
Journal of the

Colorado Field Ornithologists

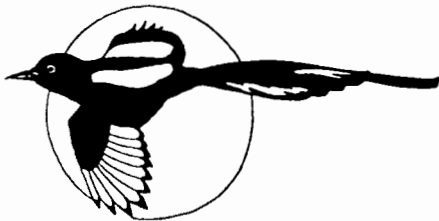
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EDITOR'S REMARKS

You allowed me to jump in the pool 13 issues ago, in January 1994. Volume 30, No. 4, marked my last as editor of the *C.F.O. Journal*. This issue, Volume 31, No. 1, marks my first and last with *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*. (More about this name change in a bit.) My tenure seems short. Seems long. Mona Hill, our current Secretary, preceded me and did a fine job. Cynthia Melcher will follow and also do a fine job.

The *Journal* is a central activity of our organization and, I think, of import. The birds described, places explored, and new information displayed on its pages come almost entirely from members. An editor's job is to tidy up, arrange, do justice. I hope you will continue to support our publication, as you did during my time, and that you will help shape any ensuing changes with care.

Speaking of change, our publication's new name was born at the March 1997 Board Meeting. Discussion of such began long ago and gained momentum at the inaugural Journal Committee Meeting in February 1997. The finalization of this important step involved considerable thought and was made in the best interests of the Colorado Field Ornithologists. Clarity is paramount in this age of exploding information, and we think the new name will literally spell out who we are. It will improve the accuracy of indexing and likelihood of attention from professional abstracting services. No longer should a CFO Secretary get a request for our latest issue of the *Chief Financial Officer's Journal*. Perhaps the change will take some getting used to. It is not the first time our name has been altered, and it may not be the last. But for now, we think *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* is best.

I will leave an introduction of Cynthia to Cynthia in the next issue, except to say she is quite capable. I wish her the best and will continue to help until five or ten minutes from now, when her skill with computers and page layout exceeds mine. Actually, I promised her my job description would include the words "safety net" for the next few issues. Beyond that, I hope to devote more time to writing for *JCFO* and may even get to the "Food Items" summary I promised a year or more ago.

Along that vein, I am still very much interested in receiving reports of what you have seen Colorado birds eating. This is a pursuit I think most of us would enjoy, and one that could add important knowledge to the existing base.

We all have an affinity for field ornithology. A lot of that involves seeing new birds, particularly unusual ones. I will admit few moments within birding excite me more than finding a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, jaeger, or eastern

warbler. But the field contains much more than seeking accidentals, chasing tape tips, and penciling checklist ticks. Most of the rarities have been seen, the hotspots visited. With Hugh Kingery's considerable leadership we took a big step in the right direction by piecing together the first statewide Breeding Bird Atlas. Now what?

A great body of questions begs attention. Do poorwills winter within the cracks of Colorado's granite walls? Why would certain Mountain Chickadees fly all the way to Ovid or Rocky Ford for the winter? Is the "Red Crossbill" seven separate species, and if so, which ones do we have? What are the habitat requirements for wintering Hermit Thrushes on the west slope? What do Mountain Plovers do from the time they leave their nesting areas until they exit the state? Why are there very few, if any, White-winged Crossbills on the Grand Mesa this winter? What is the distribution of the Western Screech-Owl? How does one differentiate immature rosy finches, and then determine their gender? Or can you? What are the dynamics of bird change in your backyard? Do the diets of Lark Buntings in the San Luis Valley differ from those on the Pawnee?

In my first issue, the Kuennings taught us about a Blue Jay named "Skimmer" and how individual jays beyond the actual breeding pair may help at the nest. What other species do this in Colorado? The Dinosaur Ridge Hawkwatch site west of Denver is relatively quiet in fall. Which route do hawks counted there in spring take during autumn? Is our growing population of Great-tailed Grackles affecting other birds? Ancient Murrelets are becoming almost regular in early November near Denver. Why and how?

Curiosity may have killed the cat, but it should set at least one future agenda for Colorado's field ornithologists.

Thank you letting me be your editor. It was fun to open envelopes and be the first to see products of your varied interests in Colorado birds. I made many friends. And, hopefully, I learned to spel and right more better.

David Leatherman
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UPDATE ON "THE BLUEBIRD PROJECT"

The Winter 1996 newsletter (Vol. 3, No. 2) for The Bluebird Project, coordinated by Sherry Chapman of the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Volunteer Office, contains details of many successes. For example, over the last 4 years more than 4,000 boxes have been built and deployed statewide. Of the data received from 79 trails, these boxes fledged 603 Mountain Bluebirds, 202 Western Bluebirds, and 1 Eastern Bluebird in 1996.

A long-term goal of the project is to have an 826 mile "Colorado Bluebird Trail" wind from border to border. This proposed trail, already complete in some sections and in need of participants in others, will pass through the following counties: Sedgwick, Logan, Morgan, Weld, Larimer, Boulder, Gilpin, Jefferson, Park, Chaffee, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Mineral, Rio Grande, Archuleta, LaPlata, San Juan, Ouray, Montrose, and Mesa.

If interested in participating or for more information, contact Sherry at the DOW, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216 (303/291-7253). The Bluebird Project and its participants are also a great local source of information about bluebirds in general, nest box construction and maintenance, and much more.



UPCOMING CFO FIELD TRIPS & WORKSHOPS

GRAND VALLEY OWLS

Meet Rich Levad (970/242-3979) on APRIL 5 at 1 PM at the Colorado Visitors' Center in Fruita west of Grand Junction on I-70. This trip usually produces several species of owls typical of the Grand Valley floor and Grand Mesa (weather permitting).

GUNNISON AREA SAGE GROUSE & SHOREBIRDS

Meet the leaders at 1 PM on Saturday April 26 at the Neversink Picnic Area about 10 miles west of Gunnison on US50. The dates are April 26 AND 27. Contact Alan Versaw (719/598-7130) or Kim Potter (970/625-3713). This promises to be an exciting opportunity to see the "Gunnison Sage Grouse", which may be elevated to species status, as well as West Slope shorebirds.

LAMAR AREA MIGRANTS

MAY 3 & 4. MEETING TIME AND PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED. Contact Jenny Slater (Before April 1: 719/336-4852, after April 1: 303/297-1192). Sites visited could include Two Buttes and Queens Reservoirs, the Lamar Community College woods, and other area hotspots. At this time of year exciting migrants, both big and small, are probable.

MONTE VISTA CFO CONVENTION

A full slate of field trips in and around the San Luis Valley is planned for MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, MAY 24-26. You are asked to sign up in advance for field trips when you register for the Convention (see insert this issue). To guide your sign-up, see target species details for each trip in the text of this issue.

DURANGO ACORN WOODPECKERS & GRACE'S WARBLERS

JUNE 28. MEETING TIME AND PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED. Contact Kip Stransky at 970/247-8138.

SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

AUGUST 2 (from 8am-2pm) AT THE DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. Limited to 15 people. To reserve a spot, contact Bob Righter at 303/692-8529. Learn how to tell a Curlew Sandpiper from a Dunlin and more.

APISHAPA SWA AND AREA

LABOR DAY WEEKEND (AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1). MEETING TIME AND PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED. Contact the leaders, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith and Clif Smith (719/543-6427). This trip visits a remote area between the cities of La Junta, Walsenburg, and Trinidad. It should feature southeastern CO specialties, with Hepatic Tanager being somewhat possible. The closest motels are in Walsenburg. Thus, participants should plan for a long commute, or to camp at the SWA. This trip is contingent on weather and local road conditions.

GULL IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Tony Leukering of the Colorado Bird Observatory has agreed to put on a gull workshop sometime in November 1997. Details to be worked out. Stay tuned!



PREVIEW OF CONVENTION FIELD TRIPS

This is intended as a guide to selecting field trips for those attending the 1997 Colorado Field Ornithologists Convention in Monte Vista, May 23-26. **PLEASE NOTE SOME TRIPS HAVE PARTICIPANT LIMITATIONS, WHICH REQUIRE THAT YOU PREREGISTER.** (See the Convention Insert, this issue).

SATURDAY (May 24) - Half Day

- 6 AM San Luis Lakes: waterfowl, shorebirds and a possible extension to the Great Sand Dunes National Monument for foothills riparian and pinyon-juniper birding.
- 6 AM Conejos/McIntyre Springs: high-quality riparian and wetland habitats.
- 6:30 AM Cat Creek: foothills riparian to transition zone birding.
- 6:30 AM Alamosa/Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge: opportunity to visit high-quality wetland areas generally off-limits to general public.

