
Journal of the

Colorado Field Ornithologists

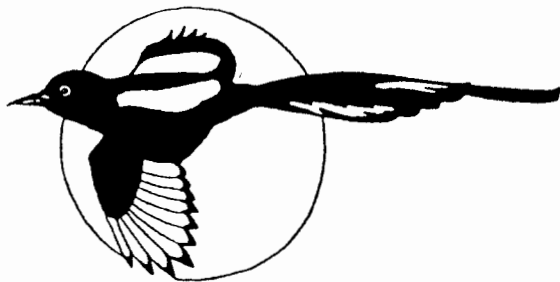
The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly



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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable quarterly): Student \$12; Regular \$16;
Family \$20; Institutional \$25; Contributing \$25; Supporting \$40; Sustaining \$100. Sixteen
dollars of the annual membership dues pays for a one-year subscription to the *Journal of
the Colorado Field Ornithologists*. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed
by law. Send membership inquiries, renewals, and change of address to Colorado Field
Ornithologists, Robert Spencer, 3410 Gladiola Street, Golden, CO 80403.

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DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTWORK

RED-TAILED HAWK: This female Red-tailed Hawk has been a "teaching bird" for the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program in Fort Collins for over 9 years. She was permanently disabled by a gunshot wound when she was a fledgling, and subsequently spent 17 years at the Denver Zoo before she was donated to the Raptor Program. The photographer lives in Fort Collins; he used a Canon FTb camera, a Tamron 60-300 zoom lens, and Fuji Provia film.

Jeff Stark.....Front Cover

PYRRHULOXIA: This male Pyrrhuloxia was photographed at Jim and Helen Johnson's summer cabin near Grant, Colorado, summer 1996. The bird lingered at feeders in the area for over 4 months and was Colorado's 2nd record for the species.

Hugh Kingery.....62

BALD EAGLE: This female Bald Eagle is a "teaching bird" at the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program in Fort Collins. The bird, permanently disabled by a gunshot wound, has made many people aware of the hazards that still threaten Bald Eagles. The photographer lives in Fort Collins; he used a Canon FTb camera, a Tamron 60-300 zoom lens, and Fuji Provia film.

Jeff Stark.....75

ERRATUM: In the last issue of the journal, the two 6:30 a.m. Sunday, May 25 field trips listed in the main schedule of the CFO Convention insert were omitted from the **Registration Form** of the insert. This was my fault (Cynthia Melcher), as I prepared the insert for Dave Leatherman, so please blame me and not him! I apologize to CFO members and to Alan Versaw, who has arranged the field trips. By the time you receive this issue, it might not be too late to sign up for either trip if you wish. Here is a reprint of ALL field trips offered on **Sunday, May 25:**

6:00 a.m. — Field Trips to:

Blanca Wetlands / Zapata

Falls Smith Reservoir / Costilla County

Down South" almost to New Mexico

6:30 a.m. — Field Trips to:

Russell Lakes / Mishak (limited to 1st 20 people)

Alamosa / Monte Vista NWR

If you already signed up for one of the 6:00 a.m. trips, but would prefer one of the 6:30 a.m. trips, speak with Alan Versaw when you arrive at the convention.

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE: A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Linda Vidal
1305 Snowbunny Lane
Aspen, CO 81611

Early this century, declining populations of game species generated concern among hunters and anglers throughout the United States. Although hunting and fishing regulations had slowed the declines of some species, others continued to slip away. It became clear that significant funds would be required to turn things around. Two subsequent Acts of Congress resulted in landmark funding appropriations for projects to protect, restore, and enhance populations of game species and their habitats. These two acts, the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 and the Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950, legislated excise taxes on sporting arms, ammunition, fishing equipment, and motor boat fuel. The bulk of the revenue collected was apportioned back to state wildlife agencies to use on wildlife restoration projects. Before the taxes were enacted, skeptics predicted that they would not work. However, as a direct result of these tax-generated funds, populations of most game species have rebounded remarkably, in some cases exceeding historic population sizes.

Because most state wildlife agencies have been funded entirely through revenue generated either directly or indirectly through hunters and anglers, agencies have focussed their management efforts on game species. Increasingly, however, non-traditional users of wildlife (e.g., bird watchers, wildlife photographers) are frustrated as they watch game species prosper while many non-game species continue to lose ground. Without significant funds specifically raised for protecting and managing non-game wildlife species, they may continue to slip away. Sound familiar? The Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts worked for game species, so why not enact legislation that would generate funds for protecting and restoring non-game species?

As the 20th Century closes and we look for solutions to the problems that lie ahead, we have an important opportunity. Collectively, non-traditional users of wildlife can support legislation of an excise tax dedicated to protection and restoration of non-game wildlife, additional wildlife-related recreation opportunities, and environmental education. The proposed Congressional funding initiative in the works is called the Fish & Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative, or "Teaming with Wildlife." The initiative would levy a federal excise tax on a variety of items related to non-traditional uses of wildlife and outdoor recreation, including binoculars and telescopes, field guides, recreational vehicles, backpacks, canoes, tents and sleeping bags, bird seed and feeders, film and photographic equipment, etc. This tax would give non-traditional users an opportunity, finally, to contribute their dollars and their influence, thus bringing some balance to wildlife management concerns in the United States.

One of the appealing facts about "Teaming With Wildlife" is that it is a tried and proven approach. The Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson tax programs, which have generated as much as 350 million dollars each year for wildlife conservation projects, have been fully accepted and appreciated by hunters and anglers. Another appealing aspect of the "Teaming With Wildlife" initiative is that no new federal bureaucracy would be created to administer the program. Instead, the tax would be collected and distributed in the same way and through the same mechanisms as the hunting and fishing taxes. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which would handle the funds and apportion them to the states on the basis of their land area (1/3) and human population (2/3), would require a matching grant from the states (25% state : 75% federal).

The proposed tax would range from 0.25-5.0% of the manufacturer's cost for a given item; more expensive items, such as recreational vehicles, would be taxed at a lower rate than less expensive items, such as binoculars. The cost to the individual consumer would be minimal and the potential cumulative revenues could be significant. A quote from Birder's World points out that "...a pair of binoculars retailing for \$100 may have a manufacturer's cost of \$38. A 5% tax on \$38 is \$1.90, to be paid for by the consumer."

The types of conservation projects that would be funded by "Teaming With Wildlife" are what an increasing number of Coloradans want to see implemented. Some of the species that would benefit most from this type of funding are those in need of research and monitoring now, before they become threatened or endangered. The initiative is an ingenious way to give birders and other non-traditional users the opportunity to help conserve the wildlife we all care about so deeply. Best of all, the opportunities to learn more about birds and other non-game wildlife will increase as more funds are directed to education and interpretation.

I enthusiastically support and encourage other birders to support the concept of a tax on various kinds of outdoor equipment to fund needed wildlife conservation and research, outdoor recreation, and wildlife education projects. While the initiative has the support of many agencies, organizations, and businesses, including Swarovski, Swift, and Zeiss, others, such as the Wild Bird Feeding Institute, are resisting this initiative. If reluctant businesses know, however, that their customers support the tax, then perhaps they will come around. Encourage both your legislators and the wildlife/outdoor recreation businesses you patronize that you support this initiative. If you would like more information about "Teaming With Wildlife," contact the Colorado Division of Wildlife at 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216; or contact the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at 444 N. Capitol Street, NW, Suite 544, Washington, DC 20001; or take a look at the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' home page at <http://www.Gorp.com/teamww/twwindex.htm>.



COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' MISSION STATEMENT

C.F.O. exists to:

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

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Cynthia Melcher
4200 N. Shields
Fort Collins, CO 80524

As I undertook the task of producing my first issue of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*, I "progressed" from a state of relative calm to near panic. It did not take me long to realize that the editor's job is a daunting one, and I have developed a deep appreciation for what the previous editors accomplished. They did a superb job of producing interesting and attractive volumes of the *Journal*, often without the benefit of sophisticated computer technology or an abundance of "free time." I thank them all for jobs well done and a publication that I am proud to serve. In particular, I want to thank Dave Leatherman, who has encouraged me generously; he has shown me the "editor's ropes" (on which I will try not to hang myself!!) and patiently answered my endless questions. I also want to thank two other past editors, Mona Hill and Mark Janos, for sharing ideas, advice, and encouragement. I'm sure I will continue to lean on all of them.

Many of you don't know me, in part because most of my birdwatching time has been work-related and usually takes me out-of-state, and in part because I have had too little free time to go birdwatching around Colorado or be an active member of the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO). I am trying to rearrange my priorities, however, so that I can get to know more CFO members while also enjoying Colorado's birds and their endless variety of sounds, behaviors, and habitats. I hope to see you "out there."

As I attempt to grow into the editor's shoes, a few minor things may change, but I have no revolutions in mind. Important technological changes happening on

the printer's end, however, may necessitate some changes in how items are submitted for the *Journal*. I will attempt to keep you updated on those changes in the "Instructions for Contributors" section of each issue. For the most part, it will become increasingly important for authors to submit electronic copies of their articles, graphs, and tables, which makes it possible to standardize formatting and merge items into an electronic version of the *Journal* for the printer. Photographs can be submitted in any format, slides or prints. In time, however, printers may require that photographs and artwork be submitted on floppy diskettes or compact disks. Most of the better local labs are beginning to make this technology available at low cost. Photographers and artists interested in submitting materials might want to look into this to avoid sending originals.

As you now know, our *Journal* has a new name--*Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*. The CFO Board anticipates that this new name will facilitate a number of important functions, especially searches for articles and journals in electronic abstracts or library catalogues. If more people can find CFO articles, more of those articles will be referred to and cited in other works, which reflects well on CFO, as well as the *Journal*. I realize that many of us will be tempted to shorten the *Journal's* name within articles, but, as a courtesy to new and potential members, as well as outside readers, I propose that authors first spell out the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*, then follow it with the acronym in parentheses: (*JCFO*); subsequently, the author could simply refer to the *JCFO*. In lists of cited literature, however, I would like to see us continue to spell out the *Journal's* name in full. If anyone has objections to this standard, please let me know. I am open to your suggestions on this and any other matters related to the *JCFO*.

On that note--I'd like to share a few things about my style as an editor and my expectations for the *JCFO*. The more editing I do--professional or otherwise--the more I feel challenged by the need to balance editing with maintaining the integrity of an author's original content and style. I will do my best to meet that challenge for all *JCFO* submissions. This means that I will edit material as needed, but it also means that when the materials need more than simple copy-editing, I will send the edited version back to the author for approval (as long as the material is submitted by the deadline--after that I will do this as time allows). I make mistakes, too, which means that authors should scrutinize my work, as well. If an article seems to need major reorganization or rewriting, I may send it back to the author with suggestions on how to improve it.

After looking through recent volumes of most of the other state (U.S.) and provincial (Canada) ornithological publications, it seems to me that the *JCFO* is one of the better ones, and I am proud to be part of its production. My ultimate goal as editor for the *JCFO* is to continue the tradition of providing a high-quality publication that fills a critical niche in recording what is and is not going on with Colorado's birds and ornithologists--both amateur and professional. Achieving that goal requires that I hear from and carefully listen to the input

provided by members and potential members of CFO. I invite you to share with me your ideas, visions, and needs for the *JCFO*. I am also happy to provide a "Letters to the Editor" section if anyone feels the need to voice a thoughtful opinion on matters related to Colorado ornithology or the *Journal* itself.

I want to encourage all members, as well as non-members and potential members to submit materials to *your* journal. At one time or another, just about everyone will see, hear, or learn something new or reaffirm something we suspected about Colorado birds. Amateur birdwatchers and professional ornithologists alike can make important contributions to our knowledge about birds, so don't be shy about recording, documenting, and sharing what you learn out there. You can submit short notes or full-length articles about Colorado birds--whether based on a single observation or a scientific study, reviews of books pertaining to Colorado birds or birdwatching activities, recaps of field trips or other bird-related events, photographs or artwork of Colorado birds, and so on. Please, always feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about items to submit. I look forward to serving as editor for the *JCFO*, to knowing more of you, and to continue learning about Colorado birds through this venture.



AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Periodically, the Bylaws of the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) must be changed. When changes are made, it is the intent of the CFO Board to publish the Bylaws, complete with their changes, in the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*. At its meeting in March 1997, the CFO Board made a number of minor changes to the Bylaws.

BYLAWS OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

(Adopted May 20, 1978; updated through March 8, 1997)

I. MEMBERSHIP

1. **Requirements.** Any person or organization interested in the educational and scientific aspects of field ornithology may become a member on payment of dues.

2. **Rights.** All members have the right to receive the publication *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*, to attend field trips and meetings of the society, and to vote at the Annual Meeting. Each member of this society shall be entitled to one vote.

3. **Classes and Dues.** The classes of memberships in Colorado Field Ornithologists and annual dues required for each class shall be determined from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors. All memberships begin the first day of the month in which payment of dues is received. All

memberships, except Life Memberships, expire at midnight, the last day of the month the year(s) following the receipt of payment of dues; dues may be paid for one, two or three years. (As amended November 9, 1996.)

II. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. **Powers.** The control of the property and the conduct of the business and administrative affairs of the Colorado Field Ornithologists shall be vested in a Board of Directors. The Board may delegate appropriate responsibility and authority to officers or committees to carry out specific duties.

2. **Composition.** The Board of Directors shall be composed of the elected Officers, six to nine directors elected at large, the Editor of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*, and the Chairman of the CFO Records Committee. Only members of the society in good standing shall be members of the Board. (As amended June 12, 1982 and Sept. 5, 1992.)

3. **Meetings.** The Board of Directors shall meet at least once annually, preferably at a time and place conveniently close to the Annual Meeting of the society, and at such other times as may seem indicated, on call of the Chairperson. Such meetings may be in person, by telephone, by correspondence, or by whatever means of communication the Chairperson may find advisable. (As amended Nov. 11, 1993.)

4. **Quorum.** At any meeting of the Board, a quorum shall consist of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board.

5. **Emergency Meetings.** Special meeting of the board may be called by the Chairperson or any two members of the board in case of emergency. Notice of such meetings shall be given to all members of the Board, if possible, by whatever method seems feasible.

6. **Removals.** The Board of Directors may remove, for cause, Officers or Directors who are delinquent in their duties. Such action requires a vote of the majority of all members of the Board.

7. **Appointments.** The Board of Directors may appoint Officers or Directors to fill a vacancy which may arise. Such appointment shall be by vote of the remaining members of the Board, even though less than a quorum. An Officer or Director appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the un-expired term of the position being filled and until a successor is elected.

8. **Compensation.** No Officer or Director shall receive compensation for service to the society, but they may be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

III. Officers

1. **Titles.** The Officers of the society shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

2. **Election and Term of Office.** Officers shall be elected by the general membership at the Annual Meeting. They shall serve for a period of one year or until their successors are elected. They may be reelected, but to no more than two consecutive terms in any one office, except that the Secretary and the Treasurer may serve no more than four years in any one office. They take office at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which they were elected.

3. **President.** The President shall be the chief executive of the society, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors, and a member ex-officio of all committees. The President shall preside at all meetings of the society and of the Board. The President directs and administers all affairs of the society and supervises all phases of its work, subject to the direction of the Board. The President shall, with the approval of the board, appoint chairpersons of all committees. After completion of the term(s) as President, the President shall remain as a non-voting member of the Board for two years or until replaced by the next retiring President, whichever comes first. (As amended Nov. 11, 1993 this and all other sections replacing "he" with "he or she," "him" with "him or her," "his" with "his or her" and "Chairman" with "Chairperson." and as amended Mar. 8, 1997 this and all other sections replacing "he or she," etc., with the antecedent noun.)

