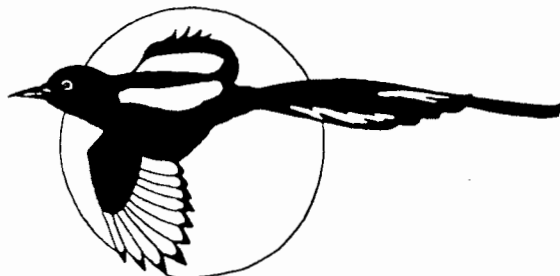

C.F.O. Journal

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly





C.F.O. JOURNAL (ISSN- 1066-7342) is published quarterly by the Colorado Field Ornithologists, 1826 Flora Ct., Canon City, CO 81212. Subscriptions are through annual membership dues. Second Class Postage paid at Canon City, CO 81212. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *C.F.O. Journal*, PO Box 481, Lyons, CO 80540

OFFICERS OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS:

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

- President:** Steve Bouricius, 3412 C Road, Grand Junction, CO 81526, 1995* (970) 434-5918
- Vice-President** Coen Dexter, 175 Sunset Circle, Palisade, CO 81526, 1995* (970) 464-7971
- Secretary:** David Pantle, 1826 Flora Ct., Canon City, CO 81212, 1995* (719) 275-8208
- Treasurer:** Raymond Davis, P.O. Box 481, Lyons, CO 80540 1995* (303) 823-5332
- Directors:** David Silverman (*ex officio*); John Barber 1997*; Beth Dillon, Fort Collins 1995; Bob Dickson, Pueblo 1995; Bill Fink, Longmont 1997*; David Leatherman, Fort Collins 1996; Susan Paynter 1996*, Brandon Percival, Pueblo West 1996*; Kim Potter, Rifle 1996*; Alan Versaw, 1997*; Linda Vidal, Aspen 1995.
- Journal Editor:** David Leatherman, 2048 Whiterock Ct., Fort Collins, CO 80526 (970) 484-5445
- Editorial Board:** Paul Opler, Mona Hill

COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: Bill Prather (Chair), Longmont, 1995*; Bob Dickson, Pueblo 1996*; Peter Gent, Boulder 1997; Rich Leivad, Grand Junction 1995*; Bob Righter, Denver 1997*; Paul Opler, Ft. Collins 1995*; Dick Schottler, Golden 1997. Terms expire on 12/31.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable at the beginning of the year): Student \$12; Regular \$16; Family \$20; Institutional \$25; Contributing \$25; Supporting \$40; Sustaining \$100. \$16 of the annual membership dues pays for a one-year suscription to the *C.F.O. Journal*. All members receive the *C.F.O. Journal*. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. **Send membership inquiries, renewals, and change of address to Colorado Field Ornithologists, Raymond Davis, P.O. Box 481, Lyons, CO 80540.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

C.F.O. SUMMER 1995 FIELD TRIPS	
Coen Dexter-----	40
CORRECTION -----	42
COLORADO BIRD OBSERVATORY NEWS	
Susan Bonfield-----	43
THE RONALD A. RYDER AWARD RESOLUTION -----	44
A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY AND INTERVIEW WITH DR. RONALD A. RYDER - APRIL 1995	
David Leatherman-----	44
C.F.O. MISSION STATEMENT -----	51
C.F.O. BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF 2/25/95	
Susan Paynter-----	51
MESSAGE FROM CBRC CHAIR BILL PRATHER -----	54
BYLAWS OF THE CO BIRDS RECORDS COMMITTEE	
B. Dickson, M. Janos, B. Prather and CBRC-----	55
1995 CONVENTION INSERT -----	66
1995 C.F.O. CONVENTION REGISTRATION -----	68
1995 CONVENTION ACCOMODATIONS LIST -----	70
1995 CONVENTION BIRD CALLING CONTEST	
Pearle Sandstrom-Smith-----	70
LETTER AND INTERNET MESSAGES	
Macklin Smith-----	72
REPLY TO MACKLIN SMITH AND C.F.O.	
Bill Prather-----	75
RAPTOR ELECTROCUTIONS AND HOW TO PREVENT THEM	
John Barber-----	76

THE BIRDS OF PARKER	
Joe TenBrink-----	77
CHECKLIST OF BIRDS: PARKER REGIONAL PARK	
Joe TenBrink-----	80
INCIDENT OF BARN SWALLOWS USURPING AN ACTIVE BARN SWALLOW NEST	
Janeal Thompson-----	81
OBSERVATIONS OF N. WATERTHRUSHES EXHIBITING BREEDING BEHAVIOR IN COLORADO	
Beth Dillon-----	84
NEW FROM THE FIELD (FALL 1994)	
Kim Potter-----	87
INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS (REVISED)-----	99

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Dr. Ronald A. Ryder with young Great Horned Owl Cheyenne, Wyoming, May 1994	
David Leatherman-----	cover
Bohemian Waxwings at Rifle, CO - 9 Dec. 94	
Linda Bessette-----	65
Barn Swallow/House Finch Nest in Walsh, CO (drawing)	
Mildred Walker-----	82

C.F.O. SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

#1 BENDIRE'S THRASHER TRIP

3 JUNE

A field trip is planned for Saturday, 3 June 1995, in the San Luis Valley (SLV) beginning at 6:30 AM at the US Forest Service office in Del Norte on State Highway 160. The purpose of the trip is to observe Bendire's Thrashers in the Old Woman Creek area, as well as other SLV birds. The SLV is still one of the least explored places in the State, and last year the first SLV records of Dickcissels and Canyon Towhees were recorded. Who knows what we will find this year?

The Bendire's Thrashers have been the subject of some discussion and intrigue. In the early 1980's they were reported near Capulin and Del Norte. Since then, reports have been received from Dry Creek and as far east as San Luis. Some suspect these birds may be a subspecies of Bendire's Thrashers for they do not seem to strongly exhibit the field characteristics established in the field guides. It will present an interesting challenge to the group participating in this trip.

After the thrashers, we will bird other SLV hotspots. If the group is interested in owling, we might conduct an evening trip to look for Flammulated, Saw-whet, Northern Pygmy, Great Horned, Spotted and other owls.

Weather still can be cool, so bring sufficient clothing and shoes. Some recommended lodging places include: Movie Manor in Monte Vista (719) 852-5921; Comfort Inn in Monte Vista (719) 852-0612; Holiday Inn in Alamosa (719) 589-5833; and Del Norte Motel and Cafe (719) 657-3581. For folks interested in camping, Beaver Creek CG is 20 west of Del Norte or you can primitive camp on the National Forest up any of the drainages near Del Norte (for example, San Francisco Creek).

Trip Leaders: John Rawinski, Lisa DeMoss and Jerry Poe

#2 ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

5 JUNE

Meet on 5 June at the Visitor Center (Beaver Meadows Entrance) just west of Estes Park at 7:30 AM for this half-day trip. Lunch optional. Target birds would include those typical of the lower mountain elevations, such as Red-naped and Williamson's Sapsuckers, Empidonax flycatchers and many others.

Trip Leader: Bill Fink 1225 Columbia, Longmont (303) 776-7395

#3 ACORN WOODPECKER TRIP
25 JUNE

Meet at the parking lot at Lake Dorothy State Wildlife area at 10 AM on Sunday 25 June 1995. To get to Lake Dorothy take I-25 south to Raton, New Mexico (Exit 452). Take State Highway 72 east for 5 miles. Bear left on SR72, watching for the large sign to Sugarite Canyon State Park. If you are continuing north to Lake Dorothy you do not need to stop for a New Mexico Park pass. This road runs north and turns to dirt as you enter back into Colorado. We will meet at the Lake Dorothy State Wildlife Area parking lot just north of Lake Maloya. Lake Maloya straddles the state line. Thus, the Lake Dorothy SWA, jointly administered by the City of Raton and the Colorado State Division of Wildlife, is just a few tenths of a mile north of the state line on the west side of the road. (If you come to some ranch signs along the road which speak to the dire consequences of trespassing, you have gone a mile or so too far). From the parking area at Lake Dorothy, it is a short walk to where Acorn Woodpeckers were seen for months in 1994. Whether or not we find the woodpeckers, the area is interesting enough to spend a day walking and birding.

Trip Leader: Mark Yaeger 221 S. Union, Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 543-2724

#4 NESTING NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH TRIP
1 JULY

Meet at 7:30 AM, Saturday 1 July 1995, in Walden. Call for meeting location, carpooling and to sign up by 25 June 1995.

Our focus on this day-long trip will be finding Northern Waterthrushes along the river systems in North Park (see article in this issue). Access to some sites is contingent on permission from private landowners. There will be opportunities for close-up views of moose.

We will be on foot most of the day, traversing dense willow bottoms. Bring lunch, hip boots or irrigator boots, raingear and bug spray.

Leader: Beth Dillon 1225 W. Myrtle, Fort Collins, 80521 (970) 490-2610

#5 NORTHEASTERN COLORADO TRIP
9 SEPTEMBER

Meet on 9 September at 7AM at the Tamarack Ranch State Wildlife Area Check Station about 1 mile north of Exit 156 (Crook/Fleming) off I-76. We will bird Tamarack Ranch, Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Jumbo Reservoir and possibly the Platte River at Julesburg. Both exciting passerine and water birds are possible.

Trip Leaders: Bill Prather (303) 776-2191 and Bill Fink (303) 776-7395

#6 LOWER ARKANSAS RESERVOIRS SHOREBIRD TRIP
24 SEPTEMBER

Meet on September 24 at 8AM at the K-Mart parking lot (red caboose in the southwest corner) on US 50 (Exit 101) just west of I-25 in Pueblo. We will bird all the major reservoirs (Meredith, Henry, Blue and Cheraw) for shorebirds, waders etc., plus local migrant landbird traps. A hat and sunscreen are recommended.

Trip Leader: Mark Janos (719) 384-8672



*******CORRECTION*******

The editor regrets incorrectly spelling the name of the author of the article which appeared on page 11 of the last *C.F.O. Journal* (Vol. 29, No. 1) entitled "Raptor Electrocutions on the Pawnee National Grasslands". The author's name is Jay Tischendorf, Director of the American Ecological Research Institute (AERIE). He may be reached at PO Box 380, Fort Collins, CO 80522. Phone: (970) 224-5307. (See related article by John Barber in this issue).



COLORADO BIRD OBSERVATORY

NEW NEST Campaign

Please do not forget about the needs of the CBO for a new building. All of us received a recent letter dated March 20 with the details of this effort. This mailing contained a convenient contribution coupon and return envelope.

CBO serves all of us in the Colorado birding community and is engaged in many new and exciting projects. They deserve and need our help. Please contribute generously so they have a functional base for their *Longterm Colorado Projects* (various monitoring studies here at home), *Western Songbird Conservation Network* (important interaction with ornithologists in seven Mexican states) and *On The Wing* (a youth education camp in ornithology).

On The Wing: Studies in Field Ornithology

Join Colorado Bird Observatory and Keystone Science School in "On The Wing", a bird camp just for young people. During "On The Wing", participants will hike in the Rocky Mountains while learning about birds. Do not expect to just compile a bird list, though. We will be taking part in banding at one of the Observatory's research stations, recording data, and keeping journals of our sightings. We will also canoe Lake Dillon in search of Osprey. Sessions will be offered for 11-13 year olds and 14-16 year olds in July 1995. We may also be offering a special, pre-college course for 17-19 year olds. Cost for the 7-night, 8-day program is \$600. Some scholarship funds are available. For more information, session dates, and an application, contact Colorado Bird Observatory at 13401 Piccadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601 (303-659-4348) or Keystone Science School at P.O. Box 8606, Keystone, CO 80435-7998 (303-468-5824).

SONGBIRD ART SHOW

The Colorado Bird Observatory will be hosting its 3rd annual Songbird Art Show in the fall of 1995. The show is designed to increase public awareness, through art, of songbirds, shorebirds, and waders. Artists interested in submitting work (sculpture and flatwork) should contact CBO for a prospectus. All works will be for sale to the public. For more information, contact Colorado Bird Observatory, ATTN: Songbird Art Show, 13401 Piccadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601.



**THE RONALD A. RYDER AWARD
FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
TO COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGY**

Whereas, Dr. Ronald A. Ryder, a Charter Member, has served the Colorado Field Ornithologists with distinction as a President, a Records Committee member, and as a Director, and

Whereas, Dr. Ronald A. Ryder continues to regularly contribute to the Colorado Field Ornithologists and to Colorado field ornithology through many scholarly papers and presentations, including many articles published in the *C.F.O. Journal* and given at our annual meetings, and

Whereas Dr. Ronald A. Ryder, by his extensive knowledge, his friendly, enthusiastic, easy going teaching style, and his continued selfless commitment to field ornithology, exemplifies the best of what we strive for as students of birds,

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Colorado Field Ornithologists is proud to establish and present to him the first "RONALD A. RYDER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGY", and to grant Dr. Ryder an Honorary Life Membership in the Colorado Field Ornithologists.

Adopted by the C.F.O. Board of Directors
February 25, 1995



**A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY AND INTERVIEW WITH
DR. RONALD A. RYDER - APRIL 1995**

David Leatherman
2048 Whiterock Court
Fort Collins, CO 80526
(970) 484-5445

He could have been an oceanographer, engineer, photo interpreter, museum curator, forester or herpetologist. He could have ended up in Utah, Arizona, the Arctic or beyond. Fortunately for the field of ornithology and us, the various fickle forks in his road led Dr. Ronald A. Ryder to a career centered on Colorado birds. For over 40 years he has waded and hiked, waited and climbed for knowledge about birds. What he has learned from those pursuits is extraordinary and places him solidly in the center of scientific circles. But what has earned him a special place in our hearts and history is what he does with the earnings on his investment. Simply, he shares them. He shares them with an energy second only in strength and endurance to the energy he applies to learning. They say that knowledge is power. Dr. Ryder's command of knowledge is Herculean, but the man and word "power" do not even sound right in the same sentence. It is as if he is embarrassed by being thought of as powerful or important - as if by sharing his knowledge he will not be forced to waste time on the necessary trivia associated with high standing. He would view that time as stolen from his first love, the Field. Make no mistake. Despite myriad indoor responsibilities, commitments and duties, Dr. Ryder always has at least one foot rooted firmly outdoors. And you can bet the planting site is bird habitat.

