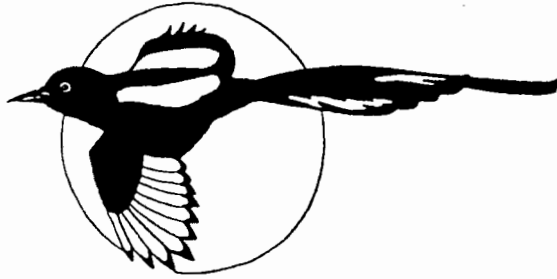

C.F.O. Journal

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly





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EDITOR'S NOTE

If this issue seems a bit skimpy compared to the past few, it is. But what really worries me as an editor is my folder marked "Next Issue". It makes a Black-necked Stilt look pudgy. The operative word here is "cajole". Among other things, I am not very good at cajoling. I can usually put a pin straight through the thorax, just right of center, of an insect 3 millimeters long. But I cannot seem to cajole. Thus, I need that article you have been meaning to write up. I need that little voice in your creative conscience to cajole you for me.

I would think it particularly appropriate that the *C.F.O. Journal* be the place for write-ups about 1st State Records. We have had several over the last few years for which little or nothing was written of the details. No doubt this information is contained in the official documentation, but it would be nice to share those special episodes with all our readership.

You say you have not found a 1st State Record lately? Write about something else special. To paraphrase Thompson Marsh's famous quote about criteria for counting a bird on his list, we all have "seen well or heard well or sensed" something noteworthy. It is not critical you be a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, on the A.O.U. Board, or own the camera equipment of Ansel Adams. Put your contribution on paper or film and we will work with it.

I AM ALWAYS IN NEED OF GOOD ILLUSTRATIONS (especially black and white photographs, color photographs converted to black and white, and/or pen-and-ink drawings).

While we are on the subject of coaxing, I will coax myself into returning materials many of you have sent me. I refer to items like computer disks and photos. I have them all (somewhere).

Also, I have a new address and phone. I can now be reached at:

612 Stover Street #7
Fort Collins, CO 80524
970/416-0193

You may also continue to contact me at my place of work:

Colorado State Forest Service
Colorado State University, Forestry 214
Fort Collins, CO 80523
970/491-6303



C.F.O. BOREAL FOREST SKI TRIP SATURDAY, 27 JANUARY 1996

Meet at 9:00 AM on Saturday, 27 January '96, at the Palisade High School parking lot in Palisade, CO. Here is a good chance to escape the Grand Valley's January inversion and enjoy the fresh spruce-scented air of the Grand Mesa. Coen Dexter will lead a birding cross country ski trip along the County Line Ski Trail. Expect to see lots of jays (Gray, Stellar's and Scrub), Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Pine Grosbeaks, and Red Crossbills. Three-toed Woodpeckers are found most years and the last two years have produced White-winged Crossbills. The skiing is easy, the company cordial, and the birding unique to the high altitude. So, wax your skis, pack a lunch, and join us above the smog.

For more information, contact Coen at 907/464-7971.



REVISION OF A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO COLORADO: UPDATE AND REQUEST

Cindy Lippincott reports she and Harold Holt have entered the final phase of revising the Colorado Lane Guide. The target date for release is the C.F.O./W.F.O. joint convention next June (and the A.B.A.'s Park City, Utah convention immediately following).

Cindy is also looking for a very special cover photograph. Her first choice would be one that depicts all three rosy finches. The addition of a Hepburn's form with the other three would even be better. Anybody out there have one? Does anybody think they can get one this winter? If so, contact Cindy at:

American Birding Association, Inc.
PO Box 6599
Colorado Springs, CO
80934-6599
800/835-2473 (FAX: 800/247-3329)



**CROW VALLEY CAMPGROUND
(PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND)
TO CLOSE TEMPORARILY**

The only developed campground on the Pawnee National Grassland will be closed this winter for rehabilitation work. Crow Valley Campground, located near Briggsdale, Colorado, is expected to reopen by the end of April 1996.

The closure will be effective September 5, 1995 and continue until work is completed next spring. The work includes constructing a group camping area, adding units to the family campground section, reconstructing one of the toilets, extending waterlines and paving the entrance road.

People may continue to camp on public lands on the Grassland near open roads, as "do-it-yourself" or dispersed campers. Roads open to motorized travel are marked with signposts with the road numbers indicated. Off-road travel is not permitted, and there is a great deal of private land that is not open to public use. Purchasing a Pawnee National Grassland map from a Forest Service office, or some local stores, is recommended, in order to determine what land is public, and to become familiar with the regulations governing use of the Grassland. Contact the Pawnee District Office in Greeley, 660 "O" Street, at 970/353-5004, for more information.

As for birding Crow Valley Campground between now and the completion of construction, it is OK to park along Weld County Road 77 and walk in. **PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK THE GATE OR INTERFERE WITH CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.** Thank you. (John Barber)



DO YOU HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS?

In the July 1995 issue of *C.F.O. Journal* we said this issue would contain a list of C.F.O. member e-mail addresses. Alan Versaw has been nice enough to be collector of such addresses. However, he has not received very many. Perhaps not many of us have access to this form of communication.

The invitation is still open. If you have an e-mail address to share with other e-mailers, send it to Alan. If and when we get a group of addresses that warrants publishing as a separate list (20 names?), we will do so.



FIELD TRIP SUMMARIES
SUMMER 1995

GRAND VALLEY AUDUBON AND C.F.O.
OWL FIELD TRIP
1 APRIL 1995

The spring owl trip produced five owl species: Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, Western Screech-owl, and Burrowing Owl. A sixth species, the Saw-whet Owl, was only heard. Rich Levad had located the observed owls prior to the trip and was able to show them to the group without the use of tapes or imitation calls. Approximately 70 owlers met at the Fruita Visitors' Center in 25 vehicles and took part in the afternoon procession that wound its way around the west end of the Grand Valley in Mesa County.

After dinner, a slightly smaller group regathered for an evening of owling on the Grand Mesa. Calling turned up a Saw-whet Owl in juniper trees on the north side of the Grand Mesa. The trip to the Mesa top's boreal forest for Northern Pygmy-owl and Boreal Owl proved fruitless.

SUMMARY OF C.F.O. CONVENTION FIELD TRIPS
GRAND JUNCTION
26-29 MAY 1995

Seven organized field trips and several small groups doing their own trips found 182 species in the greater Grand Junction area. The weather was cool and stormy and birding at higher elevations was not productive (unless counting snow flakes make life exciting).

Most of Colorado's desert species and other birds which occur mostly in the West were found. Chukar, Gambel's Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Western Screech-owl, Black Swift, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Gray Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Pinyon Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Canyon Wren, Bewick's Wren, Western Bluebird, Gray Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, and Scott's Oriole were all recorded. A few other state rarities found were Green Heron at Connected Lake State Park, Trumpeter Swan at Ridgway State Park, Thayer's Gull at Sweitzer Lake State Recreation Area and Black Phoebe at the bridge in Uravan. Eighteen species known to breed in Mesa County were not found. The most disappointing misses were Purple Martin and Grace's Warbler. The weather could be blamed for not having any luck with these species.

**'95 C.F.O. CONVENTION
COMPOSITE LIST**

(species in parentheses are
known Mesa County breeders
not seen on any field trips)

Pied-billed Grebe
Eared Grebe
Western Grebe
Clark's Grebe
American White Pelican
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Snowy Egret
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night-heron
White-faced Ibis
Turkey Vulture
Trumpeter Swan
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Green-winged Teal
Mallard
Northern Pintail
Blue-winged Teal
Cinnamon Teal
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup
Common Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Osprey
(Bald Eagle)
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Northern Goshawk
Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Ferruginous Hawk

Golden Eagle
American Kestrel
Prairie Falcon
Peregrine Falcon
Chukar
Ring-necked Pheasant
(Blue Grouse)
(Sage Grouse)
(Wild Turkey)
Gambel's Quail
Virginia Rail
Sora
American Coot
Sandhill Crane
Killdeer
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
Willet
Spotted Sandpiper
Long-billed Curlew
Common Snipe
Wilson's Phalarope
Red-necked Phalarope
Franklin's Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
California Gull
Thayer's Gull
Forster's Tern
Black Tern
Rock Dove
Band-tailed Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Barn Owl
(Flammulated Owl)
Western Screech-owl
Great Horned Owl
Burrowing Owl
Long-eared Owl
(Boreal Owl)
(Northern Saw-whet Owl)
Common Nighthawk
Common Poorwill
Black Swift
White-throated Swift