4. **Vice President.** The Vice President shall, at the President's request, assist the President in carrying out the President's duties. If the President shall be unable to serve, then the Vice President shall act as President in all respects. The Vice President shall be responsible to plan and arrange for field trips. (As amended Nov. 11, 1993.)

5. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall record the proceedings of the society and of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of these meetings as well as the reports submitted by officers or committee chairpersons and other such records as the society may have, and transmit them to the Secretary's successor. The Secretary shall provide each member of the Board of Directors with the minutes of the last meeting and with the agenda for the next meeting if such is available. The Secretary should attempt to obtain new members of the society and to retain the membership of those who have become delinquent in their dues. The Secretary shall mail or arrange for the mailing of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*. (As amended Nov. 11, 1993 and Mar. 8, 1997.)

6. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall receive and safely keep the society's funds and securities and have custody of them in such bank or banks as are approved by the Board. The Treasurer shall disburse the society's funds or its checks as the Board may direct or approve, taking proper vouchers therefor. The Treasurer shall render to the Board, whenever it may require, an account of the Treasurer's transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the society, including all of its funds. The Treasurer shall be bonded, when

requested by the Board, in an amount determined by the Board. If the Treasurer shall for any reason be unable to sign checks, any one of the following officers shall sign: President, Vice President, or Secretary. The signatures of these officers shall be registered as may be required to implement this provision. The Treasurer shall record the membership and changes of address, note those members in default, and keep the Secretary apprised of the membership to receive the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*. The Treasurer or delegate shall record the membership and changes of address, note those members in default, and keep the Editor apprised of the membership to receive the *CFO Journal*. (As amended Nov.11, 1993.) The treasurer shall file the required biennial report with the Secretary of State's Office. (As amended Nov. 11, 1993 and Mar. 8, 1997.)

IV. Directors

1. **Number, Election, and Term.** There shall be not less than six nor more than nine Directors elected on a staggered basis, each for a term of three years, so that at least two will be elected each year by the members present at the Annual Meeting. Directors may be re-elected to no more than two consecutive terms. They take office at the close of the meeting at which they are elected. (As amended Sept. 5, 1992 and Mar. 8, 1997.)

V. Publications

1. **General.** The official periodical of the society is the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*. Special publications may also be issued from time to time. Publications are intended for both professional and amateur audiences. Papers are encouraged that are both understandable and useful to amateurs but at the same time make a significant contribution to the scientific literature. Highly technical papers and laboratory studies not bearing directly on field ornithology are not desirable. The Editor and Editorial Board offer encouragement and assistance to anyone, including inexperienced authors, to produce meaningful field studies and well prepared manuscripts.

2. **Geographical Coverage.** Published studies should be accomplished in or have a direct importance to the following areas: Colorado and closely related, adjacent areas.

3. **Content.** In general, the content is restricted to papers based on field studies of birds, but the Editor has final decision as to what papers will be accepted. Topics include distribution, behavior, population dynamics, field identification, ecology, and field techniques for censusing, sound recording, and photographing birds. Conservation papers are limited to scientific studies (e.g., studies supporting preservation of habitat, studies of endangered species, and effects of pollution); pure discussion or notice of conservation matters will generally not be published. Distributional papers that are local in content and would otherwise be published in provincial journal are to be encouraged. (As amended Nov.11, 1993.)

VI. Editor

1. **Appointment.** The President, with the approval of the Board, shall appoint an Editor of the *CFO Journal*. The editor shall continue in office at the discretion of the Board.

2. **Duties.** Subject to Board approval, the Editor shall have the responsibility for the preparation and publication of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*, and the establishment of criteria for submission, acceptance, and publication of materials in the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*. The Editor shall appoint and direct members of the Editorial Board and assistants as the Editor sees fit, with the approval of the Board.

VII. Committees

1. **Establishment.** The President, with the approval of the Board, shall appoint chairmen of committees as seems appropriate for the activities of the society. The terms of these chairmen begin as soon as appointed and continue as determined by the Board at the time of establishment.

2. **Membership.** These chairpersons shall be members in good standing of the society, but need not be Board members or officers, except that the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee must be a member of the Board of Directors. The committee chairpersons will appoint the other members of their committees who shall be members of the society unless approval for a non-member to serve is given by the Board. Any member of a committee may be removed by the board whenever in their judgment the best interest of the society will be served. (As amended Mar. 8, 1997.)

3. **Rules.** Each committee may adopt rules for its own government and procedures not inconsistent with these Bylaws or with rules adopted by the Board of Directors. Because of the special nature of responsibilities of the Colorado Bird Official Records Committee, the by-laws for this committee are separate. (As amended Feb. 25, 1995)

4. **Duties of Committees.** Duties of Committees shall be set by the Board of Directors and shall be detailed in the Director's Manual. (As amended Mar. 8, 1997.)

VIII. Society Meetings

1. **Annual Meeting.** An Annual Meeting of the society members shall be held during each calendar year, at a time and place set by the Board of Directors, for the purpose of electing directors and Officers, and for transacting such other business as may be brought before the meeting. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given to members at least 30 days in advance.

2. **Special Meetings.** Special meetings of society members may be called as determined by the Board of Directors with notice given to all members at least five days in advance.

3. **Quorum.** Twenty-five members in good standing, present in person, shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of society members.

IX. Bylaws

1. **Review.** The Bylaws shall be reviewed regularly by the Board of Directors or a committee set up by the Board.

2. **New Bylaws or Amendments.** The Bylaws may be amended or added to by a two-thirds vote of the board, or by majority vote of the members attending the Annual Meeting at the Annual Meeting. New Bylaws and amendments shall be published in the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*. (As amended Nov. 11, 1993.)

3. **Distribution.** Every new Officer and Director shall receive a copy of the Bylaws.

X. Parliamentary Procedure

1. **Rules.** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the society in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Society. (As amended Feb. 25, 1995.)

SELECTION CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR THE RONALD A. RYDER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGY

SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. For distinguished service to the Colorado Field Ornithologists organization and its goals.
2. For scholarly contributions to the Colorado Field Ornithologists and to Colorado field ornithology.
3. For sharing knowledge of Colorado field ornithology with the people of the state of Colorado.

SELECTION PROCESS:

1. The Award will be given every other year at most. Nominations may be made by the membership at large. Nominations should be received on or before March 1 of even-numbered years to be considered by the C.F.O. Board of Directors. The Board selects and approves an awardee for announcement at the Annual C.F.O. Convention during the year a recipient is chosen.
2. The Award will be a plaque designed to match the original plaque given to Dr. Ryder.
3. The Award will be accompanied by a lifetime membership in the Colorado Field Ornithologists.
4. When the Award is given, details will be published in the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* and accompanied by a cover photograph of the Awardee. Other press releases will be made as approved by the C.F.O. President.

If you have a nomination, contact: John Barber, 1700 Clearview Ct., Ft. Collins, CO 80521.

**MINUTES OF THE 8 MARCH 1997 MEETING OF THE
COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mona Hill, Secretary
3410 Heidelberg Drive
Boulder, CO 80303

The Board of Directors of the Colorado Field Ornithologists met on March 8, 1997 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the People's Clinic, 3305 N. Broadway, Boulder, Colorado. Present were John Barber, Leon Bright, Raymond Davis, Warren Finch, Bill Fink, Mona Hill, David Leatherman, Cynthia Melcher, Suzi Plooster, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith, Bob Spencer, and Linda Vidal. Alan Versaw and Brandon Percival had indicated they could not be present. Mark Janos and Steve Bouricius were absent.

1. Leon Bright and Warren Finch were welcomed and introduced to the group.
2. When the Board needs to vote on issues was discussed; in compliance with the Robert's Rules of Order, votes will be taken on all policy and financial issues.
3. No appointments or approvals of appointments were pending.
4. Minutes from the November 9, 1996 meeting were corrected to read "anyone interested" was welcome to attend the meeting of the *C.F.O. Journal* committee meeting, clarifying that non-CFO members were also welcome. The minutes were further amended to clarify that the nominating committee consists of John Barber, Joe Himmel and Margaret Elliott. The minutes were accepted as amended.
5. Raymond Davis gave the treasurer's report for 12/31/96: there was a total of \$14,717.29 in both CFO accounts. Bob Spencer stated that by the end of February the money market account was earning about a dollar a day in interest. By the next board meeting (at the convention) Bob is to look into other investments for that money in order to earn higher interest. Bob Spencer also presented a proposed budget based on last year's expenditures.

It was discussed that the CFO editor is reimbursed \$150 per issue to cover incidental expenses and that the editor need not file specific expense items. This is not a change in policy; it was discussed in order to clarify the policy for the new editor, Cynthia Melcher.

The amount (approximately \$10,000) of reserve funds in the money market account was discussed. It was agreed that the amount may be changed if reasons to spend some of the money are found.

It was discussed, moved and seconded that copies of back issues of the *C.F.O.*

Journal will continue to be sold for \$3.00 each. The motion was approved. Raymond Davis presented an analysis indicating that, for now and for the next two years, the dues paid by members cover the cost of printing and mailing the *C.F.O. Journal*.

6. The secretary, Mona Hill, reported that the mailing permit for the *C.F.O. Journal* has been approved for mailing from Boulder. Furthermore, the *Journal's* ISSN number has been changed to 1092-7247 by the Library of Congress.

Copies of 29 back issues of the *C.F.O. Journal* have been sold to the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.

The consensus of the Board was that the secretary should treat mailings from tour groups, etc., as junk mail and discard them at will. The secretary will also send letters to sources of such mail requesting removal of the CFO name from mailing lists.

7. Committee Reports

a. Bird Records Committee. No report given.

b. Checklist Committee. Suzi Plooster reported success in placing 600 copies of the checklist with the American Birding Association (ABA), who will distribute them both by catalog sales and through distribution to other customers. Suzi will check to see whether ABA will include the checklists in their bird finding guides. Suzi reported that it is difficult to obtain labels the correct size for updating information in the brochures. Bob Spencer offered to help have custom labels printed. Suzi will provide Bob with the number of such labels needed.

Suzi recommended that when the brochures are printed again the complete name of the organization be placed on the cover instead of the initials.

Linda Vidal reported that the LA Audubon and the Tucson Audubon sell older copies of the checklist for 25 cents each from their pages on the Internet. They should be contacted and offered current copies.

It was reported that KTLK radio (am 760) (internet address: <http://www.wbu.com>) has a bird show on Saturday mornings from 8-9. It was suggested that CFO offer to be featured. Suzi and Pearle Sandstrom-Smith will discuss this further.

c. The *C.F.O. Journal* Committee Meeting on February 22 had recommended that the Board consider changing the name of the *Journal* in order to facilitate abstracting and electronic retrieval of references. It

was moved, seconded and approved to change the title of the publication to the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*.

Dave Leatherman reported that Mark Janos is no longer abstracting the Journal for Recent Ornithological Literature (ROL). ROL has indicated that the Colorado Bird Observatory (CBO) will be doing the abstracting. Dave will follow up with CBO to confirm this.

It further had been requested at the Committee Meeting that CFO publish a 25 year retrospective subject index to the Journal, as well as an ongoing index of Colorado Ornithological references.

The conclusions reached by the Committee Meeting were that the *Journal* is not now going to become a peer-reviewed publication. The three steps to be taken now to bridge the gap between academic and general membership interests will be to ensure abstracting of the Journal, contact the academic community requesting articles, and including the indices.

d. The Ron Ryder Award Committee reported that only one nomination for the award was received this year. Because the nomination was for Charles Aiken, the award would have had to be posthumous and because there was only one nominee, the consensus of the Board is not to present the award this year. The guidelines will be reconsidered. The addition of an historical award will be discussed at the next meeting.

e. The Membership Committee reported that software has been purchased for compiling the membership lists.

f. The Field Trip Committee reported that Bob Righter will teach a shorebird workshop on August 2; Tony Leukering will teach a gull workshop in November. Details including locations will be announced later.

g. The Convention Committee reported on the details for the convention. It was moved, seconded and approved to authorize the expenditure of up to \$200 by the convention committee to spend as they see fit for publicity.

h. Some job descriptions are still needed for the director's manual.

8. Old Business

a. Bylaws: The following changes to the Bylaws were approved: all references to the title of the publication were changed to the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* all references to "he or she," etc., were replaced by the antecedent noun, various minor typographical errors were corrected and changes for consistency were made.

III. Officers 6. Treasurer **Amended to read:** The Treasurer shall receive and safely keep the society's funds and securities and have custody of them in such bank or banks as are approved by the Board. The Treasurer shall disburse the society's funds or its checks as the Board may direct or approve, taking proper vouchers therefor. The Treasurer shall render to the Board, whenever it may require, an account of the Treasurer's transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the society, including all its funds. The Treasurer shall be bonded, when requested by the Board, in an amount determined by the Board. If the Treasurer shall for any reason be unable to sign checks, any one of the following officers shall sign: President, Vice President, or Secretary. The signatures of these officers shall be registered as may be required to implement this provision. The Treasurer or delegate shall record the membership and changes of address, note those members in default and keep the Secretary apprised of the membership to receive the Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists. The Treasurer shall file the required biennial report with the Secretary of State's office. (As amended Mar. 8, 1997)

IV. Directors 1. Number, Election and Term **Amended to read:** There shall be not less than six or more than nine directors, elected on a staggered basis, each for a term of three years, so that at least two will be elected each year by the members present at the Annual Meeting. Directors may be reelected to no more than two consecutive terms. They take office at the close of the meeting at which they are elected. (As amended Mar. 8, 1997)

VI. Editor 1. Appointment **Add:** The Editor shall continue in office at the discretion of the Board. 3. Voting Director **Delete section as it is repetitive.**

VII. Committees 2. Membership **Amended to read:** These chairpersons shall be members in good standing of the society but need not be Board members, except that the chairperson on the Nominating Committee must be a member of the Board of Directors. The committee chairpersons will appoint the other members of their committees who shall be members of the society unless approval for a non-member to serve is given by the Board. Any member of a committee may be removed by the Board whenever in their judgement the best interests of the society will be served. 5. Duties of Other Committees **Amended to read:** 4. Duties of Committees shall be set by the Board of Directors and shall be detailed in the Director's Manual.

b. Use of the membership list by other organizations: It was moved, seconded and approved that the president has authority to permit the use of the membership list on a one-time basis, with or without exchanging

membership lists, by other organizations when the use of the list is for the enhancement of our mission.

c. After a discussion, the decision about creating a business manager's position was postponed until the next meeting. Also to be discussed is the creation of a specific position on the board to handle T-shirts and other merchandise.

9. New Business

a. There was no news to report about Partners in Flight.

b. It was the consensus of the Board to print the mission statement in all issues of the *Journal*.

c. The Board voted to limit the number of extra copies of the *Journal* in storage to 5 copies for all issues more than two years old. While there is some demand for recent back issues (less than two years old), there is very limited need for older issues especially as complete sets are unavailable. Extra copies of older issues will be available at the convention in Monte Vista.

d. Pearle Sandstrom-Smith reported on the status of Willow Creek in Lamar and on the GOCO and takings bills in the Colorado Legislature.

e. A letter from Bob Righter concerning county lists was discussed. The consensus was CFO can help publicize these in the *Journal* but CFO need not document or publish them.

e. Leon Bright volunteered to research "Uncover," a firm which would index the *Journal* and charge users for the information. He will report at the next meeting.

g. A question was raised about CFO's involvement in the International Migratory Bird Day. The consensus of the Board was that CFO encourages activity in local Audubon and other birding groups but does not have such activities on the state-wide level.