SUNDAY (May 25) - All Day

- 6 AM Smith Reservoir/Costilla County: waterfowl, upland and sage community species, possible Mountain Plover.
- 6:30 AM Mishak Lakes/Russell Lakes (LIMITED TO FIRST 20 PEOPLE): wetlands, waterfowl, and shorebirds with possible extension to La Garita Creek for foothills riparian birding.
- 6 AM Blanca Wetlands: shorebirds and waterfowl in high-quality wetland area, possible Snowy Plover, possible extension to Zapata Falls to look for American Dipper.
- 6 AM "Down-south-almost-to-New-Mexico": widely varied habitats and species.
- 6:30 AM Alamosa/Monte Vista: identical to Saturday trip (length longer?).
- PM Owling on Sunday night (time to be announced): will visit foothills of the San Juans on the western side of the San Luis Valley.



TREASURER'S NOTE

Thanks from Bob Spencer to the many members who included notes with their renewals. PLEASE NOTE: inquiries about membership (expiration dates, categories, etc.) should go to Raymond Davis, our Membership Chair (PO Box 481, Lyons, CO 80540, phone 303/823-5332). Actual payments (checks, etc.) go to Bob Spencer (4430 Gladiola Street, Golden, CO, phone 303/279-4682). This is a new splitting of the duties formerly performed solely by the Treasurer. Sorry about the mix-up inside the covers of last issue.



REMINDER ABOUT "THE RONALD A. RYDER AWARD"

Nominations for this award may be submitted at any time by any CFO member. See guidelines in *C.F.O. Journal* 30(4), page 155. Nominees should be living persons who have made outstanding contributions to CFO and Colorado ornithology. Send nominations to: John Barber, 1700 Clearview Court, Fort Collins, CO 80521, phone 970/484-9791).



COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS MISSION STATEMENT

CFO exists to:

- . promote the field study, conservation and enjoyment of Colorado birds
- . review rare bird sightings through the Colorado Bird Records Committee and maintain the authoritative list of Colorado birds
- . publish *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*
- . conduct field trips and workshops and hold yearly conventions



**CFO FIELD TRIP, SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO
SEPTEMBER 22, 1996**

Mark Janos
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Pueblo, CO 81001

Nine birders met in Pueblo for a full day of birding down the Arkansas River east of Pueblo. Participants were George Armbrust (Lakewood), Steve Buettner (Green Mountain Falls), Jordan Dimmick (Colorado Springs), Bob Goycoolea (Colorado Springs), Mark Janos (leader), Dave Johnson (Pueblo), Se Etta Moss (Canon City), Brandon Percival (Pueblo West) and David Smith (Colorado Springs).

Our group began birding at Valco Ponds in Pueblo, where we had Wood Duck, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-naped Sapsucker, Bewick's Wren, Brown Thrasher, Townsend's Warbler and Black-headed Grosbeak. The highlight of this spot was a brief glimpse of a fall-plumaged Black-throated Green Warbler that had been present for two days previously.

Next we went about 50 miles east to Rocky Ford. Here we found and watched a small group of recently discovered Eurasian Collared-Doves. The species' range expansion to the southeastern United States is continuing westward and the Colorado colony apparently is a natural result. We enjoyed a family group of Lewis' Woodpeckers in this same spot.

We drove east to Rocky Ford State Wildlife Area and searched the woods and open areas there. Best bird was a "heard only" Northern Waterthrush, but we also had lots of Brown Thrashers, a Blue Grosbeak and good looks at Clay-colored Sparrows. Shorebird habitat was poor in southeastern Colorado this fall--the reservoirs were too full. But even so, we managed eleven species, a Solitary and a Pectoral Sandpiper at Lake Meredith being our best finds.

My thanks to all for a pleasant and productive day. A complete list of the 109 species seen on the trip follows.

Western Grebe
Clark's Grebe
American White Pelican
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
White-faced Ibis
Wood Duck
Green-winged Teal
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Cinnamon Teal
Northern Shoveler
American Wigeon
Ruddy Duck
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Northern Harrier
Cooper's Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Ring-necked Pheasant
Scaled Quail
American Coot
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Spotted Sandpiper
Sanderling
Least Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Long-billed Dowitcher
Franklin's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
California Gull
Sterna (tern) sp.
Black Tern
Rock Dove
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Great Horned Owl
Burrowing Owl
Chimney Swift
Belted Kingfisher
Lewis' Woodpecker
Red-naped Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Empidonax sp.
Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird
Horned Lark
Barn Swallow
Blue Jay
Black-billed Magpie
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Rock Wren
Bewick's Wren
House Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Townsend's Solitaire
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Sage Thrasher
Brown Thrasher
American Pipit
Loggerhead Shrike
European Starling
Solitary Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Northern Waterthrush
MacGillivray's Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Wilson's Warbler
Western Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak

Lazuli Bunting
Green-tailed Towhee
Spotted Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Red-winged Blackbird

Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Great-tailed Grackle
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
House Finch
Red Crossbill
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow

**CFO FIELD TRIP, SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO
DECEMBER 7, 1996**

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Eight intrepid birders assembled in Pueblo for a full day of winter birding down the Arkansas River Valley east of Pueblo. Participants were George Armbrust (Lakewood), Bob Dickson (Pueblo), Warren Finch (Lakewood), Peter Gent (Boulder), Mark Janos (leader), Dave Johnson (Pueblo), Brandon Percival (Pueblo West) and Bob Spencer (Golden). As it turned out, the weather was pleasant and we enjoyed a great day of birding.

Our group began at Pueblo Reservoir. We searched the South Marina tires and picked out two Thayer's Gulls amid the Herring and California Gulls and assembled lesser creatures. We moved to the North Marina and Turkey Creek area. We found both Common Loons and a Pacific Loon in the western bays. Then Brandon Percival and others picked out an immature Black-legged Kittiwake flying over the lake. Eventually, we all got superb views of this exciting find. After a half hour with the kittiwake, we left for Valco Ponds.

At Valco we found a staked-out Orange-crowned Warbler, for one of the few Colorado winter records. This bright bird with clear greens and yellows, represented a plumage or sub-species not often seen in Colorado. Other Valco birds were Bewick's Wren and Canyon Towhee. Next, we headed east to observe the Eurasian Collared-Doves and Lewis' Woodpeckers in Rocky Ford. Then we were on to Rocky Ford State Wildlife Area, where we got a quick but thrillingly low fly-over of an adult Goshawk. Then we finished with an excellent look at a Virginia Rail in a nearby slough.

The Denver birders left from nearby Lake Holbrook, while the rest of us went to Lake Cheraw for waterfowl. Brandon Percival picked out a winter

Oldsquaw to finish a profitable and pleasant day. Our 80-species trip list follows.

Pacific Loon	Thayer's Gull
Common Loon	Black-legged Kittiwake
Pied-billed Grebe	Rock Dove
Western Grebe	Eurasian Collared-Dove
Clark's Grebe	Mourning Dove
Double-crested Cormorant	Belted Kingfisher
Great Blue Heron	Lewis' Woodpecker
Snow Goose	Downy Woodpecker
Ross' Goose	Hairy Woodpecker
Canada Goose	Northern Flicker
Wood Duck	Horned Lark
Green-winged Teal	Blue Jay
Mallard	Black-billed Magpie
Northern Pintail	American Crow
Northern Shoveler	Black-capped Chickadee
Gadwall	Mountain Chickadee
American Wigeon	Bushtit
Canvasback	Brown Creeper
Redhead	Bewick's Wren
Ring-necked Duck	Townsend's Solitaire
Lesser Scaup	American Robin
Oldsquaw	Curve-billed Thrasher
Common Goldeneye	Cedar Waxwing
Bufflehead	Loggerhead Shrike
Hooded Merganser	European Starling
Common Merganser	Orange-crowned Warbler
Ruddy Duck	Spotted Towhee
Bald Eagle	Canyon Towhee
Northern Harrier	American Tree Sparrow
Northern Goshawk	Song Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	White-crowned Sparrow
Ferruginous Hawk	Dark-eyed Junco
American Kestrel	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-necked Pheasant	Western Meadowlark
Virginia Rail	Brewer's Blackbird
American Coot	Pine Siskin
Bonaparte's Gull	American Goldfinch
Ring-billed Gull	House Finch
California Gull	Evening Grosbeak
Herring Gull	House Sparrow



TUMBLING (?) POORWILLS

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When I found the nest of Common Poorwills (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) in Elbert County on July 25, 1995 [*C.F.O. Journal* 29(4), October 1995, p185], I had no idea how uncommon the experience was. Especially the flopping--or tumbling-- behavior of the male.