On 4 and 12 April 1995 I had the privilege of interviewing Dr. Ryder. The following are excerpts from those sessions, mixed with information obtained from various sources.

Ronald Arch Ryder was born in 1928 to Florence and Wendell Ryder and raised in the Kansas City area. Music was prominent in the Ryder family, with his mother playing piano and his father teaching band and orchestra for many years at local high schools. Of note, Mr. Ryder once played in a military band directed by John Philip Sousa. As a boy, Ron spent summers on the farms of relatives near Colby, Kansas. When asked how this came about, he replied, "It was the Depression and in retrospect, there was more food out on the farm." It was on these wheat and cattle lands, too, that a preoccupation with wildlife and birds began.

Other interests of the young Ryder were art, reading, the clarinet, anthropology ("...everybody in Kansas collected arrowheads") and athletics. It should surprise no one that, although smallish of build for football, he made

Second Team All-Star in Kansas City, Missouri as an offensive "pocket guard". The seeds of this Renaissance Man were sown early.

Upon graduation from high school a storm cloud of being drafted into World War II loomed. Facing duty head-on, he enlisted at 17 in the Army. Military-sponsored, intensive schooling at both the University of Wyoming and University of Illinois had him slated for an engineering career, but the war soon ended and he was discharged. Following a summer with the U.S. Forest Service, he came to Colorado A. & M. College, intent upon forestry. "But I worked in a lookout tower that first summer and marked timber and decided it wasn't for me. They had a game management major here and I liked birds and all, so I decided, 'I'll take game management'". Ron Ryder earned his bachelor's degree from A. & M. in 1949 and immediately launched into a master's program in waterfowl production. Living along the "Gunbarrel Highway" south of Saguache, it was here he began his remarkable bird-banding efforts ("I suppose I've banded somewhere between 20 and 30 thousand birds...") and his personal ties to the San Luis Valley. He earned his Master's Degree in 1951 and continued employment with the Colorado Game & Fish Department.

But like it did with so many other personal lives of the day, war intervened, specifically the conflict in Korea. To improve his options he enlisted again, this time in the Navy. After a brief immersion in Officer Candidate School, "I became a '120-Day Wonder' and went to sea as an ensign". It was on the decks of the U.S.S. Algol, an attack cargo ship and the U.S.S. Burton Island, an icebreaker, he cemented his love of seabirds. While in the cold waters off Alaska he organized shipmate surveys of walruses, polar bears and other northern animals.

His 32 months of shipboard duty completed, he returned to Denver. On a snow-shoeing trip with the Colorado Mountain Club he met Audrey Teele, who would shortly become his wife and companion for life. The GI Bill afforded opportunity for more schooling and the next year it was off to Utah State for field work and classes in pursuit of a Ph.D. "Then I taught one year at Wartburg College in Iowa in 1957-58. That was a very interesting, exciting time while I wrote my dissertation and taught three classes: General Biology, Nature Study and Conservation. But I had a chance to come here (Colorado State University) to fill in for a former classmate, Doug Gilbert". During that one-year assignment at Colorado State he "...taught a little bit of everything. Then I was offered an appointment at Northern Arizona University in forestry. Even though that wasn't really my bag I had a ticket and everything, when Department Head John Vernon Knox Wagar offered a special appointment: half-time with the Dean's Office and half-time in wildlife". JVK Wagar is honored for his development of wildlife studies and service to Colorado State by having the current Fishery and Wildlife Biology Department building bear his name. Looking back, we should also thank

Professor Wagar's for his recognition of talent and decision to lure a certain budding educator from his imminent exodus to Flagstaff.

In a distinguished Colorado State University teaching and research career (1958-1985), which earned him "Emeritus" status and which still has not really ended, Dr. Ryder has taught about every course offered in wildlife biology. When asked which were his favorites, he responded, "Wildlife Management Techniques and Waterfowl, the hands-on courses where you handled the critters." He put together the first non-game wildlife management course in the nation. He has helped author over 100 scientific and popular papers, many of which have appeared in this journal. And he has overseen the scholarship of 49 Master's and 7 Doctoral students. While proud of them all, and uncomfortable with singling any out, he considers Dr. Clait Braun (upland gamebird biologist with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, President-elect of The Wildlife Society and former President of The Wilson Ornithological Society) and Dr. Carl Marti, Professor of Zoology at Weber State College, among those who have gone on to high distinction.

Knowing that his general interest in birds and other wild things came naturally while working and watching on the farm, I asked Dr. Ryder for specifics. He remembered hawks catching ground-squirrels, a captive Burrowing Owl "that would never tame" and all manner of other pets. He chuckled about catching snakes near Kansas City and "selling them to my buddies so they could chase girls". Tolerant parents and relatives recognized his affection for the natural world and did not interfere. He also found a peer with a liking for birds, a fellow footballer named Bob Werning. This helped make it seem OK. "So, I got where I never went to church. My family always went to church. I had been an Episcopal choirboy, but when my voice changed I used that as an excuse to go birding. I'd ride the streetcar for 10 cents out to Swope Park in Kansas City, which was a wonderful park at the end of the line. Barred Owls and Green Herons nested there, and it had deer and foxes. I'd do things like that about every weekend with the Burrough's Club, an Audubon Chapter in KC."

I imagine many of us feel influenced and guided by Dr. Ryder and look to him as a mentor and idol of sorts. Who were similar influences in his life, I asked? Over several minutes he easily came up with many names, prominent names like the prolific nature writer Frank M. Chapman, and Gifford Pinchot ("Father of Forestry" in the U.S.), the late Gustav Swanson (world-respected conservationist, and in his later years, frequent contributor to *Bird Watcher's Digest*), and Ira M. Gabrielson (former Head of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). Of the latter he said, "He's the one who taught me to make bird study skins. He'd come to the San Luis Valley and shoot swallows on the wing with .38 dust and sit there and drink bourbon and tear up furniture to get little sticks to use (as back supports) in the skins. He could make one up about every 15-20 minutes, really crank 'em out. He was a huge guy, with big hands. He said

all across North America you could tell where he'd been because he'd pull open furniture drawers and sliver out pieces of the plywood for making the skins. He was quite a character."

There were influential professors like Lee Yeager, his Master's advisor. How did they meet? Prof Yeager was conducting photography work on island-nesting herons at Terry Lake near Fort Collins. While canoeing to the island he encountered student Ryder "swimming out to the island, holding my Brownie camera over my head. I guess he was impressed by my being in that cold water just to get pictures for my undergraduate paper on Double-crested Cormorants. Later he hired me to do bird study skins for him. That was great for me 'cause I went from the 50 cents an hour I was getting at the Student Center to 65 cents to do the skins. And later it led to my Master's work."

Another big influence in his early Colorado experience was the Curator of Birds for the Denver Museum of Natural History. "I was a regular behind the scenes, bringing in birds I'd collected. I was always particularly impressed by Robert Niedrach's cordial nature and the time he took to chat and teach me about breeding birds. He was a fabulous nest finder".

Dr. Ryder got his first taste of competitive birding from shipmate Bob Frohling of New York City's famous Uerner Society, and a 1951 tern trip he took with Bob on Cape Cod. Their companion and dune buggy supplier that day was Ludlow Griscom.

Early remembrances of the land now occupied by Colorado State University? "Bobolinks nesting in the alfalfa field where Moby Gym is now. And right at the corner of Laurel and Shields was a nesting pair of Lewis' Woodpeckers, in a big old cottonwood that got removed when they widened the streets."

He was part of the effort, led by Jack Grieb and Gurney Crawford, to introduce Canada Geese along the Front Range. I asked how he viewed that now. "Oh, I think it was probably a mistake. It seemed a good thing but on the other hand, it has really boomeranged."

If you talk with Dr. Ryder for very long you are comforted by an outlook that could only come from a long association with natural cycles. That view could perhaps best be described as "things change". He has great faith in the ability of birds and other organisms to cope and adapt. "That's what evolution is all about. And we have to remember people are animals, too." That does not mean he has his head in the sand and has not seen the problems. He has observed and even collected species like the Flightless Rail of Guam, which are now extinct outside zoos. But he has also been around for the fall and rise of Bald Eagles, notes that deer are more abundant now than ever and, in general, seems more concerned about the people being trained to manage and shape public opinion about wildlife. He views much of the current

environmental outcry as "reactionary and alarmist" in flavor. He worries somewhat that most wildlife students at Colorado State these days have not grown up on ranches or farms, have not handled the animals they purport to care about. He feels such an upbringing can be invaluable and something the modern generation is lacking for the most part.

Yet, when I inquired whether he thought birding needs special programs to recruit young people into the fold, he laughed, "It'll probably take care of itself. Various groups, like duck hunters, have always worried about where the new guard will come from, and there's never been a real shortage."

In short, Dr. Ryder believes if we are reasonable with our inevitable impacts on wildlife and protect habitat where we can, the natural resiliency of most species will allow their use as a resource and ensure their sustainability.

When asked what new place or places he would visit if given the chance, his immediate responses were, "The Galapagos Islands and then Siberia, including Wrangell Island." Tropical places were not on the list, although he has seen some during his Pacific naval experience. "I feel ill-at-ease in a dense jungle. I guess that relates to my Kansas upbringing. I'm more an open country, arctic-alpine person."

Do you have any "nemeses birds", birds you have never seen that you feel you should have or really wanted to see? "Black-throated Blue Warbler. Of the seabirds, there are not many I've missed, but I've not seen a Whiskered Auklet or Red-legged Kittiwake. I'm missing several Bering Sea birds and I guess I'd include Ross' Gull and Northern Hawk-owl on the list."

He and his wife Audrey have two children: Raymond, who is working on his Ph.D. in music, and Helen, who has a M.Ed. He considers his spouse a great supporter over the years. "She's done all my typing, she's a good editor and been real tolerant of my field work. She enjoys birds.....as long as they don't get loose in the house. Then she gets a little panicky with fluttery birds."

In retort to my rapid series of "favorites" questions, here is a sampling:

Favorite music? "Bagpipe music and John Philip Sousa marches."

Favorite food? "Any kind of seafood."

Favorite author(s)? "Rudyard Kipling (both stories and poems),
David Lack, Peter Scott, Eric Hosking, any of the old
explorer accounts, Teddy Roosevelt and Mark Twain."

Favorite modern TV show? No response.

Favorite sport? "Hockey and soccer. I also like basketball and
football. I don't follow baseball much."

Favorite comedian? "I grew up on Bob Hope,.... Danny Kaye."

Favorite Holiday? "Christmas, because of Christmas Counts."

Favorite Birds? "American Coot would be #1. Crows. I always pull for the underdogs. Then of course I like most waterbirds, hawks. I'm partial to owls, too."

Favorite Month? "February."

"Have you ever had any serious hardships because of birds?", I asked. "Yes, I've had my share of things, dysentery, staph infections... almost fallen out of trees a couple of times. I've got scratches all over me and I've had some exciting times. Up in Newfoundland I was collecting seabirds and got a Great Black-backed Gull, which are harder than heck to kill. I thought it was deceased in the back of my little VW van but I only had it wounded. He 'came to', so I had to pull off and subdue a big bird."

How does one sum up Ronald A. Ryder? At face value he is but 150 pounds. An army doctor once described him as, "having a crooked right arm, flat feet and near-sightedness." They took him anyway, and so, certainly, will we. While true, the doctor's assessment would be a grossly shallow capsulization of the man we now honor. He is a curious, bright individual, who knows the value of consistency, accuracy and adaptation. He strikes a delicate balance amid the people and animals of his devotion. He accumulates. The things he gathers are books, facts and piles of reprints, banding recovery records, blood specimens and pellets. He appears disorganized but proves the contrary with each obscure reference produced upon request for the seeker. Sometimes he even knows what you want or need before you do. He steers "retirement" with an appointment book, eight items to each day. His North American Life List is over 600. He is not sure of the exact number. He still takes time to help, or at a minimum you get a referral. He laughs a lot. He whistles a lot. Some whistles are tunes, some mimic owls. He is as comfortable firing a cannon net to catch his beloved coots as he is ordering off the menu at Warren Air Force Base or reciting details of Eskimo whaling technique. He knows avocets are delicious and murre are not. Mention his name at the ominous Rawhide Power Plant gates and they mysteriously gape in welcome. Pelican elders at Riverside no doubt recount "The Ryder Legends" to their nestlings.

He was our 5th organizational President. He has been loyal to and led C.F.O. because he says we still remember we are about birds. This article is about Ronald A. Ryder and about the respect and admiration we have for a truly special man - who happens to know about birds and much more.



**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
MISSION STATEMENT**

To promote the field study, conservation and enjoyment of Colorado birds. Our mission is accomplished through quarterly publication of the *Colorado Field Ornithologists' Journal*, annual conventions, statewide field trips, the Colorado Bird Records Committee's review of rare and unusual bird sightings, and maintenance of the official list of Colorado birds.

Adopted by the C.F.O. Board of Directors
February 25, 1995



**C.F.O. BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MINUTES OF 25 FEBRUARY 1995 SESSION**

Susan Paynter, Secretary Pro Tem
1530 Robidoux Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80915

At 1:10 PM the C.F.O. Board meeting was called to order in a meeting room at the People's Clinic, 3303 Broadway, Boulder, CO. Present were Steve Bouricius, Raymond Davis, Coen Dexter, Linda Vidal, Bill Prather, Kim Potter, Bob Dickson, Beth Dillon, Susan Paynter, Alan Versaw, Bill Fink and Dave Leatherman.

I. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER'S REPORTS

A. Minutes. Minutes of meeting of June 11, 1994, were approved as published in the *Journal*.

B. Financial. Treasurer's report was given by Davis, who prepared a detailed financial statement comparing numbers, receipts, and expenditures from 1992 to present, including a 1995 budget. C.F.O. has sufficient cash assets to allow improvements to the *Journal*. The report was approved. Vidal and Potter provided followup on the new membership brochure, which is part of C.F.O.'s recent expenditures. C.F.O. brochures will be placed at the next ABA conference in Albuquerque in January 1996, and at the WBBA meeting in Albuquerque in September 1995.

