brought to the attention of CO Bird Observatory and protected.
- * What do Virginia's Warblers feed their young?
- * If and when the red crossbill gets split into several species, which one do you think the large-billed individual pictured on page 91 is?
- * Why are you more likely to see a Cardinal at a Rockies game than an Oriole or a Blue Jay?
- * Where do you think the Riverside Reservoir Snowy Owl is at this moment?
- * Please consider relieving Coen Dexter as compiler of the "News From The Field" column. Coen has done a great job. You could do a great job.



TENBRINK FINDS LAUGHING GULL AT CHERRY CREEK RESERVOIR

Joe TenBrink
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On Monday, December 13, 1993, my sharp eye caught a small, dark gull flying among the many Ring-billeds at Cherry Creek Reservoir. Due to my vast knowledge of the *Larus* family, I immediately identified the bird to be a 1st winter Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*), a species very rarely found inland from the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Its wide, black terminal tail band, distinctive black bill, and dark wings with extensive black primaries, readily led me to a correct identification. Appropriately in this instance, the Laughing Gull's Latin name refers to the black-tailed immature only; not the white-tailed mature.

When I returned home at 3PM, I called a few other consummate birders whom I knew would be interested. One drove all the way from west of Denver through rush-hour traffic and got a good, close view of the gull in the waning light. It should come as no surprise that this birder's name is Joe Roller.

Duane Nelson had it on the Rare Bird Report, and for the next three days many birders added the gull to their Colorado list. I was there each morning to point out the bird, and bask in the well-deserved praise and gratitude heaped upon me.

References: Every book ever written about the Gull Species.



Laughing Gull (first-winter)
Cherry Creek Reservoir
Arapahoe County, CO
15 December '93
By Joe TenBrink

**Jonathan Laughingston Seagull
(The Real Story)**

If ever a bird enjoyed his powers of flight, it was young Jonathan. He'd already proved he was a terrific flyer - having broken altitude records.

Now, in mid-December, his adventurous spirit had led him inland from his boyhood home on the Gulf Coast. Erratic rivers of wind had carried him hundreds of miles and he was hungry, so he looked for a likely place to land. His keen eyes spotted the many gulls at Cherry Creek Reservoir near Denver, and he descended to feed and rest.

The next day (Monday), Jonathan was reconnoitering near the concrete tower at the dam's outlet when he noticed the tall human (*Homo sapiens*) looking through a telescope. He had seen these creatures before - singly and in groups.

"Probably a sub-species," he thought, "evolved to harass avifauna."

Jonathan, being a Laughing Gull, saw that he was the only one of his kind present, so this human with the bird club stickers in the window of his car should be interested in him. He flew back and forth near the dam, but the human had his eye glued to his telescope. Then Jonathan flew along the shore, within 50 yards of him - several times - still getting no response.

"What do I have to do," he thought, "to get this joker's attention?"

On his next pass, he did an aerial flip, dove into the water with a splash, and then hovered directly in front of the myopic human. Only then did the human notice him and bring up his binoculars (weird eye-extensions diagnostic to this sub-species).

"At last!" thought Jonathan.

He flew about the area giving the human quite a show, and then settled on the water. At this, the human rushed to his telescope, trained it on Jonathan for a few minutes, then scurried off in his car.

For the next three days, many humans came to see him - as far away as Greeley and Longmont. Jonathan regaled them with his flying skills, occasionally alighting on the beach, allowing everyone excellent views.

The tall human was there each day proudly pointing to HIS discovery.

Friday dawned with the promise of a storm coming, so Jonathan took to the sky. Older Laughing Gulls had told him of spending the winter at a lovely place on the Pacific Ocean called Baja California.

"That's where I'll go!" said Jonathan, setting his course to the southwest.

And off he soared. Laughing all the way (?)



NEWS FROM THE FIELD. SEASONAL REPORT FALL 1993
(August, September, October, November) Coen Dexter
175 Sunset Circle
Palisade, Colorado 81526

If the length of this report is any indication of last fall's birding, it must have been one of the better ones. Many rarities were found everywhere in the state. The Pueblo area had a great fall, as did the Boulder to Ft. Collins corridor. The Denver and Colorado Springs area may have been a little slower. The western Colorado valleys had their local hot spots.

The weather may have had minimal effect on the past fall migration. Most reporters told of mild or fairly normal fall weather, with the first cold snap occurring near the end of October and another towards the period end.

Listed below are a few of the problems a compiler runs into while doing a report. Has anyone ever thought about a standardized form that all seasonal reporters could use statewide?

- 1) Birders had different names for the same location. If the compiler is not familiar with both names it appears there are two different reports. I even had some trouble with the same birder using (or given) different sir names.
- 2) Different parties report the same bird and it is difficult to know if there is 2 different birds or a duplication in the reports. The hotline has made a good bird available for many to see, but it would be helpful to give credit to the original discoverer.
- 3) Most reports don't do enough with early and late dates of migratory species. I did not include much in this category because of the report's length and field reporter inconsistency.
- 4) Some reports use codes that don't correspond to their key. If your name was omitted or I gave your find to someone else, this could be the problem.

I would truly like to thank all of you who sent in seasonal reports to Hugh Kingery, as he is my primary source. Also *Colorado Birds* by Robert Andrews and Robert Righter is an invaluable tool in writing the seasonal report. I would recommend having one available when you have the rewarding opportunity to do a report.

Red-throated Loon - very rare fall and early winter migrant on eastern plains, accidental in western valleys. (1) reported at Pueblo on 10/17, by Brandon Percival and Lindsay Lilly. (1) reported on 10/28, on Pueblo Res. by Percival and Pearle Sandstrom-Smith.

Pacific Loon - rare to uncommon in fall. (1) adult winter plumage bird at Lake Beckwith in Pueblo County reported by Van Truan who found the bird on 10/11. (1-2) at Pueblo Res. from 10/16-29, reported by Mark Janos and others. (1) was at Pueblo on 11/28, reported by Bob Dickson and Dave Silverman. (1) at Union Res. on 10/3-24, reported by John Prather. An expired loon was found at Poudre Rearing Ponds on 11/30, reported by Ronald Ryder.

Common Loon - rare fall migrant in western valleys and mountain parks, uncommon on eastern plains. Only a few were reported this fall.

Horned Grebe - uncommon to fairly common fall migrant on eastern plains, rare in western valleys. (1) bird at Clifton on 10/10, reported by Rich Levad. Eastern plains had many reports.

Red-necked Grebe - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) at Pueblo Res. on 10/28, reported by Percival and Sandstrom-Smith. (1) at Union Res. reported by John Prather on 10/13 and again on 10/20-11/5, with a host of observers seeing the grebe. (1) was reported by David Leatherman on 11/20, at Hamilton Res.

American White Pelican - rare in western valleys. A record (38) pelicans were at Hart's Basin near Delta from 9/3-10/23, reported by Levad and Dexter. The DFO reports numbers to be at the lowest level recorded in 8 years in the greater Denver area.

American Bittern - rare to uncommon fall migrant on the eastern plains. (1) reported near Ordway on 9/4 by Arkansas Valley Audubon Society. (1) at Henry Lake was reported on 9/5, by Janos.

Great Egret - rare fall migrant on eastern plains, casual in western valleys. (1-2) reported from Hart's Basin near Delta from 10/8023, by Dexter and Levad. (1) near Rocky Ford 8/29-9/5, reported by Dickson and Silverman. (1) at Turk's Pond at Walsh reported by Karleen Schofield. A total of (13) was reported in the Loveland and Ft. Collins area, mostly in Aug. through Oct.

Little Blue Heron - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) immature white bird was with (6) Snowy Egrets at Lake Henry near Ordway on 9/5, reported by Janos. (1) at Turk's Pond at Walsh on 8/26 was reported by Schofield.

Cattle Egret - rare fall migrant in western valleys and San Luis Valley. (1) at Walter Waker SWA on 11/11, reported by Levad. (58) were reported in Weld County on 9/11-13, by John Barber, Mills, and the Lisowskys.