My search of available literature had but one goal -- to find confirmation of the display I had witnessed. *The Birder's Handbook* (Erlich 1988) states, "When disturbed on nest, adult **tumbles**, hisses with widely opened mouth like snake." Just that! With no description of how the bird achieves the tumbling or its purpose. The *Audubon Encyclopedia of North American Birds* (Terres 1980) and other ornithological literature, plus inquiries of experienced birders yielded no like experience. Nor did anyone respond to my *C.F.O. Journal* article in which I asked for information. Bailey and Niedrach (1965) reported finding many Common Poorwill nests (one found by Ruth Wheeler in 1930) in *Birds of Colorado*. But nothing of the tumbling display.

I tried to put it out of my mind, but it kept nagging me. Surely others had witnessed this tumbling. Afterall, there it was in black and white - the bird **tumbles!** No, it does not turn somersaults or cartwheels. The poorwill I saw rose (flew) about 18 inches off the ground, and landed (plopped) noisily four times in quick succession, covering about three feet with each flop. It did seem to flip over in the air each time, but it may been an optical illusion - it happened so fast. It stayed on the ground with wings and tail spread, its mouth wide open. It may have been "hissing like a snake" but with my hearing deficiency, I heard nothing. As reported, the bird returned twice, flying low and silently to within 6 feet of me, but flew directly away each time without repeating the distraction display. An adjunct: while the tumbling certainly serves as a distraction display, it may be partly a threat display. It was startlingly noisy and could serve to deter a small predator.

When I related my frustration to Bob Righter, he suggested I obtain the comprehensive account of the Common Poorwill from *The Birds of North America* (Csada and Brigham 1992). I could not phone Buteo Books with VISA card at-the-ready fast enough. Here, certainly, was confirmation of the mysterious tumbling of the poorwill. Comprehensive - it said.

It was in my mailbox two days later. Here it was. 16 pages! "Everything you wanted to know about poorwills, but were afraid to ask." I pored over each

page, anxiously awaiting the description and summary confirming the tumbling display I had seen. It was fascinating to read, detailing many aspects about the species, especially its use of torpor. Yet, there is much about the bird that is unknown or poorly understood: its migration and winter range, for instance. I did find an allusion to the behavior I witnessed: "...makes small hops covering about 1 meter". This would seem a considerable leap for a bird noted for weak feet and legs. To accomplish such a distance, it must use its wings -- as I had witnessed. Perhaps it is just a matter of terminology as to what constitutes "tumbling".

I wrote to the co-author of the BNA account, Dr. R. Mark Brigham at the University of Regina (Saskatchewan, Canada), who answered very graciously. He said that despite finding more than thirty nests, he did so by the use of telemetry. Although spending many years studying the species, he had never accidentally flushed a poorwill at a nest. Nor had he or his co-workers witnessed the behavior I described in the copy of my *C.F.O. Journal* paper. It was his impression that the "tumbling" he had read about was merely an inept description of the mothlike flight of the bird. He states, "My experience with this species is that as soon as we think we know something about it, it surprises us. I think so few people have found and observed nests that what you saw may well occur more regularly!" And I would guess few documented their findings. Should any of you find nesting Common Poorwills, it would be well to document them - perhaps in this journal.

I regret that I was not aware so little is known about poorwills, or I would have monitored them more closely. They are worthy of special study by professional ornithologists. Yet, Dr. Brigham was grateful for the information I gave him, and I have the satisfaction that my efforts effected at least a small contribution to the knowledge about this mysterious, fascinating bird.

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**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)
WITH YOUNG IN GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO**

Kim Potter
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Rifle, CO 81650

Hanging Lake, a taverine-rimmed bowl, clings to the steep limestone walls above Glenwood Canyon and the Colorado River. This popular destination is reached by a 1.5 mile hiking trail switching from side to side along Deadhorse Creek. The multi-storied riparian vegetation consists of Douglas-fir, boxelder, water birch, Rocky Mountain maple, serviceberry, Gambel oak, chokecherry, bearberry, thimbleberry, elders, currants, willows, and a wide variety of wetland forbs carpeting the floor. The trail in this narrow canyon ascends about 1,000 feet to the lake situated at 7,180 feet above sea level.

While hiking this trail on July 24, 1996, Linda Bessette, Ray Potter and Kim Potter heard the incessant calls of juvenile grosbeaks. With good light from the clear 10:00 A.M. sky and binoculars in hand, we viewed three unsteady young grosbeaks within 30 feet of the trail. The closest fledgling had trouble balancing on a chokecherry perch, while attempting to clean berry residue from its beak. All three begged noisily and trembled often.

In a Douglas-fir above the shrubs a brilliantly-attired male Rose-breasted Grosbeak held a green worm in its bill. The black head and back contrasted with the white chest and unmistakable rose-red triangle. The male eyed us and the gathering crowd, then flew down into the deciduous shrubs just behind the young. The young moved the same direction, still noisy, but just out of sight.

Although we are able to provide details of breeding by a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in western Colorado, the female of this family unit was not observed. We did not take detailed notes on juvenile plumage and, therefore, do not know if the juveniles were a product of hybridization. In Colorado Rose-breasted Grosbeak X Black-headed Grosbeak offspring have been observed, particularly east of the Continental Divide.



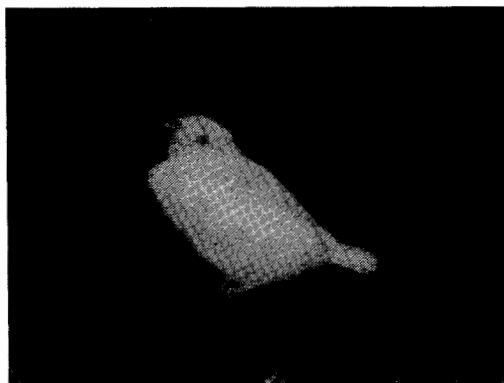
ALBINO HOUSE FINCHES

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Every serious birder knows that albino birds exist, and we have all read about them. However, seeing two is a startling event. On 15 August 1996, I received a phone call from my friend Barb Schumacher of 3175 Endicott Drive, Boulder, CO, telling me there were 2 white baby House Finches in her neighbor's yard. Myron and I dropped what we were doing and headed off to the Table Mesa area of Boulder to see these white baby finches.

Upon arriving at 3185 Endicott, we viewed the two fledglings. One had flown to a very dangerous place across the street. I crossed the street and picked up the bird and examined it. It was definitely a House Finch, but had completely white feathers, bright pink eyes and legs, and pink skin. The beak had a faint tinge of yellow overlaid with pink. This bird was the smaller of the albino birds. I returned it to the bush that held the other, larger bird and we watched them for some time.

The birds fledged from a nest in the yard of Annie Smith, 3181 Endicott, on 14 August 1996. The birds were fed by two adult House Finches, with a third hovering nearby. All the adult birds showed normal plumage. The albino birds were seen in the area for 4 days.



by Barb Schumacher



**ANOTHER FACTOR THAT REDUCES BROWN-HEADED
COWBIRD PARASITISM AT LARK BUNTING NESTS**

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Two fairly current articles in the *C.F.O. Journal* have made reference to the low rate of Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism on Lark Buntings. Shane (1996) points out that both male and female incubate and brood, and Chace and Cruz (1996) report only one record of a parasitized nest in Colorado based on the literature. My studies of some three dozen nests during the past three years have revealed an additional significant reason for this phenomenon.

Of the nests I observed, both male and female Lark Buntings attended the nest and eggs prior to incubation. Superficially, it appeared the adults were incubating: actually they were at the nest and over the egg or eggs, but were not warming the eggs sufficiently to induce incubation. Once the first egg had been laid, the adults took turns at the nest, leaving the nest unattended for short periods. Often, however, the second parent arrived at the nest before the attending adult left.

When the male had only one mate, the responsibility for nest, eggs and young was more equally divided between the two adults. In all situations I observed, the female was the parent at the nest before sunrise and for an hour or more after sunrise. Also, the female tended to remain on the nest for longer periods and remained at the nest when disturbed. The male's attendance was more erratic and he was more reluctant to return to the nest when horses or other animals (including people) were near. At some nests, the male participated far less frequently in nesting responsibilities prior to hatching. The female assumed greater responsibility, but was not able to make up the difference in hours of nest and egg attendance.

When I introduced cowbird eggs into Lark Bunting nests, either during the laying cycle or after incubation had begun, the adults accepted the eggs. In one case the egg hatched, and the nestling was cared for by the adults until I removed it. In a second nest, I removed the egg after several days of incubation by the adults. In a last situation, I introduced an addled egg into a nest during the laying cycle and it remained until the nest was vandalized by an unknown predator just prior to the expected hatch date. Thus, it appears that once a cowbird egg is in a Lark Bunting nest, it may survive to fledging, barring indiscriminate nest predation.