C. C.F.O. Journal. Dave Leatherman, editor, encouraged articles with photographs. Black and white photos are best; even imperfect photos can be improved before publication. We discussed the possibility of a once-a-year color cover (\$450.00) for the *Journal*. It was suggested that the editor select the best photo of the year for the October 1995 issue. A final decision on this will be made at our next meeting.

Bouricius suggested a new section for the *Journal*, to be called "Notes of Interest". This would be 1 or 2 pages of brief field observations of rare birds, or unusual bird behaviors. The decision on this was left up to the editor. Dave Leatherman was commended by the Board for producing an outstanding *Journal*.

D. Records Committee Report. Bob Dickson, Mark Janos and Bill Prather have completed revision of the Records Committee Bylaws. During revision, Dickson reviewed member objections, giving consideration to suggestions (e.g. Dave Silverman wants more encouragement for member submissions). The C.F.O. Records Committee has been given a new name, the Colorado Bird Records Committee (CBRC), with its own separate bylaws. It was noted that receipts will be sent for reports. Along with comments, the C.F.O. Board reviewed and changed some wording in the proposed revisions.

... Sec. IX, A.1, concerning inclusion of other data or finder's initials as part of the report, it was decided that, for accepted records, inclusion of the finder's initials will be left at the discretion of the author(s) and voting committee members.

...Sec. IX, A.2, was changed to read that the observer's name or initials shall NOT be published for "not accepted" records.

...Other comments and notes: It's been 14 years since the records committee bylaws were revised. Since the CBRC has separate functions from C.F.O., the bylaws will be published separately. By official resolution, this is now reflected in C.F.O.'s bylaws.

The Board officially commends the excellent work of Bob Dickson, Bill Prather and Mark Janos for their diligent efforts on the CBRC Bylaws Revision Committee.

Bob Dickson and Mark Janos will complete and have available the adopted CBRC bylaws on disc for distribution and publication (see elsewhere this issue).

E. C.F.O. Colorado Partners-In-Flight (COPIF) representative. Tina Jones will be our COPIF representative. There was agreement about publishing all or parts of COPIF's recent abstracts in the *Journal*.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Membership brochure. Discussed earlier.

B. Checklist distribution. State Parks will distribute C.F.O. checklists. Although many State Parks have their own checklists for local birds, ours covers the whole state. Following revision (in progress), a new C.F.O. checklist will be published this year and perhaps included in a future *Journal*. "Old" checklists will be put into membership brochures as giveaways; they may also be given to schools and Project Wild.

C. University and agency contact project: Potter said she would like to continue working on this.

D. Seasonal reports ("News from the Field"): status. Potter mentioned peer review problems. Alan Versaw suggested instituting regional reports. Brandon Percival wants to assume the duty of writing seasonal reports: he will take over with the winter 1995 report.

E. Draft of a formal mission statement. After some modification, the statement was approved as follows:

MISSION STATEMENT: To promote the field study, conservation and enjoyment of Colorado birds. Our mission is accomplished through: quarterly publication the of the *Colorado Field Ornithologists' Journal*, annual conventions, statewide field trips, the Colorado Bird Records Committee's review of rare and unusual bird sightings, and maintenance of the official list of Colorado birds.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction and appointment of two new Directors. Bill Fink and John Barber volunteered and were appointed as Directors. It was noted that there will be openings for 3 more Directors at the June meeting.

B. The Ronald A. Ryder Award for Distinguished Service to Colorado Field Ornithology. C.F.O. has created an award to be presented to distinguished contributors to bird study. This award will be presented from time to time, as the Board deems appropriate. The namesake, Dr. Ryder, will be its first recipient at the 1995 C.F.O. Convention in Grand Junction. (See elsewhere this issue: the full award resolution and an interview with Dr. Ryder).

C. 1996 Convention. The C.F.O. will host a joint annual meeting with the Western Field Ornithologists in Estes Park. Our last joint meeting with W.F.O. was in 1981. We plan to invite other state ornithological societies as well, to create a regional conference of field ornithologists. Field trips will include Rocky Mountain National Park and the Pawnee National Grasslands. This is

an outstanding opportunity for Colorado birders. Although convention dates in Estes Park are not final, several suggestions from Board members helped focus our attention on a time frame (close to June 1). Since we are having a larger gathering (with W.F.O.), we may have a longer paper session(s), and/or 2 banquets with different speakers.

D. 1995 Convention (See details this issue).

E. A new C.F.O. newsletter was discussed: Paynter said she will consider developing one in the near future. Vidal submitted a written proposal that we add a new officer position titled Membership Chairperson or Membership Secretary.

Since our 4-hour meeting time had passed, and some agenda items were covered out of sequence, it was decided that the rest of the agenda could be tabled until the Convention. The meeting was concluded at 5:05 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Susan R. Paynter
March 1, 1995



**MESSAGE FROM BILL PRATHER
COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to welcome Robert Righter to the records committee. He is one of the authors of *Colorado Birds - A Reference to their Distribution and Habitat*. His knowledge and experience will be a great help.

He replaces Joe Himmel. I would like to thank Joe for his always outstanding work. He was always one of the quickest to get records considered and circulated, always a big job. He also did an excellent detective job on the Baikal Teal that escaped from Greeley.

The new bylaws now allow a member to serve 2 consecutive three-year terms before taking a mandatory leave, and the committee has asked Peter Gent and Dick Schottler to do this. They have agreed and I thank them for their excellent work.

I feel we have an excellent committee and I am looking forward to seeing all of your reports.

BYLAWS OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

I. NAME/AFFILIATION

A. The **name of the committee** is the Colorado Bird Records Committee, hereafter referred to as the CBRC. It is a committee of the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO).

II. PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

A. The **purpose of the CBRC** is to provide a repository for information regarding the records of rare or unusual birds within the state of Colorado. In order to perform this function the CBRC shall solicit, collect, assemble, review, render opinions, and permanently archive, in a public facility, all documentation concerning rare and unusual bird records.

B. In order to perform its functions well, the CBRC must have **good communication** with the bird-watching and ornithology communities and make its mechanisms, publications and opinions widely known.

C. The CBRC shall provide a means by which sight records can be used as scientific data.

D. The CBRC is not, nor does it intend to be, the final word in the rendering of any opinion concerning the correctness of any individual record, nor should its opinions be used as a basis for validating any particular personal record(s).

III. DUTIES

A. The CBRC has the following **duties**:

1. To **solicit, collect and organize records** of rare or unusual birds in Colorado. A rare bird "record" is defined as the written report(s), along with all pertinent information, such as a specimen, documentary photographs, videotapes, audio recordings, written "expert" opinion(s) and CBRC member votes and comments in regards to the written report(s).

2. To **review, evaluate and assess all records** and to rule on the acceptability of the submitted documentation in supporting the record. There are two principal written accounts resulting from this activity:

- a. An annual report, published in the *C.F.O. Journal*, describing the activities and opinions of the CBRC (Section IX(A)).

b. An "official" state list of Colorado birds based on current knowledge and historical evidence archived in the CBRC files (Sections VII(D) and X). This list shall appear periodically as the "Field Check-list of Colorado Birds".

3. To establish a permanent file of all records in the Denver Museum of Natural History. This archive shall be maintained, in good order, by the CBRC and members of the Museum staff and shall be open, available and accessible for review by anyone at any time in the future. The establishment and maintenance of the CBRC bird records archive is the most important function of the CBRC. The opinions rendered by the CBRC are made in good faith and with the best available knowledge at the time, however the actual archived records shall stand on their own merit and be available for anyone (including future CBRC's) for review.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

A. The CBRC is responsible to the Officers and Directors of the CFO, through the President, for the proper performance of its duties.

V. MEMBERSHIP

A. The CBRC shall consist of seven members: a Chairperson (hereafter "Chair") and six regular members. All members evaluate and offer opinions (i.e., "vote") on records submitted for review to the CBRC. No opinion on an individual bird record may be rendered by the CBRC without the votes of all seven current members. All CBRC members are appointed by the President of the CFO as described in Section V(D).

B. Anyone is eligible to become a CBRC member if, in the opinions of current members of the CBRC and President of the CFO, that person:

1. Demonstrates an expert ability in, and knowledge of, field identification of birds, and
2. Is a member in good standing of the CFO.

C. The schedule of appointment of members shall occur as follows:

1. The President of the CFO shall appoint the seven members to terms of three years. Appointment shall be on a staggered basis, with two regular members' terms expiring at the end of each year to maintain continuity. Regular terms shall end on December 31 and begin on January 1.

2. All members, including the Chair, are eligible to serve a second, consecutive three-year term if asked to by the CBRC and President of the CFO.

3. After completing two consecutive three-year terms, there is a mandatory one year retirement (excepting the role of "former Chair") from the CBRC.

4. No member, including the Chair, may serve for more than six consecutive years in any voting capacity on the CBRC.

D. The appointment of CBRC regular members and the Chair is by the President of the CFO, after considering Section V(B) of the CBRC bylaws.

1. The **CBRC Chair** must be a current or previous member of the CBRC.

a. At least six months prior to the expiration of the current CBRC Chair's term of office, the current CBRC Chair shall submit a recommendation for the position of the next Chair to the CFO President. The current Chair shall confer with current CBRC members in making the recommendation.

b. The President of the CFO shall consider the recommendation of the current CBRC Chair when appointing the new Chair. If the President desires, he/she may request additional recommendations for appointment. The President must make his/her appointment known by the end of the year of expiration of the current Chair's term of office. The new CBRC Chair shall begin serving his/her three-year term of office on January 1 of the following year.

2. The **CBRC regular members** shall be selected and appointed by the President of the CFO.

a. At least six months prior to the expiration of the current two longest-serving members' terms of office, the current CBRC Chair shall submit recommendations for the pending two vacancies on the CBRC to the CFO President. The current Chair shall confer with current CBRC members in making these recommendations.

b. The President of the CFO shall consider the recommendations of the current CBRC Chair when appointing the two new members. If the President desires, he/she may request additional recommendations for appointment. The President must make his/her appointments known by the end of the year of expiration of the current Chair's term of office. The new CBRC members shall

begin serving their three-year terms of office on January 1 of the following year.

3. In the case that any CBRC member **resigns or becomes unable to** serve his/her full term of office, the CFO President shall solicit recommendations for a replacement appointment from the CBRC Chair and proceed as in Sections V(D) 1 & 2. Replacement members shall fill the remainder of the resigning member's term and be eligible for re-serving on the CBRC as described in Section V(C).

4. In the case that any CBRC member appears to be **incapable, unwilling or uncooperative in carrying out** their part of the CBRC work, the CFO President shall poll all other CBRC members as to what action to take. In the case where the CBRC majority decision is to remove a member of the CBRC, the CFO President shall request the resignation of the member. Such request constitutes removal of the member from the CBRC. The vacant member's position shall be filled as described in Section V(D) 1 & 2. Replacement members shall fill the remainder of the resigning member's term and be eligible for re-serving on the CBRC as described in Section V(C).

E. Upon completing his/her term as Chair of the CBRC, the out-going Chair shall assume the non-voting position of "**Former Chair**" for a term of one year. The purpose of the Former Chair is to assist the in-coming Chair with assuming his/her duties. The Former Chair shall aid the new Chair in the functions of the office, including a thorough knowledge of the CBRC Bylaws.

F. When necessary or appropriate, **outside "expert" opinion** may be solicited on a particular record(s) or problem. Such experts may include scientists, ornithologists, field identification experts and/or previous or current CBRC members. In these cases, the written or recounted opinions of these experts shall become part of the bird record in question and shall be archived with it in CBRC files. Although the experts are not members of the CBRC, their written opinions shall be considered by the CBRC members when rendering opinions on bird records.

VI. GENERAL PROCEDURES.

A. The CBRC Chair shall receive, number, assemble, and **distribute records for review by mail**. The Chair shall collate votes, write the annual CBRC report and submit it to the Editor of the *C.F.O. Journal* for publication in the calendar year following the records submissions.

B. The **annual meeting** of the CBRC shall be held during the CFO Convention.

1. Four CBRC members shall constitute a quorum.
2. The purpose of the annual meeting is to discuss and consider any items of CBRC business that occurred during the previous year. The CBRC shall discuss anything relating to the successful completion of the committee's duties. Matters for consideration include issues relating to the circulation and review of records, including group discussion of difficult bird records that previously received non-decisive votes (Section VIII(C) 8 & 9, the production of the annual report and the official list of Colorado birds, and the maintenance of the CBRC archives.
3. The Chair shall keep, or cause to keep, minutes of all meetings.

C. **Special meetings** may be called with the agreement of four members of the CBRC. Four CBRC members constitutes a quorum.

VII. RECORDS PROCEDURES

A. The CBRC Chair maintains a **duplicate set of CBRC files** in his/her possession for reference and use. This duplicate set is the property of CFO and shall pass to succeeding Chairs.

B. The primary component of any bird record is the **written report**. Reports may consist of a standard form,, narrative account, copies of field notes or a combination of the three. Use of a standardized CFO report form is encouraged. Any additional documentation, such as photographs or drawings, shall be duplicated (if necessary), attached to the written description and collated by the CBRC Chair to form the bird "record" (Section III(A)1).

C. It is the **duty of the Chair** to collate, organize and circulate packets of records to the CBRC members. It is the **duty of the CBRC members** to thoughtfully render opinions in a timely manner and pass on records packets as they are completed.

D. The CBRC maintains the "official" Colorado state list (Section III(A)2(b)). As part of the list, the CBRC shall note those **species for which the committee desires documentation**. The following categories shall be published in conjunction with the CBRC's "official" Colorado state list and are:

1. Species new to the "official" Colorado state list.
2. Those species rare enough to merit interest by the committee. As a general guideline, those species occurring less than 10 times in Colorado shall be annotated as "rare" (= "R"), and those averaging four or fewer sightings per year during the previous ten years shall be annotated as

"unusual" (= "U"). The CBRC shall solicit species records in these two categories.

3. In addition, any regular species on the state list occurring at an unusual time or location shall require documentation.

E. A record that has received a final CBRC decision, whether accepted or rejected, and even though published as such, may be re-submitted by anyone if there becomes available new and substantial evidence that might reverse that decision. Records that involve taxa that have since undergone taxonomic revision by the American Ornithologists' Union may be re-submitted to determine the status of any changed taxa. Any re-submitted record shall be recirculated as "new" record, with previous votes, CBRC comments, publication status, and all new evidence marked as such.