Black-chinned Hummingbird	(Pygmy Nuthatch)
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	(Brown Creeper)
Belted Kingfisher	Rock Wren
Lewis' Woodpecker	Canyon Wren
Red-naped Sapsucker	Bewick's Wren
(Williamson's Sapsucker)	House Wren
Downy Woodpecker	Marsh Wren
(Hairy Woodpecker)	American Dipper
(Three-toed Woodpecker)	(Golden-crowned Kinglet)
Northern Flicker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Western Wood-pewee	Western Bluebird
Willow Flycatcher	Mountain Bluebird
(Hammond's Flycatcher)	Townsend's Solitaire
Dusky Flycatcher	Swainson's Thrush
Gray Flycatcher	Hermit Thrush
Cordilleran Flycatcher	American Robin
Black Phoebe	Gray Catbird
Say's Phoebe	Northern Mockingbird
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Sage Thrasher
(Cassin's Kingbird)	(American Pipit)
Western Kingbird	Cedar Waxwing
Eastern Kingbird	Loggerhead Shrike
Horned Lark	European Starling
(Purple Martin)	Gray Vireo
Tree Swallow	Solitary Vireo
Violet-green Swallow	Warbling Vireo
N. Rough-winged Swallow	Orange-crowned Warbler
Bank Swallow	Virginia's Warbler
Cliff Swallow	Yellow Warbler
Barn Swallow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Gray Jay	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Stellar's Jay	Townsend's Warbler
Scrub Jay	(Grace's Warbler)
Pinyon Jay	MacGillivray's Warbler
Clark's Nutcracker	Common Yellowthroat
Black-billed Magpie	Wilson's Warbler
American Crow	Yellow-breasted Chat
Common Raven	Western Tanager
Black-capped Chickadee	Black-headed Grosbeak
Mountain Chickadee	Blue Grosbeak
Plain Titmouse	Lazuli Bunting
Bushtit	Indigo Bunting
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Green-tailed Towhee
White-breasted Nuthatch	Rufous-sided Towhee

Chipping Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Black-throated Sparrow
Sage Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Red-winged Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Great-tailed Grackle
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Northern Oriole
Scott's Oriole
Pine Grosbeak
Cassin's Finch
House Finch
Pine Siskin
Lesser Goldfinch
American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak
House Sparrow

TOTAL SPECIES: 182

ACORN WOODPECKER TRIP 25 JUNE 1995

Five birders from Denver and Pueblo made the trip to Lake Dorothy State Wildlife Area on the Colorado-New Mexico line in search of Acorn Woodpeckers. The woodpeckers were not located, but the group found many interesting bird and plant species. Mark Yaeger, the trip leader, stated the birds may still be present. The area is quite large and its coverage would require more than one day. (See *C.F.O. Journal* 28(4), page 141 (October 1994)).

NORTH PARK FIELD TRIP 9 JULY 1995

The trip to North Park was primarily in search of breeding Northern Waterthrushes. Three birders, led by Beth Dillon, found lots of water everywhere. North Park was experiencing a very wet spring and early summer. The birders found many bird species but the main species of interest was heard only once.

On a subsequent visit July 26th, Erling and Hugh Kingery and Beth found what they were looking for: Northern Waterthrushes. The group found several individuals, and even more importantly, parents feeding recently fledged birds. Beth had found Northern Waterthrushes in North Park in summer 1994 and suspected the birds were nesting. This additional information now confirms their breeding in Colorado. (See *C.F.O. Journal* 29(2), page 84 (April 1995)).



**THE DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT IN COLORADO:
HISTORICAL BREEDING STATUS AND MIGRATION**

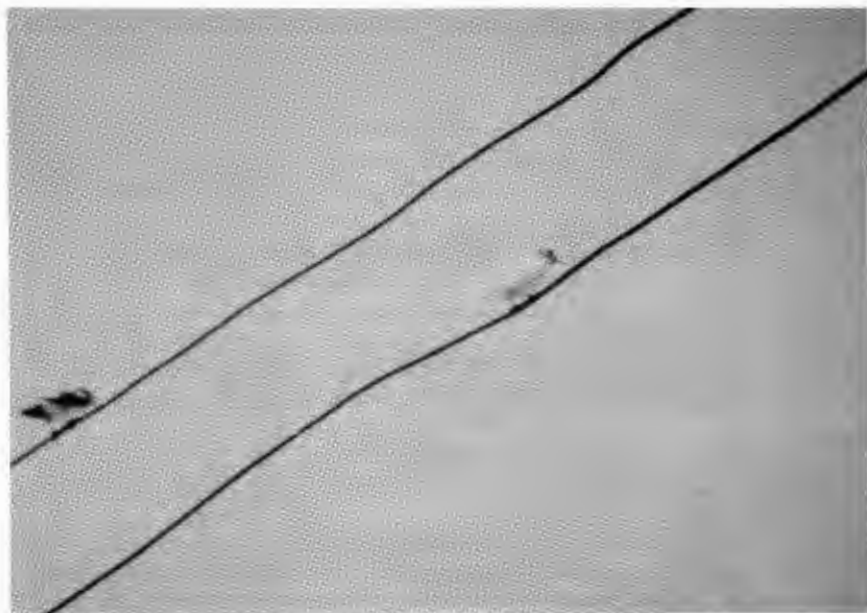
(Summary of paper presented in Grand Junction, CO
at the 1995 C.F.O. Convention)

Dr. Ronald A. Ryder
748 Eastdale Drive
Fort Collins, CO 80524
970/482-8089

The Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) is now a locally abundant summer resident nesting mainly on the eastern plains, but in the last 5 years also in North and South Parks. However, early accounts such as Sclater (1912), reported the species as rare throughout Colorado, with only 4 records verified up to 1912. First nesting was reported at Barr Lake near Denver in 1931. Prior to 1972, cormorants were regularly shot, sometimes in nesting colonies such as on Terry Lake near Fort Collins (1954). Since 1972, the bird has been protected by state and federal laws and has made a remarkable recovery. Several colonies near Denver and Greeley have over 100 nests each.

Since 1963, 207 cormorants have been banded in Colorado, mainly at Riverside Reservoir east of Greeley. As of April 1995, 11 of these bandings have been recovered, four each in Colorado and Texas, and three in Mexico. Also, four cormorants banded in Montana, two in Alberta, two in Wyoming, and one each from North Dakota and Idaho have been recovered in Colorado.





Albino Barn Swallow: this bird stayed one day in the company of other Barn Swallows and was not seen again.

Rigli Ranch, 6877 Morgan County Road 14

20 August 1995

By Joe Rigli

THE REVISED "FIELD CHECKLIST OF COLORADO BIRDS"

This checklist, prepared by the Colorado Bird Records Committee and Colorado Field Ornithologists, was received from the printer (C.F.O. member Bob Spencer) in spring 1995. It is a welcome addition. If we would all stay at home, it will remain up to date for many years to come. On second thought, let's force another revision.

Copies are available from David Pantle, C.F.O. Secretary, for 25 cents each (or from A.B.A. Sales for 50 cents each). They make a great stocking stuffer (as does a C.F.O. T-shirt, also available from David Pantle).

A complete reproduction of the revised checklist follows.

FIELD CHECKLIST OF COLORADO BIRDS

prepared by

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

This checklist conforms to the American Ornithologists Union, Checklist of North American Birds, 39th supplement, 1993.

Date _____ Miles Driven _____

Time in Field _____ Miles Walked _____

Weather _____

Localities _____

Observers _____

B—species known to have bred recently in the State.

U—unusual in any region of the State.

R—species reported in the State less than ten times.

Please send documentation on sightings of U or R species to:
*CFO Records Committee, c/o Dept. of Zoological Collections,
 Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver, CO 80205.*

*—Some or all plumages present a difficult ID. Please carefully separate similar species.

Send membership & other inquiries to:

CFO, P.O. Box 481, Lyons, CO 80540

***Colorado Bird Report sponsored by
 Denver Field Ornithologists (303) 424-2144***

LOONS

- ___ Red-throated Loon U *
- ___ Pacific Loon
- ___ Common Loon
- ___ Yellow-billed Loon R *

GREBES

- ___ Pied-billed Grebe B
- ___ Horned Grebe
- ___ Red-necked Grebe U
- ___ Eared Grebe B
- ___ Western Grebe B
- ___ Clark's Grebe B

PELICANS

- ___ American White Pelican B
- ___ Brown Pelican R

CORMORANTS

- ___ Double-crested Cormorant B
- ___ Neotropic Cormorant R *

Prepared March 1995. Total Species: 452

DARTERS & FRIGATEBIRDS

- ___ Anhinga R
- ___ Magnificent Frigatebird R

BITTERNS & HERONS

- ___ American Bittern B
- ___ Least Bittern B
- ___ Great Blue Heron B
- ___ Great Egret B
- ___ Snowy Egret B
- ___ Little Blue Heron B,U *
- ___ Tricolored Heron U
- ___ Reddish Egret R *
- ___ Cattle Egret B
- ___ Green Heron B
- ___ Black-crowned Night-Heron B
- ___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron B

IBISES & SPOONBILLS

- ___ White Ibis R
- ___ Glossy Ibis R *
- ___ White-faced Ibis B
- ___ Roseate Spoonbill R