The literature indicates cowbird eggs require 11 to 12 days of incubation. In my observations Lark Bunting eggs require 11 days of incubation, with the last egg hatching a day after the earlier-laid eggs. At only one nest did hatching occur over a three-day period.

Based on the results of this study, it would be important to cowbird success for their eggs to be laid during the bunting egg-laying period. Those laid after the onset of bunting egg incubation might not hatch or, at best, the hatching cowbirds would have to compete with older bunting nestlings. With adult Lark Buntings covering the nest and eggs most of the daylight hours, and especially during the crucial period just prior to sunrise, female cowbird access to Lark Bunting nests may be thwarted.

More quantitative data on the time spent at the nest by adult Lark Buntings during both egg-laying and incubation, as well as time-frames for brooding, feeding, and shading of nestlings, will be collected during future studies.

LITERATURE CITED:

- Chace, Jameson F., and Alexander Cruz. 1996. Knowledge of the Colorado host relations of the parasitic brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). *C.F.O. Journal* 30(2): 67-81
- Shane, Thomas G. 1996. The lark bunting: in peril or making progress? *C.F.O. Journal* 30(4): 162-168.



**COMPARING SPRING AND SUMMER SPECIMENS OF
SAGE THRASHER WITH BENDIRE'S THRASHER**

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The purpose of this paper is to show the results of comparing Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH) specimens of the Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) with the Bendire's Thrasher (*Toxostoma bendire*). The second purpose is to discuss some of the pertinent features displayed by those specimens and how the seasonal differences of those features may be an aid in their identification while both thrashers summer in Colorado.

The DMNH collection has two Bendire's Thrashers. An immature male, #4999, was collected in Tucson, Arizona on 18 May 1916. The other, #6729, is an adult female collected from Austin Bluff within the Colorado Springs city limits on 8 May 1882. Allan Phillips authenticated both specimens. There are 79 Sage Thrashers collected from various locations in the West, including Colorado. The earliest calendar-year specimen was collected 25 March, the latest 14 December. Fifty-seven Sage Thrasher specimens were collected in May through August, with 33 from July.

Overall Appearance: In size, the Bendire's Thrasher was longer than the Sage Thrasher from the end of the bill to the tail tip. Proportionally, the Bendire's tail was slightly longer. Dorsally, the Bendire's seemed lighter brown. During direct field comparison, the differences in size, proportion, and dorsal color may be noticeable.

Bill Shape and Size: On average, the bill of the Sage Thrasher seemed slightly smaller in proportion to the body. However, in actual dimensions and shape, the bills of certain individual Sage Thrashers appeared inseparable from those of Bendire's, even in side-by-side comparison.

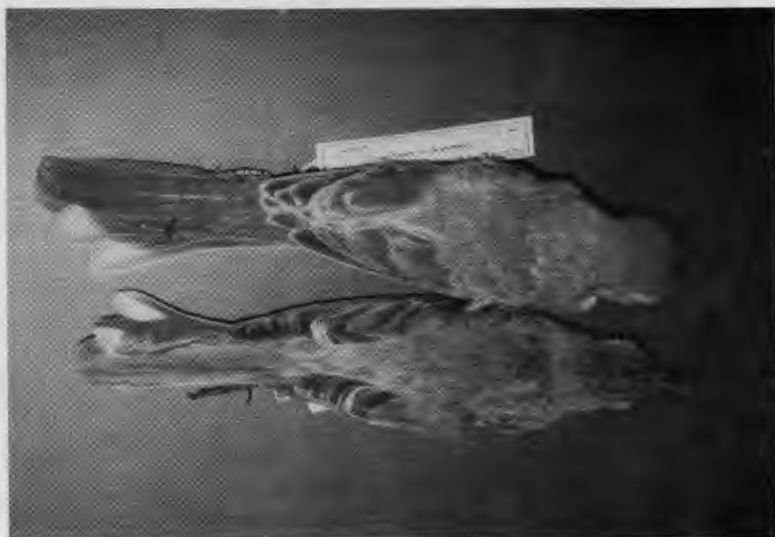
White Outer Tail Spots: Both thrashers showed a lighter section on the outer tail feathers. The spots on the outer tail of the Sage Thrashers appeared whiter than those of the Bendire's Thrashers, and more distinctly defined. It is questionable whether or not this feature is useful in the field.

The Ventral Side: Here the differences were the most consistent and obvious. Although the Bendire's breast streaking was pencil-thin, as shown in the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (1987) and in *Advanced Birding* by Kaufmann (1990), it was not nearly as evident as shown in those two guides. On the specimen from Colorado, the breast streaking was so reduced that exceptional field conditions would be required to even see it. This is consistent with Kaufmann and Bowers (1990), who imply that by June Bendire's Thrashers appear plain-breasted. By contrast, all of the 79 Sage Thrasher specimens showed distinct streaking on the breast and flanks. Even the 33 Sage Thrasher specimens collected in July, when wear should be greatest, showed noticeable streaking on the underparts.

Conclusion : The following generalities appear to hold true for Colorado. In May, Bendire's Thrashers could still show streaking on the breast and breast sides but not on the flank. Thus, at that time of year check the flanks carefully -- if they show streaking, the bird is most likely a Sage Thrasher. In June, July and August, a suspected Bendire's that shows any underpart streaking is also most likely a Sage Thrasher.

LITERATURE CITED:

- National Geographic Society. 1987. Field guide to the birds of North America. Second edition. Washington, D.C.
- Kaufmann, K. 1990. *Advanced Birding*. Peterson Field Guide Series. Houghton Mifflin. Boston, Mass.
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Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH) specimens
Dorsal view: Bendire's Thrasher (top), Sage Thrasher (bottom)
Robert Righter



DMNH specimens
Lateral view: Bendire's Thrasher (top), Sage Thrasher (bottom)
Robert Righter



DMNH specimens
Ventral view: all Sage Thrashers
Robert Righter



DMNH specimens
Ventral view: both Bendire's Thrasher
Robert Righter



**THE REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD
RECORDS COMMITTEE (CBRC) FOR 1994**

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This report includes 88 records that were circulated and voted on. There were 87 new records and a 1991 Lesser Golden Plover that was previously accepted that I recirculated as a Pacific Golden Plover record due to the AOU decision to split Lesser Golden Plover into American and Pacific Golden Plovers. In addition, reports were received on Common Tern, Evening Grosbeak, Cedar Waxwing, White-throated Sparrow, Nashville Warbler, Three-toed Woodpecker, hybrid Indigo X Lazuli Bunting, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Winter Wren, Hooded Warbler, Hepatic Tanager, Summer Tanager and Harris' Sparrow. These reports were not circulated, but will be kept on file at the Denver Museum of Natural History. The circulated reports were generally very good and all but 13 were accepted. The not-accepted reports were mostly in two categories: very difficult identifications that require very minute detail to separate similar species, and reports that did not have adequate description to identify any bird. A report must have enough detail to identify the bird and separate it from all other species. An not-accepted report does not necessarily mean an incorrect identification, in most cases it just means there were not enough details in the report or not enough information available to make a definite decision. The rules of the CBRC state that a record is accepted on the first circulation with a unanimous vote to accept or with 1 dissension. Any record that receives 2 or 3 votes to not accept is recirculated with all the committee members' comments. Again, the record is accepted if it receives no more than 1 vote to not-accept. Records with 2 or 3 votes to not-accept on the second circulation are discussed and voted on at the Annual Meeting (i.e., Colorado Field Ornithologists' (C.F.O.) Convention). At the Annual Meeting, a record is accepted if it receives no more than 1 vote to not-accept from the members present.

As a result of the 1994 reports, two new species were added to the CFO Official State Checklist: Harris' Hawk and Acorn Woodpecker. With these additions, the checklist stands at 454 species. CBRC members who voted on the first circulation were: Bob Dickson (Pueblo), Peter Gent (Boulder), Rich Levad (Grand Junction), Bill Prather (Longmont), Bob Righter (Denver), and Dick Schottler (Golden). Mark Janos (Pueblo), Bill Lisowsky (Fort Collins), and Vic Zerbi (Glenwood Springs) became new members in 1996 and voted

on the recirculation along with Gent, Dickson, Righter, and Schottler. Dickson, Gent, Janos, and Righter voted at the Annual Meeting.

Thanks very much to all who submitted reports, to Hugh Kingery, Phil Hayes, and the Denver Museum of Natural History for forwarding and archiving records, and to all the committee members. Serving on CBRC is a big job and takes a lot of work on the part of everyone.

Each record is assigned a number with 3 parts. The first part is a family code, the second part is the year the report was received, and the third part is the number the report was assigned when it was received that year. The individual report numbers begin each year at 1. There is no #22 for 1994, as that number was skipped inadvertently. All the following reports received unanimous votes to accept on the first circulation, except as noted.