10. The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 24th after the papers session at the annual meeting in Monte Vista.

Respectfully submitted,
Mona Hill



**PYRRHULOXIA (*Cardinalis sinuatus*)
IN THE MOUNTAINS OF PARK COUNTY**

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Late June 1996 brought snowmelt and an extraordinary bird to the North Fork of the South Platte River. At their summer cabin, four miles west of Grant in Park County, Jim and Helen Johnson discovered a Pyrrhuloxia coming to their feeder! Little did they realize what was in store for them through the summer. First, they mentioned the bird to their biologist son, Kent, who was in San Diego en route to a teaching assignment in Korea. Recognizing how unusual it was to find a Pyrrhuloxia in Colorado (this was the second record for Colorado; Janos 1991), Kent called me from San Diego the day before he left for Korea. I called the Johnsons, and, before the summer's end, 125 bird watchers had signed their log of Pyrrhuloxia visitors. "The people who came to the door were uniformly polite and friendly," Jim commented. "We met some very interesting people and were pleased to have them as visitors. My niece, Marcia, made a Pyrrhuloxia tee shirt for me for my birthday... this added a new dimension to our stay at the cabin."

The Johnsons initially saw the bird in late June. He acted quite shy for two weeks, but within a week he started coming in to the feeder stations. At first the bird fed exclusively on the ground under the platform and hanging feeders, but then he started to use the platform feeder. Eventually, he used the hanging feeder, which provided sunflower seeds. By mid August, the Pyrrhuloxia came in regularly—at least five times a day—to scarf sunflower seeds. Generally, he approached from the northwest across a small opening, landed in a pine tree, then flew to a currant bush, from which he swooped to the pine tree that holds the feeder, and then he finally hopped onto the sunflower feeder. The bird remained shy, however; sudden movement from inside the house scared him off.

The striking bird had a huge, thick, yellow, seed-eating bill. Vivid red plumage encircled the bill and then blended into blackness at the eye. A blotchy stripe of rosy color splashed down his front from throat to belly. The bird had a gray crest topped with red and a gray or grayish-brown body. The primaries had a touch of red on the edges, and the tail had a reddish tinge.

Companion birds at the feeder included many Cassin's Finches and Pine Siskins, some Mountain Chickadees, Steller's Jays, Red Crossbills, and Gray-headed Juncos, as well as numerous chipmunks and pine and ground squirrels. At one point, Jim Johnson reported that the bird was "...in a whale of a

confrontation with a Steller's Jay. He is one ferocious blur of red when fighting. He was very much on the defensive... but back the next morning and I think I saw a change in his behavior. He would fly to the currant bush and hide well down in the bottom of the bush, where he was surrounded by the thicker branches—you wouldn't find him unless you had seen him arrive at the bush. However, he hopped to the top of the bush and flew to the feeder frequently. I saw him run off a Steller's Jay on two occasions. He would resist, not always successfully, when the jays bluffed him. . . later, he frequently shared the feeder with jays as well as the smaller birds."

The Johnson's cabin is surrounded by a mixed forest of lodgepole and bristlecone pines, Colorado blue spruce, and aspen at an elevation of 9668 feet. The house and feeder sit on a small bluff overlooking extensive willow carr above the North Fork, but the *Pyrrhuloxia* never seemed to use the willows. Although half a dozen houses east of the Johnsons' also had feeders, the bird always came in from the opposite direction—the wilder section of National Forest. The bird did not visit feeders at the other houses until the Johnsons left in September.

After the Johnsons left, the *Pyrrhuloxia* adjusted. First he moved down the valley to the next feeder, which belonged to the Phyllis and Paul Skocypiec. The Skocypiecs left at the end of September and he moved on down to the next feeder at Linda Downing's. By October 4, the bird had become less skittery and would visit feeders on their deck. Before the Downings left on October 19, the *Pyrrhuloxia* had survived three snowstorms and a night of 12° F. Just half a mile farther down the valley, the Glen Kelleys kept their feeders filled through the winter, but the *Pyrrhuloxia* never found them. No one saw him again after mid October.

The *Pyrrhuloxia* turned into a true community project. At least three families afforded hospitality to him, and the Johnsons welcomed birdwatchers from miles around. Everyone involved will always remember the *Pyrrhuloxia* as a special part of their summer.

Literature Cited

- Janos, M. 1991. First record of *Pyrrhuloxia* (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) from Colorado. C.F.O. Journal 25(2):41-42.

Pyrrhuloxia near Grant, Summer 1996
by H. Kingery



NEWS FROM THE FIELD: THE AUTUMN 1996 REPORT
(AUGUST-NOVEMBER)

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This autumn might be remembered for some time as the one in which mountain species irrupted onto the plains. It was a great season for Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Red Crossbills. By the end of the period, Rosy Finches and Bohemian Waxwings really started to build in numbers. Many other bird species staged notable fall migrations, and, if you were at Barr Lake State Park or Valco Ponds State Wildlife Area in Pueblo, you probably saw a good variety of passerines. The normal water magnets, such as Pueblo Reservoir, the southeastern lakes, the area north of Fort Collins, and the Denver area reservoirs, attracted some unusual gulls, grebes, loons, and waterfowl. The other place that beckons recognition is Big Johnson Reservoir near Colorado Springs. See the report for all the highlights.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to J.B. Hayes for supplying a great number of the Denver area submissions. Many birds listed in this report would not

be included had he not taken the time to send me the information about them. Thanks again. Hugh and Urling Kingery also report from the Denver area and deserve a thank you. Additionally, Hugh had a lot of good advice for preparing and improving the News From the Field Reports; there will be more changes in the future. Tony Leukering also deserves praise, as his banding data is a great asset to this report.

The biggest change I'm making is to reinstitute tracking for the documentation of rare species included in the News From The Field Reports. The Colorado Field Ornithologists Bird Records Committee would like to see documentation provided for those species that I have underlined in this report. I will note when observers have submitted documentation by putting an asterisk (*) next to the observers' initials. I will also use an asterisk to indicate observers who provided notes on identification or documents of any kind regarding their sightings, even when it's not required for the species reported. If I am not aware that such documentation exists, then I will denote this by putting an <ND> (meaning no documentation) symbol following the observation. I do not have perfect information, so **DO NOT** feel badly if I tag you with a <ND>. The symbol means one of two things: 1) I'm simply not aware of the documentation, or 2) it is a way of saying, "Hey, a lot of us saw this great bird, but apparently it is undocumented, so let's all double-check to see whether it has been done, and, if not, who's going to do the write-up." The information in this report was either forwarded to me by the regional editors of the Audubon Society Field Notes (Van Truan and Brandon Percival) or sent directly to me by the observer. Both methods are fine with me, and I will also allow e-mail submissions.

Abbreviations used: BLSP = Barr Lake State Park; Co. = county; CVCG = Crow Valley Campground; FLWE = Fort Lyons Wildlife Easement; Ft. = Fort; imm. = immature; LCCW = Lamar Community College Woods; Mt. = mount or mountain; <ND> = No documentation; Res. = Reservoir; RFSWA = Rocky Ford State Wildlife Area; SP = State Park; SWA = State Wildlife Area; WWSWA = Walt Walker State Wildlife Area; VPSWA = Valco Ponds State Wildlife Area

Red-throated Loon: One imm. was at Pueblo Res. on 11/18-19 (BKP*, mob). Another stopped at Lake Holbrook on 11/24 (BKP, MJ*).

Pacific Loon: Two showed up at Pueblo Res. on 10/18 and at least one remained through 11/20 (BKP, mob). A winter adult was at Cherry Creek Res. from 10/29-11/30 (mob). Up to 3 were located at Chatfield SP from 10/30-11/11 (mob). One was on Lake Holbrook on 11/2 (BKP, MJ, BD), and another single was at Union Res. from 11/3-8 (CH, TL). An imm. was below the Pueblo Res. dam in Rock Canyon from 11/11-18 (BKP). In the north, one was at Horseshoe Lake near Loveland on 11/10 (CH), and one was at Douglas Lake north of Ft. Collins from 11/25-27 (DAL, mob).

Common Loon: The earliest report was of one on 8/16 at Twin Lakes in Lake Co. (VT). There were 7-10 birds seen in the west-central region from 10/27-11/24. Overall, it was a good fall for the species statewide, with about 50 individuals reported.

Yellow-billed Loon: With still only a smattering of Colorado records for the species, finding an imm. at Park Creek Res. in northern Larimer Co. on 11/27 was a treat (DAL, DCE*, WPL, JFB).

Red-necked Grebe: One winter adult turned up at Warren Lake in Ft. Collins from 11/27-30 (DCE*, WPL, DAL, JM).

Eared Grebe: Three stragglers sat on ice-free sections of Park Creek Res. on 11/27 (DCE, DAL, WPL, JFB).

Western Grebe: An amazing 1,599 were counted at Union Res. on 10/15 (TL) for the high count honors.

Brown Pelican: An imm. was seen at Prewitt Res. from 8/31-9/14 (mob) <ND>. Another imm. was at Barr Lake SP on 9/23 (TL, FB, NG) <ND>. At Chatfield SP, yet another imm. was tracked from 9/23-10/11 (mob) <ND>. Last but not least, still another imm. was seen at Cherry Creek Res. on 10/17 (mob) <ND>. How many different individuals does everyone think these sightings represent?

American Bittern: Two were seen at Walden Ponds in Boulder on 9/23 (JBH) and one was discovered at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal on 9/25 (HK, UK).

Least Bittern: One was not elusive enough to escape detection on 9/23 at Chatfield SP (mob).

Great Egret: The only reports were of one adult near Horsethief SWA on the west slope on 10/19 (CD), and another at the more expected location of Union Res. on 10/12 (CH).

Snowy Egret: Somewhat unusual were 4-6 birds in the Grand Junction area until 10/20.

Little Blue Heron: One imm. seen at Chatfield SP on 9/1 (mob) <ND> proved that southeastern Colorado doesn't have a monopoly on sightings where this species is concerned (it's an oligopoly at best).

Cattle Egret: Thirty-five were seen near Ft. Lyon on 8/22 (JT) and 98(!) were at Nee Noshe Res. on 8/25 (BKP, MJ, BD). Seven were late at Union Res. on 10/11 (WPL, JFB), while 5 birds at Corn Lake on 11/4 on the west slope were even more tardy (CD).

Green Heron: One the west slope, one was at Connected Lakes on 8/5 (RL) and one was at WWSWA on 8/23 (CD). One was seen at RFSWA on 8/4 and 8/30 (BKP, MJ). A very late bird was at Olive Marsh on 10/12 (MY).

Tundra Swan: Three were observed in the west-central region between 11/5-19. An adult was seen at Chatfield SP on 11/6 (JBH). An imm. was at Cherry Creek Res. on 11/21 (JBH). Two adults were at Roxborough Village in Douglas Co. from 11/21-27 (JBH).

Trumpeter Swan: One surprised the Estes Park Bird Club by stopping in at Lake Mary in Estes Park on 11/8 <ND>. Five adults consorted with 2 tundras at Roxborough Village from 11/20-27 (JBH, mob) <ND>.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Three were at Parker Regional Park on 11/20 (JBH). Five to seven were present at Lake Cheraw from 11/10-24 (BKP, MJ). Twelve returned to the regular, yet enigmatic, haunt of Valco Ponds in Canon City on 11/10 (JWt, RWt, mob). A loner was at Lake Holbrook on 11/14 (BKP, MJ).

Snow Goose: High counts of 10,000+ were found north of Lamar on 11/17 (JT), and 9,000+ (with an additional 150 "blues") were found east of Manzanola on 11/2 (BKP, MJ, BD).

Ross' Goose: The highest count was 3,000(!) with the aforementioned flock of snow geese near Manzanola on 11/2 (BKP, MJ, BD). As usual, stragglers appeared all along the eastern plains and the Front Range. A vagrant near Salida on 11/26 (VT) was noteworthy, as were 5-6 birds in west-central Colorado from 11/17-24.

Eurasian Wigeon: Once again, 1-2 males were in Ft. Collins, beginning 10/22 (mob) <ND>.

Greater Scaup: One adult male was found on Big Johnson Res. in El Paso Co. on 11/9 (TL).

Oldsquaw: Two were at Pueblo Res. on 10/24 (BKP). There was one at Hamilton Res. on 11/3 (RAR), one at Riverside Res. on 11/10 (JH), 3 at the Rocky Ford sewer ponds on 11/10 (BKP, MJ), an imm. female at Big Johnson Res. on 11/17 (TL), an adult male and imm. at Horseshoe Lake from 11/18-26 (CH, mob), and an imm. male at Jim Hamm Pond on 11/29-30 (LAB, TL).

Surf Scoter: One female was at Chatfield SP on 10/9 (mob). One female was seen at Pueblo Res. on 10/19 (BKP, MJ), and 2 females were present on 10/24 (BKP). Up to 3 birds were at Big Johnson Res. from 10/28-11/17 (BG, RB, mob).

White-winged Scoter: Up to 5 stayed at Big Johnson Res. from 10/28-11/18 (BG, RB, mob). One female was at Parker Regional Park on 11/20 (mob).

Barrow's Goldeneye: An adult male was seen at Union Res. on 11/29 (TL).

Hooded Merganser: The highest count was 15 at Hamilton Res. on 11/3 (RAR, DAL).

Red-breasted Merganser: Six were at Hamilton Res. on 11/3 (DAL), where they are not usually found.

Osprey: The latest was seen on 11/2 at RFSWA (BKP, MJ, BD).

Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk: Higher than normal numbers were reported from the Eagle area (JMe), northern Colorado, and the west-central region.

Northern Goshawk: The only reports were 2 in the west-central region and 2 probables near Eagle.

Broad-winged Hawk: One adult was at Sugar City on 9/29 (BKP, MJ).

Merlin: One north of La Junta on 8/25 was very early (BKP, MJ, BD). Another early bird was seen near Timnath on 9/1 (DCE, DAL). The first west slope report was on 9/14.

Peregrine Falcon: Away from breeding strongholds in the western valleys, single peregrines were seen at Upper Queens Res. from 8/25-31 (BKP, MJ, BD), Chatfield SP on 9/29 (mob), Jackson Res. on 9/12 (JH), and Pueblo Res. on 10/1 (BKP). The latest was found on 11/8 along the Platte River in the Denver area. A peregrine seen on 9/15 at Hamilton Res. (RAR) had "missile-lock" on an osprey but did not "engage." The Chatfield SP bird did manage to bring down its target—a green-winged teal—and devour it.

Black Rail: One was discovered at a new location, RFSWA on 8/14-15 (JBH, CW, JK) <ND>. Up to 2 were heard at the more normal locale at the Bent's Old Ft. marsh from 8/25-31 (BKP, MJ, BD, DFO).

Black-bellied Plover: A bird at Upper Queens Res. on 11/16 was very late (BKP, MJ, BD).

American Golden-Plover: One did a "fly-by" at BLSP on 9/4 (TL), while another stopped at Jackson Res. on 9/12 (JH). Another was seen at Lake Meredith on 11/2 (PSS, CS, mob).

Mountain Plover: Near Walsh, an amazing 150 were observed on 9/15 (JT) and 200+ on 9/20 (JT). The last ones were seen on 10/2 (JT).