STORKS

- ___ Wood Stork R

AMERICAN VULTURES

- ___ Turkey Vulture B

SWANS, GEESE & DUCKS

- ___ Fulvous Whistling Duck R
- ___ Tundra Swan
- ___ Trumpeter Swan U *
- ___ Greater White-fronted Goose
- ___ Snow Goose
- ___ Ross' Goose
- ___ Brant R
- ___ Canada Goose B
- ___ Wood Duck B
- ___ Green-winged Teal B
- ___ American Black Duck U *
- ___ Mallard B
- ___ Northern Pintail B
- ___ Garganey R
- ___ Blue-winged Teal B
- ___ Cinnamon Teal B
- ___ Northern Shoveler B
- ___ Gadwall B
- ___ Eurasian Wigeon U
- ___ American Wigeon B
- ___ Canvasback B
- ___ Redhead B
- ___ Ring-necked Duck B
- ___ Greater Scaup
- ___ Lesser Scaup B
- ___ Harlequin Duck R
- ___ Oldsquaw
- ___ Black Scoter U
- ___ Surf Scoter
- ___ White-winged Scoter
- ___ Common Goldeneye
- ___ Barrow's Goldeneye B
- ___ Bufflehead B
- ___ Hooded Merganser B
- ___ Common Merganser B
- ___ Red-breasted Merganser
- ___ Ruddy Duck B

KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS

- ___ Osprey B
- ___ American Swallow-tailed Kite R
- ___ Mississippi Kite B
- ___ Bald Eagle B
- ___ Northern Harrier B
- ___ Sharp-shinned Hawk B
- ___ Cooper's Hawk B
- ___ Northern Goshawk B
- ___ Common Black Hawk R
- ___ Red-shouldered Hawk U
- ___ Broad-winged Hawk B
- ___ Swainson's Hawk B
- ___ Red-tailed Hawk B
- ___ Ferruginous Hawk B
- ___ Rough-legged Hawk
- ___ Golden Eagle B

FALCONS

- ___ American Kestrel B
- ___ Merlin
- ___ Prairie Falcon B
- ___ Peregrine Falcon B
- ___ Gyrfalcon R *

GROUSE, TURKEYS & QUAIL

- ___ Chukar B
- ___ Ring-necked Pheasant B
- ___ Blue Grouse B
- ___ White-tailed Ptarmigan B
- ___ Ruffed Grouse R
- ___ Sage Grouse B
- ___ Greater Prairie-Chicken B
- ___ Lesser Prairie-Chicken B
- ___ Sharp-tailed Grouse B
- ___ Wild Turkey B
- ___ Northern Bobwhite B
- ___ Scaled Quail B
- ___ Gambel's Quail B

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS

- ___ Yellow Rail R
- ___ Black Rail R
- ___ King Rail R
- ___ Virginia Rail B
- ___ Sora B
- ___ Purple Gallinule R
- ___ Common Moorhen R
- ___ American Coot B

CRANES

- ___ Sandhill Crane B
- ___ Whooping Crane R

PLOVERS

- ___ Black-bellied Plover
- ___ American Golden-Plover
- ___ Snowy Plover B
- ___ Semipalmated Plover
- ___ Piping Plover B,U
- ___ Killdeer B
- ___ Mountain Plover B

STILTS & AVOCETS

- ___ Black-necked Stilt B
- ___ American Avocet B

SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES

- ___ Greater Yellowlegs
- ___ Lesser Yellowlegs
- ___ Solitary Sandpiper
- ___ Willet B
- ___ Spotted Sandpiper B
- ___ Upland Sandpiper B
- ___ Eskimo Curlew R
- ___ Whimbrel
- ___ Long-billed Curlew B
- ___ Hudsonian Godwit U *
- ___ Marbled Godwit B
- ___ Ruddy Turnstone U
- ___ Red Knot
- ___ Sanderling
- ___ Semipalmated Sandpiper
- ___ Western Sandpiper
- ___ Least Sandpiper
- ___ White-rumped Sandpiper
- ___ Baird's Sandpiper
- ___ Pectoral Sandpiper
- ___ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper R
- ___ Dunlin
- ___ Stilt Sandpiper
- ___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper U
- ___ Ruff R
- ___ Short-billed Dowitcher
- ___ Long-billed Dowitcher
- ___ Common Snipe B
- ___ American Woodcock R
- ___ Wilson's Phalarope B
- ___ Red-necked Phalarope
- ___ Red Phalarope U

JAEGERS, GULLS & TERNS

- ___ Pomarine Jaeger U *
- ___ Parasitic Jaeger U *
- ___ Long-tailed Jaeger R *
- ___ Laughing Gull U *
- ___ Franklin's Gull

- ___ Little Gull R
- ___ Common Black-headed Gull R
- ___ Bonaparte's Gull
- ___ Mew Gull U *
- ___ Ring-billed Gull
- ___ California Gull B
- ___ Herring Gull
- ___ Thayer's Gull
- ___ Lesser Black-backed Gull R
- ___ Glaucous-winged Gull R *
- ___ Glaucous Gull
- ___ Great Black-backed Gull R
- ___ Black-legged Kittiwake U
- ___ Ross' Gull R
- ___ Sabine's Gull
- ___ Ivory Gull R
- ___ Caspian Tern
- ___ Common Tern
- ___ Arctic Tern R *
- ___ Forster's Tern B
- ___ Least Tern B
- ___ Black Tern B

MURRELETS

- ___ Marbled Murrelet R
- ___ Ancient Murrelet R

PIGEONS & DOVES

- ___ Rock Dove B
- ___ Band-tailed Pigeon B
- ___ White-winged Dove U
- ___ Mourning Dove B
- ___ Inca Dove R

CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS & ANIS

- ___ Black-billed Cuckoo B
- ___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo B
- ___ Greater Roadrunner B
- ___ Groove-billed Ani R

BARN OWLS

- ___ Barn Owl B

OWLS

- ___ Flammulated Owl B
- ___ Eastern Screech-Owl B
- ___ Western Screech-Owl B
- ___ Great Horned Owl B
- ___ Snowy Owl U
- ___ Northern Pygmy-Owl B
- ___ Burrowing Owl B
- ___ Spotted Owl B,U *

- ___ Barred Owl R *
- ___ Long-eared Owl B
- ___ Short-eared Owl B
- ___ Boreal Owl B
- ___ Northern Saw-whet Owl B

GOATSUCKERS

- ___ Lesser Nighthawk R *
- ___ Common Nighthawk B
- ___ Common Poorwill B
- ___ Whip-poor-will R

SWIFTS

- ___ Black Swift B
- ___ Chimney Swift B
- ___ White-throated Swift B

HUMMINGBIRDS

- ___ Blue-throated Hummingbird R
- ___ Magnificent Hummingbird B, U
- ___ Black-chinned Hummingbird B
- ___ Anna's Hummingbird R
- ___ Calliope Hummingbird
- ___ Broad-tailed Hummingbird B
- ___ Rufous Hummingbird

KINGFISHERS

- ___ Belted Kingfisher B

WOODPECKERS

- ___ Lewis' Woodpecker B
- ___ Red-headed Woodpecker B
- ___ Acorn Woodpecker R
- ___ Red-bellied Woodpecker B
- ___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- ___ Red-naped Sapsucker B
- ___ Williamson's Sapsucker B
- ___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker B
- ___ Downy Woodpecker B
- ___ Hairy Woodpecker B
- ___ Three-toed Woodpecker B
- ___ Northern Flicker B

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

- ___ Olive-sided Flycatcher B
- ___ Western Wood-Pewee B
- ___ Eastern Wood-Pewee U *
- ___ Alder Flycatcher R *
- ___ Willow Flycatcher B
- ___ Least Flycatcher B
- ___ Hammond's Flycatcher B
- ___ Dusky Flycatcher B

- ___ Gray Flycatcher B
- ___ Cordilleran Flycatcher B
- ___ Black Phoebe B,U
- ___ Eastern Phoebe B
- ___ Say's Phoebe B
- ___ Vermilion Flycatcher B,U
- ___ Dusky-capped Flycatcher R *
- ___ Ash-throated Flycatcher B
- ___ Great Crested Flycatcher B
- ___ Cassin's Kingbird B
- ___ Thick-billed Kingbird R
- ___ Western Kingbird B
- ___ Eastern Kingbird B
- ___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher B

LARKS

- ___ Horned Lark B

SWALLOWS

- ___ Purple Martin B
- ___ Tree Swallow B
- ___ Violet-green Swallow B
- ___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow B
- ___ Bank Swallow B
- ___ Cliff Swallow B
- ___ Barn Swallow B

JAYS, MAGPIES & CROWS

- ___ Gray Jay B
- ___ Steller's Jay B
- ___ Blue Jay B
- ___ Scrub Jay B
- ___ Pinyon Jay B
- ___ Clark's Nutcracker B
- ___ Black-billed Magpie B
- ___ American Crow B
- ___ Chihuahuan Raven B
- ___ Common Raven B

TITMICE

- ___ Black-capped Chickadee B
- ___ Mountain Chickadee B
- ___ Plain Titmouse B

BUSHTITS

- ___ Bushit B

NUTHATCHES

- ___ Red-breasted Nuthatch B
- ___ White-breasted Nuthatch B
- ___ Pygmy Nuthatch B

CREEPERS

- ___ Brown Creeper B

WRENS

- ___ Rock Wren B
- ___ Canyon Wren B
- ___ Carolina Wren B,U
- ___ Bewick's Wren B
- ___ House Wren B
- ___ Winter Wren
- ___ Sedge Wren U
- ___ Marsh Wren B

DIPPERS

- ___ American Dipper B

KINGLETS & GNATCATCHERS

- ___ Golden-crowned Kinglet B
- ___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet B
- ___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher B

