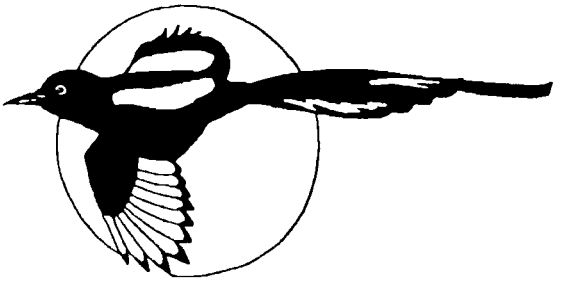
Journal of the

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 changes of address to Colorado Field Ornithologists, c/o Raymond Davis P.O. Box 481, Lyons, CO 80540.

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Heidi Bucknam.....Front Cover

Black Swifts: During the 1997 breeding season, Ellery McClintock photographed this pair of Black Swifts with their nestling at Box Canyon, Ouray, Colorado. Sue Hirshman observed this pair of swifts mating and witnessed their nestling fledge. See accompanying article on page 53.

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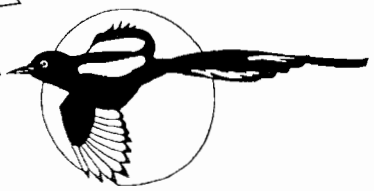
Errata in Vol. 32, No. 1: In the Errata on page 2, change "Lynn Willcockson, Ven Remsen (center), and Patty Echelmeyer at Patty's House in Denver, July 2, 1997" to "Lynn Willcockson, Van Remsen (center), and Patty Echelmeyer at Patty's House in Denver, July 2, 1997." On page 21, change "(see page 18)" to "(see page 22)." In the membership list, the 1 in Gail Evans' street address hung up at the end of Gail's name, Sue Kenney's last name hung up on the end of the line above, and the last digit in John Redall's zip code slid over to his phone number. On page 42, change "thy're" to "they're." On page 43, change "ations" to "actions."

REMEMBER!
THE 1998 CFO CONVENTION
IS MAY 8-10!



Brochures and registration forms for the 1998 CFO Convention were sent to all CFO members in late February. If for some reason you did not receive yours, if you know of a non-member who would like a registration packet, or if you simply need additional information about the convention, please call Pearle Sandstrom-Smith at 719/543-6427. Also, binoculars and field guides are needed for the Lamar Community College Summer Field Education Program. If you have spares you are willing to donate to the program, then please bring them with you.

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CFO Convention: LAST CALL FOR PAPERS

If you wish to present a paper at the papers session of the 1998 CFO Convention, contact Peter Gent. He will need the paper title and, preferably, a short abstract to publish in the July issue of the *Journal*. Papers should cover aspects of field ornithology in Colorado or regions to the east, such as western Kansas and Oklahoma. Contact Peter by e-mail at gent@ucar.edu. or by phone at 303/494-1750.

Colorado Field Ornithologists' Mission Statement

The Colorado Field Ornithologists 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*; and
- conduct field trips and workshops, and hold annual conventions.

Bird Conservation Lecture Series

Sponsored by
THE COLORADO BIRD OBSERVATORY
****

Friday, April 17, 1998, 7:00 p.m.: *"Why Are There So Many Species of Crossbills and What Threatens Them?"* presented by **Dr. Craig Benkman**, Department of Biology, New Mexico State University.

Friday, May 1, 1998, 7:00 p.m.: *"Birders On The Western Frontier: From Steller To Aiken"* presented by **Dr. Richard Beidleman**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Biology, Colorado College.

****

Admission to all lectures is FREE. Lectures are held at the Thornton Civic Center, 9500 Civic Center Drive (I-25 to exit 220, east on Thornton Parkway to stoplight at Civic Center Drive). Don't miss these excellent presentations!!

Winging Into Spring:

A FESTIVAL CELEBRATING THE
6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY
AND COLORADO'S MIGRATORY BIRDS

****

You are invited to *Winging into Spring*, a birding festival celebrating Partners in Flight's International Migratory Bird Day. Birders, non-birders, and families will enjoy a variety of events. Local bird experts will lead bird walks--beginning at dawn--and present talks on birds/bird conservation. Bird banders will be in action, and there will be educational activities and programs about birds for children. More than 50 booths will exhibit information, arts & crafts, and merchandise related to birds/bird conservation. See you there!

When: 6:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, 1998
Where: Barr Lake State Park, Brighton, Colorado

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For more information, to volunteer help, or to reserve a booth, **contact Paul Green or Carol Lambert at 800/850-2473**. All profits generated by *Winging Into Spring* will be applied to prairie restoration at Barr Lake State Park, and all donations will be matched 1:2 by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. At press time, *Winging Into Spring's* sponsors included Pentax Sport Optics, Perky Pet, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Wild Birds Unlimited. Organized by: the American Birding Association, Barr Lake State Park, City of Brighton Parks & Recreation Department, Colorado Bird Observatory, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Denver Field Ornithologists.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS FEBRUARY 7, 1998

Mona Hill, Secretary
3410 Heidelberg Drive
Boulder, Colorado 80303

The Board of Directors of the Colorado Field Ornithologists met on February 7, 1998 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Fountain Creek Regional Park Nature Center, Fountain, Colorado. Present were Raymond Davis, Warren Finch, Bill Fink, Paul Green of the American Birding Association (ABA), Mona Hill, Mark Janos, Cynthia Melcher, Suzi Plooster, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith, Bob Spencer, Alan Versaw, and Linda Vidal.

1. Paul Green told the Board about ABA's planned birding festival to be held at Barr Lake State Park on May 16, 1998. He asked CFO to consider becoming involved by helping with publicity and he asked individuals to consider volunteering, either with logistics of organizing the event or by participating by leading walks or giving talks.

2. Convention Committee report was made by Pearle Sandstrom-Smith. The Board voted to charge $30 for advance registration for members, $40 for nonmembers, and $50 for walk-in registrants. The charge for attending only Jon Dunn's lecture will be $10. Pearle showed the Board the designs for the T-shirts and posters specially designed for the 1998 convention.

3. The minutes of the November 22, 1997 meeting were approved with minor corrections.

4. The treasurer, Bob Spencer, reported $10,057.37 in a one-year money market fund, $1,085.51 in a savings account, and $8,251.88 in the checking account. Linda, Bob, Davis, and Leon Bright will continue to work on the budget for next year. Davis will track and report on the number of contributing, supporting, and sustaining memberships. It was reiterated that any increase in dues should be decided before the new checklists and or brochures are printed. Linda emphasized that she would like to see CFO accept grant applications for field ornithology work but that the budget must be set before a grant fund could be established.

5. Suzi Plooster reported that the new Checklist of Colorado Birds to be printed by ABA is still awaiting changes in taxonomic sequence to be published in the 7th edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds. She further reported that the Denver Field Ornithologists' webpage does not include the CFO checklist and that Wheatridge Greenbelt has released a new checklist no longer based on CFO's checklist.

6. Linda had been obtaining quotes for field trip insurance. She was anticipating receiving a reasonable one soon. It was moved, seconded, and approved that Linda may spend up to $500 to obtain field trip insurance for CFO.

7. Mark Janos reported on the Colorado Bird Records Committee activities. The 1996 records are nearly complete; the 1997 records have been accumulated and photos are being duplicated. The Board expressed thanks to Peter Gent and Dick Shottler for their service on the Records Committee.

   Concern has been expressed about the safety of the records being stored at the Denver Museum of Natural History. At this time, access to these records is uncontrolled. As a safety precaution, the Board agreed that Mark will ask the Museum to lock the filing cabinet and to log use of the key. There will be no restrictions on who may use the records; however, such use will now be recorded.

   Mark also asked for help selecting the computer software to use to computerize the log of the official bird records. Cynthia and Alan offered to help him select it; if anyone else would like to volunteer, they should contact Mark.

   The Board discussed submissions to the Records Committee. Mark expressed a preference for signed submissions. The consensus of the Board was to not accept submissions through electronic mail at this time, as the sender does not sign them. Only hard copy submissions will be accepted in the future; the Board reserves the right to review this policy in the future.

8. The *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* Committee: Linda reported she had spoken to Scott Gillihan about abstracting the *Journal* for Recent Ornithological Literature (ROL); CFO will reimburse him for any out-of-pocket expenses.

9. The Ron Ryder Award Committee Chair, Warren Finch, announced that a selection has been made for the Ron Ryder Award to be presented at the convention. The Board discussed appointing an official photographer to ensure that good pictures are taken. No decision was reached.

10. Warren Finch reported on his progress with writing a history of the Colorado Field Ornithologists. He will continue this work.

11. The Field Trip Committee will resume scheduling field trips after the convention in anticipation of obtaining insurance.

12. Rachel Kolokoff was unable to attend the meeting but it was agreed that Cynthia and Mona would work with her to set up a webpage on America On Line (AOL). It will be an opportunity to explore having a webpage with no cost involved. The Board will reevaluate what CFO needs in six months to a year.

13. The Board expressed some concern about recent minutes as published in the *Journal.* There was a discussion comparing the options of not publishing minutes at all, publishing summarized minutes concerning financial matters only, or continuing the current policy. No agreement was reached.

14. The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled in April and will be held by mail; the agenda will include nominations for next year's Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,
Mona Hill

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.

Nomination & Selection Process

1. The Award will be given every other year, at most.
2. Only living persons may be nominated.
3. Nominations may be made by the membership at large.
4. The Board selects and approves an awardee for announcement at the Annual Colorado Field Ornithologists' Convention during the year a recipient is chosen.
5. The Award will be a plaque designed to match the original plaque given to Dr. Ryder.
6. Nominations should be submitted in writing to the Award Committee Chairperson on or before February 1 of even-numbered years to be considered by the Field Ornithologists' Board of Directors.

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Submit nominations to Award Committee Chairperson:
Warren Finch, 455 Dover Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80226-1147;
E-mail: purpfinch@aol.com

COLORADO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS REPORT

Hugh Kingery
P.O. Box 584
Franktown, Colorado 80116

This is the first report on the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas project since we completed field work in 1995 and reported on the project in the July 1996 issue of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists.*

Publication

Twenty-eight authors wrote accounts of the 265 breeding species (266 if you count Red-backed Buzzard). The accounts have gone through one round of peer review. I wrote the introductory chapters--except for one on ecosystems, which Chuck Preston wrote. Karen Metz pulled together the list of citations. Radeaux has completed pen-and-ink illustrations of species for which there are full accounts, and he has drawn a cover piece that exemplifies his fabulous art. Wait 'til you see it!

Recently, we suffered one setback. On January 15, 1998, the Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH) announced that, after four years of negotiations, it would not publish the Atlas. That late decision has meant that I, as editor and project director, have to work out the logistics of publishing the book. My main problem is finding the time and learning how to develop a logical publication process. This involves hiring a layout specialist, selecting and dealing with a printer, and maybe obtaining another publisher.

We have a terrific layout designer, who worked on the layout while the DMNH still had the project. She has designed a layout that will work (and none of the Species Accounts have too many words). Printer/publisher details remain up in the air, but things look promising (even to the extent of having the book in hand by the end of 1998--we can always hope).

Database

We will send out to various agencies a "Request for Proposal" to house the Atlas database. Our main objective is to make the data widely available through whatever agencies end up with this fairly large body of data—a master database with 85,000 bird entries and 2700 allied database files.

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Thanks to the Colorado Field Ornithologists and its members for supporting the Atlas all the way. We will have something in your hands reasonably soon.

Regards — Hugh

BLACK SWIFTS (*CYPSELOIDES NIGER*) IN BOX CANYON, OURAY, COLORADO

Sue Hirshman
Summer Residence: P.O. Box 229, Ouray, Colorado 81427
970/325-4876
Winter Residence: P.O. Box 2910, Evansville, Indiana 47728
812/867-7173

Abstract

During the breeding seasons of 1996 and 1997, I monitored the colony of Black Swifts at Box Canyon Falls in Ouray, Colorado. In 1996, there were at least 9 active nests with a success rate of 78%. In 1997, there were at least 13 active nests, all of which were successful. The first swifts arrived at Box Canyon on June 18 in 1996 and on June 19 in 1997. Nesting began within 2-6 days of their arrival in 1996, but in 1997 the majority were delayed 1-3 weeks, probably because many nests needed rebuilding. Incubation lasted an average of 26 days in 1996 and 27 days 1997, and the corresponding average nestling periods were 50 and 47 days. The average date of hatching in 1996 was July 23, while it was August 6 in 1997. Average fledging dates were September 10 in 1996 and September 17 in 1997, with the last nestling fledging on September 14 or 15 in 1996 and on September 23 or 24 in 1997. Numerous people visit the canyon and falls, and my observations led me to believe that swifts nesting closest to visitor facilities may be affected by human disturbance.

Introduction

Each year, my husband and I migrate from our winter home in Indiana to spend the summer in Ouray, Colorado. Being an avid birder, I had known about and frequently visited the Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*) nesting colony at Box Canyon Falls, just outside of Ouray. Recently, however, I also became aware that the Black Swift is listed as a species of management concern (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1995, Carter et al. 1996) because its population is suspected of declining--particularly in Washington state and British Columbia, where the species' breeding densities are greatest (Sauer et al. 1997). It's not clear what could be causing the decline, although the birds forage exclusively on flying insects (Ehrlich et al. 1988), which may put them at risk of both the direct and indirect effects of pesticides. Black Swifts also seek a highly specialized type of breeding habitat (Knorr 1961, 1993), which has the effect of limiting and fragmenting their breeding range.

Also putting the swifts at risk is our lack of knowledge—their winter range is poorly known and we know little about their general ecology (Knorr 1961,

Terres 1980, American Ornithologists' Union 1983, Ehrlich et al. 1988). This lack of information is due, in part, to the swift's penchant for feeding at "great altitudes," relatively inaccessible nesting habitats, and rare to uncommon occurrence throughout its range (Knorr 1961, Terres 1980). The resulting paucity of data on its population trend means that the Black Swift could undergo a precipitous decline without our knowledge. Therefore, I decided to put my summers and birding skills to use by monitoring the Box Canyon Falls colony and keeping records of the birds' nesting activities. This paper is a compilation of my observations of the colony's nesting phenology, nesting success, and other activities during the 1996 and 1997 breeding seasons. I also noted possible human disturbance at this colony. It is my hope that this information, plus additional information I gather in future field seasons, will be of use for protecting and conserving these wonderful birds.

Study Area and Methods

Box Canyon is located less than one mile southwest of Ouray, just off U.S. Highway 550 along U.S. Forest Service Road 853 in Ouray County, Colorado. Canyon Creek spills over tremendous, 285-foot cliffs, forming Box Canyon Falls before winding through the canyon itself at an elevation of approximately 7,800 feet. In the canyon, there is a walkway and a suspension bridge to the falls. From the suspension bridge, there is a wooden stairway that leads to a lower part of the canyon, and there is another stairway that leads to a higher bridge that allows excellent views of the falls and cliffs from several angles. The canyon, the falls, and the visitor facilities fall under the jurisdiction of the town of Ouray. The woody vegetation in the area primarily consists of cottonwoods, boxelders, quaking aspen, various pine species, willow shrubs, and various berry-producing shrubs. There is an understory of herbs and forbs, although I did not identify the species. The rocky cliffs are characterized by little niches, ledges, and luxuriant growths of moss, and the area around the falls is humid, cool, and dark. Thus, Box Canyon Falls provides the requisite nesting sites, materials, and conditions for Black Swifts (Knorr 1961, 1993). The habitat also supported numerous species of butterflies, many of which could be seen flying along Canyon Creek in late July and early August.

I monitored the Black Swift breeding colony at Box Canyon Falls during the summers of 1996 and 1997. Beginning on June 5 in 1996 and on May 19 in 1997, I went to Box Canyon as often as I could to await the swifts' arrival. Once the birds had returned from their winter range, I counted the number of adult swifts I observed and scanned the area for nests and signs of nesting activities. I alternated visiting the canyon in the mornings with afternoons and early evenings, although some days I went morning, afternoon, and evening. In 1996, I went to the canyon on 72 days, arriving as early as 8:15 a.m. on July 15 and as late as 7:00 p.m. on August 4. In 1997, I went to the canyon on 95

days, arriving as early as 7:00 a.m. on September 10 and as late as 7:30 p.m. several times in September.