Black-necked Stilt: One adult and 3 juveniles from 8/10-9/2 at Grand Junction represent probably the **FIRST BREEDING RECORD FROM THE WEST SLOPE** (RL, CD).

Ruddy Turnstone: Rare and noteworthy anywhere in the state, it was amazing to find 2 on the west side of "the hill" where the species is considered accidental. An imm. was at the Colorado River Wildlife Area on 9/10 (RL, CD) <ND>, and another imm. was at the Clifton Sewer Ponds on 9/16-17 (RL, CD) <ND>.

Red Knot: One was at Timnath Res. on 8/21 (JM, mob).

Sanderling: The highest count was 36+ at Prewitt Res. on 9/14 (CH). The latest were 2 at Lake Henry on 11/16 (BKP, MJ, VZ).

Dunlin: Rare and late were 2 at Nee Noshe Res. on 11/16 (BKP, MJ, VZ), and an even later bird was at Hamilton Res. on 11/23 (RAR).

Short-billed Dowitcher: An adult was observed and heard calling at Metro Lake in Colorado City on 9/28 (DS*).

Red Phalarope: Two were found at Duck Lake south of Ft. Collins from 10/22-25 (DCE*, mob).

Pomarine Jaeger: A juvenile cruised Cherry Creek Res. from 11/19-27 (mob, TL*), and another worked Douglas Lake north of Ft. Collins from 11/25-30 (DAL, DCE*, mob). This was a great fall for the species.

Parasitic Jaeger: A light phase bird in sub-adult plumage was at Adobe Creek Res. from 9/8-11 (BKP, MJ, DN) <ND>.

Mew Gull: A winter adult was seen at Cherry Creek Res. on 11/11 (mob) <ND>.

Thayer's Gull: Reports seemed to come from all areas with good concentrations of gulls. The first were seen on 10/30 at Pueblo Res. (BKP, mob). All together 12 reports were received.

Glaucous Gull: Possibly only the **2ND RECORD FROM THE WEST SLOPE** was a bird at Highline SP from 11/4-8 (CD*, RL*). The species is accidental, at best, on the west slope.

Great Black-backed Gull: An adult was present from 9/18-11/26 at Cherry Creek Res. (mob).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Representatives of a great fall flight for the species were an imm. at Douglas Lake on 11/23-24 (WPL, JM, mob) <ND>, an imm. at Long Pond in north Ft. Collins on 11/24 (TL) <ND>, an adult at Roxborough Village on 11/24 (mob) <ND>, an imm. at Pueblo Res. on 11/26 (BKP*), up to 2 imm. at Douglas Lake on 11/27 (DAL, DCE, WPL, JFB) <ND> and one imm. at Union Res. on 11/28 (TL, LL, ED) <ND>.

Sabine's Gull: Three imm. were found at Chatfield SP on 9/25 (mob), representing the only northern Colorado reports. A good flight was experienced by birders farther south, as evidenced by one seen at VPSWA on 9/14 (MJ), a juvenile at Lake Henry on 9/19 (JK), one at Huerfano Res. on 9/22 (PSS, CS), and, at Pueblo Res., one on 9/26 (BKP) and 2 from 10/1-5 (BKP, mob).

Caspian Tern: One was seen at Lake Meredith on 9/11 (VT) and 2 were at Chatfield SP on 9/23 (mob).

Common Tern: Colorado birders have honed their carpal bar detection skills, as 25(!) individuals were reported from the east this fall. Not surprisingly, 22

were in the southeast with up to 6 at Pueblo Res. from 9/28-10/5. The first were seen on 8/4 at Lakes Holbrook and Cheraw (BKP, MJ). In the west, 2 first fall birds were seen on 9/25 at the Colorado River Wildlife Area (RL, CD) and one played "hookie" from southward migration from 10/23-29 at the same location (CD).

Marbled Murrelet: Only the **2ND LEGITIMATE RECORD** of the species in Colorado, one fell out of the sky and persisted at Cherry Creek Res. for one day only (11/1). This bird was seen first by Joey Kellner, who succeeded in rallying a few lucky birders to the spot to see it <ND>. Both Colorado sightings (the other was in Aspen in 1982) have been of the Asiatic race, B.m. perdix.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: The newly discovered first of this species for the state continued at Rocky Ford from the summer period until at least 11/24. Up to 12 birds are now being reported (mob*).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Though rare in the west, 2 birds remained at the Clifton Marsh Wildlife Area from the summer period until at least 8/11 (CD, RL). The last eastern plains report was of one at VPSWA on 10/13 (BKP).

Greater Roadrunner: One had trekked into northeastern Fremont Co. on 11/9 (KH, TL, RB).

Barn Owl: One was seen in Morgan Co. on 9/7 (JRI), and the latest report was one on 10/6 at Lake Henry (BKP, MJ).

Western Screech-Owl: Two were seen and 6 more were heard in Cottonwood Canyon on 8/31 (BKP, DFO). This number seems higher than would be expected.

Flammulated Owl: An injured bird was found on 9/23 in Estes Park (SRa).

Northern Pygmy-Owl: One was seen in Westcliffe on 8/16 (JP). Another was heard at Mt. Falcon Park on 10/3 (JBH).

Spotted Owl: One was heard near the west fork of the San Juan River in Mineral Co. on 8/12 (MB) <ND>.

Long-eared Owl: A rare mountain sighting came from the Estes Park area on 9/27 (SRa). One returned to a Wellington shelterbelt on 10/9 and up to 3 birds were there by the end of the period (SM, KMa). One was near Walsh on 11/11 (JT).

Boreal Owl: Four young were banded on Grand Mesa on 8/2 and 7 more on 8/8.

Northern Saw-Whet Owl: One answered a tape on the Uncompahgre on 9/20 (RL, CD). One was seen west of Loveland on 10/1 (CH) and 2 were located at RFSWA on 11/1 (RB).

Black Swift: Five were still in a nest at Black Cyn Falls in Ouray on 9/7.

Anna's Hummingbird: Only about the 7th state record, one imm. male sporadically visited a feeder west of Ft. Collins from 10/20-27 (JBo). Confirmation photos were taken by the homeowner. Have these been submitted to the records committee?

Calliope Hummingbird: There was one female north of San Isabel on 8/2 (BKP), another at Colorado City on 8/9 (CW), an imm. male near Grant on 8/14 (BKP), and 2 females near Grant on 8/23 (DCE, JM). Four were seen in the west-central region from 8/8-9/6.

Red-headed Woodpecker: One was near Mead on 8/23 (DCE) and was one near Wellington on 9/12 (SM, KMa), unusual locations.

Red-naped Sapsucker: One was wayward in Morgan Co. on 9/28 (JRi) and another east to the FLWE on 10/6 (BKP, MJ).

Three-toed Woodpecker: One female was seen at the Forbes Trinchera Ranch on 9/10 (DAL).

Alder Flycatcher: Tony Leukering reports banding 4 probable Alder's at BLSP between 8/22-26. Wing chord measurements were strongly suggestive but ultimately inconclusive.

Empidonax spp.: Banding data from BLSP from 8/20-9/27, per Leukering, is as follows:

- 13 "Traill's" (Willow/Alder complex)
- 14 Hammond's (which was 3-4x normal)
- 18 Dusky (a little more than half of normal)
- 9 Least (2-3x normal)
- 4 Cordilleran

Dave Leatherman's Empidonax on 10/18 in Ft. Collins was the latest report.

Least Flycatcher: Percival saw one in Ft. Lyon on 8/30 and one on 10/5 at Lake Henry.

Black Phoebe: The Uravan contingent along the San Miguel River consisted of 4-5 birds this fall, persisting as late as 9/8 (CD).

Eastern Phoebe: One on 10/20 at Vega SP was the **3RD WEST SLOPE RECORD** (RL*, KP*). One from 9/6-12 at VPSWA (BKP) was also unexpected.

Ash-throated Flycatcher: One wandered to Morgan Co. on 8/7 (JRi).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: One male of this rare Colorado species was seen at Ft. Lyon on 10/5 (MH, AV*, SBu, DAn).

Blue Jay: A throng of over 100 individuals near Walsh on 10/3 (JT) must have produced a raucous cacophony. More lonely was the one that remained stationed in Eagle through at least 9/8 (JMe).

Pinyon Jay: Despite a failure in the pinyon pine cone crop, the species was still found readily in the Eagle area in numbers of up to 100 birds. Irruptives appeared elsewhere. Sixty+ were seen west of Loveland on 10/5 (CH), and up to 40 were seen near Horsetooth Res. around 11/1 (DCE, DAL, WPL). Six flew by the BLSP banding station on 9/8 (TL), and up to 34 were present at VPSWA from 9/7-23 (BKP, mob).

Mountain Chickadee: Everyone reported lots of mountain chickadees this fall. They were "abundant" in the Grand Valley and common as far east as RFSWA, where 6 were seen through the period. A feeder at Wellington had 30-35 on 10/7 (SM, KMa). The eastward movement apparently began around 9/1 (WPL).

Bushtit: On 11/10, 9 had wandered into Leadville (TL) and 2 east to RFSWA (BKP, MJ). On 11/24, the RFSWA group had burgeoned to 60.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Scarce in the Eagle area compared with most years, they grew more common at lower elevations and farther eastward. They were downright common in the Ft. Collins area. Fourteen were banded at BLSP, "which is at least 10 more than usual" (TL). They were as far east as Morgan Co. (JRI) and the LCCW (JT), as well as Walsh (JT).

Rock Wren: This was an unusual fall for the species. Thirty-two were banded at BLSP (a mere 28 more than the previous high).

House Wren: An exceedingly dilatory individual was still at the Clifton Marsh Wildlife Area on 11/6 (CD, RL).

Winter Wren: Normally rare fall migrants, three were seen at BLSP during the period: one on 9/19 (TL), 10/9 (TL, KM), and on 10/22 (NG). Lake Henry had one on 10/5 (BKP, DSm), and Dixon Res. near Ft. Collins had one on 11/1 (WPL).

Sedge Wren: Ft. Lyon Marsh attracted one of these accidental and extremely reclusive migrants on 11/2 (BKP*, MJ*).

Eastern Bluebird: The western-most reports came from the Wellington area, where one bird showed up on 10/2 (SM, KMa), and Hamilton Res., where one was found on 10/6 (RAR). Another singleton showed at BLSP on 10/13 (TL, SH).

Veery: Much rarer in the fall than spring, one was at BLSP from 9/10-13 (TL, SH).

Wood Thrush: Two were banded at BLSP: one adult on 10/14 (TL, SH) <ND> and a youngster on 10/16 (SH, TL) <ND>.

Varied Thrush: One wandered to Pueblo on 10/11 (MJ) <ND>.

Sage Thrasher: A bird near BLSP on 11/18 (TL) was behind schedule.

Brown Thrasher: All cunctative birds: one in Ft. Collins on 11/9 (WPL, PDL) and three at RFSWA on 11/24 (BKP, MJ) .

Curve-billed Thrasher: One at Bonney Res. on 8/14 (AV*) must have been lost.

Bohemian Waxwing: A few began to show up by the end of the period. They appeared in Ft. Collins about 11/12 and in Pueblo 10 days later.

Solitary Vireo (Blue-headed subspecies): An extremely accidental bird (given current data), one was banded at BLSP on 9/12 (TL*).

Philadelphia Vireo: Casual at best, one was at VPSWA on 9/14 (BKP, MJ*, MH).

Red-eyed Vireo: Accidental in the west, one imm. was found along the Palisade River Trail on 9/23 (CD). In the east, others were found at Prewitt Res. on 9/1 (DCE, DAL), RFSWA on 8/30 (BKP), VPSWA on 9/15 (BKP), 4 at CVCG on 9/15 (DCE, DAL, JBo), and one in Loveland's Namaqua Park on 9/26 (CH).

Golden-winged Warbler: An imm. was banded at BLSP on 10/11 (NG, TL*).

Tennessee Warbler: One was at VPSWA on 9/1 (MJ).

Nashville Warbler: A good fall for the species was evidenced when one was found on 9/10 at VPSWA (BKP), one at Nee Noshe Res. on 9/21 (DSm), one near Wellington from 9/24-28 (SM, KMa), one at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal on 9/25 (HK*, UK), one 9/29 at Lake Henry (MJ), and one at the LCCW on 10/13 (JT). Six to seven birds were seen in the west-central region from 8/24-9/14.

Yellow Warbler: Colorado's **FIRST NOVEMBER RECORD** for the species occurred on 11/14 at the Pueblo Nature Center (BKP).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: BLSP had one on 9/8 (NG, TL). Jackson Res. had an imm. female on 9/12 (JH). Lake Henry hosted an imm. on 9/13 (BKP, DSm), and Lake Estes was visited by one on 10/2 (SRa).

Magnolia Warbler: One was seen at the Aiken Canyon Preserve on 9/2 (AV*,) and an imm. male was banded at Bonney Res. on 9/21 (TL, LN).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A male was found at Lake Henry on 10/5 (BKP, DSm), while another imm. male was banded at BLSP on 10/10 (TL).

Black-throated Gray Warbler: More than usual numbers were noted in the Eagle area (JMe). In the east, one showed up at the FLWE on 8/30 (BKP).

Townsend's Warbler: The word that best describes this species fall passage through Colorado in 1996 is inundation. Their occurrences spanned the period from 8/31-10/12. There were many reports of 6-8 birds per site per day,

constituting well over 100 individuals. The peak in the east seemed to be 9/15-9/25.

Black-throated Green Warbler: An imm. was at VPSWA from 9/20-22 (BKP, mob). Another was banded at BLSP on 10/2 (JBd, SDo). Another imm. was seen on 10/12 at Lake Holbrook (BKP, BD).

Blackburnian Warbler: A female was at VPSWA on 9/27 (BKP) <ND>.

Palm Warbler: One was at Lake Henry on 9/29 (BKP) and one was banded on 10/10 at BLSP (TL).

Blackpoll Warbler: One was at VPSWA from 9/16-17 (BKP) and one was at Fountain Creek Regional Park on 10/19 (AV*).

Black-and-White Warbler: Brandon Percival observed 3 this fall, all females, on 8/25 (LCCW), 8/30 (FLWE), and on 9/4 (Rock Canyon in Pueblo). One was at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal on 9/11 (HK, UK).

American Redstart: There were reports of 1-2 imm. males at VPSWA from 8/31-9/6 (MJ, BKP), an adult male at VPSWA from 9/4-6 (BKP), one in Pueblo on 9/12 (BD), an imm. male at VPSWA from 9/16-18 (BKP), and 3 at Namaqua Park on 9/26 (CH).

Prothonotary Warbler: J.B. Hayes found one at Arapahoe Lakes in Arapahoe Co. on 10/7. It was seen until 10/13 <ND>.

Ovenbird: One was at VPSWA on 9/10-11 (BKP).

Northern Waterthrush: It was a better than average fall for observations of this species. The first was seen on 8/18 at the RFSWA (BKP, MJ), where it was observed through 9/22. The west-central region had 5 from 8/23-9/5 (CD, RL). One was at Chatfield SP on 9/1 (mob), two were at Frog Pond in Colorado City from 8/31-9/2 (DS), one was at Nee Noshe Res. on 9/2 (MJ), one was banded at BLSP on 9/3 (TL), and one was at VPSWA on 9/10 (BKP).

Kentucky Warbler: Accidental in the fall, an adult at VPSWA on 10/17 (BKP*) was a terrific find.