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata* 1-94-1 One juvenile at Lake Henry 10/30/94. Report by Mark Janos, 19th accepted record.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* 2-94-2 One at Lake Henry 5/8/94 to 5/16/94. Report by Mark Janos, 21st accepted record.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* 3-94-3 One at Lake Henry 10/30/94. Report by Mark Janos, 7th accepted record.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* Three reports received, becoming the 9th through 11th accepted records: 4-94-4 One at Ireland Reservoir, Weld Co. 6/4/94. Report by Myron Plooster. 4-94-5 at Lake Henry 9/11/94. Report by Mark Janos. 4-94-6 One immature at Cherry Creek Res. 10/30/94. Report by J.B. Hayes. Accepted on first circulation by a 5-1 vote.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* Two reports received, becoming the 31st and 32nd accepted records: 5-94-7 One breeding adult near Rocky Ford 4/24/94. Report by Mark Janos. 5-94-8 One non-breeding adult on Horse Creek, Baca County 9/10/94. Report by Janeal Thompson.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* 5-94-9 One at San Luis Lake, Alamosa Co. 5/94. Report by John J. Rawinski, 15th accepted record.

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* 5/94-10 One dark morph immature at Lake Holbrook 9/1/94 to 9/25/94. Reports by Brandon Percival, Mark Janos and Peter Gent, 4th accepted record.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* 8-94-11 At least 294 at Jumbo Reservoir 3/11/94. Report by John Prather. A very surprising number for Colorado.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* 8-94-12 Two males in breeding plumage near Brighton 3/18/94 to 3/31/94. Reports by Joe TenBrink and Karleen Schofield. Only the 20th accepted record -- there have been numerous sightings in recent years for which no reports were received.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* 8-94-13 One female at Delta 11/6/94. Report by Kim Potter. Few records from the western slope.

White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca* 8-94-14 One female at Rifle Gap, Garfield Co. 5/14/94. Report by Kim Potter. Few reports from western slope.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 11-94-15 One at Pueblo Res. 12/17/94. Report by Pearle Sandstrom-Smith. No previously accepted December records.

Harris' Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* Reports of 3 occurrences received:
10-94-16 One near Chromo, Archuleta Co. 6/9/94. Most members felt this was an accurate report but good details were lacking, even after a request for more detail was answered. Not accepted by votes of 4-2 on 1st circulation, 5-2 on recirculation and 2-2 at the annual meeting. **10-94-17** One adult near Waterton, Jefferson Co. 12/17/94 to 12/23/94. Reports by Steve Stachowiak, Joey Kellner, J.B. Hayes, and Mark Janos. Accepted on first circulation by a vote of 5-1, first accepted state record. **10-94-18** One adult in Fort Collins 12/19/94. Report by Bill Lisowsky. Accepted by vote of 5-1 on first circulation, 2nd accepted state record. Dissenting vote in both cases was because of doubt of origin. This species is a favorite among falconers, but most members thought the number of records all over the Midwest in 1994 and the increase in population and normal range of the species was evidence of natural occurrence.

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus* 10-94-19 One at Blende, Pueblo Co. 1/9/94. Report by Mark Janos, 20th accepted record.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* 12-94-20 One adult gray phase east of Longmont 2/9/94 and 2/23/94. Report by Mark Nikas, 9th accepted record.

Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis* 18-94-21 Six heard calling from marsh at Bent's Old Fort 5/7/94. Report by Brandon Percival. Little is known of the Colorado population of this species.

Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva* One juvenile at Orchard Mesa near Clifton, Mesa Co. 11/21/91. This record was accepted in 1991 as a Lesser

Golden-Plover. The species has since been split into American and Pacific Golden-Plovers. The original reports indicated the observers felt the bird was of the *fulva* race, which became the Pacific Golden-Plover. This is why the report was recirculated as that species. Most members felt the written reports and photographs did not rule out American Golden-Plover. Not accepted by a 2-4 vote on the first circulation. There are no accepted records for Pacific Golden-Plover, but observers should check all American Golden-Plovers carefully. These two species are very difficult to separate in the field.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* Three reports were received: **19-94-23** Seventeen adults south of Longmont 5/7/94. Most members thought the description did not eliminate dowitchers. Not accepted by vote of 1-5 on first circulation. **19-94-24** One at Lake Henry 5/13/94. Report by Mark Janos, 20th accepted record. **19-94-25** One at Lower Latham Reservoir 5/24/94 to 5/25/94. Report by John Prather, 21st accepted record.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* **19-94-26** Two adults and one immature at Lake Henry 8/28/94 to 9/2/94. Report by Mark Janos, 37th accepted record.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* **19-94-27** One juvenile at Lake Henry 8/28/94. Report by Mark Janos, 24th accepted record.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* **19-94-28** One at Cherry Creek Reservoir 9/26/94. Report by Bob Righter, 15th accepted record. This species is probably much more common than the number of accepted records would indicate in Colorado, but all sightings should be carefully checked due to the difficulty of separating this species from Long-billed Dowitcher.

Pomerine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus* **22-94-29** One dark morph adult at Lake Henry 11/5/94. Report by Mark Janos. Accepted by vote of 5-1 on first circulation, the dissenting member though the report described a jaeger but did not conclusively identify the species.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* **23-94-30** One 1st-winter at Upper Queens Res., Kiowa Co. 5/22/94 to 5/28/94. Report by Mark Janos, 19th accepted record.

Little Gull *Larus minutus* **23-94-31** One 1st-winter at Union Res. 11/3/94. Report by Mark Nikas, 9th accepted record.

Mew Gull *Larus canus* **23-94-32** One adult at Pueblo Res. 11/19/94. Report by Mark Janos, 11th accepted record.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* 23-94-33 One adult near Loveland 11/11/94. Report by Mark Nikas, 12th accepted record.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* 23-94-34 One 3rd-winter at Pueblo Res. 11/19/94 to 11/30/94. Report by Mark Janos, 9th accepted record.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* 23-94-35 One 1st-year at Jumbo Res. 11/26/94. Report by Mark Janos, 16th accepted record.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* Two reports received: 23-94-36 One adult near Waterton, Jefferson Co. 6/8/94. This was a 5-minute observation of a flying bird and most committee members felt that not enough details were observed to clinch this difficult identification. Not accepted by votes of 4-2 on first circulation and 2-5 on recirculation. 23-94-37 One immature at Union Res. 10/13/92. This bird was observed sitting on shore only at 100 yards. Most members felt the field marks observed were not adequate to identify the species. Not accepted by votes of 5-2 on first circulation and 1-6 on recirculation.

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* 25-94-38 One at Boulder 6/19/94. Most members thought the identification was probably correct but the submitted details were inadequate to accept the record. Not accepted by vote of 2-4 on first circulation.

Inca Dove *Columbina inca* Two reports received: 25-94-39 One adult at Fort Collins 10/16/94. Report by Peter Gent, 4th accepted record. 25-94-40 One adult at Two Buttes Res. 11/6/94. Report by Mark Janos, 5th accepted record.

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina* 25-94-41 One southeast of Eaton, Weld Co. 12/22/94. Report by Joe Himmel. Vote to accept 5-1, 3rd accepted single-observer record. Until an accepted record with at least 2 observers or a photograph, specimen, or recording is obtained, this species cannot be added to the state list under CBRC rules.

Eastern Screech-Owl *Otus asio maxwelliae* 29-94-42 One adult at Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement, Bent Co. 5/7/94. Report by Brandon Percival. Accepted by 6-0 vote. There is not much information on the ranges of Eastern and Western Screech-Owls on the eastern plains.

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* 33-94-43 Up to four at Lake Dorothy State Wildlife Area 7/20/94 to 9/4/94. Reports by Mark Yaeger, Mark Janos, and Peter Gent. 1st accepted record.

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens* 34-94-44 One at Lamar 8/8/94. Most members thought that Western Wood-Pewee could not be eliminated. Not accepted by vote of 2-4 on first circulation.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* Two reports received, becoming the 11th and 12th accepted records: 34-94-45 One near Rifle, Garfield Co. 5/11/94. Report by Kim Potter. 34-94-46 One west of Uravan, Montrose Co. 6/21/94. Report by Karleen Schofield.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* 34-94-47 One pair at Lake Hasty Campground, Bent Co. 5/13/94 to 5/16/94. A nest was initiated but destroyed. First found by Chris Wood, report by Mark Janos, 2nd nesting record.

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus* 42-94-48 One at Pueblo 11/22/93 to 3/16/94. Report by Bob Dickson. There are more than 40 accepted records.