I assigned an identification number to each nest I could see. Black Swifts regularly reuse nests each year (Knorr 1961), therefore I retained the same identification numbers for each nest between years. If new nests were built, I assigned them new identification numbers. Throughout both breeding seasons, I monitored all nests, noting dates of egg-laying, incubation, hatching, and fledging, as well as nestling activities, adults feeding and attending the nestlings, and any other activities. Although I was able to determine the nesting success of all active nests I could see, it was impossible to see what was going on in some of those nests until the chicks were older and began to exercise their wings in preparation for fledging (Table 1). After my second summer of monitoring these birds, I summarized the number of active nests, nesting phenology, and the colony's nesting success for both breeding seasons. Average hatching dates and incubation and nestling periods were calculated only for nests that I could see well during those periods (Table 1). I also compiled notes on the birds' morphology and behaviors, as well as observations of possible human disturbance.

Results and Discussion

Nesting Phenology and Success, Population Status--After arriving in Ouray in mid May each year, I went to Box Canyon almost every day to look for Black Swifts. I hiked all over the park, up to the high bridge to get a better look at the area, and then back down and into the canyon, eagerly awaiting my first glimpses of these fascinating birds. In 1996, the first swifts arrived on June 18. When they hadn't arrived by June 18 in 1997, I became anxious, but the next day, a visitor from Florida who wanted to see Black Swifts contacted me, and we went into the canyon three times. As if on command, three swifts appeared that morning at 10:15 a.m. It was like seeing old friends again, and I was happy that my visitor got to see a life bird.

In 1996, I was able to see nine active nests at Box Canyon Falls (Table 1). Nests appeared to be constructed of moss, mud, and twigs. I could see into six nests well enough to determine that the birds laid single-egg clutches, which is typical for Black Swifts (Ehrlich et al. 1988). Of the nine nests, seven were successful (Table 1), each fledging one chick. Of the two unsuccessful pairs, at least one made three nesting attempts, the egg disappearing after each attempt. In the other unsuccessful nest, the chick had hatched and was visible until September 2, at which point it disappeared (I believe it was too young to have fledged). There may have been a 10th active nest, but I did not find it until early in the 1997 breeding season. There also were three inactive nests (built previous to 1996). Knorr (1961) determined that Black Swifts will use their

Table 1. Nesting phenology and success of the Black Swift colony at Box Canyon Falls, Ouray, Colorado, 1996-1997. Minimum number of active nests, nesting success, dates of first arrival in spring and last departure in fall, average (range) hatching and fledging dates, and average (range) number of days of incubation and nestling periods are summarized. The number of nests [n] available for each summary statistic is also provided.

	Year	
	1996	1997
Percent Nesting Success	78 [n=9]	100 [n=13]
Arrival Date	6/18	6/19
Average Hatching Date	7/23 (7/17-8/4) [n=6]	8/6 (7/24-8/8) [n=11]
Average Fledging Date	9/10 (9/6-9/15) [n=7]	9/17 (9/9-9/24) [n=13]
Departure Date	9/15	9/24
Incubation Period (No. Days)	26 (24-28) [n=5]	27 (24-28) [n=7]
Nestling Period (No. Days)	50 (43-54) [n=5]	47 (43-52) [n=11]

nests for more than one breeding season. By the same token, it is likely that nests from previous years sometimes go unused in any one breeding season.

In 1997, there were at least 13 active nests (Table 1) and one inactive nest. All 13 nesting pairs were successful fledging one chick (Table 1), although one nest appeared to have two eggs, only one of which hatched. Almost every nest used in 1996 was reoccupied in 1997, although several had to be rebuilt and one pair built a brand new nest at a site where there had been no nest in 1996. I also discovered what appeared to be an older nest that I had not discovered in 1996. Frequently visited sites that I thought might be roosting niches in 1996 did not appear to have nests in 1997, thus I continue to believe that those sites are simply roosting niches.

In 1996, some swifts appeared to begin egg-laying or incubating as early as June 20. In 1997, one pair initiated egg-laying and incubation on June 25, although most pairs were not at their nests consistently until the first and second weeks in July--nesting may have been somewhat delayed because some nests had to be improved or rebuilt, and one pair built a new nest (Table 1). In 1996, the last nestling fledged on September 14 (late evening) or 15 (early

morning) (Table 1) and seemed to leave the area; after I left Ouray on the 15th, however, a friend noted one juvenile bird at a nest that I had thought was empty. It's not clear whether that nest had been active after all, one of the other fledglings had stayed around for a while, or whether it was a bird from another colony migrating through the area. In 1997, the last nestling fledged on September 23 (late evening) or 24 (early morning) (Table 1).

The colony at Box Canyon Falls is probably the same colony described by Knorr (1961) in 1950. When Knorr visited the colony at that time, the colony's size was estimated to consist of 10 pairs--a large colony for this species (Knorr 1961, 1993); thus, the colony is about the same size it was 45+ years ago. Although there are no previous nest productivity data for the colony, nesting success appears to be good at this time. The species' reproductive strategy of laying only one egg and producing one brood per nesting season (at least in northern populations) indicate that they typically have a high rate of nesting success. What we need to know is their rates of return and recruitment. In other words, does a given colony serve as a population source or sink? Do the sources outnumber the sinks? Although they will be difficult to answer, these questions are important to Black Swift conservation.

Morphology and Behavior--Most of the adults were black; however I did notice two adults that were charcoal grey; one also had a notable black vertical line on one of its wings. A few of the adults' heads were a lighter color than their bodies, but the majority of the birds appeared to be solid black. I was unable to differentiate males from females, but the young have white vertical lines on their wings. By the time the young were ready to fledge, I could count six lines on their wings. These agile birds have tiny feet capable of clinging to vertical rock walls, and they can move their heads 180°, almost like owls, as they cling to the rock. Their eyes are very large, undoubtedly enabling them to see better in their dark nesting habitats.

During incubation, I observed adults switching places and rolling their eggs frequently, especially right before hatching. The newly hatched chicks were naked, their eyes were closed, and the adult birds brooded them constantly for about two weeks. Both adults fed the nestlings (based on witnessing two adults at a given nest at one time). Feedings occurred frequently all times of morning, afternoon, and evening, although evening feedings appeared to be more frequent as the chicks grew older. On at least one occasion, I saw an adult feed a butterfly to its chick, and the chick had some difficulty getting it down! Usually, the adults regurgitated food immediately upon arriving at their nests; however I witnessed one adult sitting on the nest for one hour, feeding its chick three different times before flying away. As the chicks got older and larger, the adults were less attentive through the day.

Black Swift Pair and Nestling, Box Canyon, Ouray, Colorado, Summer 1997
by Ellery McClintock

The young nestlings rested a lot, but as they grew older, they became attentive to people and sounds, and I observed one trying to catch flies outside its nest. As the nestlings prepared for fledging, they did a lot of preening and wing exercising. Wing exercises entailed hanging on to the nest, or leaving the nest entirely to hang onto the cliff face, and flapping--seemingly as fast as a hummingbird would flap its wings. The wing exercises would last for as long as a minute, followed by rest, then there would be another bout of flapping. After exercising, young that had left their nests moved very slowly back to their nests.

One of the more interesting events I witnessed began with an adult swift sitting on a nest and another coming along and forcing the first bird off the nest. Then they both flew around and about the canyon before tumbling to the canyon floor with their wings seemingly locked together. At that point I realized they were mating. They stayed in this position for 20 minutes, while cold water poured over them at intervals, before one bird finally flew out of the canyon and the other went back to the nest. I was also lucky enough to see the nestling that this pair raised take its first flight--at 6:40 p.m. on September 18, 1997.

In 1997, I noted that the adults would always fly straight toward the falls to access the colony and then exit the canyon via the same route--away from the falls along Canyon Creek. Not once did I see the birds fly out of the canyon heading towards the falls. The reason for this routine is unclear, although Knorr (1993) suggested that Black Swifts take the most unobstructed and direct route to their high-altitude foraging areas. There is also the possibility that the birds fly along the same routes to exchange information about prey locations (information exchange hypothesis; Krebs and Davies 1984). Further research would be necessary to understand this behavior fully.

Conservation Issues--Black Swifts sitting on their nests are very cryptic--they blend in perfectly with the rocky background. It was interesting to find that the majority of people who came into the canyon never noticed the birds. Those that did see them often thought they were bats or had not heard of Black Swifts. Even though most of the birds nested in relatively remote or inaccessible places and did not attract the attention of most people, I could not help but wonder whether a lack of education among people and human disturbance to the birds could result in problems for this colony and others in similar situations.

Of the nests that failed during my study, one was located close to the stairway that leads to the bottom of the canyon. In 1996, three eggs were laid in that nest, and each time the egg disappeared the day after it was laid. There was no evidence of what happened to the eggs. In 1997, when the stairway was closed to the public, the same nest was reoccupied, the female laid one egg, and the nestling fledged successfully. This sequence of events made me wonder whether human disturbance may have contributed to the failure of that nest in 1996. It's possible that repeated flushing due to the proximity of human activity may have caused the adults to kick the eggs out of the nest accidentally, or, if the adults were flushed from the nest frequently, an avian predator may have seen and taken the eggs. In general, nestlings in nests that were closest to the visitor facilities tended to fledge later than those in more undisturbed nests.

If human disturbance is contributing to this species' decline, then resource managers should protect swift colonies. Of concern for the swift colony at Box Canyon is the town of Ouray's plan to rebuild and reopen the stairs and suspension bridge and erect new signs. This construction is due to begin some time in April 1998, and the town's superintendent of parks assured me that the work would be completed in 4-6 weeks, before the swifts return. Whether or not the work is completed on time, there is still the possibility that the upgraded facilities could attract more people, thus more human disturbance. In my future work at Box Canyon, I will continue to note human activities and their effects on these birds.

Acknowledgments

I want to thank Barbara Boland, who encouraged me to record my observations and instilled my enthusiasm for Black Swifts. In 1996, Houston Graves helped me by recording the last fledging dates after I had to leave Ouray. I also thank Ellery McClintock, who photographed the swifts.

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Appendix I

Other Birds Observed at Box Canyon

***** = species that nested in the canyon in 1996
# = species that nested in the canyon in 1997
***#** = species that nested in the canyon both years

Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Northern Flicker (red-shafted), Cordilleran Flycatcher***#**, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Mountain Chickadee, House Wren, Townsend's Solitaire**#**, American Robin, American Dipper*****, Cedar Waxwing, Warbling Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), Yellow Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Chipping Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco (gray-headed), Western Tanager, Pine Siskin, Cassin's Finch, Evening Grosbeak

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Nesting Records for Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Western Grebe, and Clark's Grebe in Brown's Park National Wildlife Refuge, Moffat County, Colorado

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Introduction and Methods

In 1988, I initiated a long-term study of breeding birds in northwestern Colorado. Much of my work has focused on Brown's Park National Wildlife Refuge (Brown's Park NWR) in Moffat County, Colorado. I visited Brown's Park NWR in late May or early June in 1991 and 1994-1997, and searched for birds over two to five days each year. Using a 30X spotting scope and binoculars, I searched the marsh areas (bottoms). The amount of time spent at each marsh area depended on the number and species of birds present. This paper confirms breeding for Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*), American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*), and Clark's Grebes (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) in northwestern Colorado. All of these records come from three areas of Brown's Park NWR: Hog Lake (T10N R103W section 9), Flynn Bottom (T10N R103W section 16), and Warren Bottom (T10N R103W sections 16 and 22).

Results

Hog Lake--On 25 May 1995, I observed a single pair of Black-necked Stilts nesting at Hog Lake. One adult was incubating eggs when I found the pair. The nest was placed on a bare mud flat about 10 x 15 meters in size. The mud flat was on the southeast side of the lake and it was connected to the shore. On the same day, I spotted eight American Avocets near the Black-necked Stilt nest. There seemed to be several pairs of avocets, but I could not find any evidence of a nest. On 3 June 1996, I found four active Black-necked Stilt nests and four American Avocet nests on a small island in the middle of Hog Lake. The island was approximately 20 x 10 meters wide. The island lacked vegetation except near the center and along the shoreline, where there were a few scattered weeds. Seven nests were located on the east-west axis of the island, and one of the avocet nests was on the east end within three meters of the shore. Adult birds were sitting on all eight nests. On 28 May 1997, I observed a single pair of stilts nesting on the north side of the island, but there were no avocets.

Warren Bottom--On 4 June 1996, I found at least two pairs of Black-necked Stilts and three pairs of American Avocets sitting on nests on a large mud flat. The distance between me and the birds was more than 400 meters, so it was not possible to see eggs when the adults switched places on the nests. Some sparse vegetation had grown at this site, although it was patchily distributed between piles of earth left during construction of the wetland. Other individuals of both species moved around the island, indicating that there may have been more nests concealed by the vegetation and piles of dirt. On 28 May 1997, I did not see any stilts or avocets in the area.

Flynn Bottom--On 4 June 1996, I observed a colony of at least 20 nesting pairs of Western Grebes (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) from a distance of about 250 meters on the southern side of Flynn Bottom. I did not see any Clark's Grebes. On 30 May 1997, the Western Grebe colony occupied the same location, and I was able to observe it from a distance of about 150 meters. Based on the number of adults seen during three hours of observation, I estimated that there were five nests, but I could see only three nests, all with incubating adults sitting on them. I also found one pair of Clark's Grebes nesting among the Western Grebes. One bird was incubating and a second regularly came to the nest and sat next to the incubating bird. I did not observe the adults switching places on the nest.

Discussion

Previous to my study, few Black-necked Stilts had been observed in northwestern Colorado, and all were observed only during migration. In northern Colorado, Andrews and Righter (1992) had noted stilts breeding in Routt, Jackson, Larimer, Weld, and Boulder counties, but breeding had not been confirmed on the Western Slope. I believe that my observations of Black-necked Stilts at Hog Lake in 1995 were the first breeding records for stilts in the northern half of the Western Slope. In 1996, another observer recorded Black-necked Stilts breeding in Grand Junction (Ely 1997), which was the year in which I observed the largest number of stilts breeding at Brown's Park NWR. In previous years, American Avocets had been reported breeding at Brown's Park NWR. Since the 1980s, they have been reported breeding on the Western Slope with increasing regularity (Andrews and Righter 1992). My records confirm breeding at Brown's Park NWR.

Both Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets require alkali flats for breeding and shallow water with an abundance of invertebrates for feeding. During the last five years, these habitat types have increased in number and size at Brown's Park NWR due to construction of shallow lakes and resting spots for waterfowl. At Nelson Bottom (east of Warren Bottom), a large wetland is being constructed, which could provide another large nesting area suitable to stilts and avocets.

I believe that my record of Clark's Grebe is the first confirmed breeding of this species in northwestern Colorado since the species was split from the Western Grebe. Andrews and Righter (1992) had reported nonbreeding Clark's Grebes during migration and breeding Western Grebes in the Brown's Park area. The same habitat modifications that favor breeding stilts and avocets also provide large areas of open water interspersed with cattails, which appeal to grebes. It seems likely that additional grebe habitat will become available soon with the completion of wetland construction at Nelson Bottom.

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Black-necked Stilt, Salton Sea, California, November 4, 1997
by Ken Giesen

ABSTRACTING THE *JOURNAL OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS*

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The American, British, and Royal Australian Ornithological Unions jointly produce a publication called *Recent Ornithological Literature* (ROL). The purpose of ROL is to make ornithologists aware of literature published in journals that they may not read, such as regional journals or those not specifically about birds. More than 200 volunteers review nearly 1000 journals worldwide and write brief abstracts (usually a single sentence) about articles of interest. Last year, I became one of those volunteers, and I review nine journals, including the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* (JCFO).