SOLITAIRES & THRUSHES

- ___ Eastern Bluebird B
- ___ Western Bluebird B
- ___ Mountain Bluebird B
- ___ Townsend's Solitaire B
- ___ Veery B
- ___ Gray-checked Thrush U *
- ___ Swainson's Thrush B
- ___ Hermit Thrush B
- ___ Wood Thrush U
- ___ American Robin B
- ___ Varied Thrush U

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS

- ___ Gray Catbird B
- ___ Northern Mockingbird B
- ___ Sage Thrasher B
- ___ Brown Thrasher B
- ___ Long-billed Thrasher R *
- ___ Bendire's Thrasher B,U *
- ___ Curve-billed Thrasher B

PIPITS

- ___ American Pipit B
- ___ Sprague's Pipit R *

WAXWINGS

- ___ Bohemian Waxwing
- ___ Cedar Waxwing B

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS

- ___ Phainopepla R

SHRIKES & STARLINGS

- ___ Northern Shrike
- ___ Loggerhead Shrike B
- ___ European Starling B

VIREOS

- ___ White-eyed Vireo U
- ___ Bell's Vireo B
- ___ Gray Vireo B
- ___ Solitary Vireo B
- ___ Yellow-throated Vireo U
- ___ Warbling Vireo B
- ___ Philadelphia Vireo U *
- ___ Red-eyed Vireo B

WOOD-WARBLERS

- ___ Blue-winged Warbler U
- ___ Golden-winged Warbler B, U
- ___ Tennessee Warbler
- ___ Orange-crowned Warbler B
- ___ Nashville Warbler
- ___ Virginia's Warbler B
- ___ Lucy's Warbler R
- ___ Northern Parula
- ___ Yellow Warbler B
- ___ Chestnut-sided Warbler B
- ___ Magnolia Warbler
- ___ Cape May Warbler U
- ___ Black-throated Blue Warbler
- ___ Yellow-rumped Warbler B
- ___ Black-throated Gray Warbler B
- ___ Townsend's Warbler
- ___ Hermit Warbler R
- ___ Black-throated Green Warbler
- ___ Blackburnian Warbler U
- ___ Yellow-throated Warbler U
- ___ Grace's Warbler B
- ___ Pine Warbler U
- ___ Prairie Warbler R
- ___ Palm Warbler
- ___ Bay-breasted Warbler B,U
- ___ Blackpoll Warbler
- ___ Cerulean Warbler R
- ___ Black-and-white Warbler
- ___ American Redstart B
- ___ Prothonotary Warbler U
- ___ Worm-eating Warbler U
- ___ Swainson's Warbler R
- ___ Ovenbird B
- ___ Northern Waterthrush B

- ___ Louisiana Waterthrush R *
- ___ Kentucky Warbler U
- ___ Connecticut Warbler R
- ___ Mourning Warbler R *
- ___ MacGillivray's Warbler B
- ___ Common Yellowthroat B
- ___ Hooded Warbler
- ___ Wilson's Warbler B
- ___ Canada Warbler U
- ___ Red-faced Warbler R
- ___ Painted Redstart R
- ___ Yellow-breasted Chat B

TANAGERS

- ___ Hepatic Tanager B,U
- ___ Summer Tanager
- ___ Scarlet Tanager U
- ___ Western Tanager B

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS & BUNTINGS

- ___ Northern Cardinal B
- ___ Pyrrhuloxia R
- ___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak B
- ___ Black-headed Grosbeak B
- ___ Blue Grosbeak B
- ___ Lazuli Bunting B
- ___ Indigo Bunting B
- ___ Painted Bunting U
- ___ Dickcissel B

TOWHEES, SPARROWS & LONGSPURS

- ___ Green-tailed Towhee B
- ___ Rufous-sided Towhee B
- ___ Canyon Towhee B
- ___ Cassin's Sparrow B
- ___ Rufous-crowned Sparrow B
- ___ American Tree Sparrow
- ___ Chipping Sparrow B
- ___ Clay-colored Sparrow
- ___ Brewer's Sparrow B
- ___ Field Sparrow B
- ___ Vesper Sparrow B
- ___ Lark Sparrow B
- ___ Black-throated Sparrow B
- ___ Sage Sparrow B
- ___ Lark Bunting B
- ___ Savannah Sparrow B
- ___ Baird's Sparrow U *
- ___ Grasshopper Sparrow B
- ___ Henslow's Sparrow R

- ___ Le Conte's Sparrow R
- ___ Sharp-tailed Sparrow R
- ___ Fox Sparrow B
- ___ Song Sparrow B
- ___ Lincoln's Sparrow B
- ___ Swamp Sparrow
- ___ White-throated Sparrow
- ___ Golden-crowned Sparrow U
- ___ White-crowned Sparrow B
- ___ Harris' Sparrow
- ___ Dark-eyed Junco B
- ___ McCown's Longspur B
- ___ Lapland Longspur
- ___ Chestnut-collared Longspur B
- ___ Snow Bunting

BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES

- ___ Bobolink B
- ___ Red-winged Blackbird B
- ___ Eastern Meadowlark U *
- ___ Western Meadowlark B
- ___ Yellow-headed Blackbird B
- ___ Rusty Blackbird
- ___ Brewer's Blackbird B
- ___ Great-tailed Grackle B
- ___ Common Grackle B
- ___ Bronzed Cowbird R
- ___ Brown-headed Cowbird B
- ___ Orchard Oriole B
- ___ Northern Oriole B
- ___ Scott's Oriole B

FINCHES

- ___ Brambling R
- ___ Gray-crowned Rosy Finch
- ___ Black Rosy Finch
- ___ Brown-capped Rosy Finch B
- ___ Pine Grosbeak B
- ___ Purple Finch U *
- ___ Cassin's Finch B
- ___ House Finch B
- ___ Red Crossbill B
- ___ White-winged Crossbill B
- ___ Common Redpoll
- ___ Pine Siskin B
- ___ Lesser Goldfinch B
- ___ American Goldfinch B
- ___ Evening Grosbeak B

WEAVER FINCHES

- ___ House Sparrow B



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**A COMPARISON OF ORNITHOLOGICAL GROUPS
IN SEVEN PLAINS STATES
PART I.**

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The following statistics were compiled to make an initial determination of the status and mix of the state ornithological society membership in Kansas. These numbers in no way were compiled to determine any "first" or "last" places. In a few cases (C.F.O., for example) more up-to-date membership lists than those used have been issued and might result in slightly adjusted figures. However, the results may still help the various membership secretaries or committees in the analyzed states take new or slightly different approaches to recruiting new members. If enough interest is generated from Part I, I will continue with additional comparisons.

**I NUMBER OF ORNITHOLOGISTS BELONGING TO ONE OR MORE
NATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS
(PER 100,000 STATE RESIDENTS)**

Colorado	4.61
New Mexico	4.29
South Dakota	2.44
Kansas	1.93
Nebraska	1.58
Oklahoma	1.36
Texas	1.08

**II PERCENT OF NATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL MEMBERS
ALSO BELONGING TO THEIR STATE ORGANIZATION**

South Dakota	12 of 17	71%
Nebraska	16 of 25	64%
Oklahoma	25 of 43	58%
Kansas	24 of 48	50%
New Mexico	23 of 65	35%
Texas	56 of 185	30%
Colorado	23 of 152	15%

III STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP
(PER 100,000 STATE RESIDENTS)

South Dakota	37.9
Kansas	16.6
Nebraska	15.0
New Mexico	12.3
Oklahoma	12.0
Colorado	8.7
Texas	3.0

IV PERCENT OF STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION
MEMBERS BELONGING TO A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

New Mexico	23 of 187	12%
Texas	56 of 508	11%
Colorado	23 of 286	8%
Nebraska	16 of 237	7%
Oklahoma	25 of 378	7%
Kansas	24 of 409	6%
South Dakota	12 of 264	5%

The following membership lists were utilized: FLOCK (includes American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, Wilson Ornithological Society, and Association of Field Ornithologists) 1995; Colorado Field Ornithologists membership as of July 1993; Kansas Ornithological Society as of January 1994; New Mexico Ornithological Society 1995; Nebraska Ornithologists' Union 1995; Oklahoma Ornithological Society as of August 1993; South Dakota Ornithologists' Union as of March 1995; and Texas Ornithological Society 1993.

All institutions and libraries were deleted from membership counts. Family memberships were counted as one member in all lists.

The 1990 United States Bureau of Census figures were used for state populations.



**BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*) IN FORT COLLINS:
ANOTHER EXCITING SOUTHWESTERN VAGRANT**

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On May 6, 1995, David Leatherman and I were birding one of our favorite spots along the Cache la Poudre River in Fort Collins. It was a calm, sunny day which provided a much-enjoyed respite between month-long bookends of clouds and rain.

Our endeavor started in typical fashion for the time and place. We had seen nearly 50 Yellow-rumped Warblers, and the first Yellow Warbler of the year was a thrill. We soon added American Robin, Chipping Sparrow, the year's first Brown Thrasher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black Phoebe, and Forster's Tern. Wait a minute! Were we really seeing a Black Phoebe?! Dave and I stared through our binoculars incredulously.