Green Heron - rare fall migrant on eastern plains, very rare in western valleys, accidental in mountains. (1) reported from Cortez on 11/14, by David Pantle. (2-3) were reported from Walter Walker SWA near Grand Jct. on 9/6-13 and on 11/2-21, (1) at Clifton reported by Dexter and many others. (2) were reported at Pueblo on 8/14, by Percival, (1) reported on 9/11, in Pueblo by Janos and (2) more in Pueblo on 9/18, by the DFO. (2) were at Chatfield on 8/15, reported by DFO.

Tundra Swan - rare fall migrant in western valleys, mountain parks, and on eastern plains. (2) adults and (3) imma. were near Highline SP on 11/2-15, reported by Dexter and Levad. The Loveland area reported (6) swans beginning 11/7, in several locations. Also swans were reported from the Ft. Collins area. All swans were found in Nov.

Greater White-fronted Goose - rare fall migrant on eastern plains, very rare in western valleys. (2) adults and (4) imma. (a family group as the adult geese would position themselves one in the lead and one following) at Sweitzer Res. near Delta reported by Levad and Dexter. (1) imma. was reported at Greeley on 11/10, reported by Leatherman, Tony Esposito and Virginia Dionigi. David Hawksworth found (4) near Berthoud on 11/18.

Snow Goose (Blue morph) - has only one record in western valleys. (1) was at Highline SP on 11/14, until report period end, by Levad and Dexter.

Ross' Goose - rare to uncommon fall migrant in western valleys, the San Luis Valley, and on the eastern plains. (3) at Highline SP on 11/10-19, reported by Levad and Dexter.

Brant - accidental fall migrant. (1) at Union Res. reported by the Prathers and Joe Harrison on 10/30-11/3.

American Black Duck - casual fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) bird at Pueblo on 9/12-11/26, reported by the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society.

Blue-winged Teal - (1) duck was an extreme late date from Silverthorne on 11/30, reported by Linda McMenamy and 11/24, of (12) ducks flying down the Roaring Fork River reported by Ruth Parkison.

Greater Scaup - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) male reported at Cheraw on 11/26, by Dave Johnson. (3) were reported at Pueblo on 11/28, by Silverman and Dickson. (2) were at Lake Estes on 11/30, reported by Warner Reeser. Leatherman found (1) female at Greeley on 11/10.

Oldsquaw - rare fall migrant on eastern plains and very rare in western valleys. (1) female reported at Rifle Gap Res. on 11/14, by Kim Potter. (1) at Lake Estes on 11/13, reported by Dave Bolton. Leatherman and Ryder (1) at Hamilton Res. on 11/20.

Black Scoter - very rare fall migrant on northeastern plains. (1) female bird at Pueblo Res. 10/17, reported by Percival and Lindsay Lilly. (2) were near Greeley on 11/7-18, reported by Joe Himmel and seen by mob.

Surf Scoter - rare fall migrant on eastern plains and western valleys. (1) reported at Clifton oxidation ponds on 10/16-18, by Levad and mob. (1) was at Colorado City on 11/5, reported by Silverman. (1) male was at Pueblo Res. on 11/25-26, reported by Janos. (1) was reported at Pueblo on 11/28, by Arkansas Valley Audubon Society. (1) was at Rocky Mt. Arsenal on 10/27, reported by Larry Malone. (1) sub-adult was at Union Res. reported on 10/20, by Bill Prather and Leatherman.

White-winged Scoter - casual fall migrant in mountains, rare on eastern plains. (3) reported on 11/10, at Pueblo by D. Johnson. (1) was at Union Res. on 10/20, reported by the Prathers.

Barrow's Goldeneye - rare fall migrant in western valleys, mountain parks and on eastern plains near foothills. (2) reported at Silverthorne sewage plant on 11/30 by McMenamy. (1-2) reported at Rifle Gap Res. on 11/11-25 by Potter. (1) was at Pueblo on 11/28, reported by Silverman and Dickson. (1) was reported near Hygiene on 11/30, by Barbara Hyde. (1) male was reported by Terry Lake near Longmont on 11/11. Bob Righter found a pair at Trappers Lake in Garfield on 9/25.

Hooded Merganser - rare fall migrant in western valleys, mountain parks and on the eastern plains, may be uncommon or even common very locally. Several were reported statewide including western valleys.

Red-breasted Merganser - rare to uncommon fall migrant in western valleys and on eastern plains. (1) reported at Sweitzer on 10/23, (1) at Grand Jct. on 11/26, (1) at Pueblo on 10/15, (1) at Colorado City on 11/27.

Turkey Vulture - extreme late date reported from Diamond Peak in Grand County on 11/23, by Norm Barrett of a single bird.

Northern Goshawk - rare to uncommon resident in foothills and mountains, rare fall migrant. There were a few reports from around the state.

Swainson Hawk - extreme late date was reported near Muddy Pass in Jackson County on 11/18, by Norm Barrett of a single bird. The Kingery's reported (746) in the Anton and Last Chance area on 9/22.

Krider's, subspecies of the Red-tailed Hawk - status uncertain, but probably rare in migration. (1) was reported near Lyons by Bolton and Mary Griest on 11/29.

Peregrine Falcon - rare fall migrant-population rebounding in Colorado. (4) birds, 4 dates from Mesa and Delta Counties. (1) record was from Colorado City on 8/21.

Whooping Crane - rare migrant in western valleys. (1) from the Gray's Lake population was in the Grand Valley near Fruita on 11/26, until the end of the period, reported by many birders.

Black-bellied Plover - rare to uncommon fall migrant on eastern plains, very rare in western valleys. Up to (5) reported from Hart's Basin 9/17-26, by Levad and Dexter. (2) were at Sugar City on 8/22, reported by Crafton and Silverman. (1) was at Cheraw on 9/5, reported by Silverman and Dickson. (3) were reported from Barr Lake on 8/28, by the DFO. (2) were at Union Res. on 10/18, reported by J. Prather.

American Golden Plover - rare fall migrant on eastern plains and very rare fall migrant in western valleys mostly in Delta County. (2) were reported at Adobe Creek Res. on 9/20 by Percival and Wheelock. (4) birds were found 9/12, at Blue Lake near Las Animas by the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society. (1) bird was found at Ordway on 9/25 by Janos, Brevillier, and Percival. (1) was reported on 9/23, at Blue Lake by Laura Townsen. (1-3) were at Hart's Basin on 9/16-10/10, reported by Levad, Dexter and others. (1) was at Union Res. on 10/20 reported by J. Prather. (1) was reported at Chatfield on 9/15, by Mills and Lisowsky.

Semipalmated Plover - uncommon fall migrant on eastern plains, very rare in western valleys. (4) birds were reported from western valleys, 9/6-26, at Hart's Basin and Vega SP.

Piping Plover - very rare fall migrant on the eastern plains. (3) juveniles at Blue Lake on 9/6, reported by Janos.

Mountain Plover - common to abundant local fall migrant on eastern plains. Janeal Thompson reported (100-200) plovers in the Two Buttes area 9/14-15.

Ruddy Turnstone - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) at Blue Lake outlet canal 9/5, found by Dickson and Silverman. (1) reported at Adobe Creek Res. on 9/20, by Percival and Wheelock. (1) at Las Animas on 9/23, reported by Van Truan. (1) was reported at Union Res. on 9/19, by Joe and Adam Mammoser and Leatherman.

Red Knot - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) at Cherry Creek 8/8, reported by Jack Reddall, Schofield, and Walter Hackney. (1) reported from Blue Lake 9/5, near Las Animas by Silverman. (1) at Cheraw on 9/23, reported by Van Truan.

Sanderling - rare to uncommon fall migrant on eastern plains, very rare in western valleys. (1) at Clifton on 9/6 reported by Dexter, (1) at Ridgway SP on 9/11, reported by Levad and (1) at Hart's Basin 9/16, reported by Dexter. (4) were reported at Cheraw on 8/24, by Dickson and Percival. (1) at Barr Lake on 10/11, reported by DFO. (10) were at Prewitt Res. and (5) at Jackson Res. reported by Leatherman on 9/4. (7) were reported at Union Res. on 9/19-20, by many observers. (1) was at Ft. Morgan on 9/25, reported by Joe Rigli.