The editors of ROL limit submissions to abstracts of articles that have broad geographic and scientific appeal. Many of the regular features in the JCFO, such as field trip reports and rare bird sightings, are specific to Colorado and would not be appropriate for abstracting in ROL. However, many other articles are suitable, such as those that present new information on avian ecology, behavior, or plumages. I recently reviewed JCFO volumes 27-31 (1993-97), in which I found 21 articles that should be of interest to ornithologists, and soon I will submit abstracts of those articles to ROL.

Regional journals, such as the JCFO, fill an important role by serving as an outlet for articles that larger ornithological journals ignore. Articles about natural history, abnormal plumages, aberrant behavior, and observations of uncommon phenomena are rejected routinely by the large journals. However, such information is valuable to ornithologists, and journals like the JCFO are the only places to find it. My own search for information on snowbathing by birds has led me through the world of small, regional journals, because a search of the larger journals turned up nothing. The ROL provides a conduit for getting such information into the hands of ornithologists.

The abstracts that appear in ROL are not intended to provide a thorough summary of information contained in the articles. Instead, the abstracts include enough information to pique the interest of researchers working in similar areas of ornithology. Each abstract includes the address of the article's author, thus enabling a researcher to contact the author to obtain more information and/or a copy of the article. So, if you publish an article in the JCFO, don't be surprised if you get a postcard from an ornithologist in some far-flung location. It will be a demonstration of the value of ROL and the JCFO to avian research and conservation.

Report from the Field: Grassland Raptor Ecology Project 1997

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Human-induced changes in landscape composition continue to exert profound influences on wildlife in Great Plains grasslands. Most studies designed to examine these effects, however, have been conducted over a short time frame; thus they have provided little insight into the confounding effects of annual weather variations and other factors on population dynamics. Raptors are attractive organisms for studying the responses of grassland wildlife to environmental changes because they are abundant, relatively easy to study, and they are at the top of the food chain. Therefore, in 1995, my students, staff, volunteers, and I surveyed regions of the Comanche National Grassland (NG) in southeastern Colorado and the Cimarron NG in southwestern Kansas to determine the feasibility of conducting a long-term study of buteo ecology. We were specifically interested in assessing the influences of weather, prey availability, and landscape composition on the distribution, reproductive effort/success, and movements of Swainson's, Ferruginous, and Red-tailed hawks. Thus began the Denver Museum of Natural History's (DMNH) Grassland Raptor Ecology Project.

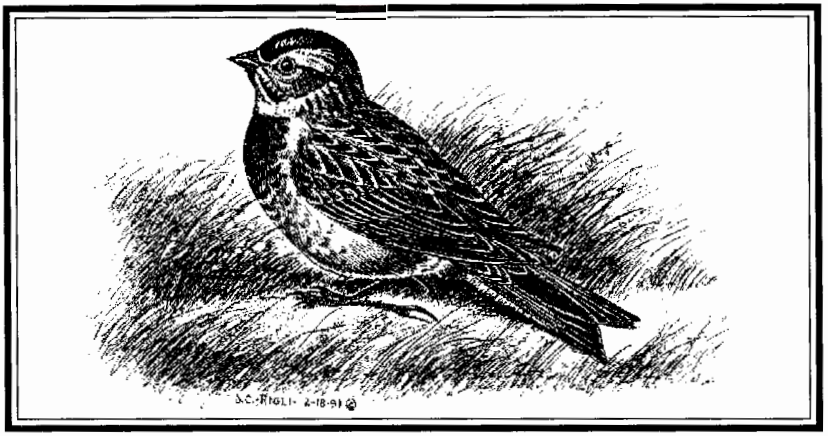
During the first two field seasons (1995 and 1996), we mapped active nest sites and landscape composition, banded adult birds, and refined protocol for the more intensive work to follow. We recorded an average of 27 active nest sites in our Comanche NG study area and 23 active nest sites in our Cimarron NG study area. Our work was facilitated greatly by earlier surveys conducted under the auspices of the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the U. S. Forest Service.

In 1997, with logistical and financial support from the U. S. Forest Service, we began a more intensive study of selected buteo nests in both Cimarron and Comanche NGs. At Cimarron NG, we monitored 26 active nests: 16 Swainson's Hawk, 8 Red-tailed Hawk, and 2 Ferruginous Hawk. Nesting success (a nest in which at least one chick survives to banding age) was 94% for Swainson's Hawks, 80% for Red-tailed Hawks, and 100% for Ferruginous Hawks. Average productivity (number of chicks per nest that survive to banding age) ranged from 1.25 for Red-tailed Hawks to 2.5 for Ferruginous Hawks. At Comanche NG, we monitored 28 active nests: 16 Swainson's Hawk, 11 Ferruginous Hawk, and 1 Red-tailed Hawk. Nesting success was 81% for Swainson's Hawks, 64% for Ferruginous Hawks, and the one Red-tailed Hawk nest was successful. Average productivity ranged from 2.0 for the Red-tailed Hawk to 2.7 for

Ferruginous Hawks. During the 1997 field season, we also banded 35 nestlings and adults at our study sites.

In general, buteo nesting success and productivity we recorded in 1997 were somewhat higher than we expected based on reports of comparable studies in the published literature. The relatively moist, mild spring and early summer weather may have enhanced reproductive success in 1997. During winter 1997-1998, we plan to conduct comparative analyses of nest-site characteristics among the three species, and we will use Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis to compare landscape characteristics surrounding successful and unsuccessful nests. We also plan to present the results of these and other analyses at the North American Ornithological Conference in St. Louis in April, 1998.

As a result of our first three field seasons, we have decided to focus our future work at Comanche NG and expand the area covered there. Dr. Cheri Jones, DMNH's Curator of Mammalogy, began a parallel study of small mammal and lagomorph populations at Comanche NG in 1997, and she plans to continue this work in the future. Thus, eventually we will be able to compare raptor population dynamics with the population dynamics of mammalian prey species. In light of this expanded scope and shift in geographic coverage, our study is now called the Comanche Grassland Ecosystem Project. Beginning in 1998, we plan to work with DMNH educators to incorporate formal, hands-on educational experiences for youth with our research activities. In the Department of Zoology, as in other scientific departments of the DMNH, the staff hope to use our knowledge of past and present biodiversity and human cultures to help predict and even shape the future.



Sketch of a McCown's Longspur
by Joseph Rigli

Indian Peaks Four-season Bird Count: 15-year Summary

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Summary

The following are highlights from 15 years of the Indian Peaks Four-Season Bird Count:

- Winter season counts averaged 1/3 - 1/2 fewer species and individuals than counts in the other seasons.
- Birds that rely on tree seeds (cones) for part or all of their diet hit peak numbers in the winters of 1984, 1991, and 1995. The high numbers seemed to coincide with bumper cone crops among Engelmann spruce trees. During six years of the count, there were relatively high numbers of seed-eating birds, while there were relatively low numbers during the other years.
- In the mountains, members of the Corvidae family, especially American Crows, appeared to increase in number and distribution.
- From 1992 - 1996, numbers of several long-distance migrants declined, including Spotted Sandpiper, Western Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Warbling Vireo, Virginia's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Western Tanager. Among resident species, numbers of Evening Grosbeaks declined steadily.
- Several resident species, including Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, and Golden-crowned Kinglet, appeared to increase. Numbers of several sparrow species that migrate short to moderate distances, including Fox, Song, Lincoln's, and White-crowned sparrows, also increased steadily.
- Urban/agricultural species exhibited a variety of changes. Increasing species included Common Grackle, Brewer's Blackbird, and House Sparrow. Numbers of European Starlings and Brown-headed Cowbirds declined, and cowbirds occurred in fewer areas.

Introduction

In 1982, we initiated the Indian Peaks Four-Season Bird Count to inventory and conduct long-term monitoring of the avifauna in western Boulder and northwestern Gilpin counties, Colorado. The count has been conducted for 15 years, and it will be continued indefinitely. The data have provided information about species' presence and relative abundance, as well as population trends and changes in species composition in montane habitats.

Study Area and Methods

The count area is a circle, the radius of which is 7.5 miles (the same configuration used for Christmas Bird Counts). Our circle is centered ½-mile northeast of Rainbow Lakes campground and extends north to Beaver Reservoir, south to Rollinsville, east to just beyond Castle Rock in Boulder Canyon, and west to slightly beyond the Continental Divide. The communities of Nederland, Ward, Eldora, and Rollinsville are encompassed by the count area.

Habitat within the circle is dominated by three forest types: ponderosa pine/ Douglas fir below 8,500 feet; Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir from 9,500 - 11,000 feet; and lodgepole pine with scattered patches of aspen between 8,000 - 10,000 feet. Mixed within these forest types are open woodlands, meadows, wetlands, streams, lakes/reservoirs, urban areas, and limber pine forests. Alpine tundra and stands of krummholz (stunted trees) habitats occur along the Continental Divide.

The count circle is divided into 25 areas. Typically, 12 - 20 of the 25 areas were covered each season by count participants, who walk, drive, or ski throughout each area recording all birds observed and/or heard. Participants keep track of time, distance, and habitats covered in each area. In most seasons, participants average a total of 80 hours in the field and cover 200 miles of ground.

For each of the four seasons, a count period was established, during which participants were asked to visit their respective areas (one trip to each area per season). Generally, the count period for summer and winter seasons (June through mid-July and the end of December through the beginning of February, respectively) lasted 1.5 months, while the count period for spring and fall seasons (May and September, respectively) lasted two weeks.

Participants--Over the 15 years, more than 247 people have participated in the Indian Peaks Count, and they have been the heart and soul of this project. Many individuals were either area leaders for three or more years or participated for at least five years (* = area leader; **bold** = participant for 10+ years): *Chana Alles, *Dave Alles, *Linda Andes-Georges, Nancy Auerbach, *Jeff Bachant, *Audrey & Jim Benedict, *Steve Bouricius, ***Barbara & Earl Bolton**, ***Alex Brown**, ***Diane Brown**, *Liz Caile, *Marcia Cardetti, George Coffee, *Jack & Tressa Coss, *Marty Dick, Gerry Dunphy, **Lee & Virginia Evans**, ***Mike Figgs**, Fern Ford, ***Freeman Hall**, ***Dave Hallock**, ***Paula Hansley**, Lillian Harlow, ***Lyn Hoffmann**, ***Jim Holitza**, Jody Hovorka, Bill Huntley, Roger Jakoubek, ***Steve Jones**, ***Bill Kaempfer**, *Joe Krieg, ***Nan Lederer**, *Cherie Long, *Wes Miles, **Merle & Sally Miller**, *Naseem Munshi, **Carol Newman-Holitza**, *Karen Nine, *Pam Piombino, *Gail Shickley, *Dwight Souder, Elm Sturkol, ***Tom VanZandt**, Marjorie & Tom Zapf.

Weather--Weather can influence many aspects of avian ecology, including nesting success, the timing of migration, and over-winter survival. It can also influence the efforts of birdwatchers. Therefore, weather information is important for interpreting the results of long-term avian studies. John McGinley, a meteorologist in Nederland, provided a summary of weather information (below) for the 15 years of the Indian Peaks Count. For weather data, summer = June, July, August; fall = September, October; winter = November, December, January, February; spring = March, April, May.

The summer had the highest average temperature (58.6°F), followed by fall (46.6°F), spring (38.2°), and winter (26.4°F). Looking at the data over 5-year periods, there was a slight temperature increase in the spring/summer/fall periods between 1982 - 1986 and 1987 - 1991, and then there was a comparatively smaller temperature decrease during the 1992 - 1996 period. The opposite trend occurred in the winter periods.

Over the 15-years of the Indian Peaks Count, the greatest average amount of precipitation (inches of water from snow and/or rain) fell in spring (8 inches) and summer (6.7 inches), followed by winter (4.3 inches) and fall (2.9 inches). This may seem counterintuitive, but summer convection storms, along with a few monsoonal upslopes, bring far more precipitation than winter storms. We noted a decreasing trend in the amount of summer precipitation and an increasing trend in the amount of precipitation during the other three seasons. Of course, more snow fell in winter than in any other season (70-inch average), but almost as much fell in spring (68-inch average); 14 inches were typical for fall and there were occasional, small amounts of snow that fell in summer. During the 15-year count, there was an increasing trend in the amount of snow falling in winter and spring periods. The wettest period was spring 1995, when 15 inches of precipitation fell, including 132 inches of snow! Other major precipitation anomalies included 119 inches of snow in winter 1995 - 1996, 86 inches of snow in spring 1990, and 5 inches of precipitation (including 30 inches of snow) in fall 1993.

Results and Discussion

It is not yet clear whether the count data are suitable for detecting changes in avian abundance from year to year, or whether they are mere reflections of variation in our efforts and/or other variables. We hope that, through the breadth of our efforts (number of hours in the field) and standardization in timing and area covered, the summaries reflect true change. The trend data are probably more meaningful for wide-ranging species, such as chickadees, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and American Robins, than they are for species restricted to a few locations, including alpine tundra species, White-throated Swifts, and species that congregate around feeders. At best, the count data provide a very general

index of change in local montane habitats, and they may stimulate further investigations. With that caveat in mind, I report our findings and present interpretations of the data.

During the 15 years of the count, observers recorded approximately 200 bird species, with the greatest average number of species and individuals recorded in summer, slightly fewer species in spring and fall, and the average number recorded in winter was one half the number observed in summer (Table 1). For all seasons, the average number of species appeared to increase during the last five years compared to the first 10 years, and the number of individuals recorded indicate that the relative abundance of birds is cyclic (Figure 1). The high peaks in winter cycles appeared to coincide with bumper seed crops and/or large influxes of waxwings. The peaks in winter cycles occurred in 1984 and 1995, and they were offset by those forgettable years of 1983, 1990, and 1994, when birders spent eight hours in the field and saw one bird.

Table 1. Comparisons of the average number of species, total number of species, and average number of individuals recorded per count hour in each season during the Indian Peaks Four-Season Count, 1982 - 1996.

	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Ave. No. Species/Count Period	37	82	98	81
Total Species over 15 Years	73	146	144	144
Ave. No. Individuals/Count Hour	18	36	42	32

From 1989 - 1991, apparent increases in the number of birds recorded in the spring periods were followed by similar increases in the fall periods. Since then, the numbers recorded in spring and fall have declined to previous levels. The species that increased most were Mountain Chickadee, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Dark-eyed Junco. The cause(s) of these increases is not known. The weather data did not provide any clues. Furthermore, the effects of weather on migration are complex--cold-fronts may push birds out of a given area, while stormy weather may hold birds back.

The summer count shows the strongest tendancy towards a general increase. We had thought that the increase was due to improvements in participants' birding skills, but the cycles recorded on other counts provided evidence against this possibility. The peak summer numbers in 1991 and 1992 may have been part of the overall increase in birds for corresponding fall and spring periods, but the summer numbers have remained high while spring and fall numbers have dropped. Here, the weather data may offer some clues. During the summer periods, average temperatures increased and precipitation decreased, possibly leading to increased nesting success and subsequent recruitment rates (number of young birds surviving and returning to breed).

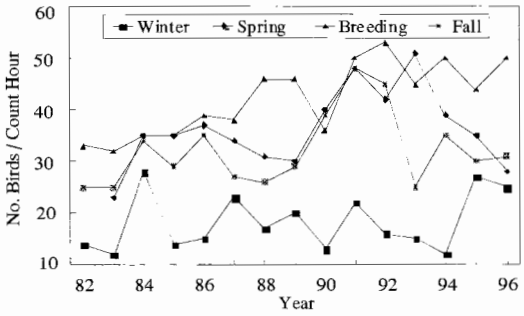

Figure 1. Number of birds observed per count hour during winter, spring, summer, and fall count periods of the Indian Peaks Four-Season Count, 1982 - 1996.

Winter Count Summary-- Over the 15 years, 73 species have been observed in winter periods, and the average was 37 species (Table 1). Winter was the only count period dominated by resident species (65%), and one in four birds was a Mountain Chickadee. The 10 species recorded most frequently comprised 75% of all species observed (Table 2; for winter counts, Rosy-Finches include all three species due to the taxonomic changes they underwent during the 15 years). From 1992 - 1996, participants observed a number of species that had not been recorded in the first 10 years. They included Canada Goose, Prairie Falcon, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Horned Lark, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and American Goldfinch.