The bird was perched in a coyote willow (*Salix exigua*) along the east bank of the river, about 200 yards north of the East Prospect Road Bridge. It was behaving like a typical flycatcher, zipping from perch to perch, constantly on the move, incessantly twisting its head from side to side scanning for insects. The bird worked slowly upstream, always preferring low perches such as branches overhanging the river, snags, debris piles, and even rocks. It had worked upriver about 100 yards in 20 minutes, then flew downstream to the point where first found. The bird seemed to like this area and we were inclined to believe it would not leave soon.

At that point, I decided to run back to my vehicle and alert other local birders by pay phone. Dave stayed with the phoebe, to keep its location pinned down and attempt photographing it. I made several calls and returned. The phoebe had then moved downriver towards the Prospect Bridge. For a few agonizing moments, before other interested birders had rallied to the spot, we lost track of the phoebe. We refound it and sighed with relief. This, at nearly the same moment Bill Lisowsky and John Barber pulled up, having made it through Fort Collins traffic in record time.

The bird was now perched on an exposed tree root along the west river bank about 25 yards south of the bridge. The four of us thoroughly studied the bird, as it sat rather sedately for several minutes. The white on the undertail coverts and belly extended upwards onto the lower breast in a "peak", parting the black feathering there in striking fashion. Our initial impression was that the bird was an adult. Upon closer inspection, the dark upper parts, wings, tail

and breast were not jet black but rather dark brown, approaching black. The wingbar and median wing coverts also had rusty feather edgings. We now thought it probable this individual was a first-spring male.

We carefully observed the bird for more than an hour and Dave moved himself into a prone position on the bank near a perch the phoebe was frequenting. After a somewhat uncomfortable wait atop willow stubs (left behind by beaver gnawing) poking his rib cage, Dave was rewarded with a few nice photos. At this point we decided to leave, so other birders might also see it. Unfortunately, it was not reported as refund.

The Fort Collins Black Phoebe was a great surprise. But looking back at the year to date and slightly beyond, it appears to fit into a pattern of vagrancy with southwestern origins. In early January the Fort Collins area had its first Rufous-crowned Sparrow near Horsetooth Reservoir. In February a Harris' Hawk was spotted along the Poudre River. This was most likely the same individual seen on the 1994 Fort Collins Christmas Count, which provided the state's first or second record (pending acceptance by the Colorado Bird Records Committee). In May came the phoebe and another Black Phoebe in Estes Park, a female Painted Bunting observed in Lyons by Mary Griest, followed by two Ash-throated Flycatchers (one at the "phoebe site" and another at Steve and Kathy Martin's property near Wellington). In June a Lesser Nighthawk appeared very near the "phoebe site", a female Painted Bunting showed up at the feeder of Jane Wallower near Drake, and a third Ash-throated Flycatcher was observed in the west unit of the Pawnee National Grasslands. July briefly brought a Magnificent Hummingbird to the Martin's feeder. In September another, or maybe the same, Lesser Nighthawk was seen at the "phoebe site". Later in the month an Acorn Woodpecker surprised everyone seven miles west of Loveland at Sylvandale Ranch. Going back a year to 1994, Fort Collins observers remember the Inca Dove in November-December at Clait Braun's feeder and the aforementioned Harris' Hawk.

While each individual sighting may be noteworthy and exhilarating, it is probably the overall trend of vagrants from the Southwest that is most intriguing. This local pattern seems to be true of Colorado as a whole. The state's first Thick-billed Kingbird and Red-faced Warbler, several Inca Doves, the Lake Dorothy and Durango Acorn Woodpeckers, a Pyrrhuloxia and others are just a few of the southwestern irruptives to appear within Colorado's borders in the last few years. What does all this mean? Probably no one can say with certainty. It could be climate change, environmental stimuli, or coincidence. It could be more of us looking more closely.

One thing is sure. We should enjoy it while it lasts!



Black Phoebe (subadult)
Fort Collins along Cache la Poudre River
just south of Prospect Road Bridge
6 May 1995
By David Leatherman



A MISSISSIPPI KITE CENSUS FROM LA JUNTA, COLORADO TO GARDEN CITY, KANSAS

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The Mississippi Kite (*Uctinia mississippiensis*) first bred in Garden City in 1951, with two pairs nesting on the southeast edge of the city. During 1953 as many as four pairs nested in the city's zoological park. By 1955 the kite was fairly common around Garden City (Marvin Schwilling, pers. comm.). The kite had spread west and appeared to be nesting in the La Junta, Colorado area by 1968 (Cranson 1972). The entire western range expansion of the Mississippi Kite has been documented by Parker and Ogden (1979).

Andrews and Righter (1992) report as many as 15 kite pairs as far west as Pueblo, Colorado in recent times, and a high count of 70 individuals in Lamar, Colorado on 20 August 1988. Cranson (1972) reported up to eight kites in La Junta during 1971. A complete listing of the latest sightings in the Colorado towns along the Arkansas River is summarized by Bolen and Flores (1993). One kettle of 80 kites was observed as early as 30 July 1994 in Garden City (the author). Fitch (1963) estimated approximately 150 breeding kites at the Meade State Park, Meade County, Kansas in 1961. This is 60 miles south-southeast of Garden City. This colony was present as early as 1936.

The increased August feeding activity of the Mississippi Kite is assumed to be preparatory for its impending southward migration (Ganier 1902). The increased visibility of kites in August make that period ideal for censusing.

My son, Christopher, and I had been camping at the Great Sand Dunes National Monument for several days, and on our return trip 11 August 1994 I counted kites from La Junta, Colorado to Garden City, Kansas.

I started counting kites at the west edge of La Junta on State Route 10, entered U. S. Highway 50 and proceeded to Holcomb, Kansas. One mile north of Holcomb we turned onto Old U. S. Highway 50, proceeded through that town and then through the center of Garden City to its east edge. Kites were counted only while driving through towns at the posted 20 or 30 miles per hour speed limits. The exceptionally cool August day hovered right at 77 degrees Fahrenheit the entire 163 mile trip (94 miles in Colorado and 69 in Kansas). The sky remained partly cloudy the entire trip, with light wind. The census began at 1335 MDT and ended at 1805 CDT (3 hours and 30 minutes actual time).

During this particular trip, kites were not observed in rural areas between La Junta and Garden City. However, many are found in rural shelterbelts in central Kansas. Most birds were found soaring over the various towns, and only a few were counted by calls or while perched (Table 1).

TABLE 1. MISSISSIPPI KITE CENSUS, 11 AUGUST 1994

TOWN	TIME	NO. OF KITES
La Junta, CO	1335 MDT	0
Las Animas, CO	1400 MDT	2
Hasty, CO	1425 MDT	0
Lamar, CO	1455 MDT	3
Granada, CO	1515 MDT	0
Holly, CO	1527 MDT	0
Coolidge, KS	1534 MDT	0
Syracuse, KS	1555 MDT	1
Lakin, KS	1732 CDT	1
Deerfield, KS	1742 CDT	13
Holcomb, KS	1752 CDT	0
Garden City, KS	1805 CDT	39

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AMAZING ELBERT COUNTY

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As far as most Coloradoans are concerned, Elbert County is an enigma surrounded by a mystery. It just sits out there under eastern Arapaho County. Interstate 70 cuts across its northeastern corner which is treeless plains, and its western border is on a line well east of Gun Club Road, which is well out onto the plains. So unless one has had occasion to travel through Elbert County, reasonable assumptions are made about its topography. It is assumed to be primarily a plains county - containing plains birds.

Truth is stranger than assumption. There are Mountain Bluebirds nesting on a high, ponderosa-covered ridge on the longitude a little east of Byers, Colorado (to lend perspective). Vesper Sparrows, too -- here and throughout most of the county. This extends these birds' ranges considerably. Many other species considered foothills nesters are here as well.

It was in September 1989 when I first drove across Elbert County on State Route (SR) 86. I could not believe my eyes! Willow and cottonwood-clad creek valleys rise gently to ponderosa-splattered ridges well east into the county. I was astonished that my assumptions had been so wrong. I made several trips to Elbert County that fall and have visited with increasing regularity each following year. Every year I see unexpected birds and another cherished assumption is defeated.

Broad-tailed Hummingbirds come to feeders five miles southeast of Kiowa (the county seat). Also here throughout the summer (1995) were 30 Lesser Goldfinches, 2 pairs of Black-headed Grosbeaks, AND (would you believe?) Lazuli Buntings! Along with expected species which I will not treat in this article. Mountain Bluebirds are dispersed throughout that part of the county which has ponderosa pines, and a few are along the creekbeds -- not only in the southwest corner, as indicated in Colorado Birds by Andrews and Righter. One day in early March, I saw more than 1000 along the Elbert/Douglas County border. This indicates a major migration route.

In early June 1990, Jean Maguire and I saw a pair of Upland Sandpipers at the large pond on SR 86. Mountain Plovers have been found nesting in the southeast corner of the county. In August 1991, Kim Potter, Aaron Sell and I saw Lewis' Woodpeckers feeding young near the old meat-packing plant town of Fondis. They are back again this year (1995). Another pair is nesting on 97 Road just north of SR 86. (NOTE: the county is changing their sensibly

numbered road system to proper names -- so you have to do some deducing from your map). In August 1993, Sherry Chapman and I saw what looked like Western Kingbirds with Eastern Kingbird white-tipped terminal tail bands! Research dictated that these were fresh-plumaged Cassin's Kingbirds. This year (1995) I have found Cassin's Kingbirds in three different locations, which indicates they are nesting in Elbert County in increasing numbers. I counted only those I was absolutely sure of.