Semipalmated Sandpiper - very rare migrant in western valleys. (1) at Hart's Basin on 8/20, and (1) at Walter Walker SWA on 8/26, both reported by Levad.

Pectoral Sandpiper - very rare fall migrant in western valleys. (6-32) were at Hart's Basin from 9/17-10/23, with the peak occurring on the 9/26, reported by Dexter and Levad. Other individual pectorals were near Highline SP and Vega SP. (2) were reported at Avery SWA west of Meeker on 9/22, by Potter.

Dunlin - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains and casual in western valleys. (1) at small farm pond near Highline from 11/4-23, reported by Wright and Dexter and (1) at Hart's Basin reported by Dexter on 11/5. (1) was at Union Res. on 10/21, reported by J. Prather. (1) was reported near Boulder on 11/28,j by mob.

Stilt Sandpiper - very rare fall migrant in western valleys, accidental in mountain parks. (2) at Hart's Basin on 9/6, reported by Dexter and (1) at Hart's Basin on 10/8-19, reported by Potter and others.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) reported from Blue Lake near Las Animas on 9/5, by Dickson and Silverman. (3) were reported at Blue Lake on 9/20, by Percival and Wheelock.

Short-billed Dowitcher - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains, accidental in mountain parks. (1) juvenile at Lake Cheraw on 8/28, reported by Janos. (1) imma. was reported by Drew Smith and others at Severance on 8/17-27.

Red-necked Phalarope - rare to uncommon in western valleys. (2) reported from Clifton oxidation ponds on 9/19-21. Scattered reports were received throughout the eastern plains.

Red Phalarope - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) found at Blue Lake on 9/19, by Johnson and Schofield.

Pomarine Jaeger - accidental fall migrant. A possible sighting occurred at Cherry Creek SP on 10/3, by Larry Malone.

Long-tailed Jaeger - accidental fall migrant. (1) at Blue Lake in Bent County on 9/12, first seen by Sandstrom-Smith and photographed by Clifton Smith. Others to see the bird were Clifton Smith (photos), Silverman, Dickson and David Smith. (1) was at Union Res. 10/13-10/29., first found by J. Prather. Many birders saw the jaeger and photographed it.

Franklin's Gull - rare fall migrant in western valleys. (1) at Hart's Basin on 9/18, reported by the Grand Valley Audubon Society.

Bonaparte's Gull - rare fall migrant in western valleys. (1) reported at Clifton on 11/13, by Levad. (1) reported at Rifle Gap on 11/11, by Jack Merchant and Potter. There were many reports from the eastern plains with a high of (85) birds at Pueblo Res. on 11/21, reported by Janos.

Herring Gull - rare migrant in western valleys. (2) at Vega SP on 10/17 and (1) at Hart's Basin on 10/21. There were a few reports from the eastern plains.

Thayer's Gull - apparently a rare winter resident on eastern plains. (1) at Pueblo on 11/6, reported by Johnson and Lilly. (1) reported on 11/13, at Pueblo by the CFO. Janos reported (2) first-year gulls at Pueblo Res. on 11/26.

Lesser Black-backed Gull - accidental in fall and winter. (1) reported 9/12, at Blue Lake near Las Animas by Silverman, Dickson, and others. (1) was near Loveland on 11/11-13, reported by Mark Nikas.

Greater Black-backed Gull - accidental in fall migration. (1) reported from Pueblo Res. 9/4-11/28, by mob and may be the same gull found on 3/14/93 at Pueblo Res.

Sabine's Gull - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (4) were reported at Pueblo on 9/26, by the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society. (1) was seen at Pueblo on 10/17, by Percival and Dickson. (4) imma. and (1) adult were reported at Chatfield 9/11-16, reported by DFO. (1) summer adult was at Union Res. on 9/19-21, reported by Joe and Adam Mammoser, Leatherman and others. (1) was reported near Boulder on 9/23, by Reeser. (1) imma. was reported at Barr Lake on 9/11, by Lisowskys and Mills. (1) imma. was reported at Barr Lake on 9/11, by Lisowskys and Mills. Ronald Ryder found (1) imma. at Hamilton Res. on 9/19.

Caspian Tern - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) was seen by Janos at Pueblo on 9/5. (1) was east of Boulder on 8/1, reported by Britton. Hawksworth found (1) at Spring Canyon Dam on 9/17.

Common Tern - rare to uncommon fall migrant on eastern plains. There were many reports and last fall this tern lived up to its name in the southeastern part of the state.

White-winged Dove - casual in fall on eastern plains. (1) reported from Walsh on 8/4, reported by J. Thompson.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - very rare fall migrant in western valleys. (1) reported in Grant Jct. on 8/10-11, by Levad. There were a few reports from the eastern plains.

Greater Roadrunner - casual on southeastern plains. (1) reported from Rocky Ford on 8/25, by Schofield.

Barn Owl - rare and locally uncommon migrant and summer resident on eastern plains and in western valleys. There were many reports statewide.

Northern Pygmy-owl - apparently a rare resident in foothills and mountains. (1) was seen at Eagle on 11/28, by Merchant. (1) was at Lyons on 11/17, reported by Raymond Davis.

Long-eared Owl - rare resident except very rare in higher mountains. The state produced scattered reports of this owl.

Boreal Owl - rare to locally uncommon resident in higher mountains. (1) reported found dead near Idaho Springs on 9/5, found by John Carlson and identified by William Brockner.

Black Swift - very rare in foothills, mountain parks, western valleys and on eastern plains. (3) were reported from Rye on 8/1, by Silverman. (3) were at Colorado City on 8/18, reported by Percival and Wilson. (5) young were still in their nest at Box Canyon in Ouray on 9/11, reported by Brenda Wright and Dexter.

Magnificent Hummingbird - very rare in summer and early fall in foothills and lower mountains. (1) reported near Fraser on 8/20, by Ethan and William Bernard. Hawksworth reported (1) bird was photographed in Grand County in late Aug.

Calliope Hummingbird - rare to uncommon late summer and early fall migrant. (1) at Palisade on 8/17-9/4. (1) at San Isabel on 8/22, reported by Janos and Percival. (1) was near Lyons on 8/15-22, reported by Judy Smith.

Red-headed Woodpecker - rare on eastern plains from Morgan and Otero counties westward. There were several reports in the greater Ft. Collins area.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - very rare winter resident on northeastern plains near foothills, accidental on extreme eastern plains and in western valleys. (1) reported at Chatfield on 10/16, by the DFO. (1) reported by D.W. King near Lyons on 9/27. Leatherman reports (1) at Grandview Cemetery in Ft. Collins from 11/15-30.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker - rare to uncommon resident in southern foothills. (1) reported on 9/12, by Arkansas Valley Audubon Society. (1) reported at Rocky Ford on 11/26, by D. Johnson.

Three-toed Woodpecker - rare or very locally uncommon resident in higher mountains, rare in lower mountains and foothills, primarily in winter. (1) reported by the Kamm's on 10/11, at Mr. Falcon Park. (1) at San Isabel on 8/2, reported by Percival.

Eastern Wood-Pewee - no fall records. Janos has reported (1) good candidate on 9/4, at Rocky Ford.

Least Flycatcher - uncommon fall migrant on extreme eastern plains, rare west to base of foothills. (1) at Pueblo on 8/19, reported by Percival. (1) reported at Ordway on 9/6, by Janos and Percival. (1) at Ft. Morgan reported by Joe Rigli on 9/22.

Eastern Phoebe - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) reported at Colorado City on 8/29, by Silverman and Crafton. (1) reported 9/11, by Sandstrom-Smith at Pueblo. (1) at Olive Marsh in Pueblo on 9/19, reported by Janos.

Violet-green Swallow - rare on the extreme eastern plains. (1) was reported at Walsh on 9/6, by Thompson and McKinley.

Blue Jay - very rare visitor to mountains. David Pantle found (1) in Winter Park on 10/15-16.

Carolina Wren - very rare visitor to eastern plains. (1) at Beulah on 8/21, reported by Pat Flynn. (1) at Pueblo on 11/22-26, reported by Dickson.