VIII. CIRCULATION AND VOTING PROCEDURES

A. Upon receipt of a record, the Chair shall do the following:

1. Give the record a unique number as follows:

a. A first number corresponding to a code number for the bird family (the family code number key is part of the Denver Museum CBRC archive files), followed by a dash (e.g. "1-").

b. A second number corresponding to the last two digits of the year in which the record is received (which is not necessarily the year that the observation was made), followed by a dash (e.g. "-94-").

c. A third number that is the next sequential number, based on order of receipt, starting with the number "1" on January 1 each year (e.g. "-77").

2. If appropriate, the Chair shall ask the reporter for additional details which, if received, shall be attached to the original documentation in such a way as to keep these details separate.

3. Assemble multiple reports as follows:

a. Multiple reports which, in the opinion of the Chair, pertain to the same individual occurrence are collected, accessioned with a single CBRC number, and assembled jointly, as they are separate pieces of documentation for the same submitted "record".

b. In cases of multiple records for a single record, the CBRC member shall vote "acceptable" for the record if the sum of individual written reports supports the stated identification.

4. Judge the record's validity and vote on it (thus prior to seeing other members' votes or comments (Section VIII(C)5)).

5. Assemble the complete record(s), including all pertinent documentation as described in Sections III(A)1 and VII(B), into a packet and circulate by mail to all CBRC members.

B. Upon receipt of a record, the CBRC member shall:

1. Judge the record's validity and vote on it (thus prior to seeing other members' votes or comments (Section VIII(C)5)).

2. Send the complete validation form to the Chair.

3. Forward the records packet, by mail, to the next CBRC recipient.

C. Voting and acceptance criteria are as follows:

1. The vote of each CBRC member, together with his/her comments, shall be submitted to the Chair on a standard validation form. This form shall include at least the following:

- a. accession number,
- b. species' common and scientific name,
- c. name of voting CBRC member,
- d. the CBRC member's vote, and
- e. the CBRC voting member's comments (Section VIII(C)4).

2. Voting categories are as follows:

- a. Accept
- b. Reject, identification questionable
- c. Reject, natural occurrence questionable
- d. Reject, establishment of introduced population questionable

3. CBRC members **shall not abstain** from voting on any record, including their own.

4. On the first circulation, a "reject" vote shall be supported by **comments** by the CBRC member. On a re-circulation either an "accept" or a "reject" vote shall be supported by comments by the CBRC member. All CBRC member votes and comments are part of the "record" and thus shall be permanently archived in conjunction with the bird record.

5. In order to assure a balanced treatment of all records, CBRC members shall **make evaluations independently** during the first circulation. There shall be no discussion between CBRC members concerning the validity of any record before the validation forms are collated by the Chair. While considering a record, CBRC members are free to confer with anyone, other than a CBRC member. If the discussion yields any significant information regarding the record, it should be passed on via that CBRC member's written comments.

6. The **criteria used by a member for acceptance or rejection** of a record are based on that member's knowledge and experience. However, members should accept or reject records on the basis of as objective criteria as possible, such as the adequacy of the field marks reported, or the conditions under which the observations were made. The veracity of the observer should not normally be questioned except with good cause.

7. The **votes of the CBRC members are tabulated** by the Chair after all members have voted.

8. The **decision on a record** is determined as follows:

a. "Decisive" records:

- 1) A record is considered to be decisively **accepted** if it receives six or more "accept" votes, i.e. 7-0 or 6-1 (to accept).
- 2) A record is considered to be decisively **rejected** if it receives four or more "reject" votes, i.e. 3-4, 2-5, 1-6 or 0-7 (to accept).

b. "Non-decisive" records:

- 1) A record is considered to be **non-decisive** if it receives either four or five "accept" votes, i.e. 5-2 or 4-3 (to accept).

9. **Non-decisive votes** are dealt with as follows:

a. If a non-decisive vote is obtained during the initial circulation, the Chair shall re-circulate the record with comments and votes of all members. Regardless of whether a decisive vote was obtained during the first circulation, the Chair may re-circulate a record if he/she feels that the CBRC's comments might alter the decision.

b. CBRC members shall re-consider the record, including other CBRC members' votes and comments. Then the member shall re-vote and comment on each record and return a validation form on the record to the Chair.

c. The Chair shall tabulate the votes.

d. If, after the second circulation, the record still has not received a decisive vote as described in Section VIII(C)8b, it shall be kept by the Chair until it can be discussed, voted on and resolved at the next meeting of the CBRC (Section VI(B)).

e. Prior to the meeting, the Chair shall inform all CBRC members of any twice-circulated records still needing a final decision.

f. A record shall be accepted, if at the valid meeting of the CBRC, it receives no more than one "reject" vote. Any record that receives two or more "reject" votes is rejected. Proxies shall not be allowed as votes.

10. A **first state record** is established by the acceptance of two or more observers sight records, one observer photographic or taped record, or a specimen record. A single-observer "accepted" sight record cannot at that time be accepted as a new state record. However, if such a record is considered "accepted" other than the fact that it is a first state record by a single observer, it shall be given a status of "provisionally accepted". It shall retroactively be considered the first state record upon the acceptance of a subsequent record of that species.

IX. REPORT PUBLICATION

A. The decisions of the CBRC shall be published annually, under the authorship of the Chair (and others if desired), in the form of an **annual report** in the *C.F.O. Journal*.

1. The species list shall be arranged in current taxonomic order. It shall include the common and scientific names of each species, the CBRC accession number, the date(s) of observation, locality, reporting observers, and the opinion of the CBRC (e.g. "accepted" or "rejected"), along with any pertinent discussion for the conclusion that was reached,

for all applicable records submitted and voted upon decisively by the CBRC during the previous calendar year. The names of CBRC members that voted on covered records shall be included in the report. Other data may be added at the discretion of the author(s) and the voting members (e.g. the name or initials of the discoverer of the bird, even though that person may not have submitted the report).

2. In publications, the term "not accepted" shall be used in place of "rejected" when referring to the decision of the CBRC. The observer's name or initials shall not be published for "not accepted" records.
3. Pending records shall not be published until such time as they receive a decisive vote.

X. "OFFICIAL" COLORADO STATE LIST

A. The CBRC shall maintain the CFO "official" Colorado state bird list. All species accepted to the list must be supported by an extant specimen, an acceptable photograph, video tape or audio-taped record that is on file in the CBRC archives, or acceptable sight record(s) involving at least two observers (independently or concurrently). The list shall be published as the "Field Check-List of Colorado Birds".

B. The "official" Colorado state bird species list shall include:

- 1) the breeding status,
- 2) a notation indicating the relative rarity of each species and those species for which the CBRC desires documentation.
- 3) a notation indicating those species that require special care in identification.

XI. CBRC BYLAW REVIEW

A. CBRC bylaws shall be reviewed periodically by the CBRC, but at least every five years.

B. Suggested amendments may be made to the President of the CFO by any CFO member in good standing. Such suggestions shall be presented to the Chair of the CBRC and then to the CFO Board of Directors for their consideration and action.

Adopted by the C.F.O. Board of Directors
25 February 1995





Flock of Bohemian Waxwings
Rifle, CO
9 December 1994
Photo by Linda Bessette

**THE 33rd ANNUAL CONVENTION
of the
COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
in
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO**

Memorial Day Weekend: May 27, 28, 29, 1995

Headquarters: **Grand Junction Hilton, 743 Horizon Drive
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506 (970) 241-8888**

Saturday, May 27, 1995

6:00 a.m. *Field trips will leave from the Hilton and return by noon*

State Line: Trip to state line to find Gray Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gray Vireo, Black-throated Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, and Scott's Oriole. The trip is about 70 miles round trip from Grand Junction and on good roads. Rick Levad, Mike Henwood and Kim Potter will lead the trip.

Glade Park and Colorado National Monument: Trip to Glade Park and the Colorado National Monument to find Gray Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Pinyon Jay, Canyon Wren, Sage Thrasher, Gray Vireo, Virginia's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow and Sage Sparrow. The trip is about 60 miles round trip from Grand Junction on good paved or graveled roads. Brenda Wright and Coen Dexter will be your leaders.

12:00	C.F.O. Bird Art Show opens (see ad this issue)
1:00 p.m.	C.F.O. Board of Directors meeting
2:00 p.m.	Paper Session begins
5:00 p.m.	Cash bar in the Observatory Lounge
6:00 p.m.	Convention '95 Banquet and annual business meeting

Sunday, May 28

6:00 a.m. *Field trips will leave from the Hilton and return by 4:00 p.m.*

Lands End Road: Trip to find five empidonax flycatcher species, boreal species, and water birds. The trip will include a drive up Lands End Road, across the Grand Mesa, and down to Hart's Basin and Escalante State Wildlife Area. This trip could produce nearly 100 species. The trip will be made on good roads and the driving distance is about 120 miles total. Rick Levad and Ron Lambeth will be your trip leaders.

Unaweep Canyon and Dolores Canyon: The trip will include a drive up Unaweep Canyon and Dolores Canyon Country as well as a visit to the Uncompahgre Plateau. Nesting Sandhill Cranes, Black Phoebe, Purple Martin Grace's Warbler, and Fox Sparrow are all possible. If the Black Phoebes are not present, total driving miles will be about 120. Your trip leaders will be Kim Potter, Brenda Wright and Coen Dexter.

5:00 p.m. Barbecue Picnic
Master Pisher Bird Calling Contest (see ad this issue)

7:30 p.m. **Grand Valley Owls:** Owling trip to find Barn Owls, Western Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Trip leaders will be Rich Levad, Ron Lambeth and Kim Potter.

Monday, May 29

Coal Canyon: Beginning at 6:00 a.m., we will leave Grand Junction east on I-70 and exit at Cameo, cross the Colorado River and search Coal Canyon for Chukar, Gray Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow and possible Black-tailed Gnatcatcher.

Gunnison River float trip: For experienced river runners, bring your own canoe, kayak, or raft. Leaving the Hilton at 6:00 a.m., we'll travel south toward Delta to put in at Escalante Canyon and take out below Dominguez Canyon. This short, one day trip, approximately 13 river miles, will take up through the site of the proposed Dominguez Dam project which will flood one of Colorado's most scenic waterways. Birds galore, see it before it's gone. Steve Bouricius and Coen Dexter will lead.

Convention concludes at the end of these trips.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration includes field trips, paper session and banquet program.

_____ people @ \$10.00/person = \$ _____

Banquet Buffet Dinner includes:

Baron of Beef (carved at the buffet table).
Shrimp and Scallop Newburg
Vegetarian Lasagna

Tossed fresh greens and a medley of salads, fresh veg. & desserts

_____ people @ \$10.00/person = \$ _____

Sunday Barbecue Picnic:

_____ people @ \$10.00/person = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED.....\$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Send to: COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
Raymond Davis, Treasurer
P.O. Box 481
Lyons, CO 80540
(303) 823-5332

MEAL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY MAY 22



ACCOMODATIONS IN GRD. JUNCTION INCLUDE:

Grand Junction Hilton, 743 Horizon Dr., (970) 241-8888 (ask for special bounceback rate: \$79 includes room and cont. breakfast for up to 4 people.

Best Western Horizon Inn, 754 Horizon Dr., (970) 245-1410

Budget Host Inn, 721 Horizon Dr., (970) 243-6050

Comfort Inn, 750 Horizon Dr., (970) 3335

Days Inn, I-70 and Horizon Dr., (970) 245-7200

Holiday Inn, 755 Horizon Dr., (970) 6790

Motel 6, 776 Horizon Dr., (243-2628)

Ramada Inn, 2790 Crossroads Blvd., (970) 241-8411

Super 8 Motel, 728 Horizon Dr., (970) 248-8080

For all accomodations, from I-70 take the Airport/Horizon Drive Exit.

**** PLEASE NOTE that Memorial Day weekend is also the Junior College Baseball Championships, so make your lodging reservations early.

FIRST (ANNUAL?) BIRD CALLING/PISHING CONTEST

C.F.O. Proudly announces a trilling surprise! The first Bird Calling/Master Pishing Contest. To be held at the Convention.

Time: Sunday, May 28, about 6 p.m. at the Barbecue Picnic

No fooling, it is time to lighten up and ap-pish-iate the calls of the wild. Contestants need only migrate to the mike and pik, peek, klick and tick enough for a heard ID from the listeners. Celebrate the whistle of a pish; whit your way to acclaim; vocalize those consonents and syllables so unreadable in field guides. Put your "zeedle, zeedle, zee, che" where your mouth is.

Who knows, from one small C.F.O. convention could come major productions of "MASTER PISH THEATER". We could produce: "I Clapperus", "Up Stairs...Downy Stairs", "BlackPoll Dark" and a newer version of "Jeeves and Rooster".

So come one, come all and join us. Other surprises could be a "Hummer Rap" by a humdinger of a C.F.O. President. This convention is one surely not to be missed. Remember, old birders never die, they just pish off.

Mistress of Ceremonies: Pearle Sandstrom-Smith (719) 543-6427



CALLING ALL ARTISTS!!

Colorado Field Ornithologists will hold their
ANNUAL CONVENTION
Memorial Day Weekend, May 27,28,29, 1995
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

Artists are invited to participate in the first-ever display and sale of original works of art. Subjects are unlimited: there are no entry fees or content limitations: no judging. We DO ask that all work be framed and suitable for sale. Commission fee for sales is 10%, which goes to C.F.O.

YES, I want to show some paintings at the C.F.O. Convention.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

I plan to bring _____ paintings requiring approximately _____ feet of wall space.

Mail entry form (not the paintings) to: Susan R. Paynter
1530 Robidoux Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80915

You'll receive information about display space before the convention.
Let's have a good show.