Perhaps these birds are just discovering what a lovely place is Elbert County -- like the people who are flocking in. But they have probably been there all the time. Thumbing through Colorado Birds, I found but three sighting marks in distribution maps. It is one of the least birded counties in Colorado. No bird trips are conducted, and Christmas Counts (discontinued in the early 1980's) centered in El Paso County's Black Forest only touched the southwest corner of Elbert County. The Gazetteer Section of Colorado Birds has no listings for the county. There are no State Parks or State Wildlife Areas. No Open Space at all! You must bird from the roads. It could be called the "Rodney Dangerfield" of Colorado counties. The creeks are usually dry by mid-June. So it is no big wonder there are misconceptions about Elbert County's birds. The Breeding Bird Atlas is going to change much of our knowledge. If I found birds which atlasers missed, it is because I was not limited in area.

If you are going to take a trip to Elbert County, be sure to drive over Ridge Road (99 Road) north of SR 86 for at least 8 miles. Any of time of year. But in late June to early July you will see more birds. Along with the mentioned Mountain Bluebirds and Vesper Sparrows, I have seen Western Wood-pewees (you will here them "pyeering" and re-"pyeering"), broad-tailed hummers, Pygmy Nuthatches, Rufous-sided Towhees, Lesser Goldfinches, Cassin's Kingbirds (with Westerns for good comparison), and I heard one or two more that I could not identify. On July 25 (1995) I flushed a Common Poorwill here. I sat down four yards away from the spot and darned if he did not return. Twice! (I could find no eggs.) Amazing.

On Friday, July 28 I came back accompanied by Jean Maguire. This time we flushed the female Poorwill and saw the two pearl-sized white eggs. (See article to follow - ED). We also added Black-headed Grosbeak, Mountain Chickadee and Hairy Woodpecker! I am relieved to have Jean's confirmation, lest I be accused of hallucinating.

Even in the unlikely event you strike out and see none of these, the broad panoramas will take your breath away. And the flowers will knock your eyes out.



COMMON POORWILLS (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) NESTING
IN ELBERT COUNTY, COLORADO

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Because this sighting seems to be the farthest east this species has nested, and because field guides and bird encyclopedias have incomplete and conflicting information, I offer the following full account of the sighting of a pair of Common Poorwills nesting in Elbert County, on Ridge Road (99 Road in the DeLorme Gazetteer), approximately one mile south of 150 Road.

On July 25, 1995, I had parked my vehicle and was sitting to the left of a group of three trees (ponderosa pines), when I moved to the trees to get a better look at some Pygmy Nuthatches. Just as I stepped around the trees, something moved (or flopped) away from the base of the trees to an open area about 12 feet distant. It stayed there three or four minutes, with wings askew and tail spread as though it were wounded. It had white tail corners and a large white throat patch, very evident against its dark chin and breast. (These markings and its size made me suspect a male Common Poorwill.) It then moved awkwardly to the base of three trees about 30 feet away. I then retrieved my chair and sat about six feet from the spot where the bird had flushed. It occurred to me that the bird was trying to lure me away from its nest, but a thorough search yielded nothing. After a while, the bird left, flying strongly beyond some distant trees. Sometimes it uttered what sounded like "quick-quick" notes.

At least 15 minutes later, the bird flew directly back to the area it had first vacated. With me sitting no more than 6 feet away! I chuckled at this and the bird flew directly back to the distant trees. Again I searched in vain for eggs or nestlings. Assuming I had seen the last of the bird, I busied myself looking at other birds for about a half-hour, then began to leave. Again the bird flew! Again showing his white tail feathers. It had returned without my knowing. I could not determine why he kept returning, but he must have had good reason -- with me so close.

Returning on July 28 with Jean Maguire, we searched the area thoroughly, using our binoculars, but found nothing. Sometime later Jean, walking carefully near the area, flushed the female, who flew directly away. It was browner than the male and showed no white in the tail. Examining the place from which it flew, we saw the two small, all-white eggs on the pine-needle

strewn ground. (Peterson's Western Bird's Nests states for Common Poorwill, "Only nightjar that lays white unmarked eggs", Plate 12).

I came back alone on August 2 and searched from my binocular's 12-foot-minimum-focus away. Despite my precaution, the male flushed. Again, in a clumsy, flopping manner showing the white on its tail and throat. It moved but four feet away. Not wishing to cause the birds further stress, I moved well away. After birding for a couple of hours, I tried again to locate the bird(s). I finally found the female. Only the shape of its head, slit eyes, and small beak gave it away. The rest of its plumage mimicked exactly the pine cones strewn about the area. I believe this was the female because, although its head was in an upright position, it evinced no white on its neck. I therefore considered this to be the female and supposed that the male was still nearby. I returned on Wednesday, August 9 and found the female at the exact spot I had left it. (Even though I knew exactly where to look it took me a couple of minutes.)

SUMMARY

The antics of this male Common Poorwill strongly indicate that this species does indeed use a variation of the wounded bird act to distract predators away from the brooding female. That the female flew directly away from her eggs suggests only the male uses distraction. It seems a reasonable assumption that the male was not present when Jean flushed the female. It was mid-day, so since these birds are nocturnal feeders, the reason for the male's absence is unknown. Despite this inconsistency, I believe that during the day this male usually stayed near the incubating female, using distraction when predators neared. This, while the female imitated pine cones. If anyone has information about this, I would appreciate hearing from you.

According to Hugh Kingery, this represents the farthest east confirmed record of nesting Common Poorwills in Colorado. But it may be that they are so difficult to find in the daytime. It seems you must just stumble upon them (as in this case).

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BIRDS DURING PLANTING, 1995

Snipe on fence posts, eyes
wise under pseudo eyebrows:
winnowing in the sedge.

Six pair cinnamon teal call hidden cries.
Phalarope circle up food around
and around a shoveler.
Black and white avocet wheel and deal
above the wading pool.
Yellow-headed blackbirds
swarm like giant gnats.
Peeps industriously bob their heads
up and down along the shore;
like a Singer-sewing machine.

Broad-tailed hummingbird investigates my red shirt;
decides there's nothing worth staying for.
Swainson's overhead casts a shadow on me
as I bend to couple irrigation lines.

Wind blows dust in a brown cloud,
sandblasting our ears and hair.
A spit of rain, now snow,
makes mud of our faces.

The day is gone, load up and drive home;
through verga.

Rise at dawn to Great-tailed grackle's liquid chuckle,
and start over.

lisa g. clements
may 24, 1995

[Lisa G. Clements is a forester for the Colorado State Forest Service. She may be reached at: Alamosa District, Colorado State Forest Service, 610 State Street, PO Box 1137, Alamosa, CO 81101, Phone 719/589-2271 - ED]





Adult Black-crowned Night-heron
Denver City Park
By David Ely

NEWS FROM THE FIELD
SPRING 1995 (March-May)

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The data in this report are from reports sent to Hugh Kingery for *Audubon Field Notes* and from the Denver Field Ornithologist's newsletter *The Lark Bunting*. This report again does not include the Colorado Rare Bird Alert sightings, unless they were in someone's report(s) to the above sources.

All underlined birds require documentation be sent to the Colorado Bird Records Committee (CBRC). An * means a rare bird form was submitted by the observer to the CBRC.

Notable species reported follow (including number of individuals seen, plumage or sex, location, date and observer(s) in most cases):

Pacific Loon: one adult in winter plumage was at Riverside Reservoir, on 4/27 (JH, DCE, WPL).

Yellow-billed Loon: the two immatures found in December stayed at Pueblo Reservoir, from 3/1-5/13 (MJ, BKP*, mo).

Red-necked Grebe: one was at Hamilton Reservoir, near Wellington, from 5/4-5/19 (DCE, DAL, RAR).

Little Blue Heron: one immature "calico" bird was at Lake Holbrook, near Rocky Ford, from 4/29-5/9 (BKP*, MJ*, mo); one was at Thomas Reservoir, se of Mead, on 5/13 (JHa, SN); and one was found on the Barr Lake Periphery DFO Field Trip, on 5/28 (JK).

Glossy Ibis: one adult was at Lake Cheraw, from 4/26-5/7 (JR, MJ*, mo); two adults were at Fort Lyon, on 5/7 (MJ*); and one was found in Adams County, from 5/12-5/14 (KS).

Tundra Swan: one to two were in Grand Junction, on 3/12 (CD, RL).

Trumpeter Swan: one adult was seen at Ridgway State Park, from 5/20-5/28 (AK*, CD, CFO).

Brant: one western race, probably the same individual first found in February (DCE*), was seen at Windsor Lake, near Windsor, on 3/5 (DAL).

Ross' Goose: one was at Monte Vista, from 3/15-4/12 (J&LR, mo).