Hooded Warbler: One discovered at Tabeguache Basin on the West Slope on 9/8 (RL*) may represent the **WEST SLOPE'S FIRST RECORD**.

Scarlet Tanager: One in Penrose on 9/25 (JWt) <ND> was outstanding. A second bird in Grand Junction from 11/11-13 (CD*, RL*) was an extremely late migrant and one of only a few West Slope records.

Pyrhuloxia: One from 8/1-9/20 at a feeder near Grant is only **COLORADO'S 2ND RECORD** (JJ, HJ, HK*, mob).

Lazuli Bunting: A very late bird was in Florence on 11/6 (MPd).

Swamp Sparrow: An impressive tally of 13 occurred at the Ft. Lyon Marsh on 11/2 (BKP, MJ, BD).

White-throated Sparrow: A regular fall migrant, the first appeared on 9/25 at CVCG (JH), though the main window of occurrence seems to be 10/12-20. As usual, several birds persisted through the period, mostly at feeders. The high count was 3, both at Lake Henry and in Pueblo.

White-crowned Sparrow: Of the 2 comments received about the species, both reported numbers much above average (Eagle area, Ft. Collins).

Harris' Sparrow: Reports of 27 birds were received beginning on 10/13.

Dark-eyed Junco: All races were more common than usual this fall. Eleven "white-winged" were banded at BLSP this fall, compared with 1-2 in most falls (TL).

Lapland Longspur: Distant from the epicenter of abundance on the northeastern plains were 3 birds at Pueblo Res. on 11/8 (BKP) and 12 west of Meeker on 10/27 (CD, RL, KP).

Rusty Blackbird: One on 11/24 near Eagle (JMe) was well misplaced. More expected was one near BLSP on 11/13 (TL, SH).

Great-tailed Grackle: Here are the numbers: 30-35 in the west-central region, 6 near Red Lion SWA on 9/15, two in Yuma on 10/11 (JRi), up to 70 near BLSP on 11/26, 45 near Kornman in Prowers Co. on 11/16, and 67 near Lake Cheraw on 11/24.

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch: One of the best flight years in recent memory was witnessed in the mountains and the east. They first appeared in Walden on 10/22 and in Leadville on 10/23. One at Jackson Res. on 11/18 (JH) was an accidental occurrence. Another at Lake Henry on 11/24 (BKP, MJ) was the first record for any county east of Pueblo Co. in the Arkansas Valley. The highest actual count was 650+ in Leadville on 10/27 (TL).

Black Rosy Finch: It was a good fall to see this species, as well, with 10 birds in the west-central region, a few near Eagle, up to 60 in Leadville, and a few in Walden on the early date of 10/26.

Brown-capped Rosy Finch: Apparently not as widespread as its counterparts, the only reports came from Eagle and Leadville. There were 350+ in Leadville on 10/27 and 480+ on 11/10 (TL).

Pine Grosbeak: Five out-of-place birds were at Two Buttes Res. on 11/13 (JT).

Purple Finch: On 11/17, Joe Himmel's stalwart determination to see his Colorado first for the species was rewarded when he looked out his Greeley window. Joe, I hate to do this but: <ND>.

Cassin's Finch: Observers in Ft. Collins began seeing this species at feeders on 10/18. The irruption into Ft. Collins was the best in 10-15 years (DAL). Estes Park observers also saw gobs of them.

House Finch: Jack Merchant reports "...more than ever before..." at his feeder in Eagle. This is not good news.

Red Crossbill: They were omnipresent in Ft. Collins through the period, and in Pueblo as many 12 frequented VPSWA from 9/22-11/22 (mob). Two highly nomadic birds were seen on 9/2 at the LCCW (BKP, mob).

Pine Siskin: Higher than average numbers were reported for this species, as well; 300+ near Wellington (SM, KMa) was the evidence.

Lesser Goldfinch: A very late bird was at a Ft. Collins feeder on 11/15-16 (WPL, PDL).

Evening Grosbeak: Reports from Eagle and Estes Park suggested lower than normal numbers at the higher elevations, but in Ft. Collins they were very common during November and hard to miss.

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Doug Allen (DAn), John Barber (JFB), Fred Baumgarten (FB), Murray Berner (MB), Jim Bradley (JBd), Jon Bowser (JBo), Lea Ann Brown (LAB), Steve Buettner (SBu), Richard Bunn (RB), Denver Field Ornithologists Field Trip (DFO), Coen Dexter (CD), Bob Dickson (BD), Sharon Dooley (SDo), Ellen Dunn (ED), David Ely (DCE), Nelda Gamble (NG), Bob Goycoolea (BG), Christian Hagen (CH), J.B. Hayes (JBH), Joe Himmel (JH), Ken Hollinga (KH), Mark Hullinger (MH), Scott Hutchings (SH), Mark Janos (MJ), Dave Johnson (DJ), Helen Johnson (HJ), Jim Johnson (JJ), Joey Kellner (JK), Hugh Kingery (HK), Urling Kingery (UK), David Leatherman (DAL), Liz Leukering (LL), Tony Leukering (TL), Rich Levad (RL), Bill Lisowsky (WPL), Paula Lisowsky (PDL), Joe Mammoser (JM), Kathy Martin (KMa), Steve Martin (SM), Jack Merchant (JMe), Karen Metz (KM), many observers (mob), Duane Nelson (DN), Larry Norris (LN), Jane Pederson (JP), Mark Pederson (MPd), Brandon Percival (BKP), Kim Potter (KP), Scott Rashid (SRa), Joe Rigli (JRi), Ron Ryder (RAR), Pearle Sandstrom-Smith (PSS), Dave Silverman (DS), Clif Smith (CS), David Smith (DSm), Janeal Thompson (JT), Van Truan (VT), Alan Versaw (AV), Jim Watts (JWt), Rosie Watts (RWt), Chris Wood (CW), Mark Yaeger (MY), Vic Zerbi (VZ).

Bald Eagle at the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, Fort Collins
by Jeff Stark



**HAWKS, EAGLES, AND PRAIRIE DOGS: POPULATION TRENDS
OF WINTERING RAPTORS IN BOULDER COUNTY, 1983-1996**

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Introduction

Since 1983, volunteers with the Boulder County Nature Association (BCNA) have counted wintering raptors along survey routes scattered throughout the plains of Boulder County. We initiated the surveys during a time when intensification of poisoning efforts by private landowners and government agencies appeared to threaten prairie dog populations in parts of Boulder County. Some of these poisonings occurred in the Boulder Reservoir area, where Ferruginous Hawks (*Buteo regalis*), Red-Tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) gathered each winter. We wanted to observe the effects of fluctuations in populations of prairie dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) on these and other species. We also hoped to locate wintering raptor concentration areas, such as Bald Eagle roosts, Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) roosts, and large prairie dog colonies, so that these areas could be protected.

Throughout the 13 years of our survey effort, we shared our data with the City of Boulder Open Space Department, the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department, and the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department. BCNA has worked closely with these agencies to protect wintering raptor habitat. A Bald Eagle winter roost along Left Hand Creek, near Haystack Mountain, has been designated as "critical wildlife habitat" in the County Comprehensive Plan. The City has created wetlands on the west side of Boulder Reservoir to provide nesting and foraging habitat for Northern Harriers and Short-Eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*). BCNA also helped the City of Boulder Open Space Department draft a prairie dog management plan that recognizes the importance of prairie dog-raptor associations and commits the City to monitoring prairie dog and raptor populations.

Despite these efforts, wintering populations of raptors in Boulder County appear to be declining. This decline is most apparent in southeastern Boulder County, where a proliferation of subdivisions and golf courses has replaced native grasslands. In the triangle of land bounded by the Boulder-Denver Turnpike (U.S. 36) to the north, the Foothills Highway (S.H. 93) to the west, and the Jefferson County Line to the south, numbers of Ferruginous Hawks and Bald Eagles seen on winter raptor surveys declined by more than 85% from 1993-1996 as development eradicated one prairie dog colony after another.

Methods

We initiated the Boulder Reservoir survey route (19 km) during the winter of 1983-84 (Figure 1). In 1989-90, we added three more survey routes: 1) the Rabbit Mountain Survey Route (43 km), 2) the South County Survey Route (32 km), and 3) the Interlocken Survey Route (19 km). Volunteers drove along each route on calm days 5-15 times each winter between 15 October and 15 March. Teams of 1-3 volunteers drove at a steady rate of 40 km/hr, stopping only when they observed a perched or flying raptor with the naked eye. Upon seeing a raptor, observers got out of the car, identified the raptor and any other raptors visible from the stopping point, and marked the raptors' locations on a 7.5-minute topographic map.

We did not attempt to control for biases related to having varying numbers of observers in each vehicle and conducting counts at different times of day under varying weather conditions. However, results obtained by a single individual who drove the Boulder Reservoir route at least four times annually from 1989-1995 differed little (less than 25% for most species during most years) from results obtained by groups of 1-3 different observers who drove the same route during the same period.

During the winters of 1984-85 and 1986-87, we mapped prairie dog colonies within all 2.6 km² sections of land intersected by the Boulder Reservoir Survey Route. We then estimated the percent of land within these sections that was

occupied by active prairie dog colonies. The Boulder County Health Department conducted county-wide estimates of prairie dog populations in 1985 and 1986 (Boulder County Health Department 1987). The City of Boulder Open Space Department analyzed aerial photographs to estimate the sizes of prairie dog colonies on Boulder Open Space during the years of 1937-1938, 1955, 1958, 1974, 1992, and 1993 (Margulies 1995). We compared the trends in prairie dog populations with trends in the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data for the Boulder CBC from 1950-1995 (National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts 1950-1995).

Results and Discussion

Prairie Dog-Dependent Species

The Boulder CBC data indicate that wintering raptors, particularly those that feed on prairie dogs, were less numerous in Boulder County during the 1950s and 1960s than they were during the 1970s to 1990s. Prior to 1970, Ferruginous Hawks, which hunt prairie dogs, and Bald Eagles, which scavenge prairie dogs from Ferruginous and Red-Tailed Hawks (Jones 1989), were rarely seen in Boulder County. On the 21 Boulder CBCs conducted from 1950-1970, observers reported a total of only one Ferruginous Hawk and no Bald Eagles. During the same period, observers on the Longmont CBC reported a total of only six Ferruginous Hawks and 16 Bald Eagles.

The scarcity of Bald Eagles on CBCs probably reflects the nation-wide decline in Bald Eagle populations throughout the first half of this century. The scarcity of Ferruginous Hawks is more difficult to explain. Initially, we suspected that prairie dog colonies must have been almost nonexistent in Boulder County during the 1950s and 1960s, but the City of Boulder Open Space Department's analysis of the 1955 and 1958 aerial photographs of the Boulder Valley suggest otherwise. The data show that prairie dog populations in the Boulder Valley were approximately as high in 1955 and 1958 as they were in subsequent years (Table 1). However, prairie dog populations fluctuate dramatically in response to plague epizootics and changing land uses, and data collected from six years in a 56-year period may not have provided an accurate picture of long-term population trends. Also, aerial photographs show where burrows were located but do not indicate whether burrows were occupied. Therefore, the low numbers of Ferruginous Hawks in the 1950s and 1960s may be explained by low prairie dog populations and/or they may reflect a region-wide population decline that was not otherwise documented.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, prairie dog colonies appeared to expand in many areas of Boulder County as government open space programs and private developers acquired agricultural lands on the periphery of expanding urban centers. According to Boulder County Health Department estimates, there were more than 200 active prairie dog colonies in Boulder County by 1985. Numbers of Ferruginous Hawks, Red-Tailed Hawks, and Bald Eagles seen on Boulder CBCs also increased throughout the same period (Figure 2).

During the first three years of the BCNA winter raptor survey, numbers of prairie dogs in the Boulder Reservoir region increased steadily (Table 2), and the numbers of Ferruginous Hawks, Red-Tailed Hawks, and Bald Eagles seen on the Boulder Reservoir survey route more than doubled (Table 2, Figure 3). Prior to 1984, few Bald Eagles had been sighted in the Boulder Reservoir area (Boulder County Audubon Society 1978-1995). During the winter of 1985-86, however, we observed groups of Bald Eagles perching around active prairie dog colonies. On several occasions during that winter, we watched as many as 10 Ferruginous Hawks and five Bald Eagles converging on a single prairie dog carcass. Many of these Bald Eagles roosted in a cottonwood grove on Left Hand Creek near the 47th Street bridge. During December, 1985, we counted 40 Bald Eagles at this roost.

In spring 1986, a sylvatic plague epizootic swept through the Boulder Reservoir-Haystack Mountain area, killing most of the prairie dogs in that region (Boulder County Health Dept. 1987). During the subsequent winter, sightings of Ferruginous Hawks on the Boulder Reservoir Survey Route declined by 70%, and sightings of Bald Eagles declined by more than 90% (Figure 3); it appeared that fewer than five Bald Eagles were using the 47th Street roost. Prairie dog populations in the Boulder Reservoir-Haystack Mountain area appeared to remain low from 1986-1989 and then increased from 1989-1996. Populations of wintering Ferruginous Hawks, Red-Tailed Hawks, and Bald Eagles rose sharply from 1989-1993, although Ferruginous Hawk numbers never recovered to the levels of the mid 1980s (Figure 3); by 1993, some of the prairie dog colonies on private land in the area had been converted into hay meadows or plowed under to make room for rural mansions.

In winter 1993-94, a second plague epizootic struck. Unlike the 1985-86 epizootic, which killed almost all the prairie dogs in the area, the 1993-94 outbreak left some prairie dog colonies intact. Numbers of Ferruginous Hawks, Red-Tailed Hawks, and Bald Eagles seen on the Boulder Reservoir Survey Route declined, but not nearly as steeply as in 1986-87. The 1993-94 plague epizootic affected prairie dog colonies throughout Boulder County and contributed to a county-wide decline in numbers of Ferruginous Hawks, Red-Tailed Hawks, and Bald Eagles (Figure 4). However, the effects of the plague outbreak on prairie dog populations only partially explain the decline in numbers of buteos and Bald Eagles observed on survey routes throughout the county (see Figures 5, 6).

In 1989, the small town of Superior annexed 1,570 acres south of the Boulder-Denver Turnpike (U.S. 36) and east of McCaslin Boulevard to facilitate construction of a massive housing development. The proposed development encompassed several hundred acres of active prairie dog colonies along Rock Creek, east of McCaslin Boulevard. These prairie dog colonies supported high concentrations of wintering raptors. During a field trip to this area in

November 1992, participants standing at the intersection of McCaslin Boulevard and Coalton Road counted more than 20 soaring hawks and eagles. By 1994, nearly all of the prairie dog colonies east of McCaslin Boulevard had been destroyed, and nearly 1,000 new homes had been constructed between U.S. 36 and the south county line. From 1993-94 to 1995-96, numbers of Ferruginous Hawks seen on the two survey routes passing through this area declined by more than 90%, from 0.32/km to 0.03/ km (Figure 5). From 1992-93 to 1995-96, numbers of Bald Eagles seen on these two survey routes declined by 85%, from 0.21/ km to 0.03/km (Figure 5). As was the case in the Boulder Reservoir area, Red-Tailed Hawks, which are habitat generalists, seemed less affected by the declines in prairie dog populations.