Bewick's Wren - rare to fairly common in fall migration in foothills. (1) reported near Morrison on 8/18, by Ronda Woodward.

Winter Wren - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) was reported at Lyons by D.W. King on 11/15. Leatherman reports (1) from Boulder on 10/31, and (1) from Ft. Collins on 11/22.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. There were several reports this year.

Eastern Bluebird - rare migrant on northeastern plains near foothills. (2) reported from Penrose on 10/4, (16) at Colorado City on 11/7, (5) at Rocky Mt. Arsenal on 10/13, (25) at Loveland on 11/21, (1) at Crow Valley Campground on 11/30, and (25) at Ft. Morgan on 10/7.

Varied Thrush - very rare fall migrant along foothills. (1) reported near St. Vrain Canyon on 11/13, by Jerry Spangler, Wanda Griest, Bolton, Pat Kinson, Darrell Fargo, and others. (1) reported at Longmont on 11/17-18, by Ann Means, R. Davis, B. Prather, J. Prather, Reeser and many more.

Gray Catbird - rare to uncommon fall migrant on eastern plains, rare in western valleys, foothills, lower mountains and mountain parks. Among several Loveland and Ft. Collins area reports were (2) late, date birds at Longmont on 11/19-22, observed by Lisowsky's, Dionigi, Kuhn and Leatherman. (1) was at Colorado City on 10/10. (1) was in Walsh on 9/21. DFO found (2) at Roxborough SP on 8/15 and 9/4.

White-eyed Vireo - accidental fall migrant. (1) imma. at Pueblo on 10/2, reported by Percival and Laura Townsend.

Yellow-throated Vireo - very rare spring migrant on eastern plains, casual in summer, one previous fall record. (1) at Penrose on 9/26, reported by Jim Wilson.

Philadelphia Vireo - casual fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) at Ordway on 9/4, reported by the DFO.

Red-eyed Vireo - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) was at Loveland on 9/14, reported by Gordon Magruder. (1) was reported near Longmont on 9/23, by Mary Griest. Leatherman reports (1) at Prewitt Res. on 9/4 and (1) late bird at Dixon Res. on 10/18. (1) at Ft. Morgan on 8/29, reported by Rigli.

Tennessee Warbler - rare to uncommon fall migrant on eastern plains, very rare in mountains. (1) at Beulah on 9/4, reported by the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society and the same group reported (1) at Ordway on 10/9. (1) was at Fountain Creek in Pueblo on 9/11, reported by Janos. Rigli reports (1) from Ft. Morgan on 9/9.

Nashville Warbler - rare fall migrant in western valleys, foothills, and on eastern plains. Lucille Bainbridge from Cortez reports several on 9/20 and a few days after. (1) was at Idledale on 10/8, reported by Marilyn Brown. (2) were reported at Breckenridge on 10/11 by McMenamy. (2) were at Walsenburg on 8/26, (1) at Walsenburg on 10/17, (3) at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt on 10/2, (3) in the Loveland area on 9/11, 9/29, and 10/5.

Northern Parula Warbler - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) was at the C.U. Campus on 10/7, reported by J. Prather.

Chestnut-sided Warbler - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains, casual in western valleys. (1) seen on 10/30-31, in Colorado Springs by Alan Versaw. (1) reported from Ordway by the DFO on 9/4.

Magnolia Warbler - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) found at Chatfield by the Kingery's on 9/16. (1) at the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt on 10/2, reported by the DFO.

Cape May Warbler - casual fall migrant on eastern plains and near foothills. (1) reported 10/31, below Pueblo Res. found by Janos and Percival.

Black-throated Blue Warbler - rare fall migrant on eastern plains, and accidental in western Colorado. (1) adult male reported from Cortez on 10/3, by Bainbridge. (1) female at Rye reported by Silverman on 9/19. (1) adult female found on 10/2, by Percival and Wheelock at Valco Ponds in Pueblo. (1) at Chatfield on 10/16, reported by the DFO. (1) seen by Mindy Hetrick at Rocky Mt. Arsenal on 9/17. (2) were found near Ft. Collins, (1) male on 8/9, and (1) female, late date, on 11/2 by J. Mammoser.

Townsend's Warbler - rare to uncommon, occasionally fairly common fall migrant. The state produced many reports during fall period. Percival counted (58) this fall in the greater Pueblo area.

Black-Throated Green Warbler - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) imma. female was found on 9/26, Valco Ponds by Percival, Silverman and Janos.

Blackburnian Warbler - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) female seen at Ft. Collins on 10/10, by Leatherman. (1) reported from Lake Beckwith near Colorado City on 10/10, by Dickson, Johnson, and Silverman. (1) reported at Evergreen on 10/26, by the Hannays.

Grace's Warbler - has very few fall records. (1) reported from Cortez on 9/1, by Bainbridge.

Pine Warbler - casual fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) adult male was at Valco Ponds in Pueblo on 9/26, reported by Percival. (1) male was found by the Mammosers and Leatherman on 10/31, in Boulder.

Prairie Warbler - accidental in fall on eastern plains. (1) reported from Lake Henry near Ordway on 9/12, by Dickson and Silverman.

Palm Warbler - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) at Blue Lake on 9/25, reported by Janos, Percival and Brevillier. (1) reported from Pueblo on 10/2, by Percival and Townsen. (1) seen on 10/10-11, by the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society at Colorado City. (1) at Chatfield on 10/9, reported by the Kingery's.

Bay-breasted Warbler - very rare fall migrant on the eastern plains. (1-2) imma. seen by Leatherman in Ft. Collins on 10/1. (1) was at Pueblo on 10/2, found by Townsen and the Smiths. (1) was reported by the Kingery's near Last Chance on 9/22. This is a Latilong 1st for #13.

Blackpoll Warbler - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) imma. was at Lake Henry on 9/5, reported by Janos. (1) at Ordway on 9/4, reported by DFO. Leatherman reported (1) imma. Prewitt Res. on 9/4.

Black and White Warbler - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) was at Pueblo on 9/11, reported by the Smiths. (1) female was seen by Alan Versaw on 9/9, near the Air Force Academy. Leatherman found (1) female at Prewitt Res. on 9/4 and (1) female at Crow Valley on 9/4.

Worm-eating Warbler - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt on 9/26, reported by the DFO.

Ovenbird - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) at Ordway on 9/6, reported by Janos and Percival. The usual (8-10) birds were again reported in Rye. (1) was reported near Last Chance by the Kingery's on 9/22. Rigli reported (1) in Ft. Morgan on 10/9.

Northern Waterthrush - uncommon to rare fall migrant on eastern plains, rare in western valleys. Several reports of birds at Pueblo from 8/19 to 8/28, (1) at Westcliffe on 8/21, (1) at Rocky Ford on 9/4, (1) at Golden Ponds on 11/18-29.

Connecticut Warbler - has no fall records for the state. (1) reported from Pueblo on 10/10, by Sandstrom-Smith and Margo Shimel.

Mourning Warbler - accidental fall migrant on eastern plains and adjacent low foothills. (1) imma. female was at Lake Henry near Ordway on 9/5, reported by Janos.

Hooded Warbler - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) was reported near Longmont on 10/13, by Inez and B. Prather.

Canada Warbler - casual fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) was reported at Ordway on 8/27, by Dickson.

Scarlet Tanager - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) reported near Last Chance on 9/22, by the Kingery's. This was a Lat. 1st for 1st#13.

Northern Cardinal - rare on eastern plains. (1) reported from the Olive Marsh in Pueblo by Percival on 9/18.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) was at Bailey on 8/30, reported by Cheryl Quaintance. (1) was at Pueblo on 9/18, reported by Mike Ketchen. (1) was at Ft. Morgan, reported by Rigli on 9/23.

Lazuli Bunting - extreme late date from Rifle on 10/24, by Potter.

Canyon Towhee - has had several reports from Mesa County but none has been verifiable. (1) above Palisade on 10/24, reported by Wright and Dexter.