**LETTER AND INTERNET MESSAGE FROM MACKLIN SMITH
REGARDING BAIKAL TEAL**

In "The Report of the Records Committee for 1992" (*C.F.O. Journal* Vol. 28, No. 4, page 159), a ruling to reject the Evergreen area Baikal Teal (Record #8-92-1) was reported. It is the policy of the Colorado Bird Records Committee to encourage dialogue about any and all observations and attendant decisions (see revised bylaws of the CBRC, this issue). Such discussion is meant as open communication for the purpose of reaching the best decisions possible. In that vein, the following letter and Internet message from Michigan birder Macklin Smith (currently the #2 ABA lister) are published in their entirety. The two communications were forwarded to C.F.O. by former Boulder birder Steven Feldstein (current address: 887 Grace Street, State College, PA 16801)- ED

LETTER FROM MACKLIN SMITH

1304 Iroquois
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
February 22, 1995

Dear Mr. Prather,

I have been wanting to express my views on the Colorado committee's review of 1992-3 Baikal Teal near Evergreen. On my request, Steven Feldstein sent me your name, as a member of the committee, as well as a copy of the report. I can't claim to be a disinterested party, as I am a birder who traveled to Colorado to see the teal. Nevertheless, I feel that the report is disappointing, not simply in its conclusion but in its lack of thoroughness. I would add that I did forward comments, through Steven, via the Internet, before the report was issued but perhaps too late to be useful. Please forgive me if I repeat points that may have reached you earlier.

With respect to the bird's rarity and the unlikeliness of its being therefore a wild bird, given the possibility of escapes, you do note the similarity of pattern with west coast records (from California), some of them fairly recent. I agree that the seasonal pattern is similar, but the migrational pattern would very likely not be. The Evergreen bird, if wild, probably did *not* cross the Sierras and the Rockies--right?--but instead migrated along "your" flyway with other North Coast waterfowl. In this context, it is worth remembering that a male Baikal Teal summered near Barrow in 1993. Also, although Baikal Teal has declined in numbers, it is hardly a rare bird today. Even if it were, rare birds as well as common birds are known to exhibit patterns of vagrancy. The apparent logic that the declining population of this species is evidence against its vagrancy seems to me evidently flawed, and would mean that no record of Baikal Teal in Colorado could ever be valid (and that the California records ought to be reevaluated).

It seems to me that the season, habitat, and behavior of this bird were all consistent with wildness. This bird did not show up in some city park, but in a running stream--just right-- and flew daily up to 8 miles. The weirdness of the restaurant setting, and so on, says in my view, more about human artifacts than about this bird's wildness.

More important, the plumage strongly suggested a young bird. This was *nota* typical adult female, which would show deeper reddish-brown tones, but a very soft grayish-brown bird. Without going into details about every feather, this was most likely a first year bird. Although I have not studied many skins of this species, those I have seen at the University of Michigan museum (7 adult females; 1 young bird) are consistent with this difference. The young specimen is similarly grayish brown, lacking the reddish tones of the others-- and we *know* it is a young birds because of its unworn retrices. True, one could not have seen unworn retrices in the field on the Evergreen bird, but one can hardly have missed seeing a bird whose tones differed from many published photographs of female Baikal Teal, and one could have correlated this difference with statements in various articles and books, and could have gone on to examine specimens. I do not get the impression that the Colorado committee ever did this. If it did, I would have appreciated seeing those findings given in the report, for they would have differed from mine. While I am not trying to suggest that molts and plumages are well understood for this species, I do think that the committee should have attempted to age this bird, and that--from what the Michigan specimens indicate--ageing is not impossible and may actually be fairly easy in the case of grayish individuals.

The reason for considering age is clear: a first-year bird cannot likely have been an escape from Greeley, and would be relatively unlikely to be an escape from any collection. Meanwhile, it is well known that patterns of vagrancy often apply more strongly to young birds than to adults: adults have figured out, for the most part, when and where to migrate; the young birds who got it wrong...got it wrong.

I appreciate the chance to express these opinions, and hope you will pass them on to the Colorado committee, just in case another Baikal Teal ever shows up again. Personally, I think the record should be reconsidered, especially if the committee did not consider age and its implications.

In any case, I am still happy that I made the trip to Colorado to see this bird. I have expunged other birds from my life list based on evidence and argument from state committees. But, as of now, Baikal Teal is on my list. The committee's report hasn't persuaded me that it shouldn't be, and the report has apparently ignored evidence and argument that would argue for wildness.

Sincerely, Macklin Smith

INTERNET MESSAGE FROM MACKLIN SMITH

Yesterday I looked at the specimens of Baikal Teal in the Univ. of Mich. bird range. There are 8, four males and four females, with the dates of the collected females being March, May, May and November. The first three birds, though having some variation, were similar in that all had reddish brown edges on the back feathers and coverts and seemed to be in reasonably fresh plumage. The other bird was decidedly plainer--as well as, probably coincidentally, smaller--with fairly worn plumage, but even so the feather edges, what was left of them, did not have any of the warm rusty tones of the other three birds. The loreal spot seemed to me equally conspicuous on all four females. All of the birds had some buffy washing on the belly, this wash concentrated or focused or more intense right around the gray spots. On the spring birds, this wash extended up to the breast and, indeed, the chin, whereas in the fall bird the breast lacked this wash entirely. (That specimen, like the CO bird, would thus show no buff at all while in the water [which is the only setting I viewed it in].) I'm sure there were other differences between the Nov bird and the others, but I didn't take detailed notes. Back to the feather edges: they were light gray or white on the Nov bird for the most part.

I'm not sure what this means. Apparently Baikal Teal molt rather late, although I found contradictory statements about that. One authority did say that young birds may not molt till after their first fall. Madge and Burn say of juveniles: "Brown of plumage less rufous, more dull brown. Upperparts fringed greyish-brown. Tips of greater coverts paler, less rusty. Adult plumage attained during later part of first winter." It seems quite possible that the Colorado bird was a young bird, then, and it is also possible that the November specimen is that of a young bird. After looking at the specimens, I consulted various books on ducks, one of which said that the tail feathers of subadult birds would probably be notched. Looking at the November specimen again, I did think that the tail feathers were notched--quite unlike those of the other three females. However, the worn plumage can make this feature difficult to see: it's hard (for amateur me, anyhow) to distinguish that tiny notch from the wear surrounding it. Anyhow, I "think" the tail feathers were notched, which, if so, would increase the likelihood that the specimen is that of a young bird. In any case, that November bird looks a lot like the Colorado bird; the other birds are much warmer, browner, even redder.

Probably it would be good for someone with access to a bigger collection to examine a series of female Baikal Teal. I certainly hope that the Colorado committee will address this issue, and I would be happy if you would forward this message to that committee.

Best wishes, Macklin Smith

**REPLY TO MACKLIN SMITH AND C.F.O. FROM BILL PRATHER
REGARDING THE 1992-93 BAIKAL TEAL NEAR EVERGREEN**

I want to thank Macklin Smith for sharing his opinions and the information he has collected in his research with the Colorado Bird Records Committee (CBRC). His point about the Evergreen Baikal Teal's age was not adequately discussed in the reports or committee deliberations. I am not sure that an unquestionable case can be made for this being a young bird. As Macklin Smith stated, the molt and plumage information in the literature is not clear. His main point is that the Evergreen bird lacked the reddish brown on the breast, throat, and chin that is typical of adult females. In his Internet message he indicated he felt the Evergreen bird showed no buff on the breast and neck, but other observers disagree. One report stated "the breast was vaguely spotted with dark feathers with buffy borders", another said, "chin and throat were a light buffy color." I think this color difference might be a hard call to make in the field without a direct comparison. If there was a provable color difference, it is not clear whether it is a result of age, late fall versus spring plumage, worn versus unworn plumage, or even differences in habitat and diet. In his Internet message Macklin Smith says he examined 8 specimens in Michigan: 4 males, 3 spring females and 1 fall female that may or may not have been a young bird. In his letter he says he saw 7 adult females and 1 young bird. Some references seem to indicate a youngbird might not have as strong a facial pattern as the Evergreen bird. Even if we can prove this was a young bird, it only improves the case for natural vagrancy a little. Young birds can escape from collections also and they might escape before being marked as the law requires. Also the two pair that escaped from Greeley and other escapees may have been able to breed in the wild producing wild young offspring that are also not countable under ABA and CBRC rules. Likewise the species' decline in the wild is not a sure indication the Evergreen bird is not a natural migrant. It only makes it a little more unlikely. In short, there are no absolute indicators for natural vagrancy and it all comes down to the members of the CBRC to decide for themselves, weighing all the evidence on both sides. I welcome more information and discussion on this (and any other) record and if sufficient new information is obtained, we can reconsider the record. The original vote was 3 for sufficient evidence for natural vagrancy, 2 for sufficient evidence for escapee and 3 for not enough evidence to decide. All opinions were thoroughly considered, informed and supportable by the reports and facts available. The new CBRC rules require all but one member vote to accept, so it will take a very strong case to change the decision. I do not feel the CBRC decision has to be taken as law for everyone who saw the bird. I feel each person's list is his or her own business and that everyone plays by their own rules and only has to be true to themselves. I voted to accept the record and have it on my list but the CBRC decision stands and the bird will not now be added to the CBRC Colorado list. Again, I thank all who submitted reports, opinions and information and I welcome more discussion.



RAPTOR ELECTROCUTIONS AND HOW TO HELP PREVENT THEM

John F. Barber
1700 Clearview Court
Fort Collins, CO 80521
(970) 484-9791

Powerline design engineers work with biologists to design specifications for power transmission lines that do NOT provide potential for raptor electrocutions. The designs avoid short circuits by correctly spacing the distance between wires and installing protection devices on transformers.

New powerlines are built to these specifications, but old powerlines are not. There are tens of thousands of miles of the old lines that need to be retrofitted.

The biologists and power companies have agreed that the poles with problems will be corrected as they are discovered. They have noted that only certain poles or lines are frequently used by raptors. Once these poles are discovered, power companies correct the wire spacing or install protection devices.

When you discover a line that is zapping raptors or arcing as the birds come and go, you can help by doing the following:

1. Note the location of the line and pole on a map.
2. Note any pole identification numbers. Most poles have one or more.
3. Note the road number and mile marker and any other features which would help the power company line electrician locate the problem pole.
4. Tie flagging around the nearest pole where a dead raptor was found or arcing is evident by wire movement.
5. Give location data to the local power company.
6. You may also provide the local Colorado Division of Wildlife Office with the same data. They can follow up with the power company.

Be aware of other reasons a raptor may have died. Electrical storms, lead ingestion from sport-hunter kills, illegal hunting and other causes contribute to raptor death.

TEAM UP to create a better world for Raptors!



THE BIRDS OF PARKER

Joe TenBrink
6801 E. Mississippi A302
Denver, CO 80224
(303) 320-4858

I The Killdeer Kids

In June 1994 the children attending the day-school (Princeton Academy) just south of Parker, CO were taking one of their daily walks. Led by their teacher, and each grasping the length of rope (which keep them from straying), the well-mannered toddlers noticed the Killdeer nest and went to investigate it. As they approached, the Killdeer left the nest. It ran away in a crippled manner, with one wing trailing as though it were broken, repeatedly crying the plaintive two-syllable call from which it gets its name. By pretending to be an easy prey, these birds lure predators away from their nests. When they have enticed the predator a sufficient distance from the nest, they fly away - instantly, miraculously, healed. An Academy Award performance.

The children, having no appetite for Killdeer meat, were not distracted from the nest. To their dismay, someone had driven an automobile over the nest and crushed two of the four eggs. At their teacher's direction, they gathered some rocks and built a protective barrier around the remaining nest. Their efforts were rewarded when, a few days later, they watched the parent birds lead two tiny, fuzzy babies to the safety of the marsh at Cherry Creek. (Young of the plover family are precocial--able to run and feed almost immediately upon hatching). Their teacher (and a tall old bird watcher) applauded their actions and they were justifiably proud. What a great learning experience for these impressionable young minds. My hope is more than a few of them grow up with an interest in birds -- like the birds which live very nearby.

II Discovery at Parker

The ultimate rewards for naturalists (bird watchers, wild plant enthusiasts, butterfly chasers and the like) are those of discovery. I am a bird watcher and finding a rare bird is a real "high". Another excitement which has a more lasting reward is finding an area full of nesting birds that is relatively unknown to bird watchers. It is like finding a diamond-in-the-rough. Such a jewel lies about a mile south of Parker, CO on Cherry Creek.

I had been driving right by this place on State Highway 83 for years - on my way to Castlewood Canyon State Park and other good birding places to the south. I was not aware that it was public land until I saw the paved bicycle path and the footbridge crossing the creek. Although it did not look any more promising than other like areas along Cherry Creek, one day in June 1993 I decided to check it out. I parked in the dirt parking lot and walked about looking for birds.

And birds I found! Orchard Orioles, Blue Grosbeaks, a pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos! Beautiful, colorful birds - rarely found this far west. Gorgeous Lazuli and Indigo Buntings, both species of goldfinches, Western and Eastern Kingbirds, Western Wood-pewee, Yellow Warbler and more. All nesting! Each time I stopped -- each time some of my birder friends visited -- another species or two was found. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and a pair of Scrub Jays raised families here. A nest of Cedar Waxwings was in a tree visible from the bridge. At the effluent pond just to the west Spotted Sandpipers nested. Swallows of three species and as many as 16 Common Nighthawks combed the air for insects. Great Blue and Black-crowned Night-herons came here to fish. Cormorants and migrating shorebirds visited. Cattail marshes, though marginal, were adequate for some nesting Red-winged Blackbirds and a few Common Yellowthroats. A pair of Common Snipe were here all summer and stayed through the winter. Yes, Snipe do exist. They are birds. (My non-birder friends look at me very suspiciously when I mention snipe). The small areas of fields were adequate for Western Meadowlarks and Lark Sparrows to nest. We found 37 species of birds nesting here. Visiting and migrant birds bring the total to at least 80 species seen here. I know of no other area of like size in Colorado where there is such density and diversity of breeding birds -- most are within about 200 yards of the parking lot!

It was obvious that the many seed-eating birds were attracted to nest here because of the large field of sunflowers and other seed plants growing between Highway 83 and Cherry Creek. Many of these birds synchronize their breeding so that their young hatch when the seeds ripen. In mid-August of that first year, I took Jeanie Maguire (whose malady severely limits the distance she can walk) on the old road in the middle of the ripened sunflowers. The birds were in a feeding frenzy and we thrilled to hundreds of colorful birds. Some, especially the Lesser Goldfinches, almost flew in the car windows. It was absolutely glorious!

This area is excellent for birders who are in wheel chairs and those who cannot walk great distances. There is a paved bicycle path/walkway along Cherry Creek. By midsummer the creek dries up and walking along the creek bed allows better views of the birds. It is possible to drive around to the west through the equestrian park to the effluent pond.