From 1992-1996, populations of wintering Ferruginous Hawks and Bald Eagles declined in eastern Boulder County (Figure 4). This decline began before the plague epizootic of 1993-94. We believe that urbanization and the concomitant destruction of prairie dog colonies are contributing to a dislocation of wintering raptors from Boulder County to other areas. The affect of this dislocation on populations of prairie dog-dependent species will depend on the quality of winter foraging habitat available elsewhere.

Vole-Dependent Species

We had expected wintering populations of Rough-legged Hawks (*Buteo lagopus*), Northern Harriers, and American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) to correspond more closely with vole population cycles than with prairie dog population cycles. Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Harriers, which prey predominantly on voles and other small mammals, occasionally may scavenge dead prairie dogs, but it is unlikely that prairie dogs constitute a large proportion of their winter diets. American Kestrels generally hunt birds, small rodents, and insects (Bent 1937, Craighead and Craighead 1956, Jones 1989).

Fluctuations in wintering populations of Northern Harriers corresponded with fluctuations in wintering populations of American Kestrels throughout most of the study period on all survey routes combined from 1989-1995 and on the Boulder Reservoir Survey Route from 1984-1995 (Figures 7, 8). Wintering populations of Rough-legged Hawks, however, varied independently of both Northern Harriers and American Kestrels. Since Rough-legged Hawks migrate over great distances, they may respond less predictably than American Kestrels and Northern Harriers to fluctuations in local prey populations. We did not conduct population surveys of small mammals in conjunction with our raptor counts, therefore it is difficult to know whether fluctuations in wintering populations of these three species were driven by fluctuations in vole populations or by other factors.

Wintering populations of Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Harriers, and American Kestrels appear to have remained steady or increased slightly from

1990-1996 (Figures 7, 8). Since wetlands receive considerably more government protection than do prairie dog colonies, we would expect vole-dependent species to fare better than prairie dog-dependent species in an urbanizing environment.

Conclusions

From 1970-1992, numbers of wintering Ferruginous Hawks, Red-Tailed Hawks, and Bald Eagles increased dramatically in Boulder County. Populations of other raptor species remained relatively steady throughout this period. Plague epizootics, which killed many prairie dogs within the County during 1985-86 and 1993-94, caused sharp, short-term declines in populations of wintering Ferruginous Hawks, Red-Tailed Hawks, and Bald Eagles. In the early 1990s, however, destruction of prairie dog colonies through urban development probably triggered a long-term decline in wintering populations of these prairie dog-dependent species.

As urbanization of Boulder County continues and destroys most remaining prairie dog colonies on private land, preservation of foraging habitat for wintering raptors will depend on the actions of government park and open space agencies. These agencies must develop creative strategies to maintain prairie dog populations while at the same time pursuing their stated goals of restoring native grassland vegetation and controlling weed infestation. Failure to maintain prairie dog populations will have a particularly detrimental effect on Ferruginous Hawks, who depend on prairie dogs for a major portion of their winter diet (Jones 1989).

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Table 1. Boulder Valley prairie dog populations estimated from aerial photographs¹.

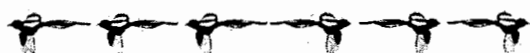
Coverage Area	Year					
	1937	1955	1958	1974	1992	1993
Total photo coverage (acres)	28527	63186	46335	74826	94321	9511
Land with burrows (acres)	130	3299	2553	1925	5390	3014
Land with burrows as percentage of total	0.4	5.0	5.2	2.5	5.7	3.8

¹ Margulies 1995

Table 2. Percent land occupied by prairie dogs and average number of wintering raptors per km on the Boulder Reservoir survey route, winters 1984-85 to 1986-87.

Winters	Prairie Dogs ¹	Red-tailed Hawks	Ferruginous Hawks	Rough-legged Hawks	Bald Eagles	Totals
1984-85	7.59	0.22	0.18	0.05	0.08	0.53
1985-86	8.24	0.29	0.26	0.06	0.11	0.72
1986-87	0.03	0.13	0.06	0.05	0.01	0.25

¹ Percent land occupied by active prairie dog colonies within 2.6 km² land sections intersected by survey route.



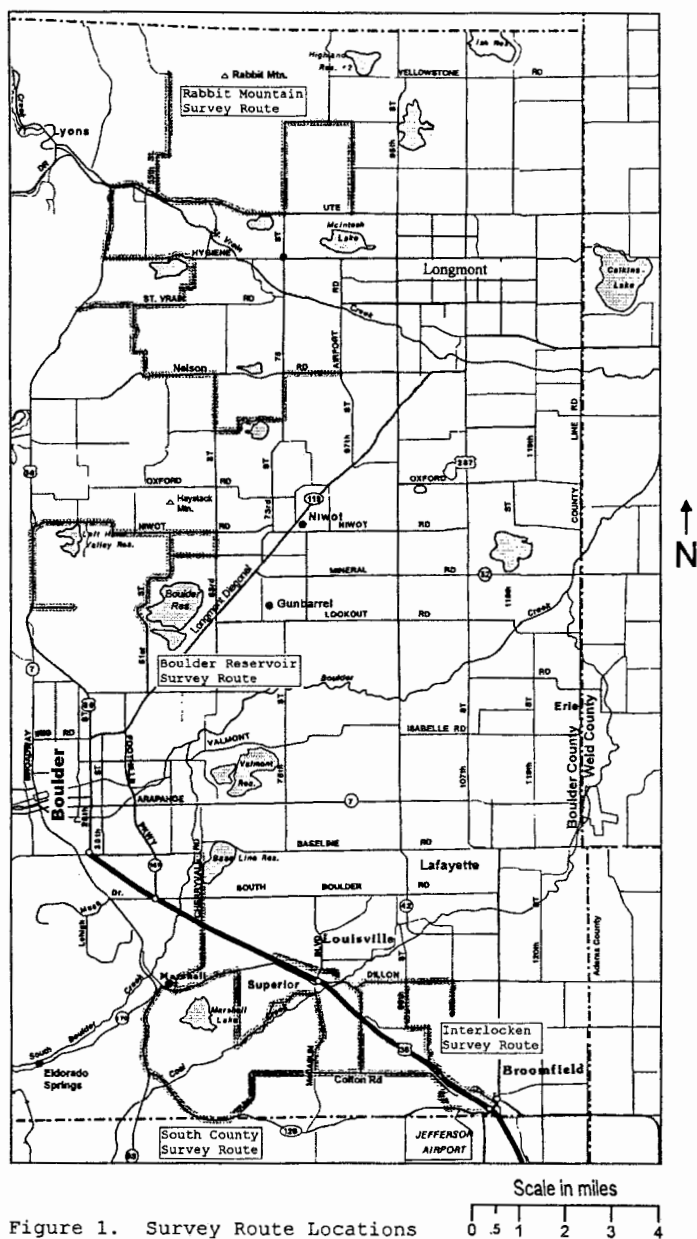
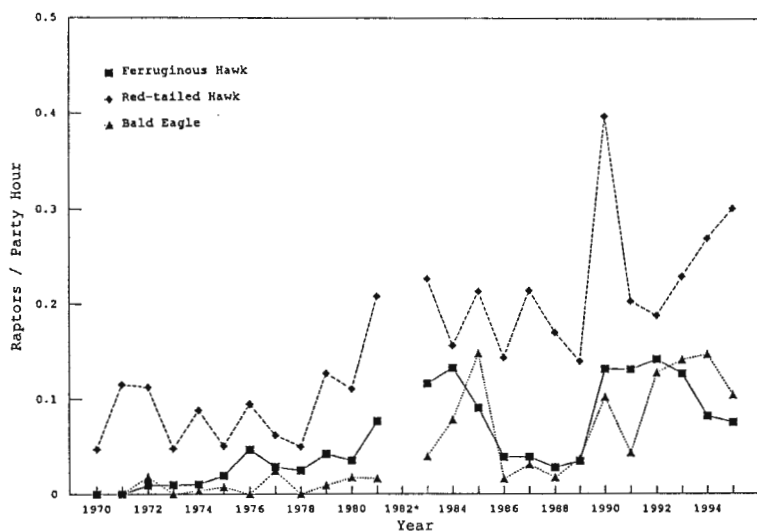


Figure 2. Boulder Audubon Christmas Count, Prairie Dog Dependent Species, 1970-1995



*Complete data are not available for the 1982 count.

Figure 3. Boulder Reservoir, Prairie Dog Dependent Species, 1984-1996

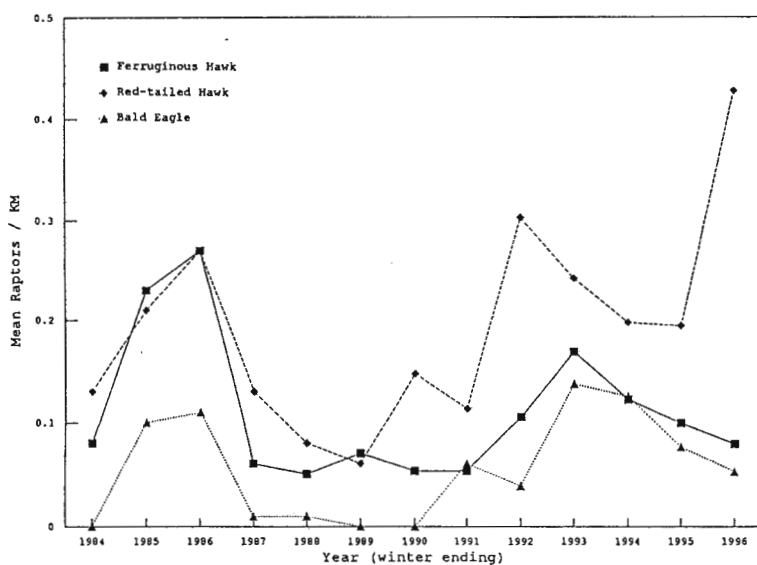


Figure 4. All Routes, Prairie Dog Dependent Species, 1990-1996

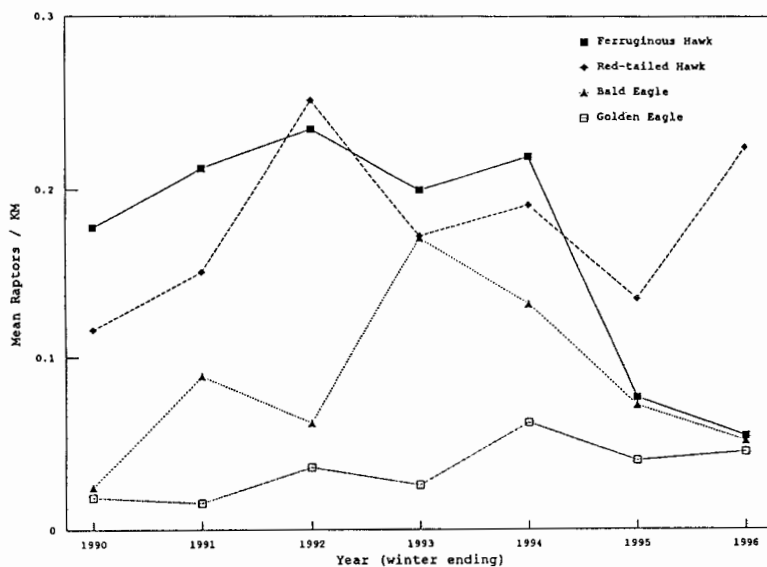


Figure 5. South County Routes, Prairie Dog Dependent Species, 1990-1996

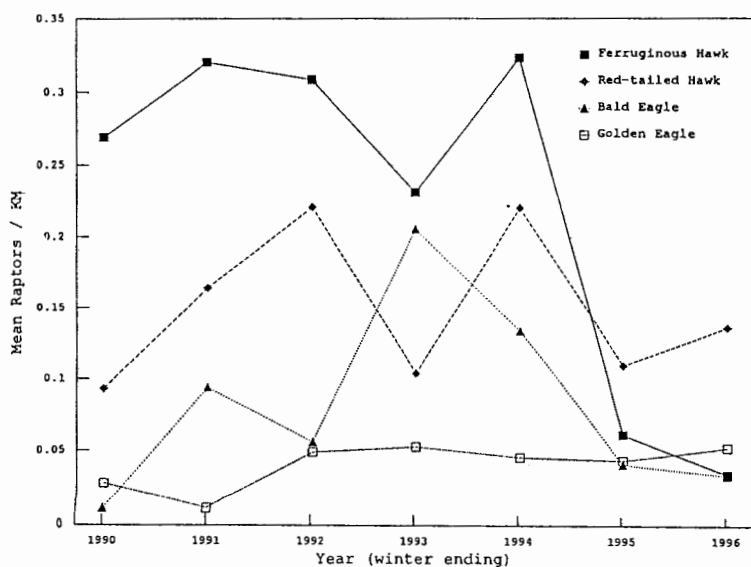


Figure 6. All Raptors, North County vs. South County, 1990-1996

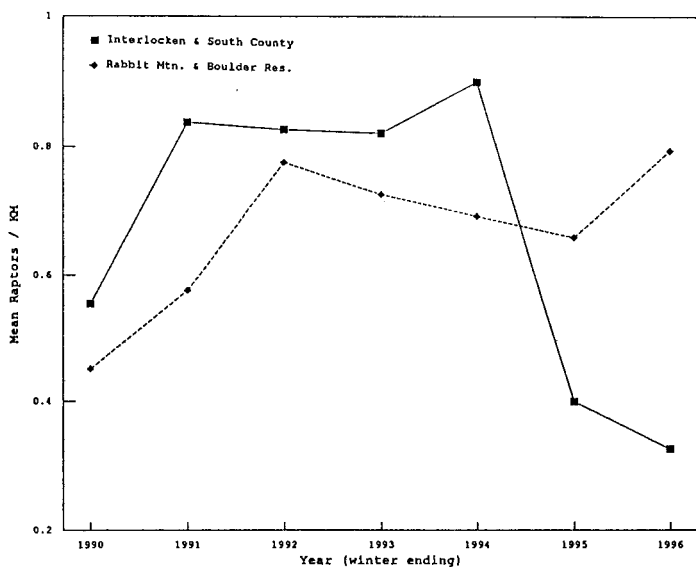


Figure 7. All Routes, Vole Dependent Species, 1990-1996

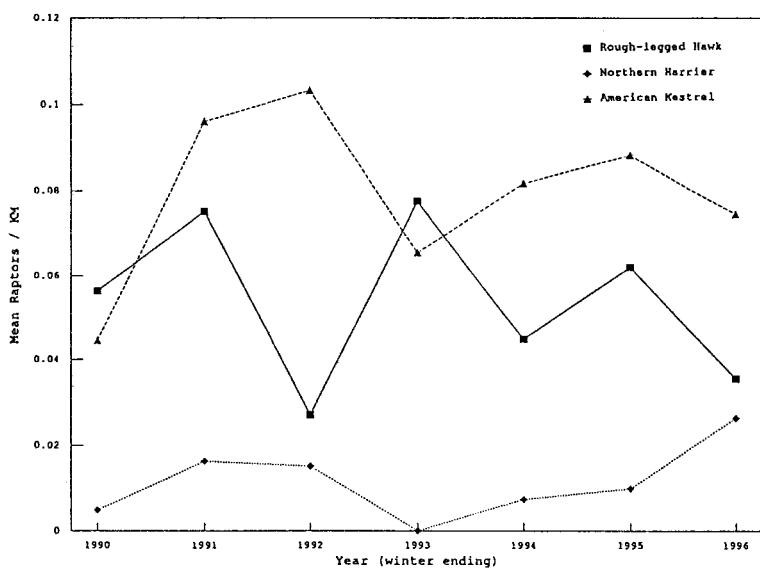
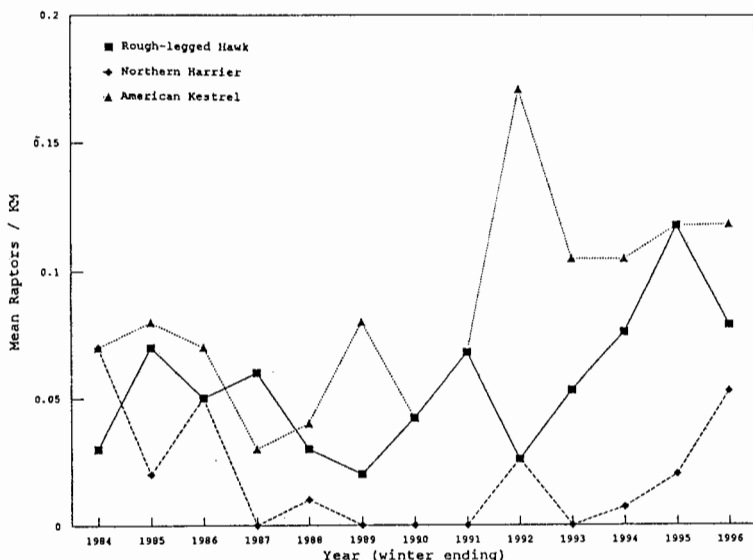


Figure 8. Boulder Reservoir, Vole Dependent Species, 1984-1996



NEWS FROM THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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The purpose of this note is to communicate with members of the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) regarding Records Committee (RC or "committee") matters.