Eurasian Wigeon: one male stayed at Fort Collins, from 3/1-4/3 (DAL, mo) and one was found in Weld County, on 3/25 (S&MP).

Oldsquaw: two were found at Pueblo Reservoir, from 3/30-4/3 (BKP, JD).

Red-shouldered Hawk: one eastern race immature was at Fort Collins, from 5/23-5/31 (DAL, DCE*, WPL, PDL, JMa).

Broad-winged Hawk: 25 were reported between 4/19 & 5/23, with the first being an adult, at Pueblo's Valco Ponds, on 4/19 (BKP).

Black Rail: up to 16 were found in marshes, in Otero and Bent Counties, between 5/12 & 5/19 (BKP*, VAT, DCE*, DAL, JMa, mo) and one was heard below the Two Buttes Reservoir Dam, on 5/19 (DAL, DCE*).

Whooping Crane: one immature was at Thurston Reservoir, n of Lamar, from 3/10-4/2 (JS, BKP*, MJ*, DCE*, mo). This is the 4th CO record, if accepted).

Piping Plover: up to ten were at Upper Queens Reservoir, s of Eads, from 4/22-5/18 (DBr, BKP*, DCE, DAL, JMa).

Upland Sandpiper: four were found at Rocky Ford, on 4/28 (MJ).

Whimbrel: 23 were found between 4/23 & 5/18, with the first being one at Glade Park, w of Grand Junction, on 4/23 (CD).

Ruddy Turnstone: one seen on the Barr Lake Periphery DFO Spring Count, on 5/28 (JK).

Red Knot: one was reported at Longmont, on 5/20 (DWK, PK).

Laughing Gull: one adult was seen, and heard "laughing", at Lake Henry near Ordway, on 5/1 (BKP*, MJ*).

Common Black-headed Gull: one immature was reported at Lake Henry, on 4/29 (DBr). This could become the 3rd CO record if accepted.

Mew Gull: one was at Union Reservoir, near Longmont on 3/9 (JPr).

Glaucous-winged Gull: one adult was at San Luis Lake, in the San Luis Valley, on 3/3 (J&LR*).

Great Black-backed Gull: one was seen at Union Reservoir, on 3/19 (BPr).

Caspian Tern: one was s of Loveland, on 4/27 (MN) and four were there on 5/13 (DS); one was at Adobe Creek Reservoir, n of Las Animas, on 4/28 (MJ); one was at Lake Henry, on 5/4 (BKP); one was at Highline Reservoir, on 5/30 (CD); and two were found in Fort Collins, on 5/31(PDL, WPL).

Common Tern: one was in Grand Junction, on 5/13 (CD) and one was at Lake Henry, on 5/21 & 5/28 (MJ).

Least Tern: one adult was found at Confluence Park, in Delta, on 4/30 (KP*, RL).

White-winged Dove: one was in a Pueblo backyard, on 5/11 (BD).

Long-eared Owl: one adult and three immatures were found at a nest at Fort Lyons, on 5/23 (MJ, BKP, BD).

Lesser Nighthawk: one female was at Two Buttes Reservoir, on 5/19 (JMa, DCE*, DAL).

Calliope Hummingbird: one male was seen on the Pawnee NG, on 5/21 (MN, mo).

Rufous Hummingbird: one male was at Fountain Creek Regional Park, on 5/28 (J&RW).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: one male was at Rocky Ford SWA, on 4/1 (BKP); up to two were in Lamar, from 4/28-5/14 (MJ, mo); one male was seen along Bear Creek, in Baca County, on 5/14 (MJ, VZ); and others were found at Bonny Reservoir during the period.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: up to three were found at Grandview Cemetery, in Fort Collins, from 3/16-3/23 (DAL, DCE) and one male was in Walsh, on 4/10 (JTh*).

Eastern Wood-pewee: one was at Bear Creek, in Baca County, on 5/14 (VZ, mo) and one was singing at Rocky Ford SWA, on 5/21 (MJ*).

Alder Flycatcher: one was carefully described and banded at Barr Lake, on 5/28 (TL*).

Gray Flycatcher: one was at Dixon Reservoir, near Fort Collins, on 5/18-5/26 (WPL, JFB, TCA).

Black Phoebe: one was at Fort Collins, on 5/6 (DCE*, DAL, WPL, JFB - see article this issue); one was at Lake Estes, from 5/17-5/21 (SR, SW); one was on the Pawnee NG, on 5/23-24 (AB); and two were at Uravan, in Montrose County, on 5/28 (BKP*, CD, CFO).

Eastern Phoebe: one was singing at Two Buttes Reservoir, on 5/6-5/7 (BKP, J&LR, JPo) and 5/20 (DAL, JMa, DCE) and one was in Waterton Canyon, on 5/13 (HEK, DFO).

Ash-throated Flycatcher: one was found in Wellington, on 5/5 (SM), and one was in Fort Collins, on 5/14 (DCE, DAL).

Great Crested Flycatcher: two were at the Fort Lyons Wildlife Easement, from 5/3-5/31 (BKP, MJ, mo); two were at Lamar, from 5/13-5/31 (VZ, MH, MJ, BKP, mo); and one was at Lake Henry, on 5/28 (MJ).

Kingbird spp.: The following note was sent to Hugh Kingery from David Ely: "5/20 & 5/21 in Baca and Las Animas Counties (JMa, DAL and I) witnessed an amazing movement of kingbirds numbering over 1000 individuals. 90% were Westerns, the rest Easterns and Cassin's (about 5-7 Cassin's)! This movement was occurring about the same time, and about 50 miles west of, the *Great Kiskadee* in Morton County, KS. I think they are directly related and the Kiskadee could have been a fallout of this tremendous push of kingbirds. " This *Great Kiskadee* gives Kansas its first record, which stayed to June 1, at Morton County's Middle Spring. Maybe a *Great Kiskadee* will turn up in Colorado in the near future.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: one female was at Hannah Ranch SWA, on 5/27 (MH).

Violet-green Swallow: two were found in Walsh, on 5/25 (JTh).

Blue Jay: one was seen in Mosca, on 4/22 (J&LR).

Carolina Wren: one was seen at Two Buttes Reservoir, on 5/6 (BKP).

Winter Wren: two were found in the Evergreen area, 3/3 & 5/21 (JHe & WWB).

Veery: 28 were found between 5/7 & 5/28, with the first being one at Prewitt Reservoir, on 5/7 (NE, DFO).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: one was at Lamar from 5/9-5/14 (MJ*) and one was found e of Fort Lyon, on 5/18 (MJ*).

Wood Thrush: one was found at the woodlot on Road JJ and 16, e of Fort Lyon, from 5/8-5/14 (BKP*, MJ*).

Varied Thrush: one adult male w of Loveland, from 3/1-5/4 (AM*, GBe).

Bendire's Thrasher: one was reported near the Utah border, w of Cortez, on 4/25 (LB*).

Bohemian Waxwing: 1157 were found between 3/2 & 4/18.

White-eyed Vireo: one was seen in Pueblo City Park, on 5/6 (MJ*) and one was at Bonny Reservoir, on 5/17 (DAL, DCE*).

Bell's Vireo: one was at Lake Holbrook, on 4/28 (MJ); one was at Crow Valley Campground, on 5/4 (DBo); three were at Bonny Reservoir, on 5/18 (BKP) and on 5/20-5/21 (HEK, DFO), and one was in Longmont, on 5/25 (DBo).

Yellow-throated Vireo: one was in Pueblo City Park, on 5/20 (MJ*).

Philadelphia Vireo: one was reported in Fort Collins, on 5/26 (TCA*).

Red-eyed Vireo: 11 were reported between 5/12 & 5/27, with the first being one at Lamar, on 5/12 (VAT).

Blue-winged Warbler: one male was at Lamar, on 5/12 (BKP*, VAT) and one female or immature male at Bonny Reservoir, on 5/17 (DCE*, DAL).

Golden-winged Warbler: one female was at Lamar, on 5/6 (BKP*, DFO); one male at Dixon Reservoir, near Fort Collins, from 5/22-5/30 (JMa, DCE*, DAL, mo); and one male at the Canon City Riverwalk, on 5/28 (MJ*).

Tennessee Warbler: 26 were reported between 5/4 and 5/30, with the first being a male at the Canon City Riverwalk, on 5/4 (SWH).

Nashville Warbler: 8 were reported between 5/5 & 5/28, with one male at the Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement, on 5/5 (BKP, MJ); one male at Lamar, on 5/7 (BKP, MJ, J&LR, JPo); one female at Lamar, on 5/8 (BKP, MJ, JR); one male at Wheat Ridge, on 5/9 (KS, JTe); one was seen on the Barr Lake Periphery DFO Field Trip, on 5/13 (JK); one male at Laporte, on 5/13 (DAL, DCE, WPL, JFB); one at Sawhill Ponds in Boulder County, on 5/20 (DWK, PK), and one female at Lake Henry, on 5/28 (MJ).