III The End Begins

When I visited the area in early May 1994, I was aghast to find that almost all of the sunflower field had been mowed down! This field was mowed regularly and subsequently the parking lot was paved and a restroom built. Needless to say, fewer seed-eating birds nested that summer.

It was still attracting an amazing number of breeding species in 1994, and probably will for the immediate future. But Parker is experiencing tremendous (and unplanned for) growth and this only bodes ill for this area's wildlife.

I fear that the destruction of the sunflowers is but the tip of the iceberg. Houses are being built to the very bank of the creek. Only the lowest land qualifies as floodplain. I have written letters to Parker's mayor and planning board advising them of the wealth of birds, and deploring the mowing of the sunflowers. I suggested that preserving this habitat would enhance the town's appeal and keep property values high. I tried to be diplomatic and helpful. None of the officials I contacted has designed a reply. I showed the area to a biologist from The Nature Conservancy, who was quite impressed. I pointed out to the town's park superintendent that if the sunflowers were mowed to provide recreation space, it was wasted effort. I had never seen people using it and all that was accomplished was the destruction of bird food. To this he answered, "I saw some people set up a volleyball net one day." For him, this justified the mowing!

IV Requiem?

Perhaps all that these efforts will achieve is just that: a requiem. I will seek publication of this report and send it to those who possess expertise in saving wildlife habitat. I hope this unique area can be preserved as much as possible. I would encourage C.F.O. members to investigate this area and amend my preliminary checklist. Also, any suggestions at keeping this wonderful area in its present condition are most welcome.



CHECKLIST OF BIRDS: PARKER REGIONAL PARK

(parking lot located 1.3 miles south of Main Street, Parker CO off SR 83)

Compiled by: Joe TenBrink, 6801 E Mississippi, Denver, CO 80224

Double-crested Cormorant-V	Horned Lark-N(nearby)
Great Blue Heron-V	Bank Swallow-N
Black-crowned Night-heron-V	Barn Swallow-N
White-faced Ibis-M	Blue Jay-V
Canada Goose-W	Scrub Jay-N
Green-winged Teal-M	Black-billed Magpie-N
Mallard-V,W	American Crow -V
Northern Pintail-V	Common Raven-V
Northern Shoveler-V,W	Black-capped Chickadee-N
Gadwall-V	White-breasted Nuthatch-N
Redhead-V	House Wren-N
Turkey Vulture-V	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher-N
Sharp-shinned Hawk-V	Mountain Bluebird-N
Cooper's Hawk-V	American Robin-N
Swainson's Hawk-V	Gray Catbird-N
Red-tailed Hawk-N(nearby)	Cedar Waxwing-N
American Kestrel-N	Warbling Vireo-P
Killdeer-N	Yellow Warbler-N
American Avocet-M	Yellow-rumped Warbler-M
Greater Yellowlegs-M	Common Yellowthroat-N
Lesser Yellowlegs-M	Wilson's Warbler-M
Spotted Sandpiper-N	Yellow-breasted Chat-P
Western Sandpiper-N	Black-headed Grosbeak-N
Baird's Sandpiper-M	Blue Grosbeak-N
Long-billed Dowitcher-M	Lazuli Bunting-N
Wilson's Phalarope-M	Indigo Bunting-N(w/above)
Ring-billed Gull-W	Chipping Sparrow-N
California Gull-V,W	Vesper Sparrow-M
Forster's Tern-M	Lark Sparrow-N
Rock Dove-N(nearby bldgs)	Song Sparrow-N
Mourning Dove-N	Red-winged Blackbird-N
Yellow-billed Cuckoo-N	Western Meadowlark-N
Great Horned Owl-N	Common Grackle-N
Common Nighthawk-P	Brown-headed Cowbird-N
Broad-tailed Hummingbird-P	Orchard Oriole-N
Downy Woodpecker-N	Northern Oriole-N
Northern Flicker-N	House Finch-N
Western Wood-pewee-N	Lesser Goldfinch-N
Western Kingbird-N	American Goldfinch-N
Eastern Kingbird-N	House Sparrow

KEY: M=migrant V=visitor (summer) W=winter
N=nesting P=probable nesting POS=possible nesting

INCIDENT OF BARN SWALLOWS USURPING
AN ACTIVE BARN SWALLOW NEST

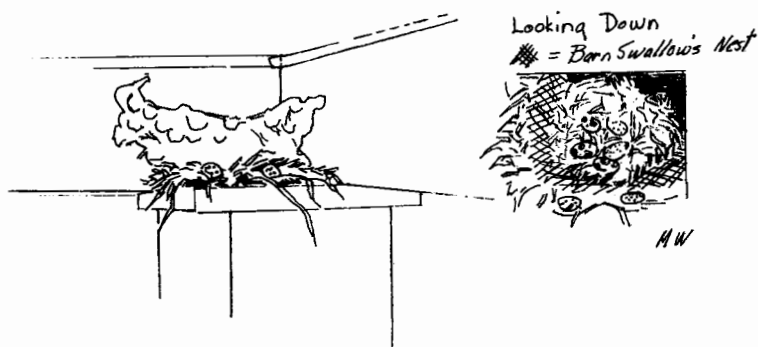
Janeal W. Thompson
P.O. Box 487
Walsh, Colorado 81090
(719) 324-5473

On 10 May 1994 my neighbor June Lussier asked me to identify a pair of "sparrow-like birds with red heads" nesting on her front porch. At her home I found an incubating female House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) in a cup-shaped nest made of twigs, leaves, weeds, grasses, string, green cellophane (such as found in a child's Easter basket), small pieces of paper and other debris. The nest was approximately 8 feet off the ground, secured on a corner post ledge and well protected by the overhanging porch. Using a hand mirror to view down on the nest, I saw four pale blue spotted eggs lying on a nest lining of torn tissue.

The week of 16 May a demolition crew tore down an old dilapidated barn about 200 yards from the finches' nest. For years the abandoned barn had been home for many nesting Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) and this year was no exception. My records show 4 April as the earliest recorded arrival date for Barn Swallows and Lane and Holt (1979) lists the extreme arrival on the plains for Barn Swallows as 30 March, with the average arrival being 10 April. With these dates in mind, it is likely that by 16 May the swallows had bonded, nested and were probably incubating eggs when the crew destroyed the building.

The week after the demolition I noticed, and had reports from neighbors of, Barn Swallows flying onto open porches checking for nesting areas. Apparently, one pair of swallows fancied the House Finch nesting site on my neighbor's porch, even though there was another unoccupied ledge about 10 feet away. Within two weeks of the barn razing, the swallows had chased off the finches and completed their own nest. Using the rim of the finch nest for a base, the pair built a mud-pellet wall attached on each side to the porch walls. This atypical structure was semi-circular and did not have the cone-shaped characteristics of most swallow nests. For some reason, perhaps it was a lack of time, the swallows used the cup of the finches' nest for their laying purposes and did not complete a cup for the mud nest.

During their building frenzy, the swallows pushed two of the finch eggs to the edge of the finch nest rim outside the mud wall. Inside the nest structure were the other two finch eggs, and three white-and-brown swallow eggs. On 20 June the swallow parents were feeding three nestlings. The young swallows departed by 18 July.



Active House Finch Nest Usurped by Barn Swallows
Walsh, CO
Drawing by Mildred Walker

Although the swallow pair stayed and zealously guarded the nest site, their second clutch of five eggs was not laid until 6 August. Observing with my mirror, I could not see the finch eggs in the nest and assume they were destroyed by the activity of the swallow nestlings. The two finch eggs outside the swallows' nest were covered with fecal sacs. The second swallow brood hatched 23 August, and remained at the nest through 21 September.

On 16 June 1991 I observed what is perhaps a similar incident of expropriation. While working Two Buttes SE Block for the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, I found an active Barn Swallow nest built on a House Sparrow

(Passer domesticus) nest. The nest was in the braces of a tower antenna nest to a building and was being used by the Barn Swallows. I do not know whether the swallows usurped an active nest, but it is a possibility.

I was unable to find much literature on usurpation of active nests by another species. Johnsgard (1979), Terres (1981) and Harrison (1979) state swallows may use old (swallow) nests with new materials added. Welty (1975) says species that forcibly expropriate other bird's nests are House Sparrows, Chestnut Sparrows (Passer eminibey), European Starlings (Sturnus vulgaris) and Piratic Flycatchers (Ligatus elucophaeus). Ehrlich et al (1988) write House Sparrows and phoebes occasionally usurp nests of Barn Swallows but do not state if the usurped nests were active.

Considering the lack of information on species usurping active nests, I conclude the incident I observed was unusual and most likely the result of the swallows' first nest being destroyed. If any readers have encountered similar situations of usurping, I would like to hear from them.

I would like to thank Beth Dillon and David Leatherman for their help in preparing this article. Thanks also to Mildred Walker of Walsh, Colorado for her illustrations of the nest.

Literature Cited

- Ehrlich, P.R., D.S. Dobkins and D. Wheye. 1988. The Birder's Handbook, A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds. Simon & Schuster, Inc., New York.
- Harrison, H.H. 1979. Western Birds' Nests. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.
- Lane, J.A. and H.R. Holt. 1979. A Birder's Guide to Eastern Colorado. L&P Press, Denver.
- Johnsgard, P.A. 1979. Birds of the Great Plains Breeding Species and Their Distribution. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.
- Terres, J.K. 1980. The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds. Wings Books, New York.
- Welty, J.C. 1975. The Life of Birds. W.B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia.



OBSERVATIONS OF NORTHERN WATERTHRUSHES EXHIBITING BREEDING BEHAVIOR IN COLORADO

Beth Dillon
1225 West Myrtle Street
Fort Collins, CO 80521
(970) 490-2610

On 27 June 1994, I observed a pair of Northern Waterthrushes (Seiurus noveboracensis) exhibiting behavior strongly suggestive of breeding. I was conducting field work for the Colorado Bird Atlas in the Gould NW block, approximately 10 miles southeast of Walden in North Park, Jackson County.

Behavior: I was walking along the Michigan River which is densely lined with willows (Salix spp.), and interspersed with alders (Alnus tenuifolia) and other species. The river has numerous side channels and irrigation ditches covering the area with a maze of water courses. Along one channel I encountered a bird 20-25 feet away, vigorously calling at my intrusion. I determined it was a Northern Waterthrush by its streaked breast; semi-streaked/dotted throat; narrow eyebrow that did not widen behind the eye; yellowish-buff color through the eyebrow, face, and upper breast; and by its habit of tail bobbing. The bird flew among the branches, holding insects in its mouth and calling with agitation.

After several minutes, the bird flew behind a willow for 20-40 seconds before reappearing again minus the food in its mouth, still calling vigorously. While the bird was out of sight, I thought I faintly heard young birds begging. When I departed, the bird escorted me for 50-75 feet, continuing to call in alarm.

I returned about an hour later and was again met with agitated calls by the waterthrush. I went behind the willow where the bird disappeared earlier with its beakful of insects. I encountered a Black-capped Chickadee (Parus atricapillus) with food in its mouth and watched it enter a cavity near where the waterthrush had disappeared. Although chickadees were not visible during my first observation, I speculated that perhaps the vocal young chickadees heard here made the begging sounds heard earlier. While there, I heard another bird calling, more subdued but insistent and agitated. I looked for some time through the dense tangle of branches and spotted another waterthrush perched motionless on a low branch with food in its mouth. Meanwhile, the first waterthrush was anxiously calling and flying around the branches behind me.

No birds were present in this area on 5 July, including the chickadees. I searched the numerous willow bases, stumps, and banks but did not find a nest.

On 22 July, I observed two separate waterthrushes less than a mile from the above observation. The first encounter occurred as I tried to cross a densely vegetated side channel. Hearing bird activity nearby, I "spished" and a waterthrush flew to a branch within five feet of me, and then flitted around surrounding branches before disappearing. After searching 50 feet or so of this channel, I saw the waterthrush at a small puddle under some willows. I moved closer and watched it collect several insects in its beak before it saw me and flew off. It was collecting food rather than feeding on each insect it found. Within a quarter mile of this sighting, I saw another waterthrush feeding in the mud below willows. I approached to within 15 feet and watched it consume each insect it found. It was feeding near a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) and Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*), both with young nearby. There was no apparent interaction among these species, even though they came within a few feet of one another.

Range: Northern Waterthrushes breed across Alaska, Canada, the northeastern states south to West Virginia, and the northern portions of North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. In the west, their distribution follows the northern Rocky Mountains south into northern Idaho and western Montana (Peterson 1990). In the central Cascade Range of Oregon, a pair of Northern Waterthrushes discovered in 1977 was reported as highly probable breeders (Egger 1978). Since then, a disjunct population of waterthrushes has been reported regularly in this area (Contreras 1988).

In Wyoming, Kingery (1991) reported apparent nesting of Northern Waterthrushes in Teton National Park, 125 miles south of the nearest known breeding population in the Bozeman, Montana Latilong. Observers saw an adult waterthrush on 3-4 July 1991, repeatedly enter a bush carrying food and exit without it. No nest or fledglings were located.

In Colorado, Northern Waterthrushes appear during spring and fall migration. Andrews and Righter (1992) considered them rare to uncommon migrants on the plains, rare on the west slope and very rare in the mountains and mountain parks. They reported two accidental summer records: 16 July 1989, Arapahoe National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in North Park, Jackson County, and 25 July 1962, Rocky Mountain National Park. These authors speculated the latter record might be an early fall migrant.

Habitat: Northern Waterthrushes frequent wooded ponds, streams, bogs and swamps that are shaded and provide cool moist habitat (Bent 1953, Griscom and Sprunt 1979). Nests are often concealed in stumps or roots of toppled trees (Bent 1953, Harrison 1984).

My observations along the Michigan River were in dense willow bottoms, sometimes forming impenetrable thickets. The sites were well-shaded and contained a tangle of live and dead branches of willows and alders criss-crossing the water channels. The sites included uprooted willows, flood debris, small pools of water, and mud. They were cool, moist, and dark microhabitats compared to those outside the willows. Contreras (1988) and Egger (1978) described similar habitat conditions in Oregon. The habitat adjacent to the Michigan River was a mixture of irrigated hay meadows and grass pastures bordered by drier sagebrush (*Artemisia* sp.) uplands.