General Information: The aim of the RC is to provide a repository for information regarding the records of rare or unusual birds within the state of Colorado. To perform this function, the RC solicits, collects, assembles, reviews, renders opinions, and permanently archives, in the Denver Museum of Natural History, all documentation concerning rare and unusual bird records. To perform its functions well, the RC must have good communication with the bird-watching and ornithology communities and make its mechanisms, publications and opinions widely known. The purpose of this memo is to further that end.

The RC provides a means by which sight records can be used as scientific data. The RC is not, nor does it intend to be, the final word in the rendering of any opinion concerning the correctness of any individual record. Its opinions should not be used as a basis for validating any particular personal record(s).

RC Reports: A word on how the annual RC Report is produced — The work of the RC Chair is secretarial in nature. It is time consuming and requires meticulous attention to detail. All records from a calendar year are assembled by the RC Chair at the end of the year. Then the records are accessioned, processed, and circulated in the first half of the following year. Recirculations of records and discussion at RC meetings are required to resolve the status of all records. It is only after this that the RC Chair can compile and write the report. This should help to explain why the annual RC Report is not produced and published until about one to one and a half years after the end of a given record year.

By the time you read this, you should have already seen the 1994 report of the RC. This was the last report produced by Bill Prather, the out-going chairman. My thanks to Bill for a diligent job, well done.

The 1995 report will appear in the next issue of the CFO Journal. Highlights from 1995 include one Brown Pelican, three Glossy Ibises, one Harris's Hawk, one Ancient Murrelet, one Alder Flycatcher, and one Swainson's Warbler. Potential first state records of Mandarin Duck and California Quail were not accepted. A possible Western Gull (and also a potential first state record) was accepted as a Great Black-backed Gull instead. Records of interest currently under review by the RC for 1996 include Brown Pelican, Glossy Ibis, Marbled Murrelet, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Common Ground-Dove, Alder Flycatcher, Dusky-capped Flycatcher (1986), Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (1991), Buff-breasted Flycatcher (1991), Black-capped Vireo, Hermit Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and Pyrrhuloxia.

RC News: New Bylaws for the committee were accepted by the CFO board in 1995 (Dickson, Janos, and Prather 1995). All current actions of the RC are conducted according to these bylaws. The CFO and the RC are discussing with the Denver Museum of Natural History the possibility of having them computerize the catalogue of bird records housed at the Museum. The computerized catalogue would be available to any interested ornithological organization or individual and would make it easier to sort, count and assemble reports concerning these records. The CFO will need both money and people to accomplish this. If any members are interested in assisting us with donations of money, time, or expertise, please contact me.

The committee's membership at the close of the 1996 was: Bob Dickson, Peter Gent, Mark Janos (Chair), Bill Lisowsky, Bob Righter, Dick Schottler, and Vic Zerbi. With the endorsement of the RC, Joey Kellner was appointed

by the C.F.O. Board at the end of 1996 to fill Bob Dickson's expired term. Joey will serve from 1997-1999.

RC Functions: All records reviewed by the RC are archived at the Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80205-5798. In addition, all written documentation, photographs, videotapes, and sound recordings are housed at the Museum and are available for public review. The committee solicits documentation on all species on its review list (Prather 1994), on unusual occurrences by date or location, and on species previously unrecorded in Colorado.

Submissions of Records: You may submit records in any number of ways. Many people use a pre-printed form. The advantage of this is that the form, if appropriate, lists all the details that normally should be included in a complete report. The disadvantage is that the space allotted may not be sufficient. You may always submit additional pages, narrative, copies of field notes, etc. Many people submit records in a more narrative form. This is also acceptable as long as all details pertinent to the observation are included. Please send any photos, slides, recordings, or other information with the record. A photograph really does say a thousand words. However, it is an addition to the record and does not substitute for a good written description. A sample Rare Birds Record form is included in this issue of the CFO Journal (centerfold). Remove it, copy it, and use it.

There are three primary ways in which bird records reach the RC Chair: 1) via direct mail to the RC Chair; this is the quickest, most direct, and best method; **please send documentation to Mark Janos, CFORC Chair, 10 Sedum Ct., Pueblo, CO 81001**; 2) the RC has an agreement with the Denver Museum of Natural History that any records submitted there will be forwarded to the current RC Chair; 3) finally, any records submitted to the regional editor(s) (currently Brandon Percival and Van Truan) of National Audubon Society Field Notes are forwarded to me as well. Sometimes I receive duplicates of records, but I would rather have duplicates than no record at all.

As of 1997 (for 1996 records), I have begun acknowledging receipt of records that will be circulated. The acknowledgment is in the form of a postcard from the RC Chair to people who submit records. The RC had discussed instituting this action for several years. Many of you (more than 50) have received the first such postcard from me. All future submissions also will elicit an acknowledgment from the RC Chair. I hope this system helps to communicate with people who submit records, acknowledge the receipt of records, and encourage the submission of records.

Review List: There is a "review list" of records for which the RC wishes documentation. The list is updated periodically. Basically, it consists of species that are listed as U (unusual) or R (rare) on the Colorado State checklist. The most recent review list appeared in "A Message from the CFO Records

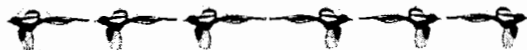
Committee Chair" (Prather 1994). If I receive a written record for a species not on the review list, the Bylaws allow two options: 1) circulate the record and vote on it (for an unusual location or season), or 2) do not circulate it, but instead file and archive it with the other records.

Conclusion: The RC really does want your written records. There are thousands of archived records now in the Denver Museum of Natural History. They serve as a valuable repository of information that researchers may use. Do not assume that the person who finds a rare bird will submit the record. It is OK to send in a report even if you did not originally find the rarity. If you wish, simply refer to or acknowledge the person who found the bird in your written record. All written reports and documentation for a record are assembled together under a single record. Thus your report may make the difference between acceptance or not.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of bird watchers, both casual and serious, who have submitted records over the years. The vast majority of records are reviewed and accepted, and they have a permanent and important place in the Denver Museum of Natural History. Written records are another source of information concerning avian distribution in Colorado, and they serve as an important adjunct to the specimen collections housed there.

Literature Cited

- Dickson, B., M. Janos, and B. Prather. 1995. Bylaws of the Colorado bird Records Committee of the Colorado Field Ornithologists. C.F.O. Journal 29:55-64.
- Janos, M. 1996. A review of some changes contained in the fortieth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds. C.F.O. Journal 30:56-59.
- Prather, B. 1994. A message from the CFO Records Committee Chair. C.F.O. Journal 28:155-157.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1996-97



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The table that follows shows the species data from 19 Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) conducted in Colorado during the 1996-97 CBC season. With this step, I hope that we can revive local publication of all Colorado Christmas Bird Count data. This report, and those to follow in later years, will not fully replace the reports found in the Christmas Bird Count issue of Audubon Field Notes. I trust, however, that the timeliness of this report and the side-by-side presentation of the table will prove valuable to Colorado birders.

Three of the counts shown (Mesa, Fountain Creek, and Monte Vista) do not operate under Audubon sponsorship. Therefore, the data on these counts normally would be available only on a very limited basis. Yet, each of these counts abides by the Audubon rules (with the exception of the participation fee) and should be included in any complete report of CBCs from the state.

Unfortunately, not all counts conducted during 1996-97 are shown. The table only includes those counts for which I was able to retrieve the data. Several people helped me in this endeavor by sending me the data from one or more counts. I offer a big "thanks" to all of you who made that effort. I am cautiously optimistic about receiving data from all counts within Colorado next year. Certainly, this publication will serve to make many more people aware that such an effort is underway. Participation is enthusiastically encouraged. Watch for an announcement in a subsequent issue of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* that asks people to submit data for the 1997-98 CBCs.

I apologize that several counts are missing dates and/or party hour data. With better planning on the front end, I should be able to correct these omissions in future years. After a few comments about the design of the table, I will leave the reader to draw his or her own conclusions about the data. The first comment concerns those rows where the "species" entry is indented. The numbers in these rows are included in the total for the species shown above. For example, where Dark-eyed Juncos were broken down by race I put the total number of juncos reported in the "Dark-eyed Junco" row. In the indented rows below, the numbers for each separate race are given. The race (or age) numbers do not, of course, always add up to the species total since individuals frequently are not identified according their race (or age). Also, I moved the last row of the table out of taxonomic order. Both the Pueblo Reservoir and Grand Junction counts reported a Mute Swan. Placing this species at the end of the table rather than in its taxonomic place indicates only that both birds

were of suspicious origin. Finally, please note that the column arrangement reflects a somewhat arbitrary geographic organization. The Mesa County (Grand Junction and Mesa) counts occupy the first two columns. The next four columns (Fountain Creek, Pikes Peak, Black Forest, and Colorado Springs) are all counts from the Colorado Springs area. The next two columns (Great Sand Dunes and Monte Vista) represent the San Luis Valley. The next three columns (Greeley, Rawhide, and Estes Park) all come from the northern Front Range area. The next four columns (Denver Urban, Denver, Barr Lake, and Boulder) represent the Denver metropolitan area. Finally, the last four columns (Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo, Westcliffe, and Lake Isabel) come from the Pueblo area.

Enjoy browsing the data. Please feel free to send me any suggestions you might have regarding the reporting of CBC data in future years. I already have several ideas for how things might be done better in future years, but I suspect I could learn a lot more through listening to the input of others. I should add, though, that an in-state review panel would be nice; surely we know more about what species need documentation (and should be better able to evaluate documentation submitted) than an out-of-state group would.

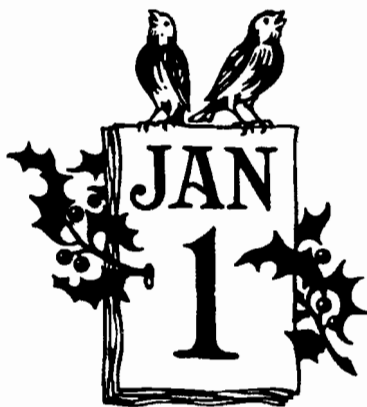


Table 1. Christmas Bird Count data for 19 Colorado counts, 1996.

Count Date	22	1	26	1	29	21	4	
Party Hours		23	58	42				35
Species	101	61	82	64	39	87	36	47
Species	GrJu ¹	Mesa	FoCr	PiPe	BlFo	CoSp	GrSD	MoVi
Pacific Loon								
Common Loon								
loon sp.								
Pied-billed Grebe	11		1					
Horned Grebe								
Eared Grebe								
Western Grebe								
Clark's Grebe								
D-c Cormorant								
Great Blue Heron	19		6			1		4
B-c Night Heron								
Tundra Swan								
G. W-fronted Goose	4							
Snow Goose	3					1		
White morph	3							
Blue morph								
Ross's Goose	3							
Canada Goose	6522	260	671	2	144	1661		616
Wood Duck	168					2		
Green-winged Teal	14	10	108			7		13
Mallard	5183	308	346	58		1176		967
Northern Pintail	18		3			12		
Northern Shoveler	CW		8			59		
Gadwall	22	12	78			42		
American Wigeon	134	1	34	1		435		
Canvasback	2	1	9			1		
Redhead	41	14	10			5		

	29	22	1	21	28	22	21	29	28	4
	51	77				299				
50	66	50	85	101	68	100	99	71	49	61
Grly	Rawh	EsPa	DeUr	Dnvr	BaLa	Bldr	PuRe	Pblo	Wclf	Lals
							1			
							2			
							1			
	6		1	9		25	31	6		
	11					8	6			
							1			
	40			2		8	28			
						1	1			
						5	9			
3			4	26	4	23	17	3	1	
			10					1		
CW										
			1			3				
1	6		2	4	2			1000		
					1					
					1					
1	1				1					
11288	15867		12022	10815	6420	29409	28	1912	30	58
			38	39		3	81			
	3		267	148	59	44	19	24		13
1381	4511	254	2501	1668	568	3550	404	264	14	11
	56		56	83	344	58	5	6		
2	12		1349	259	119	79	26	2		
CW	18		490	112	117	60	135	46		
2	59	2	236	43	83	433	180	44		
	20		11			23		1		
1		1	22	40		113	33	70		

Count Name	GrJu	Mesa	FoCr	PiPe	BlFo	CoSp	GrSD	MoVi
Ring-necked Duck	185	35	44			31		
Lesser Scaup	35	20	15			15		
White-w Scoter								
Common Goldeneye	105	20	27			10	12	
B. Goldeneye		15						
Bufflehead	26	15						
Hooded Merganser	6	5	3			5		
Common Merganser	24	50	3			3	12	
Red-b Merganser	CW							
Ruddy Duck	4	5						
Osprey								
Bald Eagle	25	11	5	1		1	2	22
adult	20	7	3				2	
immature	5	4	2					
Northern Harrier	22	1	26	1	1	19	1	35
Sharp-s Hawk	14		1	1		2		
Cooper's Hawk	11		1	2		3		
N. Goshawk	1					2		
Red-tailed Hawk	69	9	81	10	2	54		23
Harlan's	1					1		
Ferruginous Hawk	4		3			4		
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	5	3	8	1	CW	18
buteo sp.				1				
Golden Eagle	24	1	4	3	3	3	2	5
adult	20	1	3				2	
immature	4		1					
American Kestrel	57	3	47	2	2	20	2	15
Merlin	3		2					1
Prairie Falcon	9		5	1		5		4

Grly	Rawh	EsPa	DeUr	Dnvr	BaLa	Bldr	PuRe	Pblo	Wclf	Lals
		1	173	73	12	99	57	65		
	57		12	26		9	18			
						1				
25	34	30	242	182	22	143	780	42		
			1	2						
	106		10	110	2	13	71			
	13		55	45	1	54	22	48		
42	189	3	123	687	9	274	69	82		
	1					6				
	125			2		1				
				1						
6	4	1	30	18	18	46	20	3	3	2
4	2		16				17	3		
2	2		13				3			
12	17		8	2	10	18	17	8		2
			13	3	1	6	5	3		
			3	1		4	3			
		1				1				
12	4	1	39	81	27	94	54	21	12	23
				3	1	3		1		
3	2		12	12	20	17	12	2		1
7	18		7	5	2	4	3	3	12	3
4			4	2						
1	5	3	2	10		25	5		6	
1	5						2			
							3			
49	16		30	64	44	63	12	16	3	7
1			3	1	1	2	2	1	1	
3	1	1	2	6	4	7	1	3	1	