Table 2. The 10 species recorded most frequently during the winter periods of the Indian Peaks Four-Season Count, 1982 - 1996.

Species	No. Birds/ Count Hour	Species	No. Birds/ Count Hour
Mountain Chickadee	5.00	Evening Grosbeak	0.80
Bohemian Waxwing	2.50	Red Crossbill	0.70
Rosy-Finch	2.30	Pine Siskin	0.60
American Crow	1.00	Dark-eyed Junco	0.50
Steller's Jay	0.90	Pygmy Nuthatch	0.40

The number of birds recorded per count hour ranged from 12 to 28. The variations or cycles in these numbers appeared to be influenced or even driven by four major factors: the number of Mountain Chickadees, the number of Rosy-Finches, and irruptions of seed-eaters and Bohemian Waxwings. For example, the number of Mountain Chickadees recorded ranged from 2.0 - 7.7

per count hour. This variation may be related to nesting success of resident pairs. The number of Rosy-Finches ranged from 0.0 - 5.7 per count hour, which may have been a reflection of participants' efforts. Generally, Rosy-Finches were seen either on the alpine tundra, flying overhead, or at feeders. However, field efforts on the alpine tundra during winter are influenced strongly by weather, and both the use of feeders by Rosy-Finches and our efforts to monitor feeders were inconsistent.

The apparent cycles of irruptive seed-eaters has been interesting to follow (Figure 2). Clark's Nutcrackers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pygmy Nuthatches, Pine Grosbeaks, Red Crossbills, and White-winged Crossbills seemed to be influenced by cone-seed production. These fluctuations varied by life zone, however, an indication that trees in each life zone either respond to varying conditions on different time scales and/or variations between life zones differ.

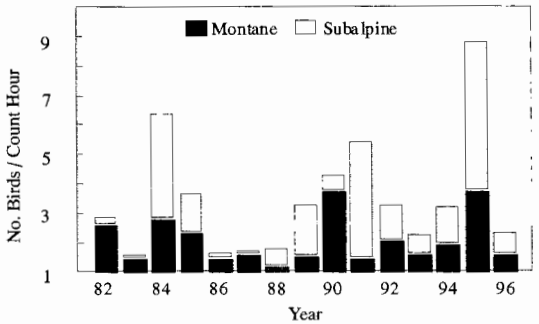

Figure 2. Numbers of Clark's Nutcrackers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Red Crossbills recorded per count hour in alpine and montane life zones of the Indian Peaks Four-Season Count, 1982 - 1996. All three species regularly frequent both life zones.

Peak numbers of birds corresponded with "bumper" cone crops on Engelmann spruce trees in the subalpine life zone in 1984, 1991, and 1995. During four other years, "good to heavy" cone production on Engelmann spruces in the Fraser Experimental Forest (Alexander et al. 1986), which is located fifteen miles west of Boulder County, seemed to correspond with "good" numbers of seed-eaters in the subalpine on the Indian Peaks Count. During the 15-year count period, Engelmann spruces produced two "bumper" and five "good to heavy" cone crops. The other dominant tree species in the subalpine life zone is subalpine fir (an infrequent cone-producer), which had significant cone crops only in 1984 and 1995.

Distinct cycles in the numbers of seed-eaters also occurred in the montane life zone. Relative abundance of seed-eaters was higher in seven of the 15 years, although which highs were influenced by cone production among which tree species is not clear. The data also indicate that avian cycles in montane forests may not be as extreme as they are in the subalpine forests. This would suggest that one or both of the co-dominant trees in the montane forests produce some cones each year.

Whether or not high numbers of seed-eaters in Colorado coincide with large movements of boreal birds from Canada is not clear. Irruptions of seed-eaters are well-documented (Lack 1954, Svardson 1957), but reasons for their occurrence are debated; cold temperatures or poor cone crops are speculated to be the primary reasons why seed-eaters leave the north. Bock and Lepthien (1976) felt that irruptions from Canada generally occur in alternate years, but cycles in western montane forests did not fit that pattern. In some years, it is probable that irruptions in Colorado represent movements from a small geographic area, while in other years they are influenced by irruptions from the north.

Bohemian Waxwings are also irruptive and influence the cycles in numbers of birds in winter counts. They are found almost exclusively in the montane life zone, where they feed on berries, particularly those of common and Rocky Mountain junipers. The waxwing irruptions are reported to occur at intervals of 3 - 7 years (Bent 1950). During the 15 years of our count, we have seen five apparent irruptions (ave. $\geq$ 2 individuals/count hour), two of which were fairly significant ($\geq$ 10 individuals/count hour in 1987 and 1996).

Except for the apparently cyclic species discussed above, the number of individuals for other species were more stable, although some resident species increased (Table 3). Additionally, participants found White-winged Crossbills more regularly on the winter counts. Species that seemed to decrease in winter counts included Dark-eyed Junco and Downy Woodpecker.

Summer Count Summary--Participants recorded 144 species during the 15 summer counts, with an average 98 species per summer period (Table 1). The average number of birds seen per count hour was 42, ranging from 32 - 53 (Figure 1). Non-resident, migrant species dominated the summer counts and comprised approximately 86% of the birds observed, while resident birds comprised the other 14%.

Snyder (1950) proposed naming the western-forest bird community *Parus-Spinus* after the abundance of Mountain Chickadees and Pine Siskins, both of which were abundant on the Indian Peaks Count (Table 4). American Robins, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Dark-eyed Juncos also were abundant and widespread.

Table 3. Eight resident species that appeared to increase during winter periods of the Indian Peaks Four-Season Count, 1982 - 1996.

	No. Birds per Count Hour		
Species	1982 to 1986	1987 to 1991	1992 to 1996
Black-capped Chickadee	0.12	0.27	0.30
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0.20	0.28	0.47
White-breasted Nuthatch	0.10	0.11	0.21
Brown Creeper	0.07	0.14	0.16
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0.09	0.27	0.28
Pine Grosbeak	0.22	0.37	0.44
Pine Siskin	0.34	0.50	0.82
White-winged Crossbill	0.02	0.03	0.06

Warbling Vireos and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds occurred more often in the montane life zone, while Wilson's Warblers and White-crowned Sparrows were numerous at higher elevations. From 1992 - 1996, participants found 11 species not recorded in the first 10 years: Eared Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Swainson's Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Canyon Wren, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Palm Warbler, Lark Bunting, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Table 4. The 10 species observed most frequently per count hour during summer periods of the Indian Peaks Four-Season Count, 1982 - 1996.

Species	No. Birds /Count Hour	Species	No. Birds /Count Hour
American Robin	3.37	Dark-eyed Junco	2.85
Pine Siskin	2.85	Warbling Vireo	1.61
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	2.51	Mountain Chickadee	1.55
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2.27	White-crowned Sparrow	1.52
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2.21	Wilson's Warbler	1.48

I grouped the species according to migration categories developed by Gauthreaux (1991) and subsequently modified for Colorado by the Colorado Bird Observatory (CBO) and the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) (1995). I also added species classified by the CBO and CDOW as "residents," but I sorted them into two more categories: "common generalists" and "vertical

migrants" (resident species that do not stay within the Indian Peaks Count area during winter). Overall, the number of birds in all categories appeared to increase, possibly due, in part, to the occurrence of warmer and drier summers. Looking at the data for 5-year periods, the number of birds appeared to increase in each category during the first two 5-year periods (Table 5). Common generalists and both long- and short-distance migrants accounted for most of the increase (Table 6), but residents and vertical migrants seemed to increase as well. There also appeared to be increases among some categories during the 1992 - 1996 period, with common generalists and resident species accounting for most of the increases (Tables 5 and 6).

Table 5. Number of birds observed per count hour among categories of migrant and resident species over three 5-year summer periods of the Indian Peaks Four-Season Count, 1982 - 1996.

	No. Birds per Count Hour		
Species Categories	1982 to 1986	1987 to 1991	1992 to 1996
Residents	3.70	4.30	4.90
Common Generalists	11.10	14.50	16.20
Long-distance Migrants	7.90	10.90	10.80
Short-distance Migrants	11.60	13.30	13.60
Vertical Migrants	0.90	1.20	1.10
All Bird Species	35.00	44.00	47.00

A number of species also appeared to fluctuate widely or decrease across the three 5-year periods (Table 7). The declining species are of great interest and will be monitored closely during the coming years. Over half of these species are long-distance migrants. Breeding Bird Survey data (U.S. Geological Survey-Biological Resources Division's 1996 on-line website: http://www.im.nbs.gov/birds.html) indicate that several of these species, including Solitary Vireo, Wilson's Warbler, and Western Tanager, are declining throughout the West, and the wintering grounds of Western Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, and Virginia's Warbler are considered threatened (Colorado Bird Observatory and Colorado Division of Wildlife 1995). Major breeding habitats of several long-distance species listed in Table 7 include ponderosa pine forests (Western Wood-Pewee, Solitary Vireo, Virginia's Warbler, and Western Tanager) and riparian/wetlands (Spotted Sandpiper, Willow Flycatcher, and Wilson's Warbler), both of which are changing rapidly through various human activities. Our three primary alpine nesters [Horned Lark, American Pipit, and Rosy-Finch (brown-capped only)] exhibited possible declines, but our

field efforts on the alpine tundra have been more sporadic, thus the data may be less reliable.

Table 6. Number of birds observed per count hour among categories of migrant and resident species that appeared to increase over three 5-year summer periods of the Indian Peaks Four-Season Count, 1982 - 1996.

	No. Birds per Count Hour		
Species	1982 to 1986	1987 to 1991	1992 to 1996
	Residents		
Blue Grouse	0.02	0.04	0.06
Clark's Nutcracker	0.16	0.39	0.41
American Crow	0.14	0.24	0.39
Black-capped Chickadee	0.04	0.13	0.19
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0.16	0.22	0.42
White-breasted Nuthatch	0.06	0.09	0.13
Pygmy Nuthatch	0.08	0.14	0.18
Brown Creeper	0.06	0.10	0.18
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0.05	0.18	0.26
	Common Generalists		
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1.78	2.69	3.06
Mountain Chickadee	1.27	1.42	1.96
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1.21	2.66	2.75
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2.05	2.38	2.39
Dark-eyed Junco	1.46	1.90	2.70
	Long-distance Migrants		
Common Nighthawk	0.04	0.05	0.08
White-throated Swift	0.04	0.10	0.20
Olive-sided Flycatcher	0.11	0.16	0.19
Swainson's Thrush	0.06	0.12	0.20
Lincoln's Sparrow	0.78	1.20	1.62
House Wren	0.43	0.72	0.82
	Short-distance Migrants		
Townsend's Solitaire	0.27	0.36	0.42
Fox Sparrow	0.09	0.22	0.29
Brewer's Blackbird	0.28	0.33	0.39
White-crowned Sparrow	1.34	1.42	1.80
	Vertical Migrants		
Canada Goose	0.01	0.01	0.05
House Sparrow	0.03	0.04	0.09

Table 7. Number of birds observed per count hour among categories of migrant and resident species that appeared to decrease or fluctuate widely over three 5-year summer periods of the Indian Peaks Four-Season Count, 1982 - 1996.

	No. Birds per Count Hour		
Species	1982 to 1986	1987 to 1991	1992 to 1996
	Long-distance Migrants		
Western Wood-Pewee	0.17	0.29	0.21
Willow Flycatcher	0.01	0.02	0.00
Solitary Vireo	0.00	0.04	0.01
Warbling Vireo	1.45	1.99	1.39
Virginia's Warbler	0.03	0.09	0.02
Wilson's Warbler	1.30	1.77	1.38
Western Tanager	0.26	0.28	0.18
	Short-distance Migrants		
Spotted Sandpiper	0.16	0.13	0.11
Horned Lark	0.36	0.43	0.28
American Pipit	1.01	1.27	0.88
Brown-headed Cowbird	0.86	0.70	0.56
	Resident Species		
Rosy-Finch	0.82	0.39	0.13
Evening Grosbeak	0.27	0.10	0.05

It's not clear why Brown-headed Cowbirds would be declining (Table 7), but we note the trend with great interest due to the adverse impact this species can have on other breeding birds (Chace and Cruz 1996). The presence of cowbirds in the mountains of Boulder County is considered to be a relatively recent event (Hanka 1985). Numbers of Evening Grosbeaks also seemed to decline throughout the 15 years; participants saw them in half of the count areas between 1982 - 1986, in a third of the areas from 1987 - 1991, and in only 15% of the count areas during 1992 - 1996.

Among the species that appeared to increase during the 15 years (Table 6), several are those that favor late-successional forests and large-diameter trees (Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet), and they could be responding to the aging of our forests. Many forest stands along the Front Range became reestablished between 1860 to 1910 after miners and other settlers had cut over or burned large portions of the forests (Veblen and Lorenz 1991). Hence, these forests are 100 - 150 years old and are reaching a stage where they may provide better food resources and nesting sites for bark-gleaning and cavity-nesting species, as well as species that favor uneven stand structures.

Apparent increases among members of the Corvidae family are of special interest because of their abilities to adapt to agricultural, suburban, and urban landscapes. Hence, they may be indicators of Boulder County's changing landscape. There are concerns about corvids because they are nest predators (Moller 1989, Ratti and Reese 1988). American Crows exhibited the largest increases. During 1982 - 1986, they were observed in 30% of the count areas, increasing to 35% during the 1987 - 1991 period and 58% during the most recent 5-year period. Clark's Nutcrackers also exhibited large increases. Numbers of Steller's Jays, Black-billed Magpies, and Common Ravens appeared to remain steady or increase slightly.

Species that use urban and agricultural landscapes within the count area exhibited mixed population changes. Rock Doves and House Finches seemed to remain stable, European Starlings decreased, and House Sparrows increased. Nederland remains the only location where this "urban gang of four" occurred regularly, however observers occasionally saw these urban birds at Ward and Rollinsville, and along Sugarloaf and Magnolia roads. Brewer's Blackbirds and Common Grackles seemed to increase slightly, and Canada Geese increased in number and distribution.

There are several other avian species that breed in the mountains, but they were not observed during our counts. Occasionally, participants encountered owls (Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Saw-Whet Owl), but no owling was conducted for the count. Black Swifts nested at one known location within the count area, but the timing of their nesting cycle, along with the difficulty of getting to the site, precluded this species from being monitored by the count.

Spring and Fall Count Summaries--The spring and fall counts cover times of the year when bird movements and changes take place. They also provide records of early and late migrants. For example, during the spring period (first two weeks of May), observers saw numbers of sparrows and bluebirds, but few hummingbirds, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers (an exception is Yellow-rumped Warblers). During the fall periods (last two weeks of September), most hummingbirds, flycatchers, thrushes, and vireos were gone, while warblers and sparrows were still common. Also, during the spring periods, several families of birds, including hawks, woodpeckers/sapsuckers, and corvids, were already conducting breeding activities.

The average number of species recorded in spring was 82, and the total number seen over the 15 years was 146. The number of individuals observed per count hour averaged 36, ranging from 23 - 51. The high counts occurred from 1990 - 1993, with a different group of species contributing more to these high numbers each year. When these years are excluded from the data, the average number seen has been very consistent over the 15 years. The most numerous

birds seen in the spring were a mix of migrant and resident species (Table 8). The 10 species recorded most frequently comprised almost 50% of all individuals seen, with one in five being either an American Robin or Dark-eyed Junco. During the last five years, 10 species observed that had not been recorded during previous springs were: Eared Grebe, White-faced Ibis, Bufflehead, Long-billed Dowitcher, Whimbrel, Least Flycatcher, Pinyon Jay, Canyon Wren, Cedar Waxwing, and Yellow Warbler.

Table 8. The 10 species observed most frequently per count hour during spring periods of the Indian Peaks Four-Season Count, 1982 - 1996.