Clay-colored Sparrow - rare in eastern foothills and mountains, casual in western valleys. (2) at Pueblo on 9/4, (2) at Colorado City on 10/9, (1) at Barr Lake on 8/28. Rigli reports (3) from Ft. Morgan on 10/9.

Baird's Sparrow - casual fall migrant. (1) reported by the DFO on 9/4, from Douglas County. Rigli reported (1) south of Ft. Morgan on 9/5.

Swamp Sparrow - rare fall migrant on eastern plains, may be locally common, very rare in western valleys. (1) reported on 11/7, at Colorado City, (1-4) at Pueblo on 11/21-28, (1) at Barr Lake on 10/11, (2) at Golden Ponds on 11/18, and (1) near Ft. Collins on 11/21.

White-throated Sparrow - rare fall migrant in western valleys and on eastern plains, very rare in foothills, lower mountains and mountain parks. (2) reported from Breckenridge on 11/19-26. (4) birds at 4 locations in western valleys from 10/3-20. (1) imma. at Rifle on 10/7, reported by Potter. (5) were seen in Rocky Ford on 10/9, and singles at Colorado City and Pueblo on 11/26. (3) were in Douglas County 10/11 - 11/7. (3) were reported from the greater Ft. Collins area. (1) was reported from Ft. Morgan. (2) were reported from Bonney Res. on 10/4. Pantle reports (3) at Winter Park on 11/26.

Harris' Sparrow - rare in western valleys, very rare in foothills, lower mountains and mountain parks. (2) at Kremmling on 11/19, reported by Norm Barrett. (4) imma. were at Breckenridge on 11/22, reported by McMenamy. (1) imma. at Rifle on 11/18-24, reported by Potter. On 11/9, (1) was reported in Pueblo. (5) were reported in the Loveland area on 10/30 - 11/29, at four locations. (2) were reported at Bonney Res. on 10/4.

Bobolink - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) reported from Lake Beckwith on 9/11, by Silverman.

Rusty Blackbird - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. (1) was found at Penrose on 11/27, by Hilda Bakke. (3) were seen at Golden Pond on 11/13 and 12/3, reported by many observers.

Black Rosy Finch - accidental on the eastern plains. (1) was reported at Pawnee National Grassland on 11/8, by Barber.



POINTS TO PONDER (or drool about)

Smith's Longspurs are very rare in west-central Kansas and are accidental along the Kansas/Colorado border. Marvin Schwilling of Emporia found as many as one hundred Smith's Longspurs in grazed short-grass just two miles east of the Colorado border in Morton County, Kansas on 31 October 1989. On 11 November 1989, Seltman and Ted Cable saw one Smith's Longspur three miles east of the Colorado line, and later the same day Seltman heard at least three Smith's Longspurs along Road 56 in extreme eastern Baca County, Colorado. This species has not been documented in Colorado but should be watched for on the eastern plains during fall migration, especially from 20 October to 15 November.

(Material supplied by Scott Seltman)



**A REVIEW OF C.F.O. RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORTS
PUBLISHED FOR YEARS 1986, '87, '88 AND '89**

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As an integral part of the ongoing effort of updating and maintaining the C.F.O. Records Committee master files in the Zoology Dept. at the Denver Museum of Natural History (hereafter "DMNH"), each year's batch of Sight Record Reports (hereafter SRR's) when received from the Committee Chairman are compared against the Committee's Report subsequently published in the *C.F.O. Journal*. This is done to ensure accuracy and consistency between the SRR's being placed in the master files and the Committee's Report, while bringing to light any discrepancies which could cause problems or confusion on the part of current and/or future researchers, as well as all others wishing to avail themselves of the reports and master files. The purpose of this paper, therefore, is to describe the problems found in the Committee Reports published for the years 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989 in the *C.F.O. Journal* and the master files in the DMNH.

Some individuals undoubtedly will view this paper as less than desirable or worthwhile. Nevertheless, as the founder of the C.F.O. Records Committee in 1972 and serving as its first Chairman until mid-1977, I have steadfastly maintained the belief, rightly or wrongly, that the Records Committee has to conduct itself with a high degree of professionalism, whether that involves the manner in which it manages its internal business affairs or the manner in which it publishes reports of its deliberations and decisions. Should the Committee fail to give proper attention to details when preparing its annual reports for publication in the *C.F.O. Journal*, it runs the risk of being viewed as doing a less than acceptable job in all facets of its responsibilities, a situation it might otherwise not deserve. Therefore, I hope that the critical analysis that follows will be viewed in a constructive manner, resulting in more accurate and professional Committee Reports, thus, gaining the due respect of the Colorado field ornithology community as well as that nationwide.

**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FOR RECORDS SUBMITTED IN 1986
(*C.F.O. JOURNAL* 22:85-90)**

In the first paragraph of the 1986 Report (pg. 85), it is stated that a total of 49 SRR's were received, reviewed and classified by the Records Committee during the year (40 which were classified "A", the identification is supported by the documentation submitted; 2 which were classified "B", a misidentification; 4 which were classified "C", incomplete documentation

and 3 which received no classification at all). However, a quick perusal of the year's activity would seem to indicate that, in fact, 63 SRR's were submitted to the Committee by field observers for review and classification in 1986. This is suggested by the fact that an SRR received by the Committee was assigned a File Number of 12-86-63 for an observation of a Gyrfalcon (see pg. 89 under Class "C" Records). It is necessary to explain here that each SRR, when received by the Chairman of the Records Committee, is assigned a File Number with the first code number (12 in this example) designating the family (*Falconidae*), the second code number (86 in the example) designating the year in which the SRR was first routed through the Committee and the third code number (63) designating the chronological order in which the SRR was received by the Chairman or, if processed as a complete batch for the entire year, the serial number assigned for each SRR received, reviewed and classified. In either case, it appears that the Committee may have received, reviewed and made decisions on 63 SRR's for the year 1986. This prompted a closer review of the 1986 Committee Report as published in the *C.F.O. Journal*. A recount revealed that the published report for 1986 actually contained 51 classified as "A", 2 SRR's classified as "B", 4 SRR's classified as "C" with 3 receiving no classification. That left 3 chronological record numbers unaccounted for (28, 30 and 43) which either were never used for some unknown reason or the affected SRR's were misplaced and lost. The three "Unclassified" SRR's were subsequently returned to the Chairman for Committee action and classification in a letter dated December 18, 1989. To date, the final ruling on these three SRR's remains unknown as they have never been returned for depositing in the master files at the DMNH. For the record, these SRR's are as follows:

File No. 34-86-37 Dusky-capped Flycatcher

File No. 19-86-40 Short-billed Dowitcher

File No. 18-86-45 Piping Plover

OTHER DISCREPANCIES

Part 1. Class "A" Records

Red Knot. The File Number was published in the Committee Report as 19-86-46. Chronological record number 46 had already been assigned to an SRR of an Hudsonian Godwit (18-86-46). The correct File Number for the Red Knot should be 19-86-47.

Black-legged Kittiwake. Two different chronological record numbers were assigned and published for the same reported observation. File Numbers 23-86-5 and 23-86-32 reported the same bird. The kittiwake was first reported as being present from January 12-22, 1986 by three observers and assigned File No. 23-86-32. Another SRR was subsequently received by the Committee reporting the same bird at the same location but by a different observer on February 2, 1986. This SRR was assigned a different File No. (23-86-5). Only one File No. can be assigned for each individual sighting, thus precluding the impression that (as in this instance) two different and distinct Black-legged Kittiwakes were observed and

reported. Both SRR's were circulated separately through the Committee and, fortuitously, both received an "A" classification. Finally, the confusion was further compounded due to the fact the no location for this sighting was published in the Committee Report. The format calls for including the exact location of all observations. This Black-legged Kittiwake was seen and reported from Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo County.

Whip-poor-will (File No. 29-86-34). Two birds were sighted and reported on Mesa de Maya (not Mayo) in Las Animas County (county name omitted in Committee Report).

Vermilion Flycatcher (File No. 34-86-11). This is a report of a road kill that was salvaged at Dixon Lake near Fort Collins, Larimer County on March 26, 1986. The Committee Report failed to mention that the specimen (a female) was deposited in the Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH #39534).