Conclusions: Although the evidence is circumstantial, the behaviors I observed combined with season and habitat are persuasive criteria to indicate breeding. Why have not waterthrushes been observed before? One possibility is the inaccessibility of the habitat. First, most of this stretch of the Michigan River is on private property and rarely, if ever, visited by observers. Second, I had to deliberately penetrate the outer edge of the willows and pick my way into denser stands of vegetation to see the birds. Another possibility is the birds were opportunistic and exploited some temporary factor, perhaps only to breed for one year and then depart.

Other water courses within North Park probably mimic similar conditions and deserve a thorough search. Perhaps the Arapahoe NWR record is indicative of previous breeding. Further searching of the willow bottoms in North Park should help resolve this question.

I thank John Hawkins and Dave Leatherman for reviewing and providing comments on this paper.

LITERATURE CITED

- Andrews, R. and R. Righter. 1992. Colorado Birds. Denver Mus. Nat. Hist. Denver, CO
- Bent, A. C. 1953. Northern small-billed waterthrush. Pages 477-493 in *Life histories of North American wood warblers*. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 203, Washington, D.C.

- Contreras, A. 1988. Northern waterthrush summer range in Oregon. West. Birds 19:41-42.
- Egger, M. 1978. A probable nesting record of the Northern Waterthrush in Oregon. West. Birds 9:83-94.
- Griscom, L. and A. Sprunt, Jr. 1979. The warblers of America. Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, N.Y. 302pp.
- Harrison, H. H. 1984. Wood warblers world. Simon and Shuster. New York, N.Y. 335pp.
- Kingery, H. E. 1991. The summer season. June 1-July 31, 1991. Mountain west region. Am. Birds. 45:1141-1144.
- Peterson, R. T. 1990. A field guide to western birds. Third ed. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston, Mass. 432 pp.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD: SEASONAL REPORT (August, September, October & November)

Kim Potter
440 East 7th Street
Rifle, Colorado 81650

The fall season was warm and mild. There were many good sightings around the state. I would like to thank all who sent their observations on to compilers. I would like to thank the compilers who took the time to put together and share the information. The sources for this report are the seasonal reports sent to Hugh Kingery, "additional reports" in the *Lark Bunting* sponsored by The Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO).

Red-throated Loon - very rare fall and early winter migrant on eastern plains, accidental in western valleys. One report from Blue Mesa Res., Gunnison Co. (Paul Smith). 1 in Lake Henry 10/30 (Mark Janos).

Pacific Loon - rare to uncommon in fall. 1 at Delta 11/5-26 & 1 at Corn Lake, Grand Jct. 11/7-27 (Coen Dexter). 1 Lake Henry 10/30 & 11/5, 1 Pueblo Res. 1

11/11-12 (M. Janos & Brandon Percival). 1 Hamilton Res. 10/9-12 (Ron Ryder). 1 Big Johnson Res., El Paso Co. 11/1 (Richard Bunn).

Common Loon - rare fall migrant in western valleys and mountain parks, uncommon on eastern plains. 1 at Totten Res., Cortez on 11/24 (Lu Bainbridge). 12-20 birds in Grand Jct. during Nov. (Rich Levad). Many other reports from western and eastern reservoirs. Early date 9/24 a calling bird on Horseshoe Res. near Walsenburg (Alan Versaw).

Horned Grebe - uncommon to fairly common fall migrant on eastern plains, rare in western valleys. 5 seen 10/16 thru 11/5 Grand Jct area (C. Dexter). 223 at Union Res. 11/2 (Mark Nikas).

Red-necked Grebe - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 near Berthoud at Twin Mounds 11/2 (Bobbie Christensen).

American White Pelican - rare in western valleys and now breeds at three sites in state. Reports from Rifle & Grand Jct.. High counts reported: 1000 Blue Lake 10/11 & 1400 Lake Henry 10/30 (M. Janos).

Brown Pelican - casual in spring and summer, no fall records. 1 Lake Henry, Crowley Co. 10/30 (B. Percival).

Neotropic Cormorant - occasional in fall at lower elevations. 1 im Cherry Creek Res. 10/30 (J.B Hayes). 1 im Lake Henry 9/11 (Janos & Percival).

American Bittern - rare to uncommon fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 Walden Ponds, Boulder 9/22 (Raymond Davis). 1 Sawhill Ponds & 3 Walden Wildlife Habitat, Boulder 10/2 (The Ploosters).

Great Egret - very local breeder on eastern plains. 1 Lake Holbrook, Rocky Ford 9/2 and 10/30. Up to 20 during Aug & Sept at Union Res. east of Longmont.

Little Blue Heron - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 on Horse Creek near Walsh, Baca Co. (Janeal Thompson). 1 Turk's Pond, Walsh 10/22 (Dan Hill). 1 im Lake Henry 8/31 (Van Truan).

Reddish Egret - accidental in fall. 1 im Lake Holbrook, Rocky Ford 9/2-11 (M. Janos).

Cattle Egret - rare fall migrant in western valleys and in the San Luis Valley.

1 at Clifton with a Snowy Egret 10/1-11/3. 1 Lake Henry 10/8.

Green Heron - rare fall migrant on eastern plains, very rare in western valleys, accidental in mountains. 1 at Clifton Marsh 8/9 & 9/6, 1 at Connected Lakes, Grand Jct. 8/19 & 10/22 (R. Levad & C. Dexter). 1 Canon City 9/12 (David Pantle).

Tundra Swan - rare fall migrant in western valleys, mountain parks, and on eastern plains. 7 at Highline State Park, Grand Jct. 1 1/22 (Bob & Nancy Gustafson). 2 Huerfano Res., Pueblo 10/23 (Dave Silverman). 2 Barr Lake State Park 11/22 (Nelda Gamble). 4 Duck Pond, Loveland 10/23-25 (Kevin Cook). 1 Baseline Res., Boulder 10/30 (David Ely).

Greater White-fronted Goose - rare fall migrant on eastern plains, very rare in western valleys. 4 at Corn Lake, Grand Jct. (C. Dexter). Janos reports 9 Blue Lake 11/5, 15 Jumbo Res. 11/26 & 16 Prewitt Res. 11/26. 1 Cherry Creek State Park 10/19 (DFO). 1 Rocky Mountain Arsenal 10/8 (Hugh & Urling Kingery). 6+ over Barr Lake State Park 11/13 (Louie Dombrowski). 1 Jumbo Res. 10/23 (David Leatherman). 1 Union Res. 11/25 (D. Ely).

Ross' Goose - rare to uncommon fall migrant in western valleys, the San Luis Valley, and on the eastern plains. Janos reports 6 at Blue Lake 11/5 & 12 at Jumbo Res. 11/26. 6 Adobe Creek Res. 11/5 (B. Percival) 1 im Barr Lake State Park 10/25-11/2 (Joe Bens). 1 Silver Lake, Loveland 10/19 (Diana Miller). 1 Union Res. 10/29 (John Prather) & 10/30 (D. Ely). Early date 9/12 at Lower Latham Res. (Joe Himmel).

American Black Duck - casual fall migrant on eastern plains. 1f City Park, Pueblo 11/5-11 (V. Truan).

Eurasian Widgeon - casual fall migrant. 1m Flatirons Site e. of Fort Collins through Nov. (D. Leatherman).

Greater Scaup - rare fall migrant on eastern plains, very rare in western valleys. 3 at Clifton Marsh, Grand Jct.(C. Dexter).

Oldsquaw - rare fall migrant on eastern plains and very rare in western valleys. 2 Highline State Park, Grand Jct. (C. Dexter). 1 Rio Blanco S.W.A. 11/7 (K. Potter). 1f Jumbo Res. 11/18 (John Barber, Bill Lisowsky, & J. Himmel). 3 Union Res. 11/25 (The Prathers & D.W. King).

Black Scoter - very rare fall migrant on northeastern plains, accidental in

western valleys. 1f Grand Jct. 10/22 (R. Levad). 1f Pueblo Res. 10/26 (B. Percival).

Surf Scoter - rare fall migrant on eastern plains and very rare in western valleys. 1f at Confluence Park, Delta 11/6 (K. Potter). 1f Pueblo Res. 11/9 (B. Percival). 1f, 1 im Cherry Creek State Park 11/5 (Dan Bridges).

White-winged Scoter - casual fall migrant in mountains, rare on eastern plains. 2 Union Res. 11/25 (D. Ely). 1 Hamilton Res. 11/25 (T. Carol Agee). 1m Big Johnson Res. 11/1 (R. Bunn).

Barrow's Goldeneye - rare fall migrant in western valleys, mountain parks and on eastern plains near foothills. 1m Pueblo Res. 10/31-11/7 (B. Percival). 1f, 1 im Sweetwater Lake, Garfield Co. 11/7 with other local breeders from Flat Tops Wilderness Area (K. Potter).

Hooded Merganser - rare fall migrant in western valleys, mountain parks and on the eastern plains, may be uncommon or even common locally. 1 Lathrop State Park 9/24 (Alan Versaw). 3 Northwest Denver 10/30-11/20 (D.F.O.) 15 Jim Hamm Pond, Longmont 11/18 (Virginia Dionigi). 1 at Flatiron Site e. of Fort Collins 10/29 (D. Leatherman). 40 Baseline Res., Boulder 11/15 (D. Ely). 9 Hamilton Res. 11/20 (R. Ryder).

Red-breasted Merganser - rare to uncommon fall migrant in western valleys and on eastern plains. 7-8 birds seen 11/1-23 Grand Jct. area. 3 Barr Lake State Park 10/25-26 and 2 at Chatfield Res. 10/30 (Tony Leukering). 1 Newell Res., Berthoud 11/19 (Jim Kuhn). Ely reports dozens at Union Res. 11/6 and 51 Valmont Res., Boulder 11/15.

Northern Goshawk - rare to uncommon resident in foothills and mountains. A few reports from around the state.

Red-tailed Hawk (Harlan's) - migrant and winter resident on eastern plains, no records in western valleys. 2 during migration on Coulter Mesa, north of Rifle 9/28 (Julie Grode & K. Potter).

Peregrine Falcon - rare fall migrant, population rebounding in Colorado. 1 im Deweese Res., Custer Co. 8/20 (Susan Paynter). 1 im Barr Lake State Park 9/17 (T. Leukering). 1 bird in Grand Jct. area. 1 Lyons 9/22 (D.W. King). 3 Adams Co. 11/5 (D.F.O.).

Black-bellied Plover - rare to uncommon fall migrant on eastern plains,

very rare in western valleys. Reports from Union Res. 10/1-2, 10/5-10 and 11/4. 1 Barr Lake State Park 8/13 and 10/2. Last seen at Blue Lake 11/5.

American Golden Plover - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. Very rare fall migrant in western valleys. 1 Vega Res., Mesa Co. 10/16 (C. Dexter). 1 at Blue Lake on 10/8, 5 birds on 10/11 and 6 birds on 11/5 (M. Janos). 1 Barr Lake State Park 9/26 (T. Leukering). Many reports of 1 bird 10/2 through 10/11 at Union Res.

Semipalmated Plover - uncommon fall migrant on eastern plains, very rare in western valleys. 1 Rifle Gap 8/26 (K. Potter). 1 bird at Cheney Res., Grand Jct.

Piping Plover - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 im Adobe Creek Res. 9/3 (B. Percival).

Mountain Plover - 314 reported by Janeal Thompson in Baca County between 8/6 and 9/29.

Solitary Sandpiper - rare to uncommon migrant in western valleys and mountain parks. 5 birds seen 8/17-9/14 Grand Valley. 1 Rifle Gap 8/26 & 9/5, 3 Silt 9/5, Garfield Co.

Marbled Godwit - rare in fall in western valleys and mountains. 1 Hart's Basin, Eckert 9/10 (C. Dexter). 1 Whitewater S & G, Mesa Co. 9/17 (R. Levad).

Ruddy Turnstone - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 2 Lake Henry, Ordway 8/28 and 1 bird on 9/2 (M. Janos). 1 Lake Henry 8/23, 8/30-31 and 9/3-5 (B. Percival).

Red Knot - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 Blue Lake 9/5 and 1 Lake Henry 9/11 (M. Janos). 1 Adobe Creek Res. 9/3-5 (B. Percival).

Sanderling - rare to uncommon fall migrant on eastern plains, very rare in western valleys. 1 early at Timnath Res., Fort Collins 8/3 (D. Leatherman). 3 Hamilton Res. 9/4 (R. Ryder). 3 Prewitt Res. 9/9 (D. Ely). 5 Union Res. (B. Prather).

White-rumped Sandpiper - very unusual in fall, therefore all fall reports should be carefully documented. 1 reported from Jackson Res. 9/5 by Tony Leukering.

Semipalmated Sandpiper - very rare migrant in western valleys. 1 Cheney Res., Grand Jct. 8/19-20 and 1 Connected Lakes State Park 8/31-9/3 (C. Dexter).

Pectoral Sandpiper - very rare fall migrant in western valleys. 10-12 birds at Hart's Basin, Eckert 9/10-25 and 1 bird at Vega Res., Mesa Co. 10/8-16 (R. Levad & C. Dexter).

Dunlin - very rare migrant in fall on eastern plains. 2 Jumbo Res. 10/23 (D. Leatherman & Joe Mammoser).

Stilt Sandpiper - very rare fall migrant in western valleys. 1 Hart's Basin 8/17 (1 Cheney Res. 8/20 and 16 Hart's Basin 9/3-5 (C. Dexter).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 im Blue Lake 8/28 (M. Janos). 2 im Jackson Res., Morgan Co. 9/5 (T. Leuckering).

Short-billed Dowitcher - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains, accidental in mountains. 1 Lake Cheraw 8/7 (M. Janos.). 1 im Cherry Creek Res. 9/26 (Bob Righter). 1 im Lake Henry 8/30 (B. Percival).

Red-necked Phalarope - rare to uncommon in western valleys. 3 Clifton Marsh and Connected Lakes State Park, Grand Jct.

Red Phalarope - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 im Lake Dewesse, Westcliff 9/9 (Van Truan). 2 Union Res. 9/3 (B. Prather).

Pomarine Jaeger - accidental fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 dark phase bird at Lake Henry, Ordway, Crowley Co. 11/5 (M. Janos).