Species	No. Birds /Count Hour	Species	No. Birds /Count Hour
American Robin	3.57	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1.83
Dark-eyed Junco	3.32	Tree Swallow	1.61
Mountain Chickadee	2.77	Rosy-Finch	1.31
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2.30	Brewer's Blackbird	1.20
Pine Siskin	1.88	Steller's Jay	1.19

During fall periods, the average number of species counted was 81, with a total of 144 species observed over the 15 years. The average number of birds seen per count hour was 32, with a range of 25 - 48. As in spring periods, the most numerous birds in the fall included both migrant and resident species (Table 9). Common generalists, such as American Robin and Dark-eyed Junco, occurred most frequently.

Table 9. The 10 species observed most frequently per count hour during fall periods of the Indian Peaks Four-Season Count, 1982 - 1996.

Species	No. Birds /Count Hour	Species	No. Birds /Count Hour
Dark-eyed Junco	4.31	Steller's Jay	1.40
Mountain Chickadee	3.92	Red Crossbill	1.35
American Robin	2.44	White-crowned Sparrow	1.24
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1.96	Chipping Sparrow	1.08
Pine Siskin	1.65	American Crow	1.01

Fall was also the period when waterfowl normally made their best showing in the mountains, and the alpine tundra became very active with raptors, particularly Northern Harriers and American Kestrels. Birds that undertake post-breeding dispersals to higher altitudes, including Steller's Jays and Pygmy Nuthatches, became more common at higher elevations, and Townsend's Warblers made their only mountain appearances during the fall. Many birds were found in large flocks, consisting of anywhere from just one species (typical of American Robins and Mountain Bluebirds) to several species (e.g., Yellow-rumped, Wilson's, and Townsend's warblers). Eight species not recorded prior to 1982 were seen during the most recent 5-year period: Horned Grebe, White-faced Ibis, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Long-eared Owl, Blue Jay, Canyon Wren, and Field Sparrow. Similar to what participants found in spring periods of the early 1990s, there was an exceptionally high number of birds in fall periods of 1990 - 1992; common generalists, including Mountain Chickadees, American Robins, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Dark-eyed Juncos, contributed most to those high numbers.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks go to Steve Jones for his review and critique of this manuscript.

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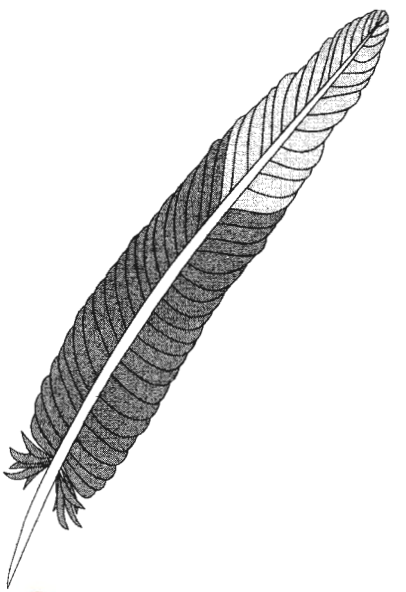

Crested Caracara: A Mishap and a Second Chance

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On the morning of September 29th, 1997, Bob Holder, a District Wildlife Manager with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) in Trinidad, received a phone call from a local landowner, Will Dunnihoo. Dunnihoo told Holder that he had just seen an injured hawk on CR 71.1, two miles north of Trinidad. Holder drove to the place Dunnihoo described and found a large raptor hiding in a clump of brush along the roadside. "It wasn't anything I had ever seen before," said Holder. "It had strange markings and long, chicken-like legs. It couldn't fly, but it sure could run. When I got out of my truck, it fled down an arroyo and attempted to hide in a pile of wind-blown tumbleweeds."

Approaching quietly, Holder cornered the bird in the tumbleweeds, placed a towel over it, and cautiously picked it up. He took it to a veterinarian in Trinidad, Dr. Chip Aaroe, who x-rayed the bird and found that it had a fractured humerus. Otherwise, the bird seemed to be in good condition. A CDOW representative then took the injured raptor to Colorado Springs for Dr. Lee Eggleston to examine. Dr. Eggleston, one of Colorado's foremost authorities on injured raptors, treated the bird and transported it to the Birds of Prey Foundation in Broomfield, Colorado, for rehabilitation. At the Foundation, the bird was kept in intensive care for three weeks before it was placed in a protective enclosure, where it could regain strength and wait out the cold Colorado winter.

The strange raptor, identified as an adult Crested Caracara (*Polyborus plancus*) of unknown gender, created quite a sensation. Typically, Crested Caracaras range from southern South America north through Mexico and reach the northern limit of their breeding range in east-central Florida, southern Texas, and (rarely) south-central Arizona (American Ornithologists' Union 1983, Clark 1987). Therefore, a Crested Caracara in Colorado was unusual indeed! Also, the species looks quite different from other North American Falconidae with which most people are familiar (they look like a cross between a Greater Roadrunner and a Turkey Vulture), thereby increasing the local sensation. A photograph and an article about the unusual visitor even made the front page of the Trinidad Chronicle. The day after the article appeared, Holder received a call from a local schoolbus driver. The driver explained that a large bird had flown across the road right in front of his bus on September 29 as he drove his route along that same stretch of CR 71.1. "My bus clipped it," he reported.

Just what, exactly, was this bird doing in Colorado? Caracaras are carrion-eaters, and apparently the bird was doing just what it would be doing in Texas-

-cruising rural highways in search of road kills. Holder reported that, in fact, there had been a dead chicken on CR 71.1 not far from where the injured bird was found. But is the caracara a wild bird? Sigrid Ueblacker, who has handled thousands of injured raptors in her 16 years as Director and rehabilitator with the Birds of Prey Foundation, believes that it is a wild bird. When she received the caracara, its plumage was faded, especially on its back, which is common among raptors that have spent their lives in the open. Its beak, tail feathers, and talons also showed the wear she usually sees in wild birds but not in birds held in captivity for any length of time. Moreover, she explained, the stress level that the bird exhibited in response to captivity was typical of what Ueblacker sees in raptors experiencing their first contacts with humans. Among other signs of stress was the color of the caracara's cere (that colorful patch of bare skin between the bill and the eyes). Often the bird's cere was bright yellow, which indicates stress or excitement. In a relaxed bird, the cere is usually pinkish-red to orange.

In the *Field Guide to Hawks of North America* (Clark 1987), Crested Caracaras are described as non-migratory, although some individuals wander beyond their breeding range to New Mexico and Louisiana (Clark 1987), as well as Oklahoma (American Ornithologists' Union 1983). Oberholser (1974) describes them as "casual stragglers" in the Texas panhandle. There also have been sightings of caracaras in Oregon, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Ontario, although they were described in the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North America Birds as "almost certainly escapes from captivity" (American Ornithologists' Union 1983). On September 9-12, 1984, a caracara was observed and photographed in Yellowstone National Park, although the status of that record is not clear.

Andrews and Righter (1992) mention nothing about Crested Caracaras in Colorado, although someone discovered a healthy juvenile--not yet able to fly--near the Roaring Fork River south of Glenwood Springs in April or May of 1948 (Bailey and Niedrach 1965). Accounts differed about whether or not adult caracaras were also observed in the area, but the young bird was captured and taken to Denver's City Park Zoo, where it resided until it died in 1955. Fortunately, attitudes toward wildlife have changed in the intervening 50 years, and the Trinidad bird will not suffer the same fate. When spring weather arrives, prey is more plentiful, and the bird's vigor is restored, the bird will be released back into the wild somewhere in Texas.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mark Janos, Colorado Bird Records Committee (RC) Chair, wishes to thank Gail Evans for investigating this story and submitting a record of the Crested Caracara. The record will be reviewed for possible acceptance by the RC. If accepted, this would be the first Crested Caracara for Colorado

since Bailey and Niedrach's (1965) mention of the juvenile bird found near Glenwood Springs.

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1997-1998 CBC Results For Colorado

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The tables that follow (pages 86-101) display the data for 23 of Colorado's Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) for the 1997-98 count period. Only counts for which I received data are included. With the possible exception of transcription errors, the numbers are those I received from the CBC compilers and other idividuals who relayed information to me. Neither I nor any other individual has assessed the validity of any reports.

While reports of 23 CBCs represents an improvement over last year's 19 CBCs reported, several Colorado CBCs are still missing. Nevertheless, a few trends stand out. Species' counts tended to fall somewhat below last year's—more so on the Front Range than in western Colorado. Raptor numbers were solid

again this year, with surprising numbers of Merlins and Harlan's race Red-tailed Hawks reported on several counts. The number of Horned Larks on the Barr Lake Count rates as one of the highest daily totals ever recorded in Colorado for a single location. The Montrose Whooping Crane, although not strictly a "countable" species, stands out as one of the more remarkable finds in this year's set of counts. CBCs such as Grand Junction, Pueblo Reservoir, Penrose, and Boulder continue to record high numbers of both species and individuals. The Rocky Ford Count, however, proved to be the year's sleeper; maybe Mark Janos will have the luxury of more help on this count in coming years.

Anyone interested in obtaining a spreadsheet file of the CBC data may contact me by e-mail at aversaw@juno.com or by mail at 403Maplewood Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80907. For those who can receive electronic file attachments, I will be happy to send a copy of the spreadsheet to an e-mail address you specify. Otherwise, send $1 to cover expenses and I will send a copy on 3.5" disk (PC format) by regular mail. Unless otherwise specified, the file will be sent as an Excel 4.0 file. Other options include QuattroPro and Lotus 1-2-3 files.

Although there is a certain danger of omission in my attempt to list all the individuals who helped me gather count data, I will attempt to list, and thank, all of them. I would like to thank and acknowledge the contributions of Doug Allen, Ann Bonnell, Leon Bright, Mark Janos, Bill Kaempfer, Mike Ketchen, Jo Ann Kozan, Tony Leukering, Rich Levad, Brandon Percival, Andrea Rose Robinsong, Scott Roederer, Ron Ryder, Stuart Schneider, Dave Silverman, and Linda Vidal.

Codes Used in the CBC Tables

cw = species observed during the count week but not during the count itself; **Grly** = Greeley; **RMNP** = Rocky Mountain National Park; **Rwhd** = Rawhide Power Plant and Hamilton Reservoir; **BrLk** = Barr Lake; **Bldr** = Boulder; **GoWe** = Golden / Westminster; **Dgls** = Douglas County; **Pnrs** = Penrose; **PuRe** = Pueblo Reservoir; **Pblo** = Pueblo; **LkIs** = Lake Isabel; **PkPk** = Pike's Peak; **RkFd** = Rocky Ford; **FoCk** = Fountain Creek; **Wclf** = Westcliffe; **GrSD** = Great Sand Dunes; **Aspn** = Aspen; **RoFk** = Roaring Fork; **Mesa** = Mesa; **Gnsn** = Gunnison; **Htks** = Hotchkiss; **Mtrs** = Montrose; and **GrJn** = Grand Junction

Species	Grly	RMNP	Rwhd	BrLk	Bldr
Common Loon			2		
Pied-billed Grebe			cw		12
Horned Grebe			3		9
Eared Grebe					
Western Grebe			2		6
Clark's Grebe			1		
Western/Clark's Grebe					
American White Pelican	cw				
Double-crested Cormorant					7
Great Blue Heron	3			1	23
Great Egret					
Black-crowned Night-Heron				1	
Mute Swan					
Tundra Swan					
Greater White-fronted Goose					3
Snow Goose					2
blue morph					
Ross's Goose					1
Canada Goose	15193		375	1484	10353
Wood Duck					
Mandarin Duck					
Green-winged Teal	13		35	15	20
Mallard	1598	286	2035	8875	1434
Northern Pintail	31		16	124	6
Blue-winged Teal					
Northern Shoveler	83		10	149	30
Gadwall			22	8	74
American Wigeon	12		16	18	271
Canvasback			68		18
Redhead	cw			6	38
Ring-necked Duck	12			38	215
Greater Scaup					
Lesser Scaup	35		49	22	30
Oldsquaw					
Common Goldeneye	14	35	47	18	71
Barrow's Goldeneye					
Bufflehead	5		50	12	15
Hooded Merganser			7		96
Common Merganser	cw	12	39	55	144
Red-breasted Merganser					3
Ruddy Duck			87		1
duck species					
Bald Eagle	17		1	20	32
adult	2		1		
immature	15				
Northern Harrier	8		8	16	14
Sharp-shinned Hawk	cw		1	1	5
Cooper's Hawk					1
Northern Goshawk					1
accipiter species					

GoWe	Dgls	Pnrs	PuRe	Pblo	LkIs	PkPk
			3			
21		2	11	11		
1			8			
			9			
5			1			
			1			
			2			
		13	18	6	cw	
1						
			1			
		10				
1						
5821	40	1163	296	1356	11	2
	6		38		cw	
			6			
45		89	35	4	16	
575	380	639	457	432	41	67
		1	12	1		
		12	10	1		
33		51	108	123		
14		112	178	249	1	2
8		7	1	12		
6		10	9	120		
23		155	66	77		
2		1		2		
37		6	1	7		
			2	2		
46		120	556	113		
2						
5		3	236	7		
36		10	40	103		
48		2	62	30		
21			3			
				4		
8	2	4	12	8	1	2
8		4		6	1	2
				2		
cw		2	7	6		
1	2	5	2	3		1
1	2	3	3	1	1	1
	1					2
2						

Species	RkFd	FoCk	Wclf	GrSD
Common Loon				
Pied-billed Grebe	35	1		
Horned Grebe				
Eared Grebe				
Western Grebe				
Clark's Grebe	1			
Western/Clark's Grebe				
American White Pelican				
Double-crested Cormorant				
Great Blue Heron	13	3	1	
Great Egret				
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1	1		
Mute Swan				
Tundra Swan				
Greater White-fronted Goose				
Snow Goose	19375	1		
blue morph	88			
Ross's Goose	33			
Canada Goose	1740	195		
Wood Duck		5		
Mandarin Duck				
Green-winged Teal	15	154		
Mallard	1754	196	98	5
Northern Pintail	77	1		
Blue-winged Teal				
Northern Shoveler	50	14		
Gadwall	29	37		
American Wigeon	37	18		
Canvasback	5			
Redhead	38			2
Ring-necked Duck	40	16		
Greater Scaup	2			
Lesser Scaup	78	4		
Oldsquaw				
Common Goldeneye	330	7		
Barrow's Goldeneye				
Bufflehead	1			
Hooded Merganser	2	2		
Common Merganser	58	7		
Red-breasted Merganser				
Ruddy Duck				
duck species				8
Bald Eagle	22	3	4	
adult	8	2	2	
immature	14	1	2	
Northern Harrier	9	19		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12			
Cooper's Hawk	4	1		
Northern Goshawk				1
accipiter species				

Aspn	RoFk	Mesa	Gnsn	Htks	Mtrs	GrJn
	1	5				17
						8
2	4		1	4	12	45
						1
						cw
						1
	4					
						4
						1
275	231	220		20	516	6759
						161
	19	15	62			90
518	346	141	655	45	109	13357
	13					172
			7			
	14					9
	10	12			10	55
	2			16	149	259
					1	1
					1	53
	47	74		13	60	616
	2	8				38
3	43	20	80			28
	1	12				
	24	1				23
	2	2				13
	1	4	5		4	40
						cw
	2	7				16
2	27	34	14	24	13	27
2	23					
	4					
	2		1	10	9	23
	1			1	4	19
	1			5	3	8
	1				1	2

Species	Grly	RMNP	Rwhd	BrLk	Bldr
Red-tailed Hawk	29	33	3	30	98
Harlan's form				4	7
Ferruginous Hawk	1		1	16	19
Rough-legged Hawk	7		4	10	8
buteo species	9				
Golden Eagle		2	6	2	15
adult			6		
immature					
American Kestrel	47		2	31	67
Merlin			1	6	1
Peregrine Falcon			1		6
Prairie Falcon	4	2	3	7	
Blue Grouse					7
White-tailed Ptarmigan		2			
Ring-necked Pheasant	20			2	
Sharp-tailed Grouse					
Wild Turkey		1			
Northern Bobwhite					
Scaled Quail					
Gambel's Quail					
Virginia Rail					3
Sora					
American Coot	9		13		263
Sandhill Crane					
Whooping Crane					
Killdeer			1	5	12
Greater Yellowlegs					
Lesser Yellowlegs					
Spotted Sandpiper					
Common Snipe			3	9	7
Ring-billed Gull	4		17	102	340
California Gull					cw
Herring Gull	2		2	1	13
Thayer's Gull					1
Lesser Black-backed Gull					cw
Greater Black-backed Gull					
Larus species		1			
Rock Dove	320	35	89	307	668
Eurasian Collared Dove					
Mourning Dove					cw
Greater Roadrunner					
Barn Owl					
Eastern Screech-Owl	cw				2
Western Screech-Owl					
Great Horned Owl		cw	5	13	24
Northern Pygmy-Owl					
Burrowing Owl					
Long-eared Owl					2
Northern Saw-Whet Owl					
Belted Kingfisher	3		1	5	29