TAXONOMY PROBLEMS

It is customary, when publishing serious ornithological papers in professional journals, to follow the taxonomy as prescribed in the current *Check-list of North American Birds* published by the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.). Researchers, professional ornithologists and others utilizing such publications expect to find the correct taxonomy as a matter of course. A review of the Committee Report for 1986 divulged a number of instances where the taxonomy deviated from the A.O.U. Check-list format. These have been identified as follows:

Pomarine Jaeger (File Nos. 22-86-1 and 22-86-42) and **Parasitic Jaeger** (File No. 22-86-41) should follow Buff-breasted Sandpiper (File No. 19-86-23), not Greater Scaup (File No. 8-86-62) as published.

Least Tern (File No. 23-86-17) should follow Caspian Tern (File Nos. 23-86-48 and 23-86-18), not precede it as published.

Blackpoll Warbler (File No. 52-86-54) should follow Pine Warbler (File No. 52-86-51), not precede it as published.

The correct taxonomic order for three other warbler species is as follows: **Swainson's Warbler** (File No. 52-86-15), **Kentucky Warbler** (File No. 56-86-12) is incorrect; should be 52-86-12) and **Mourning Warbler** (File No. 53-86-21 which is also incorrect; should be 52-86-21).

SRR 55-86-49 was erroneously listed as a Scarlet Tanager instead of a report of a Summer Tanager. Therefore, the reports for tanagers should read as follows: **Summer Tanager** (File No. 55-86-49), followed by **Scarlet Tanager** (file Nos. 55-86-29 and 55-86-61). In addition the tanager reports are out of taxonomic order and should precede the **Great-tailed Grackle** (File Nos. 54-86-8, 54-86-10 and 54-86-52), not follow them as published.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FOR RECORDS SUBMITTED IN 1987
PART I (*C.F.O. Journal* 23:13-18) and
PART II (*C.F.O. Journal* 23:114-121)

As was the case with the 1986 Committee Report, a number of SRR's are either missing, have never been reviewed by the Committee or for some unknown reason the chronological record numbers were never used. A review of the 1987 Committee activity revealed that apparently 107 SRR's were received during the year as witnessed by an SRR for a Sage Sparrow bearing File No. 56-87-107 (refer to PART II, Class "A" Records, pg. 118). An audit of all 1987 SRR's received for filing in the master files at the DMNH along with the Committee's published reports (PARTS I & II) disclosed the following. Committee Report for 1987 (PART I) accounted for 30 SRR's classified as "A" with another 7 classified as "B" and "C" (notice that these two categories are now combined without any explanation as to why, leaving the reader of the report to wonder which SRR's were classified "B" or "C"). In 1987, PART II, 44 SRR's were classified "A" while 13 more received a "B" and "C" classification for a grand total of 94 SRR's classified and reported by the Committee for the year. This, then, leaves 13 SRR's unaccounted for (Chronological record numbers 7, 15, 16, 24, 30, 35, 36, 48, 57, 74, 91, 99 and 104). A check of the master files at the DMNH did turn up one of the unaccounted for SRR's (104). Whatever happened to the remaining 12 remains a mystery to this day. Chronological record number 104 was erroneously assigned to a 1985 SRR of an Anna's Hummingbird (See File No. 31-85-36) and under Class "A" Reports, *C.F.O. Journal* 20:47) and routed a second time through the Committee as 1987 business again receiving an "A" classification. The Committee apparently discovered the error before it published the 1987 Report, but the SRR found its way to the DMNH, where it was discarded.

OTHER DISCREPANCIES

PART I, Part 1. Class "A" Records

Eurasian Wigeon (File No. 8-87-6). One male was observed at Carbody Lake, Weld County on March 23 and again on the 26, 1987 (not just March 23 as published in the Committee Report for 1987). A second report, also assigned File No. 8-87-6, was routed through the Committee, classified "A" and sent in to the DMNH for the master files. This second SRR, however, turned out to be a photocopy of a 1986 SRR (File No. 8-86-53) of a male Eurasian Wigeon, also seen at Carbody Lake, on March 16, 1986 (refer to *C.F.O. Journal* 22:86, Class "A" Reports). Fortunately, this 1986 SRR received an "A" classification on the second go-around through the Committee. The photocopied SRR was discarded, thus leaving only one SRR with a File No. 8-87-6 in the master files.

Peregrine Falcon (File No. 12-87-9). The correct date of the observation as reported on the SRR is December 21, 1986, rather than December 12, 1986 as published.

Lesser Golden-plover (File No. 18-87-19). Dates of the observation as reported on the SRR are October 7 through October 9, 1983 (not just October 7, 1983 as published).

Snowy Plover (File No. 18-87-38). This report is a photocopy of another 1986 SRR (File No. 18-86-33) which was reviewed, classified "A" and published by the Committee in *C.F.O. Journal* 22:87 in their Report for 1986. On the second time through the Committee, it again was classified "A" and published in the 1987 Report. After the duplication was discovered at the DMNH, the SRR was discarded. There is no SRR with a File No. 18-87-38 in the master files.

Short-billed Dowitcher. File No. 19-97-22 is incorrect. Should be File No. 19-87-22.

Boreal Owl (File No. 28-87-33). Dates of the observation according to the SRR are April 25 and 26, 1987, not just April 25 as published.

PART I, Part 2. Class "B" and "C" Records

Gyr Falcon (File No. 12-87-11). Still another example of where a photocopy of a 1986 SRR (File No. 12-86-63) mysteriously found its way through the Committee for a second time. This SRR was originally reviewed and classified as "B" and "C" and published in *C.F.O. Journal* 22:89 as part of the 1986 Report. The photocopied SRR was discarded. There is no SRR in the master files with File No. 12-87-11.

Magnificent Hummingbird (File No. 31-87-47). The SRR reports three dates of observation (June 30, July 1 and July 21, 1986) rather than just one date (June 30, 1986) as published.

Purple Martin (File No. 36-87-55). The SRR sent in to the master files reported two separate observations: one adult male on May 27, 1987 at Nucla, Montrose County and one adult male at Beaver Park north of Lone Cone Peak (county-?) on July 20, 1987. It appears from the Committee Report for 1987 that it only dealt with observations at Nucla on May 27 classifying it as "B" and "C" as published. No mention is made of the July 20 sighting. Did the Committee overlook the second one? Did their "B" and "C" classification apply to both observations?

PART II, Part 2. Class "B" and "C" Records

Red-eyed Vireo. File No. 51-97-66 is incorrect. Should be 51-87-66.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR RECORDS SUBMITTED IN 1988 (*C.F. Journal* 26:137-142)

For the third year in a row, properly assigning chronological record numbers continues to be a problem. The Committee Report for 1988 accounts for 40 SRR's: one for a new species added to the state list; one for a species not added to the state list; 32 "Designated as 'A' Records and 6 with a "B" and "C" designation. However, as SRR with File No. 54-88-42

(Eastern Meadowlark) would indicate that 42 SRR's must have been submitted by field observers to the Committee. The missing chronological record numbers are 16 and 17. Why they were not assigned is unknown.

OTHER DISCREPANCIES

Part 3. "A" Designated Records (yet another change in Report format)

Great Black-backed Gull (File No. 23-88-20). Name of county where observation was made is omitted from the published report. Walden Pond and Teller Lake #5 are located in Boulder County.

Hepatic Tanager. File No. 55-28-23 is incorrect. Should be 55-88-23.

Part 4. "B" and "C" Designation Records

Red-throated Loon (File No. 1-88-26). Observation at Prewitt Reservoir is in Washington County, not Logan County as published.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR RECORDS SUBMITTED IN 1989 (*C.F.O. Journal* 25:119-125)

The problem of correctly assigning and reporting chronological record numbers on SRR's prevalent in 1986, 1987 and 1988 continues in 1989. On the surface, the Committee appears to have received, reviewed and classified 62 SRR's during 1989. A cursory check of the 1989 Committee Report reveals that three chronological record numbers were missing (23, 37 and 59). The problem in this case, however, stems from the fact that three chronological record numbers were assigned twice.