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* Two reports received, becoming the 18th and 19th accepted records. 44-94-49 One at Lake Henry, Crowley Co. 5/14/94. Report by Mark Janos. 44-94-50 One at Crow Valley Campground, Weld Co. 5/25/94. Report by John Prather. Vote to accept was 5-1 on first circulation.

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius* 44-94-51 One male at Colorado Springs 11/22/94 to 11/24/94. Reports by Peg and Frank Cassel, and Branden Percival. There are now more than 40 accepted records.

Bendire's Thrasher *Toxostoma bendirei* Two reports received: 43-94-52 One near Slickrock, San Miguel Co. 6/21/94. 43-94-53 One near Del Norte, Saguache Co. 6/23/94. Two members stated on the first circulation that this is a lot more difficult identification problem than it would appear in the field guides. Worn and immature Sage Thrashers vary from what is pictured in the field guides, and we do not know a lot about variations and mimicry of calls. On recirculation, most other members agreed that a conclusive identification was not made in these two reports. Not accepted by votes of 4-2 on first circulation and 3-4 and 2-5, respectively, on second circulation.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* Reports of 2 records received: 51-94-54 One at Lake Henry 5/8/94. Report by Mark Janos, 17th accepted record. 51-94-55 One at Pueblo 9/20/94. Reports by Mark Janos and Brandon Percival, 18th accepted record.

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii* 51-94-56 One at Crestone, Saguache Co. 5/14/94 to 5/23/94. Not accepted by vote of 0-6 on first circulation. Members thought not enough details were stated to rule out kinglets and other vireos. There are no accepted western slope records.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* 51-94-57 One at the Great Sand Dunes Golf Course, Alamosa Co. 5/21/94. Report by John J. Rawinski, 20th accepted state record.

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireophiladelphicus* 51-94-58 One picked up after hitting window in Estes Park 10/4/94 and held in a shelter until spring, then released. Most members thought the photographs and description do not yield enough details to rule out Warbling Vireo. Not accepted by a 2-4 vote on first circulation.

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora pinus* Two reports were received, becoming the 20th and 21st accepted records: 52-94-59 One at Castlewood Canyon State Park 5/21/94. Report by Brandon Percival, 52-94-60 One at Barr Lake 9/7/94. Report by Bill Schreier.

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* Two reports received, becoming the 29th and 30th accepted records: 52-94-61 One at Neenoshe Res. 5/1/94. Report by Mark Janos. 52-94-62 One at Eldorado Springs, Boulder Co. 5/21/94. Report by Suzi Plooster.

Cape May Warbler *Dendroica tigrina* 52-94-63 One at Golden 5/12/93. Report by Thomas Pool. Accepted by 5-1 vote on first circulation, 23rd accepted record.

Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca* Reports of 3 sightings received, the 21st through 23rd accepted records: 52-94-64 One adult male at Fountain Creek Regional Park 5/15/94. Reports by Brandon Percival and Mark Janos. 52-94-65 One adult male at Barr Lake 9/6/94. Report by Joe TenBrink. 52-94-68 One immature male at Barr Lake 9/30/94. Report by Tony Leukering.

Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica* Reports of 2 sightings received, becoming the 21st and 22nd accepted records: 52-94-67 One adult at Hanna Ranch State Wildlife Area 5/8/94. Reports by Brandon Percival and Mark Janos. 52-94-68 One adult male at Eldorado Springs, Boulder Co. 6/5/94. Report by Karleen Schofield.

Pine Warbler *Dendroica pinus* 52-94-69 One immature male at Brighton 9/16/94. Report by Joe TenBrink. Accepted by vote of 5-1 on first circulation, 20th accepted record.

Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor* Reports of 2 sightings were received, the 9th and 10th accepted records. **52-94-70** One adult female at Hasty Campground, Bent Co. 5/7/94. Report by Brandon Percival. **52-94-71** One adult male south of Idalia, Yuma Co. 5/18/94. Report by Urling and Hugh Kingery.

Bay-breasted Warbler *Dendroica castanea* **52-94-72** One adult female at Crestone, Saguache Co. 5/23/94. Members thought the submitted details did not identify any species. Not accepted by vote of 0-6 on first circulation.

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* Reports of 2 sightings were received, the 28th and 29th accepted records. **52-94-73** One adult male at Colorado Springs 5/21/94. Report by Brandon Percival. **52-94-74** One adult male at Colorado Springs 9/18/94. Reports by Brandon Percival and Mark Janos.

Worm-eating Warbler *Helminthos vermivorus* Two reports received, becoming the 34th and 35th accepted records. **52-94-75** One at Bonny Res. 5/14/94. Report by Jack Reddall. **52-94-76** One at Bonny Res. 5/14/94. Report by Dan Bridges. The two reports could have described the same bird but the sightings occurred in different areas at Bonny Reservoir.

Swainson's Warbler *Limnolophus swainsonii* **52-94-77** One adult at Lamar 5/1/94. Reports by Brandon Percival and Mark Janos, 6th accepted record.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* **52-94-78** Adults carrying food near Walden, Jackson Co. on 6/27/94 and 7/22/94. Reports by Beth Dillon. First breeding record.

Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosus* Two reports were received: **52-94-79** One adult male at Castlewood Canyon State Park 5/19/94. Report by Karleen Schofield, 19th accepted record. **52-94-80** One adult male window-killed south of Montrose 6/18/94. There is almost no description in report and the specimen could not be located. Not accepted by votes of 4-2 on original circulation and 3-4 on recirculation.

Mourning Warbler *Oporornis philadelphia* **52-94-81** One adult male at Crow Valley Campground, Weld Co. 5/26/94. Report by Karleen Schofield, 9th accepted record.

Canada Warbler *Wilsonia canadensis* Two reports received: 52-94-82 One adult male at Bonny Res. 9/3/94 and 94/94. Report by William Schreier. 52-94-83 One female at Cherry Creek State Park 10/4/94. Report by Joe TenBrink.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* 56-94-84 One adult male at Cottonwood Canyon, Baca Co. 5/28/94. Report by Mark Janos, 13th accepted record.

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina* 56-94-85 Two adults at Pueblo Res. 12/17/94. Report by Pearle Sandstrom-Smith. There are few documented reports for December.

Baird's Sparrow *Ammodramus bairdii* 56-94-86 Two juveniles southeast of Julesburg 10/9/94. Committee members thought that this is a very difficult identification and the submitted details did not positively identify any species. Not accepted by votes of 3-3 on original circulation and 2-5 on recirculation.

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni* 56-94-87 Two at Pueblo Res. 12/17/94. Report by Pearle Sandstrom-Smith. Accepted by vote of 5-1 on first circulation. There are few documented December records.

Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus* 56-94-88 One immature male at Eldorado Springs, Boulder Co. 9/17/94. Report by Tony Leukering, 34th accepted record.

Corrections to the 1993 Report of the CBRC

Two of the records were assigned incorrect numbers: the LeConte's Sparrow report should have been 56-93-15 and the Golden-crowned Sparrow should have been 56-93-62. I apologize for the errors.





White-winged Junco
At feeder in Fort Collins, January 1996
Bill Lisowsky

NEWS FROM THE FIELD: THE SUMMER REPORT
(JULY AND AUGUST 1996)

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I would like to thank you all again for your submissions. I certainly wish I had been birding with everyone this summer. Those of you who were afield probably saw some great birds. The season's highlight is undoubtedly Colorado's first official Eurasian Collared-Dove. A small group of them was discovered in Rocky Ford in late June. The Colorado Bird Records Committee (CBRC) will decide whether the species will be added to the state list. A male Pyrrhuloxia at a feeder west of Grant was the runner-up "best-bird-of-the-season." There were many other highlights last summer, including Neotropical Cormorants at Ireland Reservoir, Tricolored Herons at Lake Meredith, a male Eurasian Wigeon at Hamilton Reservoir, a Harris' Hawk in the San Luis Valley, a King Rail at Bent's Old Fort, a Little Gull at Walden Reservoir, a probable Philadelphia Vireo in Fort Collins, and a Kentucky Warbler in Rocky Mountain National Park. As the days begin to grow longer, we should all daydream ahead to the seemingly distant "dogdays of summer" and hope the upcoming one can match the last.

The information used in this report was provided to Colorado's regional compilers for the "Mountain West" section of *Audubon Field Notes* and/or its co-editors, Van Truan and Brandon Percival. If you submit observations to *Field Notes*, the editors will pass these on for consideration in this column without any extra step on your part. However, if you submit observations only to the Denver Field Ornithologists' publication, *The Lark Bunting*, or to me for this column, you will need forward copies to the other outlets if you seek their consideration. I would like to encourage you to consider submitting observations to all three outlets (*Field Notes*, *JCFO* and *The Lark Bunting*), where appropriate. It would seem the more widely information is shared, the better. I would prefer data sent to me be in the same "raw" form as that sent to the other outlets. Lastly, observations reported only to telephone hotlines or on the internet ("COBIRDS") will not be used. Reports must be in writing for obvious reasons. If you use abbreviations in your reports, please provide a key.