GoWe	Dgls	Pnrs	PuRe	Pblo	LkIs	PkPk
21	19	50	45	42	22	5
		1		4		
9		1	13	3		
1		1	5	3	2	cw
			1			
7	9	4	3	3		4
4	2	3		1		4
1	3	1		2		
14	6	43	15	10	4	
cw		4	1			
1	1	5	4	1	1	
1	1					
	3					
	31	39			11	
			105	30		
2	1	3		2		
237		139	132	180		
1		10	6	6		
			1			
2		7	1	1	4	
233		233	2022	775		
2		2	13			
		4	11	2		
		2	2			
1			1			
						1
510	195	1823	59	806	2	2
2		282	14			
		1				
1						
		3	4		2	
	5	13	35	4	8	1
		1				1
					2	
10	3	13	11	3	2	1

Species	RkFd	FoCk	Wclf	GrSD
Red-tailed Hawk	32	69	7	
Harlan's form	6	5		
Ferruginous Hawk	5	3		
Rough-legged Hawk	11	9	6	1
buteo species	4		1	1
Golden Eagle	3	5	5	1
adult	3	3	3	
immature		2	2	
American Kestrel	57	21		
Merlin	10	2		
Peregrine Falcon			1	
Prairie Falcon	2	4		
Blue Grouse				
White-tailed Ptarmigan				
Ring-necked Pheasant	23			
Sharp-tailed Grouse				
Wild Turkey		35		
Northern Bobwhite	1			
Scaled Quail		27		
Gambel's Quail				
Virginia Rail	2	16		
Sora				
American Coot	251	9		
Sandhill Crane				
Whooping Crane				
Killdeer	1	6		
Greater Yellowlegs				
Lesser Yellowlegs				
Spotted Sandpiper				
Common Snipe	2	26		
Ring-billed Gull	179			
California Gull				
Herring Gull	2			
Thayer's Gull				
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
Greater Black-backed Gull				
Larus species				
Rock Dove	253	62	35	
Eurasian Collared Dove	8			
Mourning Dove	12			
Greater Roadrunner				
Barn Owl				
Eastern Screech-Owl	1			
Western Screech-Owl				
Great Horned Owl	9	7	3	2
Northern Pygmy-Owl				
Burrowing Owl				
Long-eared Owl	4	4		
Northern Saw-Whet Owl				
Belted Kingfisher	2	4	1	

Aspn	RoFk	Mesa	Gnsn	Htks	Mtrs	GrJn
4	18	18	8	30	18	60
				2	1	3
1	14		11	17	1	
3	11	8	8	31	5	8
	10					
3	1					
	5	4	1	36	49	82
	2					2
					1	1
						7
				40	13	60
	14	32				
					20	104
		4		1		4
						1
	198	6			5	355
					12	
					1	
	3	3				17
			2	13	8	2
				1		1
	5	1				1
						2
15	89	143	37	78	191	920
	10				104	969
						3
						33
cw			3		1	5
				1		
						11
	5		3	6	3	17

Species	Grly	RMNP	Rwhd	BrLk	Bldr
Lewis's Woodpecker					
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					
Williamson's Sapsucker					1
Ladder-backed Woodpecker					
Downy Woodpecker	1	9	2	10	69
Hairy Woodpecker		13		2	54
Three-toed Woodpecker		1			
Northern Flicker	23	7	15	27	237
red-shafted form	22	7	14	17	234
yellow-shafted form	1		1		
red x yellow form				3	3
Say's Phoebe					
Horned Lark	2576		150	38127	7
Tree Swallow					
Gray Jay		4			
Steller's Jay		143			388
Blue Jay	53			7	92
Western Scrub Jay			6		9
Pinyon Jay					
Clark's Nutcracker		47			141
Black-billed Magpie	153	220	1	260	903
American Crow	593	142		2	355
Chihuahuan Raven					
Common Raven		157	7		204
raven species					
Black-capped Chickadee	10	51	14	50	549
Mountain Chickadee		201	4		604
Juniper Titmouse					
Bushtit					
Red-breasted Nuthatch		4	2		124
White-breasted Nuthatch		11			151
Pygmy Nuthatch		224			214
Brown Creeper		4			35
Rock Wren					1
Canyon Wren					3
Bewick's Wren					
House Wren					2
Winter Wren					2
Marsh Wren					
American Dipper		7	1		12
Golden-crowned Kinglet					22
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher					
Eastern Bluebird					
Western Bluebird					
Mountain Bluebird					
Townsend's Solitaire	1	104	13		283
Hermit Thrush					
American Robin	17	106	9	2	469
Sage Thrasher					

GoWe	Dgls	Pnrs	PuRe	Pblo	LkIs	PkPk
				2	7	
			1			
		1				
5	16	28	14	3	11	15
	6	9	3		16	16
						1
54	56	132	77	33	15	19
42					15	19
		1				
	26	81	507	770	4	
	2					5
9	271	21	1		231	244
3	175	46	36	18	49	15
5	384	24	4		172	76
	100	16				
					1	17
257	313	576	395	208	154	211
25	525	44	255	26	363	339
2	77	19	33	4	32	120
41	368	118	101	38	127	38
10	55	28	7	6	151	192
		19	8			4
	6	123	46			24
	7		4	3	14	20
11	20	23	12	1	34	25
13	20	21			75	53
2	1		2	1	7	11
		1	1			
	1	5				1
		4	22	2		
				1		
		1				
		7			1	
6	1	4			2	
		2			4	9
		13	20	2		2
		33	1		1	
		72	10			
		332	554		168	
6	33	143	62	5	22	71
4	210	2161	399	25	453	48
			6			

Species	RkFd	FoCk	Welf	GrSD
Lewis's Woodpecker	7	1		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
Williamson's Sapsucker				
Ladder-backed Woodpecker		1		
Downy Woodpecker	9	8	1	
Hairy Woodpecker	4	2	1	2
Three-toed Woodpecker				
Northern Flicker	87	22	2	2
red-shafted form	82	19		
yellow-shafted form	4	1		
red x yellow form	1	2		
Say's Phoebe				
Horned Lark	559	53	123	37
Tree Swallow				
Gray Jay			3	
Steller's Jay			30	37
Blue Jay	81	7		
Western Scrub Jay	3	1	8	6
Pinyon Jay		2	40	78
Clark's Nutcracker			9	16
Black-billed Magpie	65	105	38	21
American Crow	14	11	36	
Chihuahuan Raven	5	3		
Common Raven	2	38	153	11
raven species	1			
Black-capped Chickadee	16	64	4	1
Mountain Chickadee		1	71	86
Juniper Titmouse				
Bushtit				8
Red-breasted Nuthatch				1
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	3	7	12
Pygmy Nuthatch			19	cw
Brown Creeper			1	
Rock Wren				
Canyon Wren				
Bewick's Wren	1			
House Wren				
Winter Wren	1			
Marsh Wren	2	3		
American Dipper		1	3	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
Eastern Bluebird	39			
Western Bluebird				
Mountain Bluebird				
Townsend's Solitaire	1		4	15
Hermit Thrush				
American Robin	254			51
Sage Thrasher				

Aspn	RoFk	Mesa	Gnsn	Htks	Mtrs	GrJn
	1			6		1
14	13	5	34	4	1	12
7	3	1	17	1	1	2
3	29	24	5	36	41	222
3	29	24			40	222
					1	
						2
			97			69
						1
2		5				
74	100	5	10	3	8	1
23	106	69		56	1	31
		20		105		229
1	47		2	2		
233	223	58	144	224	194	951
27	27	76	22		558	421
27	131	96	228	84	30	85
166	85	19	286	18	20	21
66	45	39	42	4		3
		3				4
		1				121
1	8		3	1		
6	14	3	5	1		3
			36			
6	2	1	1	1		
		1			2	12
		3		1		4
		3		1		33
	2	3		1	4	8
12	16	5	53	2	2	
	2			5	1	
	1					24
						1
					3	56
				1	24	262
6	26	7		5		15
						3
52	346	4	4	5	45	1135

Species	Grly	RMNP	Rwhd	BrLk	Bldr
Brown Thrasher		1			
Curve-billed Thrasher					
American Pipit					
Cedar Waxwing		8			28
Northern Shrike		3	1	1	
Loggerhead Shrike					
European Starling	3570	81	427	8518	3891
Orange-crowned Warbler					
Yellow Warbler				2	
Yellow-rumped warbler					
Spotted Towhee			3		14
Canyon Towhee					
American Tree Sparrow	5		115	254	333
Chipping Sparrow					cw
Song Sparrow	6		11	96	116
Lincoln's Sparrow					
Swamp Sparrow					
White-throated Sparrow					
White-crowned Sparrow	56	1		29	37
Harris's Sparrow		1	1		5
Dark-eyed Junco	11	72	40	58	937
gray-headed form					189
Oregon form		26	18	3	170
pink-sided form				6	
slate-colored form	6	9	22	14	168
white-winged form		5		1	28
Lapland Longspur				1	
Chestnut-collared Longspur					
Snow Bunting	cw				
Red-winged Blackbird	254			5655	1365
Western Meadowlark	51			108	24
Yellow-headed Blackbird					
Rusty Blackbird					
Brewer's Blackbird	15	5		179	46
Great-tailed Grackle					
Common Grackle					
Brown-headed Cowbird					
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch		12			
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch					
Pine Grosbeak		cw			
Cassin's Finch		9	3		13
House Finch	126	160	43	156	988
Red Crossbill		17			88
Pine Siskin	cw	322			54
Lesser Goldfinch					
American Goldfinch	129	136	27	96	384
Evening Grosbeak					6
House Sparrow	1145	71	77	1079	1562
SPECIES COUNT	44	47	60	57	96

GoWe	Dgls	Pnrs	PuRe	Pblo	LkIs	PkPk
			6			
		5	5			
	47	37			128	
1	5	8	5		4	3
		2376	8		1	
765	603	2376	3064	2002	298	217
		4	50	1		
2	84	12	4		9	42
		48	37		1	
29	45	296	115	10	3	1
30	12	187	165	52	10	13
13		582	268	82		1
cw		2	5	1	1	
49	774	1593	156	107	190	605
8	187	79			69	
5	171	813			78	
15						
7	140	104			8	
	24	11			8	
100	124	2259	1203	542	166	1
cw		9	20	43	7	
			4	1	2	
		332	39	304		
3	1		2			
		4				
						2
	2					26
	34	12			1	76
104	244	283	305	25	58	158
2	53				1	
2	71	37	2		47	164
10	80	377	227	29	25	50
		42			72	39
389	102	510	712	320	150	90
76	59	102	102	73	63	56

Species	RkFd	FoCk	Wclf	GrSD
Brown Thrasher				
Curve-billed Thrasher				
American Pipit				
Cedar Waxwing	11			
Northern Shrike	7	5		
Loggerhead Shrike	1	1		1
European Starling	2083	421		
Orange-crowned Warbler				
Yellow Warbler				
Yellow-rumped warbler				
Spotted Towhee	3	15		
Canyon Towhee		1		
American Tree Sparrow	624	421	15	
Chipping Sparrow				
Song Sparrow	107	51		
Lincoln's Sparrow		3		
Swamp Sparrow		1		
White-throated Sparrow				
White-crowned Sparrow	219	6		
Harris's Sparrow	3			
Dark-eyed Junco	56	42	125	24
gray-headed form	1			
Oregon form	35	10		
pink-sided form		3		
slate-colored form	19	12		
white-winged form	1			
Lapland Longspur	27	1		
Chestnut-collared Longspur	1			
Snow Bunting				
Red-winged Blackbird	1330	329	15	
Western Meadowlark	78	25		
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
Rusty Blackbird				
Brewer's Blackbird	560	39		
Great-tailed Grackle	8			
Common Grackle	2			
Brown-headed Cowbird	1			
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch			2	
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch			25	
Pine Grosbeak				cw
Cassin's Finch				
House Finch	50	20	2	
Red Crossbill				
Pine Siskin	10			
Lesser Goldfinch				
American Goldfinch	135	25		
Evening Grosbeak				
House Sparrow	319	84	236	
SPECIES COUNT	90	72	38	25

Aspn	RoFk	Mesa	Gnsn	Htks	Mtrs	GrJn
			2	1		2
	65	40				119
	2	1				6
				2		4
130	688	462	644	850	2843	9221
						1
	1				1	76
	27	5		9	1	30
11		2	238		3	14
10	23	30	17	88	30	336
1						
3						
	1	4	2	125	54	973
	1		3			1
11	175	185	29	532		929
	17		13	199		96
5	65		16	332		826
6	28			1		7
14	47	575	326	141	1046	794
			1	30	37	82
	1					
					50	109
				2		
				1		2
2			87			9
cw			300			
134	5	5				
		12		6		24
3	245	31	11	173	107	1201
147	82		38			120
	1					1
35	38	1	120	32	18	152
55	42	6		8		6
19	703	76	411	214	341	1041
	74	63	50	60	60	106

NEWS FROM THE FIELD: THE AUTUMN 1997 REPORT (AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER)

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There was less activity at many feeders in Colorado this year, as irruptive species such as Pine Siskins, Evening Grosbeaks, Cassin's Finches, and Red Crossbills went somewhere else. In some cases, Harris's Sparrows and American Goldfinches picked up the slack. Where thrushes were concerned, there was a dearth of Townsend's Solitaires, Swainson's Thrushes, and Hermit Thrushes. Eastern Bluebirds however, continued recent trends of being more commonly and consistently reported away from the extreme eastern part of the state.

As usual, many rarities were seen. Highlights included the aleatory occurrence of a Crested Caracara, Tropical Kingbird, and Dusky-capped Flycatcher. Some great larids also were found, including Arctic Tern, Black-headed Gull, several Little Gulls, and what seemed like zillions of Sabine's Gulls. The best warblers observed this fall were Prairie, Prothonotary, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, and Canada.

The fall season report would be complete without mention of the alabaster oblivion that punched most of Colorado in the face on 10/26 and 10/27. Many locations on the eastern plains received more than 24 inches of snow, with heavy drifting creating multifarious problems. It will forever be known as the "The Blizzard of 97."

The information used in this report was either forwarded to me by the regional editors for the Audubon Society's *Field Notes* or sent to me directly by observers. I welcome snail mail or e-mail submissions for the "News from the Field" reports. Please send them to the address (or e-mail address) listed above.

Note: The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Records Committee would like to see documentation provided for those species that I have underlined in this report. I will note documentation that I am aware of by putting an asterisk (*) next to the documenting observer's initials. If I am not aware of documentation, then I will denote this by putting **<ND>** (meaning no documentation) after the observer's initials.

Abbreviations used: CG=campground, CFO=Colorado Field Ornithologists, Co.=county, CVCG=Crow Valley Campground, imm.=immature, LCCW=Lamar Community College Woods, NWR=National Wildlife Refuge, Res.=Reservoir, SP=State Park, SWA= State Wildlife Area, VPSWA=Valco Ponds State Wildlife Area

Red-throated Loon: The "Where's Waldo Red-throat" showed up at Cherry Creek Res. from 11/11 - 12 (BB, mob) **<ND>**.

Pacific Loon: One appeared at Chatfield Res. on the early date of 8/30 (DBr).

Common Loon: Oft-encountered this fall, reports of migrants started coming in on 8/27.