In the first instance, there are two reports for Caspian Tern, one for Lake Beckwith, Pueblo County on April 9, 1989, and a second one almost two months later on May 20, 1989 at Jumbo Reservoir, Logan County. Both SRR's were published in Part 4, Category "A" Records in the Committee Report under the same File No. 23-89-22 which can't occur. A review of the two SRR's involved divulged that the Lake Beckwith SRR for April 9, 1989 was assigned File No. 23-89-22. The second SRR for Jumbo Reservoir for May 20, 1989 was assigned File No. 23-89-23, but was incorrectly published in the *C.F. O. Journal*.

Finally, File No. 56-89-58 was published for a Category "A" SRR for a Fox Sparrow as well as for a Category "B" and "C" SRR for a Swamp Sparrow. Again a check of the affected SRR's in the master files showed that File No. 56-89-58 was assigned to the Fox Sparrow SRR while the Swamp Sparrow SRR was assigned File No. 56-89-59, but was published incorrectly in the Committee Report in the *C.F.O. Journal*.

OTHER DISCREPANCIES

Part 3. Reported Species Not Added to the State List

Red-backed Buzzard (File No. 10-87-45). The correct vernacular name is **Red-backed Hawk**. And the problem of assigning chronological order number crops up again as number 45 has been used twice for the year

1987. An SRR for a **Black Swift** observed on July 10, 1987 (see the 1987 Records Committee Report, *C.F.O. Journal* 23:115) was assigned File No. 30-87-45. Since there can not be two identical chronological record numbers assigned in any given year, either File No. 10-87-45 or 30-87-45 is incorrect.

Part 4. Category "A" Records (another format change)

Black DuckxMallard (File No. 8-89-7). The correct vernacular name is **American Black Duck**. The specific name of Mallard is misspelled. Should be spelled platyrhynchos.

Hudsonian Godwit. File No. 18-89-12 is incorrect. Should be 19-89-12.

Red Knot. File No. 18-89-14 is incorrect. Should be 19-89-14.

Sabine's Gull (File No. 23-89-17). Taxonomy is incorrect. Sabine's Gull should follow Great-Black-Backed Gull (23-89-21), not precede it as published.

Little Gull (File No. 23-89-19). Observation at Cherry Creek Reservoir is in Arapahoe County, not Denver County as published.

Glaucous-winged Gull (File No. 23-89-20). Observation at Cherry Creek Reservoir is in Arapahoe County, not Denver County as published.

Carolina Wren (File No. 42-89-now 37 and File No. 42-89-38). Taxonomy is incorrect by seven family groups. These two reports should be placed in front of Gray-cheeked Thrush (File No. 44-89-31), not behind Phainopepla (File No. 48-89-36) as published.

Part 5. Category "B" and "C" Records

Red-necked Grebe (File No. 2-89-2). The specific name is misspelled. Should be spelled grisegena.

Anhinga. File No. 3-89-4 is incorrect. Should be 4A-89-4.

Baird's Sparrow (File No. 56-89-56). The generic name is misspelled. Should be spelled Ammodramus.

LITERATURE CITED:

American Ornithologists' Union, 1983, *Check-list of North American Birds*, 6th edition.



**FOOD ITEMS OF COLORADO BIRDS (XI)
(part 2 of 2)**

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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 54 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.



Sand Treader Cricket (*Daihiniella* sp.)
Impaled on barbed wire by immature Northern Shrike
East of Riverside Reservoir, Weld County, CO
10 November '93
By David Leatherman

Black-billed Magpie	Roadkilled rock squirrel	n of Mancos, Montezuma Co	15 May
Black-billed Magpie	Corn in ears on the stalk	s of Berthoud, Weld Co	20 October
Black-billed Magpie	Bald-faced hornets	Flatiron Site	29 October

Two magpies were slowly, carefully tearing the outer paper shell from a hornet's nest, no doubt in search of unhatched immature or dead adult wasps. This is an activity often seen in fall, shortly after leaf-drop on deciduous trees reveals the nest locations, and before fall winds knock down many nests.

Black-billed Magpie	Flightless house sparrow nestlings	Denver	Sept DN
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American Crow	Robin nestlings	Ft Collins	mid-July
American Crow	Crayfish claw	Sheldon Lake, Ft Collins	23 November

A ring-billed gull picked up one claw on the ice and took it out to the open water, where it promptly sank. Shortly afterward, the crow picked up a second claw near the spot of the first one and flew off with it. It seems likely these two omnivorous birds key on each other's activities in locating food.

Black-cap. Chickadee	Pear-slug sawfly larvae on hawthorn	Ft Collins	15 August
Black-cap. Chickadee	Cottonwood leaf aphids	Julesburg, Sedgwick Co	15 September
Black-cap. Chickadee	Wild sunflower seeds	Roxborough St Pk	30 August
Black-cap. Chickadee	Wild sunflower seeds	Dixon Res	26 September
Black-cap. Chickadee	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	1-2 October
Black-cap. Chickadee	Great mullein seed	NCELC	10 October
Black-cap. Chickadee	Cattail seeds	Flatiron Site	21 November

In both the Longmont and Flatiron Site observations, the chickadees were distinctly pecking at the drying cattail seed heads. The seeds are quite small and seem a poor investment, but are eaten in quantity by some surprising species, including ducks. Another possibility in these instances would be the chickadees were extracting insects and/or spiders which occur within the cattail seedheads.

Black-cap. Chickadee	Hackberry blistergall psyllid nymphs	GC	20 September
Black-cap. Chickadee	Cattail seeds?	Golden Ponds Pk, Longmont	22 November

Red-breasted Nuthatch	Adult hackberry psyllids	GC	10 May
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Red-breasted Nuthatch	Adult hackberry psyllids	GC	1-2 October
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Colorado blue spruce seeds	GC	26 August
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sunflower seed	Eldora, Boulder Co	9 March KS
Bird tried to cache the seed in an aspen by pounding it in a branch crevice, but did not succeed. It flew off with the seed, presumably to try elsewhere. Caching is a well-known activity of nuthatches.			

Pygmy Nuthatch	Ponderosa pine sap	Morraine Park, RMNP	18 April JB
Nuthatch was feeding at sap wells made in the pine bark by an unknown sapsucker, probably a Williamson's.			

Brown Creeper	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	1-2 October
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American Dipper	Feeding on land, prey unknown	8 m s of Redcliff	24 June JM
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Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	1-2 October
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Willow aphids	CVCG	8 October
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Russian olive aphids	NCELC	2 November

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Willow catkin insects (unidentified)	CVCG	18 May
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Mountain Bluebird	Tiger moth larvae	Pawnee Grasslands, Weld Co	19 March
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Large numbers of bluebirds moved through northeastern Colorado at about this time. On the date indicated several bluebirds initially perched on wires, fences and poles were seen dropping to the prairie and returning to perches with 2 inch-long black, hairy caterpillars. Occasionally these larvae, which all appeared similar, were discovered while the birds hovered over the ground. A search of the area revealed several larvae of "the phyllira moth" (Grammia favorita), a common tiger moth of the area which overwinters as a late-instar larva. These caterpillars were difficult to detect unless they moved, at which time they became conspicuous. Identification of collected larvae was made by Dr. Paul Opler.