Count Name	GrJu	Mesa	FoCr	PiPe	BlFo	CoSp	GrSD	MoVi
Peregrine Falcon	1							
falcon sp.								
Ring-n Pheasant	27							4
<i>Blue Grouse</i>								
Wild Turkey		23				47		
Scaled Quail			21			1		
Gambel's Quail	243							
Virginia Rail	1	5	7			2		1
Sora			1					
American Coot	162	50	4			8		
Sandhill Crane	1							
Killdeer	21		7		1	8		2
Common Snipe	2		5			11	CW	2
Mew Gull								
Ring-billed Gull	CW		3			5		
<i>California Gull</i>								
Herring Gull								
Thayer's Gull								
L. Black-backed Gull								
<i>Great Black-b Gull</i>								
gull sp.								
Band-tailed Pigeon				4				
Rock Dove	1115	100	100	84		1010		50
Mourning Dove	894					2		
G. Roadrunner								
Barn Owl	5							
E. Screech-Owl								
W. Screech-Owl	17							
Great Horned Owl	3	2	8	1		5		17

Grly	Rawh	EsPa	DeUr	Dnvr	BaLa	Bldr	PuRe	Pblo	Welf	Lals
			1							
				1						
1			7	4	4			3		
				3		5				
<hr/>										
				139						
							451	2		
			14	9				1		1
<hr/>										
16	48		109	407	1	255	276	112		
3			23	14	19	2	16	2		
	7		5	9	14	7	1			2
							1			
2	79		855	369	12	373	3226	346		
			1	2			10	3		
	5		7	52		22	47	17		
				3			2			
				1						
							1			
<hr/>										
			8							
220	68	42	1661	686	366	552	90	506	30	18
			19	2	17	7	57	56		
<hr/>										
										1
			1							
			1			2				
1	5	3	21	14	8	14		4		1
<hr/>										

Count Name	GrJu	Mesa	FoCr	PiPe	BlFo	CoSp	GrSD	MoVi
N. Pygmy-Owl		1		1				
Long-eared Owl	3							
Belted Kingfisher	16	4	6	1		4		2
L. Woodpecker	2		2					
L-b Woodpecker			1					
D. Woodpecker	14	2	22	18	8	17	2	3
H. Woodpecker	6	1	3	15	7	11	4	3
N. Flicker	190	18	81	25	3	131	3	8
Red-shafted	190	18	80	24			3	
Yellow-shafted								
Red x Yellow			1	1				
Horned Lark	313		194		30	1	14	278
Gray Jay		3		17				
Steller's Jay		5		224	40	168	29	
Blue Jay			23	22	4	131		2
W. Scrub Jay	16	33	1	83	6	195	8	
Pinyon Jay	150	6					143	
Clark's Nutcracker				88		23	38	1
Black-b Magpie	840	9	291	170	36	680	24	145
American Crow	978	60	65	235	81	437	5	153
Ch. Raven			5					
Common Raven	114	33	34	77	3	36	12	66
Black-c Chickadee	155	23	217	79	12	262		28
Mountain Chickadee	57	34	17	409	61	200	82	9
BC x Mtn. Chickadee						1		
Chickadee sp.								
Plain Titmouse	15	2		2		5		
Bushtit	123		50	20	9	118	20	38
Red-b Nuthatch	4		2	111	20	133	2	

Grly	Rawh	EsPa	DeUr	Dnvr	BaLa	Bldr	PuRe	Pblo	Wclf	Lals
		2		3						
			4	1		1				
2	2		26	42	11	20	18		1	
								1		52
1	6	3	23	61	5	66	9	1	2	10
		14	2	18	1	35	1	1	4	9
33	11	1	250	215	28	222	69	14	5	33
31				215	27		69		5	33
1					1					
1										
214	152		45	143	1167	41	764	267	12	
		1				2			1	
	2	69		152		261			33	152
29	5		42	53	14	62	8	12		137
	7			206		27	3		2	98
						45			185	20
	CW	16		2		3			29	8
71	16	119	997	915	170	916	391	91	47	154
295	2	77	672	1277	6	942	191	32	7	279
	4	111		94		366	83	21	57	55
28	13	17	231	523	59	437	108	14		135
3	5	167	22	282	3	383	23	8	103	191
	1									
							14			
			1	20			40			
3		20	32	55	2	45	5		1	39

Count Name	GrJu	Mesa	FoCr	PiPe	BlFo	CoSp	GrSD	MoVi
White-b Nuthatch	46	1	11	49	22	43	16	5
Pygmy Nuthatch				107	30	50	7	
Brown Creeper	15		8	10	2	18	3	
Rock Wren	CW					1		
Canyon Wren	3	1		6		3		
Bewick's Wren	8	1						
Marsh Wren	2	1				1		7
American Dipper		7	1	6				
Golden-c Kinglet			1	18		8	5	
Ruby-c Kinglet	7			1				
Eastern Bluebird						1		
Western Bluebird	15							
Mountain Bluebird	330					7		
T. Solitaire	13	24	11	110		99	62	12
Hermit Thrush	CW	1						
American Robin	1515	41	90	335		1080	38	7
N. Mockingbird	CW							
Sage Thrasher								
Brown Thrasher								
Curve-b Thrasher								
American Pipit	1		1					
Bohemian Waxwing	20			283				
Cedar Waxwing	371	5	10	12		58		
waxwing sp.								
Northern Shrike	3	5	12	7	2	11	1	2
Loggerhead Shrike	1		2		1			
European Starling	14876	51	1219	284	173	1477	15	473
Yellow-r Warbler	36							

Griy	Rawh	EsPa	DeUr	Dnvr	BaLa	Bldr	PuRe	Pblo	Wclf	LaIs
	1	17	2	34	1	76	7	1	27	36
	2	166		83		218			74	102
	CW	3	18	22	3	53	8	1	4	7
						2				
				11		7				2
							13	4		
			1	1	1		2	1		4
	4	12		13		8			2	1
				4		30				
			1	1		1				
					1	1	62			51
	2	6	79	20	105	121	91	5	18	39
525	10	15	395	401	43	828	291	256	8	38
					1					1
							1			
	1									1
							10			
							4			
				4		226				
		150	13	4		122	6	111		1
									40	
	4	3	2	12	8	7	5		8	4
							7		1	
3710	380	31	7163	2477	3552	2992	2554	3207	218	221
			1			2	3	1		

Count Name	GrJu	Mesa	FoCr	PiPe	BlFo	CoSp	GrSD	MoVi
Audubon's	36							
Myrtle								
Northern Cardinal								
Spotted Towhee	28	1	8	139	5	201	2	
Canyon Towhee			7	1				
A. Tree Sparrow	30		528	28	5	543		15
Song Sparrow	158	17	375	30		153	1	41
Lincoln's Sparrow			1					
Swamp Sparrow								
White-t Sparrow	1							
White-c Sparrow	462		189	2		48		
Harris's Sparrow	2		3					
Sparrow sp.								
Dark-eyed Junco	1108	45	612	756	105	732	201	22
White-winged			23	89		80		
Slate-colored	51		97	103		39		
Oregon/Pink-s	919		244	149		248		
Gray-headed	138		13	258		155		
Lapland Longspur			8					
Red-w Blackbird	2305	701	2511	33	25	590	40	6
W. Meadowlark	97		46			10	CW	35
Yellow-h Blackbird								
Rusty Blackbird								
Brewer's Blackbird	339		39		5			
Great-tailed Grackle	20							
Common Grackle								7
Brown-h Cowbird	65					1		
G-c Rosy Finch				212	25			
Hepburn's				1				

Grlly	Rawh	EsPa	DeUr	Dnvr	BaLa	Bldr	PuRe	Pblo	Welf	Lals
							2			
							1			
			1	1						
	2	1	1	19	1	14	3			39
							140	1		2
363	120	2	77	186	120	201	61	101	16	40
95	7	1	77	211	116	91	165	28	4	26
							1			
				3			1			
				1				3		
35			36	46		43	428	121		16
					3	4	1			
143										
76	78	59	290	974	44	1240	862	64	130	323
	4	17	14	72	3	63	2			5
28	32	18	53	165	6	247	58			89
21	42	9	166	351	35	225	448			55
			5	199		159	33			27
					35					
2387			568	1186	2063	1664	631	3294	1	241
77	3		63	44	119	44	15	62		2
					4					
							1			
740			65	4	56	3	103	174		
					71					
6		1			1				1	
					4		2	14		
	29	106		110		72			103	4

Count Name	GrJu	Mesa	FoCr	PiPe	BIFo	CoSp	GrSD	MoVi
Black Rosy Finch	CW	65		2				
B-c Rosy Finch				28				
rosy finch sp.								
Pine Grosbeak				17		2		
Purple Finch								
Cassin's Finch	14	1	11	224	19	174	5	
House Finch	1344	8	353	221	28	950	4	363
Red Crossbill				78	56	114		
Common Redpoll			1					
Pine Siskin	95		263	253	101	174		
Lesser Goldfinch						2		
American Goldfinch	324		127	15		119	100	20
Evening Grosbeak	624	171	24	138	12	264		
House Sparrow	1346	12	174	134		592	5	1719
Mute Swan	1							

¹GrJu = Grand Junction
Mesa = Mesa
FoCr = Fountain Creek
PiPe = Pike's Peak

BIFo = Black Forest
CoSp = Colorado Springs
GrSD = Great Sand Dunes
MoVi = Monte Vista

Gry = Greeley
Rawh = Rawhide
EsPa = Estes Park
DeUr = Denver Urban

Grly	Rawh	EsPa	DeUr	Dnvr	BaLa	Bldr	PuRe	Pblo	Wclf	Lals
		150							100	
		100							60	
		33		1		10			1	
										2
	72	139		133		222	3		4	261
168	44	73	2249	1955	399	1019	337	100	1	198
	6	67	37	55		92	6		41	32
10										
		87	35	157		92	418	5	1	213
										1
42		1	32	92	29	97	205	1		23
		123		225		319	20		5	230
1624	216	6	2456	1171	1004	694	709	368	205	45
							1			

Dnvr = Denver

BaLa = Barr Lake

Bldr = Boulder

PuRe = Pueblo Reservoir

Pblo = Pueblo

Wclf = Westcliffe

Lals = Lake Isabel

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY IN COLORADO

Dick Coe
USDI National Park Service
Rocky Mountain National Park
Estes Park, CO 80517

The second Saturday in May is the annual celebration of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), instituted by Partners in Flight in 1992. The mission of Colorado Partners in Flight (COPIF)—the Colorado working group of Partners in Flight—is to promote and implement conservation and management efforts to protect all Colorado birds, and IMBD plays an important role in helping to achieve this. IMBD activities have been growing steadily every year across the country as more organizations and individuals confirm through personal observation and research that there are significant declines in many of the 340 neotropical species that return from the tropics to breed in North America. Colorado is home to about 180 neotropical species, many of which are declining, including Colorado's state bird—the Lark Bunting.

At more than 40 locations across Colorado, public agencies, non-profit groups, and countless teachers provide IMBD activities, such as bird festivals, walks, presentations, counts, banding demonstrations, poster and identification contests, bird house building, and advice on landscaping to improve bird habitat. COPIF provides a state coordinator for these IMBD events. In 1995 and 1996, IMBD was celebrated around Colorado by many COPIF partners, including Colorado State Parks, Rocky Mountain National Park, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Jefferson County Open Space Parks, three chapters of the National Audubon Society, City of Boulder Open Space, Denver Field Ornithologists, Fountain Creek Regional Park, Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Department, The Nature Conservancy, and by U.S. Forest Service staff in seven districts. About 64 million Americans feed, watch, photograph or study birds, and they are a significant resource that can help turn the tide in the decline of these bird species. Educating not only Americans, but the millions of people who live on the wintering grounds in Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean, is a must.

Partners in Flight/Aves de las Americas/Partenaires D'envol (PIF) is an international migratory bird conservation initiative. It was launched by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in 1990 in response to declining populations of neotropical migratory birds. It is a partnership of federal, state and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and individuals, with working groups at the state, regional, national, and international levels. PIF efforts have focused on areas of information and education, monitoring, research, and international cooperation. Currently, a national effort is under way to develop a North American Bird Conservation Plan, in which Colorado will take part.

COPIF came into being in 1991. It meets 3-4 times a year in various locations for the purpose of disseminating information, exchanging ideas, discussing proposals, coordinating statewide monitoring efforts, facilitating IMBD, and much more. Most importantly, it provides a mechanism to keep partners informed helping them work together on bird conservation in Colorado. Active players in COPIF include the Bureaus of Land Management, Fish & Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Natl. Park Service, Dept. of Defense, U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Division, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado State Parks, local parks/open space departments (Boulder, Jefferson Cty., El Paso Cty.), Colorado Bird Observatory, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, American Birding Association, Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver Field Ornithologists, Colorado Field Ornithologists, university researchers, and other dedicated individuals. If you have questions about COPIF, please contact COPIF Chair, Carol Beidleman, at (970) 586-3776, or by e-mail at BeidlemanC@aol.com. She will be glad to add your name to the COPIF mailing list on request.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS OF THE *JOURNAL OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS*

The *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 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. In addition, the Editor will send a more detailed set of instructions upon request.

Contributors are encouraged to send electronic versions of their manuscripts, tables, and graphs via e-mail attachment or on a 3.5" floppy diskette. Preferred software is WordPerfect (DOS or Windows 5.0-6.1), MS Word (DOS or Windows 7.0 or earlier), Quattro Pro, or ASCII text format. Please include a cover letter that indicates which software packages and versions/operating systems you have used. After the article is published, the diskette and artwork/photographs will be returned to you. If you send only a hard copy manuscript, then please double-space the text (disk copy manuscripts do not need to be double-spaced); hard copy manuscripts will not be returned unless requested. Black & white and color artwork or photographs (slides, prints, or negatives) can be submitted as originals or duplicates, or they can be scanned TIF images on a 3.5" diskette or compact disk; please send information about photos and art (e.g., what does it depict; type of camera/lens/film used; where it was taken; what art medium was used). Generally, all photographs and artwork are published in black & white. Authors, (and photographers, artists) may receive one extra copy of the *Journal*. Additional copies are \$3.00 each. Authors needing additional copies of their articles should contact the editor prior to printing.

Send manuscripts, photographs, drawings, and questions to Cynthia Melcher, 4200 North Shields, Fort Collins, CO 80524. **Home phone:** (970) 484-8373; **work phone:** 970/491-5146; **e-mail:** cynthia@NREL.ColoState.EDU; **FAX:** 970/491-1965.

Deadlines for submissions are: December 1 for January issue, March 1 for April issue, June 1 for July issue, and September 1 for October issue.

HOW TO SUBMIT RECORDS TO THE Colorado Bird Records Committee

Standard reporting forms are available in the "Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong Study" and from the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 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 because completion of all sections ensures that 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; or send them to Mark Janos, Records Committee Chair, 10 Sedum Ct., Pueblo, CO 81001.