Yellow-billed Loon: An imm. was found intermittently on Chatfield Res. from 10/13 - 11/30 (JBH, mob). The bird often would be seen for a few days and then seemingly disappear for a week or so before being relocated.

Red-necked Grebe: One or two were seen on Pueblo Res. from 10/26 - 11/18 (BKP, MJ, mob) **<ND>**. One was seen at Douglas Res. in Larimer Co. on 11/10 (SJD*), while other singletons appeared at Union Res. from 11/13 - 17 (BPr, mob) **<ND>** and Chatfield Res. from 11/22 - 29 (BB, mob) **<ND>**.

Great Egret: Five observed at Union Res. from 9/7 - 13 (DCE, JBo, mob) was consistent--both in number and date--with sightings in recent years.

Little Blue Heron: An imm. wandered north to Jackson Res. on 8/24 (DBr) **<ND>**.

Cattle Egret: Six at Lower Latham Res. on 9/14 (JV) burgeoned to 15 on 9/17 (DAL).

Green Heron: One or two were observed along the Poudre River in Fort Collins through 9/21 (JM, mob).

Tundra Swan: Six were found north of Loma in Mesa Co. on 10/2 (CD), the first in a flurry of reports. Two were in Pueblo on 10/26 - 27 (PSS, CS). Terry Lake north of Ft. Collins hosted a pair of adults on 11/3 (SJD). Six were discovered on Chatfield Res. and in Roxborough Village on 11/12 (JK), while three graced Eagle the same day (JMe). Yet another group of six was found on Boulder Res. on 11/15 (SSv). Solo adults were observed on 11/16 at Big Johnson Res. (JWb) and Jumbo Res. (SJD). Pueblo Res. had an adult on 11/21 (BKP) and Little Gaynor Lake in Boulder Co. had an adult from 11/24 - 30 (TBt, mob).

Trumpeter Swan: This species is quickly losing "headline" status as the records continue to proliferate. The first was reported at Ryan's Gulch in Loveland from 10/28 - 30 (DSn) **<ND>**. This year, two were seen at Roxborough Village and Platte Canyon Res. from 11/8 - 18 (BB, mob) **<ND>**. Two imm. were seen at North Sterling Res. on 11/16 (SJD*). A loner was at Eagle from 11/18 - 29 (JMe) **<ND>** and an adult was at Pueblo Res. on 11/21 (BKP, BD) **<ND>**. Two were seen in Estes Park on 11/22 (SRa) **<ND>** and an adult was at Little Gaynor Lake from 11/24 - 30 (TBt, mob) **<ND>**.

Greater White-fronted Goose: The earliest report was of 21 at Nee Noshe Res. on 10/4 (BKP, MJ). More unusual was one seen on the Western Slope east of Grand Junction on 11/4 (CD).

Snow Goose: Some big flocks passed over the Front Range this autumn, with 300+ flying over southeast Berthoud on 11/10 (BC). Another flock was heard flying over Fort Collins on the night of 11/14 (JLF).

Ross's Goose: A tough find on the Western Slope, one was detected on 11/4 east of Grand Junction (CD).

Wood Duck: This species is certainly increasing in Colorado, but seeing 28 at Warren Lake in Fort Collins on 10/22 (DCE) seemed noteworthy. Twenty-four were seen feeding on Russian olives along the Poudre River the day after the "Blizzard of 97" (10/26 by DAL). These were probably different groups of birds, suggesting a rather large Fort Collins-area group.

Eurasian Wigeon: A male--an annual fall/winter find in Fort Collins during the past several years--was present from 10/19 - 11/30 (DAL, mob) **<ND>**.

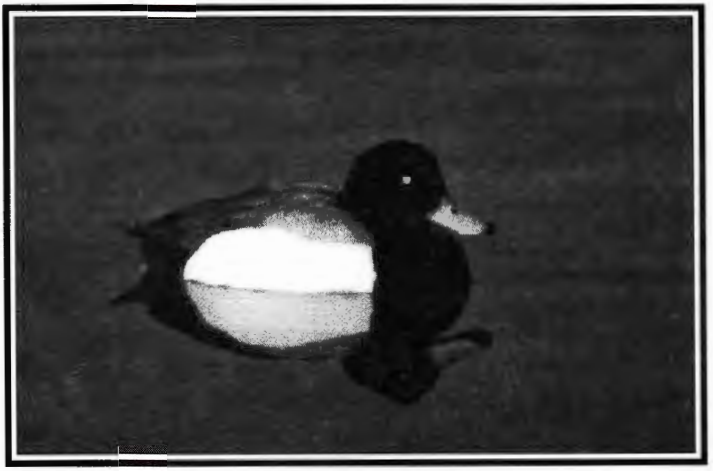
Canvasback: The high number at Hamilton Res. was 58 on 10/28 (RAR).

Redhead: An interesting trend was noted by Ron Ryder. He said that this species was actually outnumbered by Canvasbacks at Hamilton Res. this autumn. This is a change from past years.

Greater Scaup: Two were found on Big Johnson Res. on 11/11 (DTW, GBu), a male was at Lake Cheraw on 11/16 (DCE), and a female was at Lake Beckwith from 11/17 - 23 (DS).

Oldsquaw: There was a bevy of reports this fall. A female was at the Rocky Ford Sewage Ponds on 11/8 (MJ, BKP, PG, MH). One was at Big Johnson Res. from 11/8 - 30 (RB, BG, mob). Two males were found at Platte Canyon Res. on 11/11 (KS), while two females showed up at the Wheatridge Greenbelt from 11/15 - 22 (BB, mob). Three cruised Lake Cheraw on 11/16 (BKP, MJ,

Male Greater Scaup
Prospect Park, Wheat Ridge, Colorado, January 26, 1993
by David Leatherman



DCE), while one floated Lake Henry the same day (DCE, MJ, BKP). An imm. was present at Cherry Creek Res. from 11/22 - 30 (TL, mob).

Black Scoter: Two female/imm. were at Lake Henry from 11/8 - 16 (MJ, BKP, PG, MH, mob), while two female/imm. arrived at Big Johnson Res. on the same date and persisted through 11/30 (BG, mob).

Surf Scoter: This species was seen in good numbers during the period. The first were 3 female/imm. at Pueblo Res.on 10/16 (BKP). On 10/18, an imm. was seen at Highline Res. in Mesa Co. (RL, CD). An imm. male was at Prospect Res. on 10/23 (BGi, TL). A female/imm. was seen at Big Johnson Res. from 10/27 - 11/30 (BG, mob), and another female was seen at the Wheatridge Greenbelt on 11/1 (DBr). Lower Latham Res. had a female/imm. on 11/8 (SJD, DCE), and Hamilton Res. had a female/imm. the same day (SJD). Chatfield Res. had an adult male on 11/11 (JK).

White-winged Scoter: An incredible 16! female/imm. were seen at Long Pond north Fort Collins on 10/13 (SJD). This has to be a high count for any scoter species on one body of water at one time in Colorado. Four were present on Big Johnson Res. from 11/1 - 30 (MJ, mob). A female was on Chatfield Res. on 11/10 (JBH). Two females/imm. were seen at Pueblo Res. on 11/13 (BKP). One was at the Wheatridge Greenbelt from 11/17 - 19 (WF, mob). Lastly, two imm. were seen at Cherry Creek Res. from 11/22 - 30 (TL, mob).

Barrow's Goldeneye: Five males and two females were seen at Grand Lake on 10/13 (TJ), while 35 males and 23 females were seen at Shadow Mountain Res. on 10/20 (TJ). Grand Lake had 48 on 10/28 (TJ). A male was seen at Silverthorne on 11/19 (SBo). Along the foothills, where the species is much rarer, a male was seen in Fort Collins on 11/9 (DAL). Two males and 3 females were seen at Cherry Creek Res. from 11/12 - 13 (RO, mob). An adult male was seen along the South Platte River in Adams Co. from 11/19 - 30 (TL, mob). One imm. female was seen at each Cherry Creek Res. (11/22 by TL) and the Wheatridge Greenbelt (11/27 by TL).

Red-breasted Merganser: A peak count of 120 was recorded at Douglas Res. north of Fort Collins on 11/9 (DCE).

Osprey: This species continues to do well in Colorado. Four new sites were active and 22 chicks were observed in Grand Co. over the summer and into the fall period. Two adults and a chick were observed at Sweetwater Lake in Garfield Co. on 8/7 (KP). This is the only locale in the county where the species has been recorded as nesting.

Northern Goshawk: Five reports were received from the northern Colorado foothills and mountains. Three came from the Red Feather Lakes bastion and two from near Estes Park.

Broad-winged Hawk: This species is much more difficult to find in the fall than spring. Three were reported. All were immatures. One was at VPSWA in Pueblo from 9/16 - 19 (BKP, mob), one was at CVCG on 9/20 (JK, NE, DSh), and one was in Fort Collins on 9/27 (WP).

Crested Caracara: An injured bird was found in Trinidad on 9/29 and taken to a raptor rehabilitation center (CDOW) **<ND>**. The identification was not in question, though the bird's origin may be, despite the bird showing no evidence of having been kept in captivity. This would be the first Colorado record if it is accepted by the CFO Records Committee.

Merlin: A high count of 11 was tallied on the Pawnee National Grasslands on 10/28 (BWh).

Peregrine Falcon: Reports were commensurate with recent years.

Black Rail: One was found west of Fort Lyon on 9/8 (KS) **<ND>**.

Black-bellied Plover: Sheridan Lake near Lamar had nine on 10/2 (DAL), a good count.

American Golden-Plover: One was seen at Prewitt Res. from 9/27 - 30 (DBr, JH). Five were counted at Adobe Creek Res. on 10/19 (DBr).

Semipalmated Plover: A nice count of 14 was recorded at Little Jumbo Res. on 9/27 (DCE).

Black-necked Stilt: One was seen at Union Res. on 9/7 (DCE, JBo), an unusual locale.

Ruddy Turnstone: This is a very rare fall migrant. One was seen at Prewitt Res. on 9/2 (DBr) **<ND>**. Other singletons were seen at Lake Cheraw from 9/6 - 7 (MJ, BKP, mob) **<ND>** and at Lake Holbrook on 9/21 (MJ, BD, BKP, mob) **<ND>**.

Sanderling: At least in northern Colorado, the species was difficult to find this fall. The only report was of one at Jumbo Res. on 9/27.

Dunlin: One was seen at Red Lion SWA on 9/13 (DBr), where the species is considered very rare. It is casual on the Western Slope, where two were located this autumn. One was near Debeque on 10/11 (KP) and another was in Mesa Co. on 10/18 (RL).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Two of these ultra-rare migrants were detected at Upper Queens Res. on 8/28 (BKP*). Another was found at Milton Res. in Weld Co. on 9/12 (RO) **<ND>**.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Four juveniles were found at Jumbo Res. on 8/27 (SJD). Two juveniles were seen at Lake Cheraw on 9/13 (MJ). A calling bird was identified at Lower Latham Res. on 9/13 (JH). Little Jumbo Res. hosted one juvenile on 9/20 (JK, NE, DSh).

Red Phalarope: On 9/20, this species was found on Duck Lake, south of Fort Collins, for the second consecutive year (SJD*, DCE*).

Pomarine Jaeger: A juvenile was reported from Lower Latham Res. on 9/20 (BGi, HW) **<ND>**.

Parasitic Jaeger: An adult was seen at Big Johnson Res. on 10/18 (RB) **<ND>**. A subadult was located at Union Res. on 10/27 (DBr) **<ND>**.

Laughing Gull: One wandered to Prewitt Res. on 10/21 (HK, UK) **<ND>**.

Little Gull: Observers had a remarkable fall locating this species. The first was an imm. seen at Lower Latham Res. on 9/13 (TL, BGi, DF, SHu). A juvenile was seen at Lake Holbrook on 10/18 (BKP, MJ) **<ND>** and another

(or possibly the same bird) was seen at Adobe Creek Res. on 10/19 (DBr) **<ND>**. Two birds--one juvenile and one winter adult-- were seen at Big Johnson Res. on 10/18 (BG) **<ND>**. On 10/22, a winter adult was seen at Prewitt Res. (DBr) **<ND>**.

Black-headed Gull: Chatfield Res. hosted one imm. on 10/20 (CLW) **<ND>**, an exceptional find and only the third Colorado record if it is accepted by the CFO Records Committee.

Thayer's Gull: The few reports received of this species probably greatly belied the species' abundance in Colorado this fall. One was seen at Terry Lake, north of Fort Collins, several times in November (SJD), and another (or the same one) was seen at Douglas Res. on 11/29 (WPL). Up to 2 imm. and one adult were reported at Union Res. beginning on 11/13 (Bpr).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Union Res. had an adult from 11/8 - 13 (BPr, DWK) **<ND>**, while a third winter bird was found on Cherry Creek Res. from 11/16 - 23 (DCE*, mob).

Glaucous Gull: A first winter bird called Union Res. home from 11/26 - 30 (Sra).

Great Black-backed Gull: A winter adult was seen at Cherry Creek Res. from 8/21 - 11/13 (BB, mob) **<ND>**. It is surmised that this bird headed south and arrived at Pueblo Res., where it was first detected on 11/16, and remained through the period (BKP, MJ, mob) **<ND>**.

Black-legged Kittiwake: An imm. was seen at Cherry Creek Res. from 11/12 - 15 (RO, mob) **<ND>**.

Sabine's Gull: Forty-seven individuals of this species were reported from 9/5 - 10/31 in Colorado. The highest count was eight (2 adults, 6 juveniles) at Chatfield Res. on 9/6 (BGi, DF). Eight also were recorded here on 9/11 (JK), but the group's composition was different (3 adults, 5 juveniles). This makes the observer wonder just how many different Sabine's gulls winged their way across Colorado this fall. All but one report came from the Front Range and eastern plains. The one discrepant representative was a juvenile bird seen at Highline SP in Mesa Co., where the species is casual, on 10/3 (BGu, NGu).

Caspian Tern: This is a very rare fall migrant. One adult was seen at Cherry Creek Res. on 9/14 (DF, BGi), and another adult was seen at Pueblo Res. from 9/19 - 23 (BKP, mob). Two adults cruised Prewitt Res. from 9/20 - 22 (JK, NE, DSh).

Common Tern: Two were observed at the unlikely location of Dotsero from 10/16 - 17 (Jme).

Arctic Tern: This would be the fourth Colorado record if accepted. An adult was reported from Lower Latham Res. on 9/20 (BGi, HW, JH) **<ND>**.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Up to six were still being seen in Rocky Ford through 11/30 (mob). This species has now been added to the state list. We may have become jaded because the species is relatively easy to find in Rocky Ford, but reports from elsewhere in the state are still extraordinarily rare and deserving of superlatives. One found at a Longmont residence on 11/10 (VDi) **<ND>** is therefore worthy of kudos.

Northern Pygmy-Owl: Three were reported from the Estes Park area. One used a birdbath on 8/29 (SW), while one arose from a collision with a window unscathed on 11/2 (JWh), and another was found on 11/24 (SW).

Long-eared Owl: Three returned to a traditional site near Wellington (SMa, KMa).

Short-eared Owl: One was seen on the Pawnee National Grasslands on 11/27 (SJD).

Lesser Nighthawk: A male was discovered in Cottonwood Canyon on 8/21 (CLW, JK, SS) **<ND>**.

Black Swift: Two were seen north of Boulder on 8/1 (TL), and three to five pairs were found at Milton Creek Falls near Marble on 8/21 (KP), a new nesting location.

Chimney Swift: The most tardy birds were four in Lamar on 10/10 (JT).

Calliope Hummingbird: It seemed like a normal year for the species, as a few were reported here and there from mid-July through 8/23.

Magnificent Hummingbird: A dandy find was a female near Wetmore on 8/2 (BKP*, RK). Amazingly, another female was found in Douglas Co. from 10/15 - 19 (BPd) **<ND>**.

Anna's Hummingbird: This casual species in Colorado made an appearance for the second year in a row. This year, an adult male was found in Boulder from late October until December (fide SSv).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: One seen at the Lake Hasty CG on 10/30 (DAL) had wandered from its normal haunts.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker An imm. of this reclusive species slipped into the Loveland area on 11/2 (BWn) and into Lyons on 11/14 (DWK).