Townsend's Solitaire	Unident. lg. green caterpillars on aspen	Camp Hale, Eagle Co	12Sept JM
American Robin	Hackberries	GC	2 October
American Robin	Rocky Mountain juniper berries	GC	2 October
American Robin	Concord grapes on the vine	Denver	9 October KS
Sage Thrasher	Tiger moth (<u>Grammia favorita</u>) larvae	Pawnee Grasslands	18April
Cedar Waxwing	Green chokecherries	Dixon Res	12July
Northern Shrike	Sand treader crickets	Riverside Res, Weld Co	10November

Over 25 of these supposedly nocturnal dune crickets were found freshly impaled (many of the crickets were still moving) along a 0.2 mile stretch of barbed-wire east of the reservoir. An immature shrike was observed at 3PM, dropping down from the top strand of a fence, disappearing for 5 seconds, and reappearing atop the fence where it affixed a cricket to a barb. There is much more to be learned about this situation, which may be substance for a future detailed report. The occurrence of this species of Daihinia cricket was not previously known for the northern Colorado plains. Their diurnal appearance outside burrows in November is contrary to known life history patterns for these crickets (they are thought to be nocturnal). Northern shrikes, like all shrikes, have relatively powerful beaks and weak feet. As such, they normally eat small insect prey without elaborate behaviours, but commonly impale or wedge larger items such as mammals or birds. Being immatures, the crickets were soft and would not appear to be the kind of prey a shrike would need to impale prior to eating. Were the crickets impaled in large numbers to serve as some sort of winter territorial boundary markers by a bird recently arrived on its chosen winter area? Also found impaled within the same general area were robust camel crickets (Udeopsylla robusta), small grasshoppers and a young lesser earless lizard. (Holbrookia maculata). The condition of most of the latter items, and a few of the sand treader, indicated they had been present on the wire barbs for days or weeks. It can not be assumed they were not impaled by a late loggerhead shrike nesting or migrating through the area. Identification of the sand treader was made by Michael Weissmann of the Rocky Mountain Butterfly Consortium.

European Starling	Brownheaded ash sawfly larvae	Colorado Springs, El Paso Co	4June ML
These leaf-chewing insect pests (<u>Tomostethus multicinctus</u>) of green ash are a relatively recent phenomenon in south-central Colorado. They have occurred in increasingly impressive numbers in May and June of the past several years. Relatively few birds or other natural controls have been observed eating them. (See also accounts of western tanager and house sparrow).			
European Starling	Red berries of honeysuckle sp.	GC	16August
European Starling	Ripening apples	CSU	26August
European Starling	Corn in ears on the stalk	Ault, Weld Co	19 October
European Starling	Concord grapes on the vine	Denver	9 October KS
European Starling	Potato chip	Lamar, Prowers Co	20July JT
Solitary Vireo	Unidentified gray looper caterpillar	GC	23May
Red-eyed Vireo	Russian olive and willow leaf aphids	Dixon Res	18October
Tennessee Warbler	Unidentified willow catkin insects	CVCG	18May
Orange-cr Warbler	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	5-13May
Orange-cr Warbler	Cottonwood leaf aphids	Julesburg	17September
Orange-cr Warbler	Willow aphids	Dixon Res	26September
Orange-cr Warbler	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	1-2 October
Orange-cr Warbler	Pear-slug sawfly larvae in hawthorn	Ft Collins	8 October
Orange-cr Warbler	Willow aphids	CVCG	8 October
Yellow Warbler	Pear-slug sawfly larvae in hawthorn	Ft Collins	8 October
Black-thr Bl Warbler (f)	Russian olive leaf aphids	NCELC	2Nov JMam

Yellow-rumped Warbler	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	10&13May
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Willow aphids	Dixon Res	26September
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Russian olive pulp and leaf aphids	Ft Collins	17October
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Willow aphids	Flatiron Site	29October
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Willow aphids	Ft Collins	7November
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Russian olive pulp	Ft Collins	18November
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Cattail seeds?	Longmont, Boulder Co	22November
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Mayfly adults	near Gypsum, Eagle Co	3May JM
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Russian olive pulp	Longmont	22November
Pine Warbler (adult m)	Pine shoot aphids in Austrian pine	Boulder	31October
Pine Warbler (adult m)	Striped pine scale (<u>Toumeyella pini</u>)	Boulder	31October
Bay-breasted Warbler (2)	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	1 October
Blackpoll Warbler	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	13May
MacGillivray's Warbler	Willow aphids	Dixon Res	26September
Wilson's Warbler	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	10&13May
Wilson's Warbler	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	1-2 October
Wilson's Warbler	"Miller" moth	Turk's Pond	30August JT
Western Tanager	Brownheaded ash sawfly larvae	Colorado Springs	June BC
Western Tanager	Rotten banana	Big Crk Lakes CG, Routt Co	19July
This male tanager landed on a picnic table also shared by three humans eating breakfast and proceeded to peck away at a black-skinned banana separated from other foodstuffs the humans judged more edible.			
Western Tanager	Adult cicada sp.	8 m s of Gypsum	30June JM

Rose-br Grosbeak (i male)	Female catkins of cottonwood	NCELC	7May
Black-h Grosbeak (m)	Hawthorn flower petals	Ft Collins	19May
Black-h Grosbeak (m)	Cottonwood buds and new leaves	Ft Collins	9May
Black-h Grosbeak (f)	Dandelion seeds	Dixon Res	16May
Black-h Grosbeak (m)	Grasshopper on the road	w of Castle Rock, Douglas Co	12August
Rufous-sided Towhee	BugZapper-killed insects, mostly moths	Walsh	23Sept JT
Am Tree Sparrow	Field sorghum	Walsh	23Sept JT
Clay-col Sparrow	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	13May
Brewer's Sparrow	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	13May
Vesper Sparrow	Field sorghum	Walsh	23Sept JT
Vesper Sparrow	Wild sunflower seeds	Walsh	23Sept JT
Lark Sparrow	Field sorghum	Walsh	23Sept JT
Lark Sparrow	Grasshopper sp.	near Walsh	16July JT
Lark Sparrow	Large, coneheaded grasshopper	Dixon Res	12July
Savannah Sparrow	Field sorghum	Walsh	23Sept JT
Swamp Sparrow	Cattail seeds?	Flatiron Site	21November
Dark-eyed Junco	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	1-2 October
McCown's Longspur	Grasshopper sp.	Pawnee Grasslands	18April

Red-winged Blackbird	Corn in ears on the stalk	near Ault	19 October
Red-winged Blackbird	Field sorghum	Walsh	23Sept JT
Yellow-h Blackbird	Field sorghum	Walsh	23Sept JT
Rusty Blackbird	Annelid worm	Walden Ponds, Boulder Co	7Nov KS
A fall female was seen carefully turning over wet leaves and laying them on rocks "as though she was drying her wash". After capturing the worm, the bird held it with a foot and bit off little pieces. Other objects KS thought the bird found under the leaves and ate were a centipede and a slug.			
Great-tailed Grackle (i)	Green grasshoppers (two in beak)	Walsh	31July JT
Common Grackle	BugZapper-killed insects	Walsh	23Sept JT
Common Grackle	Concord grapes on the vine	Denver	9 Oct KS
Most birds seen eating grapes here ate them whole, but a grackle removed a seed from its grape.			
N Oriole (Bullock's i)	Half-ripe American plum fruit	Sand Arroyo, Baca Co	16July JT
N Oriole (Bullock's m)	Hawthorn flower petals	Ft Collins	20May
Cassin's Finch	Buds of American plum	Jefferson Co	15March KS
Cassin's Finch	Flower petals of harebell sp.	Haycamp Mesa, Montezuma Co	15May
House Finch	Flower petals of <u>Prunus</u> sp.	GC	10May
House Finch	Seeds of wild lettuce (<u>Lactuca</u> sp.)	NCELC	6September
House Finch	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	1-2 October
Red Crossbill	Ponderosa pine seeds	Haycamp Mesa	15May
Red Crossbill	Lodgepole pine seeds	Big Crk Lakes CG	15July
Red Crossbill	Lodgepole pine seeds in fallen cones	6 m s of Redcliff	12July JM

Pine Siskin	Adult hackberry psyllids (two spp.?)	GC	5May
Pine Siskin	Cottonwood buds	Ft Collins	11April JB
American Goldfinch	Cottonwood buds	Ft Collins	11April JB
American Goldfinch	Willow aphids	Flatiron Site	29October
Evening Grosbeak	Russian olives	Ft Collins	25November
House Sparrow	Brownheaded ash sawfly larvae	Colorado Springs	4June

KEY TO MISCELLANEOUS AND CONTRIBUTOR ABBREVIATIONS USED:

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	Luiise Bennett	DN	Duane Nelson
BC	Bernard Cipolleti	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		





Red Crossbill
At feeder, YMCA of the Rockies
Estes Park, Larimer County CO
21 July '93
By David Ely

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.

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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.

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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.

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