Northern Parula: 18 were reported between 4/29 & 5/30, with the first being a male in Picture Canyon in Baca County, on 4/29-4/30 (FL, R&JS, BKP); one female was found in Mosca, on 5/19 (J&LR*), a rare San Luis Valley find.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 10 were reported between 5/5 & 5/23, with one male at Lamar, on 5/5 (BKP, MJ); one male at Rocky Ford SWA, on 5/13 (TL, RB, BM); one male e of Fort Lyon, on 5/14 (BKP, MJ); two at Bonny Reservoir, on 5/21 (HEK, DFO); one male at Rocky Ford SWA, on 5/21 (MJ); one at Evergreen Lake, on 5/22 (WWB); one male at Colorado Springs, on 5/22 (AV); one male e of Fort Collins, on 5/23 (DCE, DAL, JMa); and a male at Lake Henry, on 5/23 (BKP).

Magnolia Warbler: 14 were reported between 5/6 & 5/28, with the first being se of Berthoud, on 5/6 (BC) and one male was in Walsh, on 5/13 (JTh), this report was considered unusual by the observer at that location.

Cape May Warbler: one male was in Lyons, from 5/14-5/17 (RD, mo) and one was reported at Lake Estes, on 5/30 (DK).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 5 were reported between 5/3 & 5/27, with one male at Lamar from 5/3-5/6 (DN, BKP, MJ, DFO); one first year female was at Rocky Ford SWA, on 5/19 (MJ); one male was at Lake Henry, from 5/21-5/23 (MJ, BKP, BD); one female was at Crow Valley Campground, on 5/23-5/24 (AB, mo); and one female was in Fort Collins, from 5/24-5/27 (JMa, mo).

Black-throated Gray Warbler: 5 were found on the plains between 5/4 & 6/1, with one at Lykin's Gulch w of Longmont, on 5/4 (VD); one male at Barr Lake, on 5/12 (DCE, KS); one female at Fountain Creek Regional Park, on 5/17 (KS, TB, DFO); one female was e of Fort Lyon, on 5/23 (BKP, MJ, BD); and one at Crow Valley Campground on 6/1 (DAL).

Townsend's Warbler: only 3 were reported this spring, between 5/6 & 5/27, with one female in Lamar, on 5/6-5/7 (J&LR, JPo, BKP); one male at Lamar, from 5/7-5/9 (BKP, MJ); and one female at the Colorado National Monument, on 5/27 (BKP, BD, CS, PSS).

Black-throated Green Warbler: 2 were reported between 5/11 and 5/16, with one at Bonny Reservoir on 5/11 (NE) and the other, a male in a Greeley yard, on 5/16 (JH).

Blackburnian Warbler: one male was seen in Pueblo City Park on 5/13 (MY, PSS, CS).

Yellow-throated Warbler: one was seen in a Canon City yard on 4/24 (SWH).

Palm Warbler: 8 were reported between 4/30 & 5/14, with one at Two Buttes SWA on 4/30 (BKP); one in Pueblo, on 5/1 (BD); one at Lathrop State Park near Walsenburg, on 5/5 & 5/7 (J&LR*, JPo); one in Colorado City, on 5/6 (MY); one at Fountain Creek Regional Park, on 5/7 (GBu); one was w of Laporte, on 5/9 (JFB); and two were found at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, on 5/14 (HEK, DFO).

Bay-breasted Warbler: one was seen at Bonny Reservoir, on 5/21 (VZ); one male was in Longmont, on 5/28 (AM*, AD); and one male was at Lake Henry, on 5/28 (MJ*).

Blackpoll Warbler: 29 were reported between 5/6 & 5/28, with the first being a male at Lamar on 5/6 (BKP, DFO).

Black-and-white Warbler: 28 were reported between 4/30 & 5/21, with the first being a male at Two Buttes Reservoir, on 4/30 (BKP); and one female was in Monte Vista, on 5/18 (J&LR, JPo) for a rare San Luis Valley find.

American Redstart: 72 were reported between 5/6 & 5/28, with the first being a first-year male at Two Buttes Reservoir, on 5/6 (BKP) and a female was at the Great Sand Dunes National Monument, on 5/18 (J&LR*), for a long overdue first for the San Luis Valley.

Prothonotary Warbler: one male was at Fountain Creek Regional Park, from 5/8-5/12 (TB, BKP*, mo).

Worm-eating Warbler: one delighted the observer at Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement, on 5/3 (BKP*); and one was at Barr Lake, on 5/12 (DBr, KS).

Ovenbird: 19 were reported between 5/7 & 5/31, with the first being at Prewitt Reservoir, on 5/7 (NE, DFO).

Northern Waterthrush: 91 were reported between 5/5 & 5/28, with the first group being at Lamar, on 5/5 (BKP, MJ) and one was found at the Air Force Academy at an elevation of 6,370 feet, on 5/16 & 5/18 (AV*), this record was considered unusual by the observer.

Kentucky Warbler: one beautiful male was at Lamar, on 5/5-5/6 (BKP*, MJ*, DFO). On 5/6 the DFO Field Trip watched the bird walking on a log in the open, giving great views to all. [This constitutes rubbing it in, Brandon - ED]

Mourning Warbler: one adult male seen at Lake Henry, on 5/28 (MJ*), for the rarest warbler find of the season.

Hooded Warbler: a surprising 6 were reported between 5/7 & 5/31, with one at Prewitt Reservoir, on 5/7 (NE, DFO); one male at Riverside Reservoir, on 5/14-5/16 (JH, mo); one male at Crow Valley Campground, on 5/17-5/18 (BeD, DBe, WPL, JFB); one female at Fountain Creek Regional Park, on 5/20 (DBr); one female at Lake Henry, on 5/21 (MJ*); at one male at Rocky Ford SWA, on 5/31 (DBr).

Summer Tanager: one male was at the Canon City Riverwalk, on 5/6 (JM); one female was in Lamar, on 5/8-5/9 (BKP, MJ, JR, JH); and one male was in sw Loveland, on 5/18 (AM*, mo).

Northern Cardinal: a male and a female were in Walsh, on 5/3 (JTh).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 42 were reported between 4/22 & 5/29.

Painted Bunting: one female was in Lyons, on 5/7 (MG*).

Sage Sparrow: one was reported on the Pawnee National Grasslands, on 4/6 (DBo).

Field Sparrow: one was at Crow Valley CG, on 5/7 (DAL).

Bobolink: one was seen at Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, from 5/10-5/13 (RG), this is a rare San Luis Valley find.

Rusty Blackbird: two were seen in Pueblo, on 3/4 (BKP) and three were found at the Julesburg Rest Area, on 3/14 (DAL, DCE).

Northern ("Baltimore") Oriole: one male was in Lamar, on 5/8 (BKP, MJ, JR, JH) and one male was at Lake Henry, on 5/28 (MJ). This species is still considered rare in southeastern Colorado.

Scott's Oriole: one first year male was reported from Vogel Canyon Picnic Area, on 5/9 (BeD). This species is accidental in southeastern Colorado and should be documented.

Purple Finch: one female bird was in Canon City, on 4/10 (SWh).

Cited Observers: DFO Field Trip, CFO Field Trip, T. Carol Agee (TCA), Lucille Bainbridge (LB), John Barber (JFB), Gary Beemer (GBe), Bob Belts (DBe), Dave Bolton (DBo), Ann Bonnell (AB), Toni Brevillier (TB), Dan Bridges (DBr), William Brockner (WWB), Richard Bunn (RB), Greg Butcher (GBu), Bobbie Christensen (BC), Raymond Davis (RD), Ann Delzell (AD), Coen Dexter (CD), Bob Dickson (BD), Beth Dillon (BeD), Virginia Dionigi (VD), Jon Dunn (JD), David Ely (DCE), Norm Erthal (NE), Ron Garcia (RG), Mary Griest (MG), Joe Harrison (JHe), Joe Himmel (JH), Mark Hullinger (MH), Mark Janos (MJ), Dieter Kamm (DK), D.W. King (DWK), Jackie King (JK), Hugh Kingery (HEK), Paul Kirby (PK), Andy Kretzinger (AZ), Dave Leatherman (DAL), Tony Leukering (TL), Rich Levad (RL), Paula Lisowsky (PDL), William Lisowsky (WPL), Forrest Luke (FL), Jean Maguire (JM), Joe Mammoser (JMa), Steve Martin (SM), Bill Maynard (BM), Ann Means (AM), Duane Nelson (DN), Sally Niemann (SN), Mark Nikas (MN), Brandon Percival (BKP), Suzi & Myron Plooster (S&MP), Jerry Poe (JPo), Kim Potter (KP), Bill Prather (BPr), John Prather (JPr), Scott Rashid (SR), John & Lisa Rawinski (J&LR), Joe Roller (JR), Ron Ryder (RAR), Pearle Sandstrom-Smith (PSS), Karleen Schofield (KS), Dan Simon (DS), Jennifer Slater (JS), Clif Smith (CS), Rick & Janis Steenberg (R&JS), Joe TenBrink (JTe), Janeal Thompson (JTh), Van Truan (VAT), Alan Versaw (AV), Susan Ward (SW), Jim & Rosie Watts (J&RW), Sylvia Wheelock (SWH), Mark Yaeger (MY), Vic Zerbi (VZ).



Hooded Warbler (adult male)
Rigli Ranch
6877 Morgan County Road 14
April 1978
By Joe Rigli

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White-faced Ibis
"Downtown" Silverton, CO
Late April 1994
Submitted by Kent Simon

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