Note: species for which the Colorado Bird Records Committee requires documentation are underlined in the following text.

Key to abbreviations used here: BBS = Breeding Bird Survey; Co. = county; imm. = immature; LCCW = Lamar Community College woods; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; Res. = reservoir; SWA = State Wildlife Refuge

Common Loon: Up to two summered at Big Johnson Res. from 6/17 to 7/31 (BG). One was also seen on 7/9 on North Lake in Las Animas Co.

Clark's Grebe: A loner discovered on the Colorado River near the Hanging Lake Rest Area in Glenwood Canyon from 7/26 to 7/29 seemed out of place (KP).

Neotropic Cormorant: Ireland Res. once again hosted this casual species. This year up to 3 were found from 6/8 to 7/13 (MP, TL, BSt).

American Bittern: The only summer report for this species was of a single bird east of Fort Collins on 6/1 (DAL).

Great Egret: One was present from 5/23 to 6/3 at Monte Vista NWR (TL, mob). Four were at Hamilton Res. on 6/9 (PLh, mob). On 6/18, 4-6 were seen at Saguache, where they may have nested (DPa). Two remained here on 7/18 (RAR). Two were near Erie on 6/28 (DAL) and a singleton visited Lake Holbrook on 7/12 (BKP, JTr). One was near Fossil Creek Res. southeast of Fort Collins from 7/23 to 7/27 (DCE).

Snowy Egret: Many observers commented on seeing lower than normal numbers of this species this summer. Two were seen on the west slope during the summer period (RL). One was near Lake Holbrook on 7/12 (BKP, JTr). One was at Nee Noshe Res. on 7/27 (DCE, JM, DAL) and one at Fossil Creek Res. on 7/27 (DCE, JBo). Ron Ryder reported 100+ young in the San Luis Valley on 7/10.

Tricolored Heron: One adult and one imm. graced Lake Meredith on 7/16 and 7/17 (PSS, CS).

Cattle Egret: Two were on nests with eggs and young near Monte Vista on 7/10 (RAR). One was about 5 miles south of Blue Lake on 7/20 (DCE, JM, DAL), while up to 9 were at Nee Noshe Res. on the same date (mob). Lower Latham Res. was home to 32 on 7/21 (TL, DCz).

Green Heron: Two were found at Lee Martinez Park in Fort Collins, a regular haunt for the species, on 6/11 (DAL, PLh, mob). One was at Lucy Ela Sanctuary on the west slope on 7/22 (CD).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: One imm. was found at Lake Henry on 6/11 (BKP, MJ).

Eurasian Wigeon: An adult male among American Wigeons at Hamilton Reservoir on 6/9 is an exceptional summer record for Colorado and the United States (RAR).

Barrow's Goldeneye: A female with a brood was observed on Wall Lake in the Flattops Wilderness Area in Garfield Co. on 7/24 (KP).

Hooded Merganser: One appeared outside of usual dates of occurrence at Hamilton Res. from 6/9 to 6/12 (PLh, mob).

Northern Goshawk: Always a difficult resident to find, one was seen on the west slope (RL) and one was near Pingree Park through the period (JFB).

Harris' Hawk: An individual of this extremely accidental raptor was found near Saguache in June (DBr, mob).

Peregrine Falcon: The species nested again near Estes Park (SRa). One was seen at Bear Creek north of Walsh on 6/7 (DAL), another about 20 miles north of Durango on 6/9 (JBo, DCE), and another over Grand Lake on 7/21 (TL, DCz).

Wild Turkey: Two were near Boyero on 6/12 (DAL), three east of Mancos on 7/1 (DAL), one near Fort Lupton on 7/20 (TL, DCz), and one hen with a fledgling at Clifton Marsh on 7/31 (CD).

Black Rail: Up to 4 were heard again this summer from 6/11 to 7/13 (PSS, CS, mob) at the species' Colorado bastion, Bent's Old Fort.

King Rail: An individual of this accidental species was heard at Bent's Old Fort on 6/22 (BKP, VT).

Snowy Plover: As many as 8 were at Upper Queens Res. on 7/20 (DAL, BKP, BD).

Semipalmated Plover: One was at Blue Lake on 7/20 (DAL, DCE, JM) and 3 were at Hart's Basin on 7/25 (RL).

Long-billed Curlew: Two near Fort Morgan on 6/30 (JRi) may indicate breeding occurred nearby this year. Four were found on the Gilpin BBS route in Bent Co. on 6/15 (BKP, VT). One was near Purcell on 6/24 (DAL).

Sanderling: One or 2 were seen at Upper Queens Res. on 7/20 (JM, DCE, DAL).

White-rumped Sandpiper: This species had a fantastic spring in Colorado. Six were at Hamilton Res. on 6/6 (PLh, mob) and the first San Luis Valley record occurred on the same date with 7 showing up near Alamosa (LRw). On 6/7, 9 more were found in the valley at San Luis Lake (JRw, LRw). Forty were at Beebe Draw south of Lower Latham Res. on 6/7 (WPL, CMi). Nine were at Hamilton Res. on 6/9 (RAR), 18 at Lower Latham Res. on 6/11 (PLh, mob), and 49 at Upper Queens Res. on 6/12 (DAL).

Short-billed Dowitcher: One adult was at Nee Noshe Res. from 7/20 to 7/28 (BKP, DJ).

Little Gull: An extraordinary record was of one worn, first-summer bird at Walden Res. near Walden on 6/14 (PLh, mob).

Bonaparte's Gull: One on 6/1 at Metro Lake in Colorado City was late (DS).

Caspian Tern: Two were seen east of Fort Collins on 6/2 (DAL, WPL). This has become an annual location for this rare migrant.

Common Tern: An adult was found at Lake Holbrook on 6/1 (BKP, MJ) and an imm. was seen there on 6/15 (BKP, VT). One first summer bird was at Hart's Basin on 7/8, where the species is accidental at best (RL).

Least Tern: Three adults were at Blue Lake on 7/20 (JM, mob) and a loner was seen at Nee Noshe Res. on 7/20 (DCE).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: This is certainly the ornithological story of the summer, and probably for the entire 1996 calendar year. Tony Leukering found a road-killed bird in Rocky Ford on 6/26 and a live individual was located nearby. Up to 6 were present from 7/9 to 7/31 (TL, mob). The records committee will review the evidence and decide if this is the species' first record in the state.

Black-billed Cuckoo: The only report of this increasingly rare summer resident was of an adult at Upper Queens Res. from 7/16 to 7/28 (PSS, CS, DJ).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Two birds were at Clifton Marsh Wildlife Area on 7/29, where the species is rare (RL). Eastern plains reports seemed about normal.

Greater Roadrunner: Two were found on the Gilpin BBS route on 6/15 (BKP, VT) and one was located on the Crowley BBS route in Crowley Co. on 6/22 (BKP, VT).

Flammulated Owl: Four were found during the first week in June in Buckhorn Canyon west of Fort Collins (JFB). Three broods with 9 young were banded on the Uncompahgre Plateau in July (RL, SH).

Western Screech-Owl: Reports of this species away from the west slope are always of interest. One was heard on Burnt Mill Road in Pueblo County on 7/26 (BKP, VT).

Northern Pygmy-Owl: An individual of this rare resident was heard on 6/12 at Horsetooth Mountain Park west of Fort Collins (DCE). An adult and a juvenile visited the Estes Park yard of Scott and Julie Reoderer on 6/23 and 6/24.

Spotted Owl: An individual of this southern mountains phantom was heard on 7/27 (BKP, VT) along Highway 78 near Beulah, a regular, albeit sporadic locale for the species.

Short-eared Owl: A family group of 9 was observed south of Hamilton Res. on 7/14 (RAR).

Boreal Owl: Two were heard calling on Cameron Pass on 7/13 (BKP, VT, JTr). On the Grand Mesa, four nest boxes were occupied and 13 birds banded (RL).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Two were heard on 7/27 along Highway 78 near Lake Isabel (BKP, VT).

Black Swift: The usual contingent was present in Ouray from 6/9 to 7/22, with up to 10 birds reported (DCE, JBo, HK, UK). One was seen over Estes Park on 7/12 (TL), where the species is much rarer and more difficult to find. Six were over Hanging Lake on 7/26 (KP).

Chimney Swift: At least 3 persisted from the spring period until 7/15 at Palisade (CD, BGu).

Blue-throated Hummingbird: A male wandered to Colorado Springs on 6/16 (MHu).