Laughing Gull - casual fall migrant on eastern plains. A first winter bird reported 11/5 at John Martin Res. by Scott Seltman.

Franklin's Gull - rare fall migrant in western valleys. 2 birds reported from Vega Res. Mesa Co. Very high numbers reported from the plains with a late date 11/16 at Jackson Res.

Little Gull - casual fall migrant on eastern plains. A first winter bird at Union Res. 11/2-7 (M. Nikas).

Bonaparte's Gull - rare fall migrant in western valleys. 20+ birds in Grand Jct. area 10/29 through 11/19. 1 report at Silt 11/3. There were many reports

from eastern plains with a high of 100 birds at Pueblo Res. 11/20.

Mew Gull - accidental fall migrant on southeastern plains. 1 adult in winter plumage at Pueblo Res. 11/19 (M. Janos).

Herring Gull - rare migrant in western valleys. 1 report at Highline State Park (C. Dexter). Early date 9/5 for eastern plains.

Thayer's Gull - apparently a rare winter resident on eastern plains. 1 first-year bird at Lake Henry 9/11 and 1 first-year bird at Prewitt Res. 11/26 (Janos & Percival). 1 first winter bird at Chatfield State Park 10/23 (Karleen Schofield).

Lesser Black-backed Gull - accidental in fall and winter. 1 second-winter bird at Lake Holbrook, Otero Co. 10/28 (V. Truan).

Great Black-backed Gull - accidental in fall on eastern plains. 1 third-year bird at Pueblo Res. This is probably the same bird that has been here for three years.

Black-legged Kittiwake - very rare late fall and early migrant on eastern plains. 1 first-winter bird at Jumbo Res. 11/26 (M. Janos). 1 adult winter bird Cherry Creek State Park 11/29 (K. Schofield & others).

Sabine's Gull - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 Lake Holbrook 10/8, 1 Pueblo Res. 10/23. 1 im 10/3-4 Rock Canyon, Pueblo (Bob & Johnnie Dickson). 1 im. Jackson Res. 10/8 (D. Bridges).

Caspian Tern - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 Union Res. 8/13 (M. Nikas). 1 Pueblo Res. 9/17-18 (B. Percival).

Inca Dove - no records before 1992. 1 bird found 10/5 in Fort Collins has remained for the fall season and is likely a northernmost record for the state (Clait Braun). 1 observed by many at Two Buttes Res. 11/6.

Greater Roadrunner - casual on southeastern plains. Janeal Thompson reports 1 spent the summer near Walsh and 1 nest was found at Two Buttes Res. Another bird was observed at Lathrop State Park 8/19. (D. Leatherman).

Long-eared Owl - rare resident except very rare in higher mountains. Reported from Glade Park Store s. Grand Jct., Lykins Gulch w. Longmont, Jim Hamm near Union Res. and Flatirons Site e. of Fort Collins.

Short-eared Owl - uncommon to rare but very spotty and probably declining. 1 Pawnee National Grasslands 9/5 (T. Lueckering).

Boreal Owl - rare to locally common resident in higher mountains. 4 south of Sunlight Ski Area, Pitkin Co. 9/20 (Mike Wunder & K. Potter). 2 near Reservoir Park, Mesa Co. 9/12 (J. Grode).

Black Swift - very rare in foothills, mountain parks, western valleys and on eastern plains. 20+ birds seen with 5 im. in nest at Ouray 9/11.

White-throated Swift - accidental at or above timberline. 12+ above 13,000 feet on Pikes Peak 9/4 (Alan Versaw).

Calliope Hummingbird - rare to uncommon late summer and early fall migrant in western valleys, foothills and lower mountains. A banner year. Reports from Palisade, Rifle, Walsenburg, Mesa Verde, Poudre Canyon, Red Feather Lakes and Loveland.

Rufous Hummingbird - no previous records for southeastern plains. 3 in Walsh 8/14 (J Thompson).

Acorn Woodpecker - likely to be a new addition to the state checklist and first seen by Mark Yaeger. 4 at Lake Dorothy SWA in Las Animas Co. 8/6 & 8/18 (D. Ely & D. Leatherman). September through December 3 birds have been in Durango, La Plata Co. (The Stransky's).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - very rare winter resident on northeastern plains near foothills, accidental on extreme eastern plains and in western valleys. Reported again from Fort Collins, Lyons and Longmont. 1 Fort Lyon, Bent Co. 10/11 (Percival & Janos).

Three-toed Woodpecker - rare or very locally uncommon resident in higher mountains, rare in lower mountains & foothills, primarily in winter. 3+ found sw. of Fort Collins in a year old burn area (Paula Lisowsky). Also reports from Thompson Creek and Park Creek near Sunlight Ski Area, Glenwood Springs.

Eastern Wood-pewee - no fall records. 1 Lamar Community College 8/28 (Janos & Percival).

Willow Flycatcher - rare fall migrant in lowlands, status unclear. 1 Eagle area 8/2 (Jack Merchant).

Least Flycatcher - uncommon fall migrant on extreme eastern plains, rare west to base of foothills. 1 im banded at Barr Lake State Park 9/17.

Gray Flycatcher - casual migrant on eastern plains. 1 im banded at Barr Lake State Park 9/4 .

Vermillion Flycatcher - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1m Hasty Campground, Bent Co 9/22 (Joe & Norma Kamby).

Cassin's Kingbird - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 2 Barr Lake State Park 9/17 (T. Leukering). 1 Fort Morgan 9/9 (Joe Rigli).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - casual fall migrant on eastern plains, casual in mountains and mountain parks. 1 Wellington 8/28 (T.C. Agee).

Violet-green Swallow -late date 10/15 Grand Jct. area

Cliff Swallow -late date 10/17 Jumbo Res.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow - late date 10/19 Grand Jct. area.

Barn Swallow -late date 10/25 Grand Jct. area.

Carolina Wren - very rare visitor to eastern plains. 1 singing Aug.-Nov. Beulah (Pat Flynn).

Winter Wren - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 Pueblo Nature Center 11/21. 1 Colorado Springs 11/26 (D.Ely & others). 1 Lyons 9/19 (D.W. King). 1 Longmont 11/4-25 (V. Diogini). 1 Fort Morgan 9/1 (J. Rigli).

Varied Thrush - very rare fall migrant. 1 Colorado Springs 11/22-24 (A. Versaw). 3(!) Two Buttes, Baca Co. 10/22 (J. Thompson).

Gray Catbird -rare in western valleys. 1 at Cow Creek, Ridgeway 9/11 (C. Dexter).

Sprague's Pipit - uncommon and very local fall migrant. 8+ found again e. of Julesburg 10/12.

White-eyed Vireo -accidental fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 Pueblo 9/20-10/2 (Bob Dickson).

Bell's Vireo - casual fall migrant. 1 Lamar Community College 8/28 (Brevillier, Janos & Percival).

Blue-winged Warbler - casual migrant on eastern plains. Reported 9/7 at Barr Lake State Park by Bill Scheier and banded later that day by C.B.O.

Tennessee Warbler - rare to uncommon fall migrant on eastern plains, very rare in mountains. 1 Ridgway 9/11 (C. Dexter). 1 Valco Ponds, Pueblo 10/9 (M. Janos). 1 Two Buttes Res. 9/3 (B. Percival).

Nashville Warbler - rare spring and fall migrant in western valleys, foothills and on eastern plains. 1 Idledale 9/19 (Else Van Erp). 1 Evergreen 10/1 (B. Brockner). 1 Cottonwood Canyon 9/2 (B. Percival). 1 Meeker 9/10 (Bob Righter). 1 Fort Collins 9/11 (T. C. Agee).

Northern Parula - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1m Pueblo 9/11 & 2 im 9/22-24 and 1 Fountain Creek Regional Park 9/17 (B. Percival). 1fe. of Fort Collins 10/7 (B. Lisowsky).

Chestnut-sided Warbler - casual in western valleys, very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 Valco Ponds, Pueblo 9/8-10. 1 Fountain Creek Regional Park 9/17 (B. Percival).

Magnolia Warbler - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1f Canon City 9/9 (V. Truan).

Black-throated Blue Warbler - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 Breckenridge 8/30 (Kate Brewer). 1 Fountain Creek Regional Park 9/17 and 1 Valco Ponds, Pueblo 9/22 (B. Percival). 1m Pueblo 9/25 (Bob Dickson). 1 im, 1f banded Barr Lake State Park 10/11. 2 Chatfield State Park 10/5 (H. & U. Kingery). 1 Crow Valley Campground 9/22 (D. Leatherman). 1 Fort Collins 11/3 at same location and date as 1993 (J. Mammoser).

Townsend's Warbler - rare to uncommon, occasionally fairly common fall migrant. This year the species was a fairly common migrant with many reports statewide.

Blackburnian Warbler - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 im banded Barr Lake State Park 9/30.

Palm Warbler - rare migrant on eastern plains. 1 Pueblo 10/22 (B. Percival).

1 Chatfield State Park 10/5 (H. & U. Kingery).

Bay-breasted Warbler - very rare migrant on eastern plains. 1 Wheatridge Greenbelt 8/27 (D.F.O.)

Blackpoll Warbler - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 im banded Barr Lake State Park 9/27. 1 Jackson Res. 9/5 (Brian Johnson).

Black and White Warbler - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 Wheatridge Greenbelt 8/27 (D.F.O.)

Prothonotary Warbler - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 Colorado Springs 9/18 and seen by many (Jo Romero).

Ovenbird - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 report from Walsh (J. Thompson). 3 banded Barr Lake State Park 9/20 & 10/4. 1 Crow Valley Campgrounds 9/21 (D. Leatherman). 1 Fort Morgan 9/1 (J. Rigli).

Northern Waterthrush - uncommon to rare fall migrant on eastern plains, rare in western valleys. 2 Wheatridge Greenbelt 8/27 (D.F.O.) 2 Wet Mountain Valley, Custer Co. 8/20 (T. Leukering). 2 were banded this season at Allegra Collister Nature Area, Longmont.

Mourning Warbler - accidental fall migrant on eastern plains and adjacent low foothills. 1 Lake Henry 9/31 (V. Truan).

Hooded Warbler - very rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 Fort Collins 9/25 (T.C. Agee).

Canada Warbler - casual fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 m Bonny State Park 9/3-4 (W. Scheler).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 Bonny State Park 9/20 (Joe & Norma Kamby).

Northern Cardinal - rare on eastern plains. Up to 6 birds near Ovid 11/18 (Himmel, Lisowsky & Bowser). 1f, 1m in Fort Collins 11/11 (Edwin King).

Clay-colored Sparrow - rare in eastern foothills and mountains, casual in western valleys. 1 bird near Loma, Mesa Co. 11/27 (C. Dexter).

Lark Bunting - rare to uncommon on the mesas of northwestern Colorado

and in mountain parks. 1 report from Jack Merchant from Eagle 9/7. "Hundreds" reported in Laramie River Valley 8/19 (T.C. Agee).

Baird's Sparrow - casual fall migrant on eastern plains. Branden Precival reports 2 southeast of Julesburg 10/9.

Swamp Sparrow - 7 Fort Lyons Marsh 10/11. 1 at Jim Hamm near Union Res. 10/2. 1 Fort Collins 10/11 & 10/21. 21 banded at Barr Lake State Park 10/9&10.

White-throated Sparrow - rare fall migrant in western valleys and on eastern plains, very rare in foothills, lower mountains and mountain parks. Reports from Breckenridge 8/28, 2 Nee Noshe Res. 10/11, Lake Holbrook 10/30, Two Buttes Res. 11/6, Lamar 11/6, BarrLake State Park, Fort Morgan, Longmont 11/11, Union Res. 10/2 & 13, Dixon Res. 10/7-9, 3 Ovid 10/12, Watson Lake 10/14.

Golden-crowned Sparrow - very rare migrant on northeastern plains near foothills. 1 Red Rocks Park 11/13 (D.F.O.).

Harris' Sparrow - rare in western valleys, very rare in foothills, lower mountains and mountain parks. 1 Evergreen 1 1/23 (D. Kamm). 1 Basalt mid-Nov. 1 Lyons 10/27 (V. Diogini). 1 Jumbo Res. 10/17 (D. Ely). 2 im near Masters 10/25 (J. Himmel). 1 im Fort Collins 11/15 (B. Lisowsky).

Purple Finch - rare in fall in lower foothills and adjacent eastern plains, no records for mountains. 1 im singing subsong reported by Tony Leukering and Sharon Dooley from Doudy Draw Open Space, Boulder Co. 9/17.

Rusty Blackbird - rare fall migrant on eastern plains. 1 at Golden Ponds, Longmont 11/25. 2 Valco Ponds, Pueblo 11/19 (B. Percival).

White-winged Crossbil - irregular in mountains year round. 5 reported on Indian Peaks bird count 9/17 and 2 at Allenspark 8/5 (Ida Belle Arndt).

Pine Siskin - an albino was observed in Bergen Park 8/18-19 (Dr. & Mrs. Strand).



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

The *C.F.O. Journal* is devoted to the field study of birds in Colorado. Articles and notes of scientific or general interest and reports of unusual observations are solicited. Articles are informal and are not restricted to any particular style, but authors are asked to consult recent issues for the general format. Photos and drawings reproduce best if black and white, showing good contrast. Other material will be used if it can be printed in black and white. Please send negatives or slides, as well as prints, to save on costs of printing: both will be returned.

Contributors who use a computer are encouraged to send a hard copy of articles, as well as a disk. The editor would prefer computer-generated articles that use Microsoft Word 5.1 for Macintosh or Word Perfect 5.1 for IBM or ASCII text. Please attach a note to each disk, indicating the software used. After the article is published, the disk will be returned. Please double-space all typed or computer-printed material. Authors may receive one extra copy of the *Journal*. Additional copies are \$3.00 each. Authors who anticipate needing additional copies of their articles should contact the editor prior to printing.

Send manuscripts, photographs, drawings and questions to David Leatherman, 2048 Whiterock Court, Fort Collins, CO 80526 [home phone: (970) 484-5445; work phone (970) 491-6303]. The editor's FAX is (970) 491-7736. The editor's E-mail (Internet) address is:

DLeatherman@VINES@ColoState.edu

Deadlines are December 1, March 1, June 1 and September 1, for issues dated January, April, June and October, respectively.

HOW TO SUBMIT RECORDS TO THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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

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

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