Calliope Hummingbird: A male was seen in Colorado Springs on 7/15 (MHu). Another was at a feeder in a Forest Service campground near Central City on 7/19 (WPL), and one was near Keystone on 7/19 (MA, mob). Up to 4 were in Colorado City and Rye on 7/27 (DS) and one was at Pingree Park on 7/30 and 7/31 (JFB).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Two were detected making unexpected forays into the mountains this summer. One was found on 6/12 in Rocky Mountain National Park (PLh, mob) and another very rare visitor was near La Jara on 6/26 (VT).

Ladder-backed Woodpecker: Three were at Two Buttes Res. on 6/7 (DAL) and one was south of Las Animas on 6/15 (BKP, VT).

Three-toed Woodpecker: Eleven reports of 18 individuals from all parts of the state except the eastern plains is encouraging news for this rare resident.

Least Flycatcher: One territorial bird was found singing at Watson Lake in Bellvue on 6/10 and 6/11 (PLh, mob).

Black Phoebe: Three birds in Uravan on 7/6 (RL) are part of a recurring spring and summer population there. Adding to a growing list of records for the species were individuals at Antonito on 7/19 (HK, UK) and one along the Animas River south of Durango on 7/28 (BSu).

Eastern Phoebe: A singleton on 6/28 along Burnt Mill Road in Pueblo Co. (BKP) was beyond the species normal "line-in-the-sand", as were two pairs through early July at Apishapa SWA (TL, LD).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Two were located on 6/7 investigating a nest hole at the LCCW (DAL), where they normally occur.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: One peregrinated north of Wellington during the first week of June (fide DAL).

Purple Martin: On 6/27, 3 males and 2 non-males were observed at the Miller Creek Cow Camp in Rio Blanco Co. (KP). On 7/2 one male was seen at the South Thompson Creek Cow Camp in Pitkin Co. (KP). On 7/23, 7 birds and an active nest were found along Big Ridge Trail 1820 in Rio Blanco Co. (KP).

Eastern Bluebird: One at Rye on 7/7 to 7/11 was well west of normal (DS).

Veery: Two were singing southeast of Eagle on 6/8 (JMe). Up to 3 were singing on the East Fork of Parachute Creek in Garfield Co. from 6/6 to 6/26 (MW). One was banded on 6/8 in Brighton (BSt).

Philadelphia Vireo: One along the Poudre River in Fort Collins on 6/2 was a great find (DAL, WPL), pending CBRC endorsement.

Red-eyed Vireo: One was along the Poudre River in Fort Collins on 6/2, at a usual location (DAL, WPL). An adult and an imm. were at the Pueblo Nature Center on 6/22 (PSS, CS). Another was singing in Bellvue on 7/14 (BKP, VT, JTr).

Tennessee Warbler: One singing male was found in mid-June at the A.M. Bailey Bird Nesting Area (BSt).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: One was singing in Fort Collins on 6/1 (DAL). Another was found along the Poudre River on 6/2 (DAL, WPL).

Grace's Warbler: One was located among scores of Yellow-rumped Warblers at Junction Creek Campground near Durango on 6/9 (DCE, JBo).

American Redstart: One female was at Crow Valley Campground on 6/5 (WPL) and one was found at Frog Pond in Colorado City on 6/1 (DS).

Ovenbird: Two were singing on 6/9 and 6/25 in Deer Creek Canyon Park in Jefferson Co. (HK, UK). Others were heard on 6/17 on Old Lake Isabel Road (BKP) and on 6/28 in Rye Mountain Park (BKP).

Kentucky Warbler: One heard singing and seen from 6/11 to 6/13 (CMi, DAL, WPL, JFB) on the east side of Rocky Mountain National Park was accidental in terms of date, location and elevation.

MacGillivray's Warbler: One found at LCCW on 6/7 (DAL) was tardy and seemed out of place.

Northern Cardinal: Birds west of usual were at Lone Dome SWA on 6/7 (BSu) and Rocky Ford on 7/24 (NE).

Pyrrhuloxia: The state's second record of the species showed up at a most unusual location: at a feeder 3 miles west of Grant in Park County. This male was present through July and well into the fall period (JJ, HJ, mob).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Late sightings included one on 6/2 at the Northern Environmental Learning Center in Fort Collins (WP), another on 6/2 along the Poudre River in Fort Collins (WPL), and one on 6/14 at Crow Valley Campground (mob). A male with 2-3 fledged young was found on 7/26 near Hanging Lake (see account in this journal by KP).

Indigo Bunting: A male was in Cottonwood Canyon on 6/8 (DAL). A first-year male sang near Dotsero on 6/9 (JMe) and a singing male was found at the Clifton Marsh Wildlife Area on 7/29 (CD).

Painted Bunting: One male was seen in Cottonwood Canyon again this year (DBr, mob).

Dickcissel: A very good spring and summer was had by this species in southeastern Colorado. On 6/1, one was singing at Lake Cheraw (BKP, MJ). On 6/2, 5 were found near Fort Lyon on Road 16 (DS, DJ). On 6/8, one was heard on the Doyle Bridge BBS Route in Pueblo Co. (BKP, VT). On 7/20, 4 were heard singing just north of Las Animas (DCE, DAL, JM), two at Blue Lake (DAL, DCE, JM), 6 at Upper Queens Res. (BKP, BD), and 2 at Nee Noshe Res. (DCE, DAL, JM).

Lark Bunting: Where were they this summer?

Sage Sparrow: Two were reliable at Glade Park in Mesa Co. from early June through July (PLh, mob). One was found in the usual Eagle County Airport location on 6/10 (DCE, JBo).

Fox Sparrow: Up to 9 were found near Eagle on 6/14 (JMe) and at least 2 singing males were found near the North Fork Campground east of Meeker on the North Fork of the White River on 7/18 (KP).

Bobolink: For the second year in a row, the species appeared in Bellvue, beginning in early June (mob). Accidental on the west slope, 3 males and one female near Meeker from 6/7 to 7/5 were a treat (KP, CD). Two males were found south of Castlewood Canyon on 7/14 (BKP, VT, JTr).

Eastern Meadowlark: Bellvue also hosted an individual of this species for the second consecutive year. The bird was present from late May through most of the summer period (mob).

Scott's Oriole: One male was at the traditional juniper stand near the Utah state line on 6/7 (PLh, mob), two were found here on 6/8 (JBo, DCE). One was heard in Unaweep Canyon on 6/10 (DCE), where the species is much more uncommon.

Red Crossbill: This species began a massive invasion of the lowlands late in the period that continued through the fall and winter periods as far east as Iowa and eastern Kansas (mob).

Evening Grosbeak: Likewise, this species began to appear in numbers at lower elevations of the eastern slope late in the period (mob).

Cited Observers: Michael Armer (MA), John Barber (JFB), Jon Bowser (JBo), Dan Bridges (DBr), Dave Czaplak (DCz), Coen Dexter (CD), Bob Dickson (BD), Louie Dombroski (LD), David Ely (DCE), Norm Erthal (NE), Bob Goycoolea (BG), Bob Gustafson (BGU), Mark Hullinger (MHu), Scott Hutchings (SH), Mark Janos (MJ), Dave Johnson (DJ), Helen Johnson (HJ), Jim Johnson (JJ), Hugh Kingery (HK), Urling Kingery (UK), David Leatherman (DAL), Paul Lehman (PLh), Tony Leukering (TL), Rich Levad (RL), Bill Lisowsky (WPL), Joe Mammoser (JM), Jack Merchant (JMe), Charles Mills (CMi), many observers (mob), Dave Paulacky (DPa), Brandon Percival (BKP), Myron Plooster (MP), Kim Potter (KP), Bill Pulliam (WP), Scott Rashid (SR), Ron Ryder (RAR), Pearle Sandstrom-Smith (PSS), Dave Silverman (DS), Clif Smith (CS), Bonnie Stout (BSt), Brian Sullivan (BSu), Jolan Truan (JTr), Van Truan (VT), Mike Wunder (MW).



Anna's Hummingbird (immature male)
Near feeder west of Horsetooth Reservoir, Larimer Co.
26 October 1996
David Steingraeber

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS
JOURNAL OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

JCFO 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 in Word Perfect for DOS or Windows (versions 5.0 - 6.1), MS Word (versions 7.0 or earlier) for PC's (IBM compatible) 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 *JCFO*. Additional copies are \$3.00 each. Authors who anticipate needing extra copies of their articles should contact the editor prior to printing.

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

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COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Standard reporting forms are available in the "Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong Study", from the *JCFO* Editor, or an Audubon Field Notes Mountain West form is available from Van A. Truan (1901 Court St., Pueblo, CO 81003 - phone: 719/543-4744). 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.