Red-naped Sapsucker: This fall, there were numerous reports of individuals on the plains. A female was at Lake Holbrook on 9/28 (BKP, DFO), and an imm. male was seen at the LCCW from 9/30 - 10/1 (DAL). To the north, one was seen at CVCG on 10/9 (JH). One was in Fort Collins from 10/9 - 12 (DAL) and another was in Boulder from 10/10 - 10/12 (MPl, SPl). Lastly, an adult male was seen in Lyons on 10/19 (DWK).

Williamson's Sapsucker: A late bird was seen in Canon City on 11/10 (DTW, mob).

Three-toed Woodpecker: This rare resident was reported from two northern Colorado locations. Two were seen north of Rustic on 8/2 (DAL), and one was seen at the West Branch Trail below Preacher's Camp in Larimer Co. from 8/22 - 24 (CB).

Gray Flycatcher: An imm. was found at Barr Lake SP on 9/27 (BGi, DF), where the species is considered casual.

Black Phoebe: An adult was seen along Burnt Mill Road at the Saint Charles River in Pueblo Co. on 8/15 (BKP*, CLW), while one adult and two juveniles were seen there from 8/17 - 23. The species is considered a very rare resident in Pueblo Co. and has bred there in the past.

Eastern Phoebe: Rare migrants on the eastern plains, two were seen on the Pawnee National Grasslands on 9/20 (JK, NE, DSh).

Dusky-capped Flycatcher: An outstanding find was a possible imm. at Van Bibber Creek Park in Arvada on 10/10 (DiM*, DnM). Superb documentation was submitted promptly. This observation may become only the second accepted record of the species in Colorado. The first was a mere 115 years ago at Fort Lyon.

Ash-throated Flycatcher: Another rare migrant in the northeast, one was seen at Milton Res. on 9/5 (RO).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Two wandered farther west than normal this fall, as one was seen at Milton Res. on 9/5 (RO) and another was found at CVCG on 9/17 (DAL).

Tropical Kingbird: A possible first Colorado record for this species was found in the Black Forest near Colorado Springs on 9/13 (BBH*). Documentation has been submitted to the CFO Records Committee.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: A nomadic individual appeared near Rustic in the Poudre Canyon from 8/4 - 6 (EP, JFB, WPL*).

Tree Swallow: An exceedingly late bird was at VPSWA from 11/29 - 30 (BKP).

Pinyon Jay: Twenty-five were seen south of Horsetooth Res. on 8/30 (DAL), where the species is seen occasionally during irruption years. One seen at a feeder in Estes Park on 10/1 (JRo) was unexpected.

Clark's Nutcracker: Higher-than-average numbers were reported this fall, and, as supporting evidence, a group of 43 was observed in Rocky Mountain National Park on 11/27 (JFB).

Mountain Chickadee: This species seemed to have retreated back into the mountains after two years of exploration on the eastern plains and at lower elevations. Maybe the rampant, unbridled development scared them off.

Bushtit: On 10/14, northern Colorado's most reliable contingent of this species was located near Lyons (DWK).

Carolina Wren: Three reports from southeastern Colorado constituted an excellent showing for this very rare visitor to Colorado. One was seen on Fort Carson on 8/7 (RB, BM, SL) **<ND>**. Another was discovered at Two Buttes Res. on 8/31 and was seen sporadically through the period (BKP*, mob). A Pueblo backyard was home to the third from 9/6 - 10 and on 9/23 (VT, MJ) **<ND>**.

Winter Wren: A singing bird was at Milton Res. from 9/5 - 7 (RO, DQ). Another was seen at Prewitt Res. on 10/22 (DBr).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: There were 10 different reports from the Fort Collins area, suggesting an above-average year for the species.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Passage of this species through the Fort Collins area was heaviest from 10/6 - 23 (DAL); one lingered until 11/27 along the Poudre River (DAL).

Eastern Bluebird: A pair with two juveniles was reported in Estes Park through 10/5 (JTh, SRo, JRo, SW), a late nesting record at an especially unexpected location. More predictable, but still of note, were two, including a partial

albino, in Morgan Co. on 10/16 (JRi). Two to five were seen at CVCG from 10/12 - 23 (DAL). Fifteen were seen at the Hasty CG on 10/30 (DAL).

Townsend's Solitaire: The species' status this fall was best described as "conspicuously absent."

Swainson's Thrush: These birds were hard to find in autumn migration this year.

Wood Thrush: One was discovered at Lake Henry on 9/6 (MJ, BKP*).

Varied Thrush: One was seen in northern El Paso Co. on 11/11 (BM) **<ND>**.

Sprague's Pipit: One or two were seen at the reliable Sedgwick Co. location this fall from 10/3 - 10 (DBr, mob) **<ND>**.

Northern Shrike: This species seemed to be around in good numbers during the latter half of the period.

White-eyed Vireo: A singing bird was reliable at Chatfield Res. from 8/24 - 9/20 (BB, mob) **<ND>**.

Gray Vireo: Much harder to find on the Eastern Slope than on the Western Slope, one was seen at Colorado City on 9/8 (DS).

Blue-headed Vireo: This is the most sought-after and accidental of the recently split triad of "Solitary Vireos" in Colorado. There were two reports this fall, one along the Poudre River in Fort Collins on 9/20 (DAL*, WPL*), and another at Fort Carson on 10/3 (RB) **<ND>**.

Cassin's Vireo: There were 26 individuals seen in Colorado this fall, suggesting that this "new" species is an uncommon, or locally common, migrant here. It will take a few more seasons of reporting for this species' status to be determined fully. Observation dates ranged from 8/21 - 10/3. Three were seen in the mountains and the rest were on the eastern plains. Up to three were observed at Pawnee National Grassland and CVCG at one time.

Philadelphia Vireo: An imm. was seen at Rock Canyon in Pueblo Co. on 9/3 (BKP*). An imm. was also seen at Fountain Creek Regional Park on 9/11 (BG) **<ND>,** and another was seen at Barr Lake SP on 10/9 (SH, BGi, TL) **<ND>**.

Tennessee Warbler: An imm. was at Barr Lake SP on 9/2 (SH, BGi). One was at the LCCW on 9/10 (BKP). One was seen at Milton Res. on 9/12 (RO). One was seen in Cottonwood Canyon on 9/20 (PJz, mob), one was at VPSWA on 9/23 (PSS), and an imm. was at Barr Lake SP on 9/30 (BGi, DF).

Nashville Warbler: One was seen in Estes Park from 8/26 - 9/20 (EPBC), however a shocking count of 14 (!) was recorded at the Lake Estes Bird Sanctuary on 9/19 (SRa). An adult male was seen at Barr Lake SP on 9/27 (BGi, DF). An imm. male was seen at Bonney Res. on 10/4 (TL). One stopped in at a Boulder yard on 10/9 (MPl, SPl). The last report was of an imm. male at Barr Lake SP from 10/21 - 22 (Bgi).

Northern Parula: A male was seen at Frog Pond in Colorado City on 9/9 (DS), an imm. female was at Barr Lake SP on 9/17 (BGi, SH), and a female was observed in Cottonwood Canyon on 9/20 (PJz, mob).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: A male turned up at Chatfield Res. on 8/25 (KS), an imm. was at Barr Lake SP on 8/31 (LN), an imm. male was observed in Boulder on 9/6 (PP), a single was found at the Colorado State University campus on 9/12 (SJD), and a loner was spotted at VPSWA on 9/24 (PSS).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Compared to neighboring states, this species seems to be "coming out of the woodwork" in Colorado. There were seven reports this fall. A female showed up at CVCG on 9/25 (JH) and a male was seen there on 10/2 (JH). An imm. female stopped at Barr Lake SP from 10/2 - 3 (BGi), and a female visited VPSWA from 10/5 - 8 (BKP, mob). A male bejeweled the same locale on 10/6 (Lbi, mob). Colorado Springs hosted a female on 10/12 (SDz), and a male was seen in Lyons on 10/19 (RDv).

Townsend's Warbler: This species was widely reported this fall.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Two adults were found in a grove at Lake Holbrook on 9/10 (BKP), and a single was at the LCCW on 10/4 (BKP, MJ). On 10/5, an imm. was seen at Bonney Res. (TL, BGi, SH).

Blackburnian Warbler: A female was located at VPSWA from 9/26 - 27 (BKP, VT, BD, mob) **<ND>**.

Prairie Warbler: An imm. was seen in Cottonwood Canyon on 8/21 (CLW, JK, SS) **<ND>**. This is only the third or fourth autumn record for Colorado.

Palm Warbler: One was seen at VPSWA on 9/23 (BKP), and another was at Arapahoe NWR on 10/22 (RK).

Bay-breasted Warbler: A male was seen in Morgan Co. on 10/23 (JRi) **<ND>**.

Blackpoll Warbler: Two fall reports came from Barr Lake SP. An imm. male was seen there from 9/6 - 11 (BGi, DF, LN), and another was seen on 9/21 (VR). The Poudre River Trail in Fort Collins hosted one on 10/11 (DAL).

Black-and-White Warbler: One was seen at Nee Grande Res. on 8/9 (DBr). One was at Fountain Creek Regional Park from 8/30 - 9/1 (BG). A female was seen at Jumbo Res. on 8/31 (DCE, JFB), and another was seen east of Lake Meredith on 9/6 (MJ, BKP). One was seen at Lake Henry on 9/7 (BD). A female was at the FLWE on 9/21 (MJ, BD). One was at the Last Chance Rest Area on 9/28 (TJ), and a female was at the LCCW on 9/30 (DAL).

American Redstart: Twenty-five were reported from 8/2 - 10/23.

Prothonotary Warbler: An imm. was seen at Lake Henry on 8/21 (CLW, JK, SS) **<ND>,** and a male was located at VPSWA from 9/22 - 25 (BKP*, mob).

Ovenbird: One was seen at Chatfield SP on 8/25 (KS), one was detected in Fort Collins on 9/5 (WP), and one stopped in Gregory Canyon west of Boulder on 9/17 (MPl, SPl).

Northern Waterthrush: Thirty-four were reported from 8/17 - 10/12.

Common Yellowthroat: A late bird was at the LCCW from 10/30 - 31 (DAL). An even later one was found at VPSWA on 11/30 (BKP).

Hooded Warbler: A male was at Fountain Creek Regional Park from 8/30 - 9/2 (BG, BM), and another male was seen at Gregory Canyon on 9/17 (MPl, SPl). Colorado City hosted another male on the late dates of 10/13 - 19 (DS, mob).

Canada Warbler: An imm. female at Barr Lake SP on 8/31 was a great find (TL, LN, BGi) **<ND>**.

Summer Tanager: A female was seen at Big Johnson Res. on 9/7 (RB).

Northern Cardinal: Several were seen away from their normal haunts this fall. A male was at Two Buttes Res. on 8/21 (CLW, JK, SS). A pair was seen at the Wheatridge Greenbelt from 9/7 - 10/11 (GP, mob), and a female was seen at the LCCW on 9/10 (BKP).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Three were seen at the Wheatridge Greenbelt on 9/22 (VR).

Indigo Bunting: Locally rare at best, one was reported from Fort Collins on 8/9 (JLF).

Field Sparrow: Finding this species is always a treat in Colorado. One was seen at Lake Holbrook on 9/21 (MJ, BKP). Four adults and five imm. were seen at Bonney Res. from 10/4 - 5 (TL, LN), suggesting the presence of a

decent local population. The most surprising find was of one from 10/9 - 11 and on 10/24 in Estes Park (DCo, JCo).

Fox Sparrow: One was seen at Prewitt Res. on 10/18 (DBr), one bird of the eastern race was in Colorado City on 11/1 (DS), and one was in Boulder on 11/3 (SSv).

White-crowned Sparrow: This species inundated northern Colorado during the last three weeks of October.

Harris's Sparrow: The most out-of-place birds were one found south of Gypsum from 11/11 - 23 (JMe), and one found southeast of Eagle on 11/15 (JMe). An amazing **14** (!) were seen at an Estes Park feeder on 11/10 (SRa), where the presence of just a few would have been awesome.

McCown's Longspur: Three late birds were observed at Pueblo Res. on 11/28 (BKP, MJ).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: The big movement was in progress at Pawnee National Grassland on 10/12 (DAL). Nineteen late birds were seen at Pueblo Res. on 11/28 (MJ).

Baltimore Oriole: Two wandered west during fall migration. One was seen in Boulder on 8/31 (MPl*, SPl), and another was at VPSWA from 9/3 - 4 (BKP).

Purple Finch: One male was seen in Gould near Cameron Pass on 10/22 (RK*).

Cassin's Finch: After last year's big irruption, the species was virtually unreported this autumn.

White-winged Crossbill: Always nice to find, two wandered into Routt Co. on 8/1 (DBr).

Common Redpoll: Two made it all the way south to Fort Carson on 11/14 (BM).

Pine Siskin: Numbers in the lower elevations were down dramatically from numbers observed during recent years.

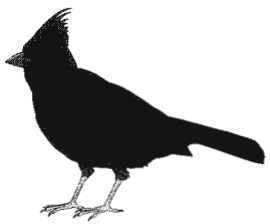
Evening Grosbeak: The same remark as that for the aforementioned species holds true with this species.

Literature Cited and References Consulted

Andrews, R., and R. Righter. 1992. Colorado Birds. Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado. 442 pages.

Cited Observers

John Barber (JFB), Chuck Bell (CB), Tracy Bernett (TBt), Sue Bonfield (SBo), Jon Bowser (JBo), Dan Bridges (DBr), Leon Bright (Lbi), Bob Brown (BB), Richard Bunn (RB), Greg Butcher (GBu), Bobbie Christensen (BC), Dick Coe (DCo), Janet Coe (JCo), Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), Raymond Davis (RDv), Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), Coen Dexter (CD), Stephanie DiCenzo (SDz), Bob Dickson (BD), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Virginia Dionigi (VDi), David C. Ely (DCE), Norman Erthal (NE), Estes Park Bird Club (EPBC), Doug Faulkner (DF), Warren Finch (WF), Peter Gent (PG), Brian Gibbons (BGi), Bob Goycoolea (BG), Nancy Gustafson (NGu), Robert Gustafson (BGu), B.B. Hahn (BBH), J.B. Hayes (JBH), Joe Himmel (JH), Mark Hullinger (MH), Scott Hutchings (SHu), Mark Janos (MJ), Pete Janzen (PJz), Tina Jones (TJ), Joey Kellner (JK), D.W. King (DWK), Hugh Kingery (HK), Urling Kingery (UK), Rachel Kolokoff (RK), Joe LaFleur (JLF), David Leatherman (DAL), Tony Leukering (TL), Rich Levad (RL), Bill Lisowsky (WPL), Stephen Long (SL), Joe Mammoser (JM), Kathy Martin (KMa), Steve Martin (SMa), Bill Maynard (BM), Jack Merchant (JMe), Diana Mullineaux (DiM), Don Mullineaux (DnM), Larry Norris (LN), many observers (mob), Ric Olsen (RO), Burt Paredes (BPd), Greg Pasquariello (GP), Brandon Percival (BKP), Eric Petterson (EP), Pam Piombino (PP), Myron Plooster (MPl), Suzi Plooster (SPl), Kim Potter (KP), Bill Prather (BPr), Bill Pulliam (BP), David Quesenberry (DQ), Scott Rashid (SRa), Van Remsen (VR), Joe Rigli (JRi), Julie Roederer (JRo), Scott Roederer (SRo), Ron Ryder (RAR), Scott Severs (SSv), Pearle Sandstrom-Smith (PSS), Karleen Schofield (KS), Dick Schottler (DSh), Dave Silverman (DS), Don Simon (DSn), Clif Smith (CS), Steve Stachowiak (SS), Janeal Thompson (JT), Jim Thompson (JTh), Van Truan (VT), John Vanderpoel (JV), Hira Walker (HW), Susan Ward (SW), Jeff Webster (JWb), Bernice Weldon (BWn), Brian Wheeler (BWh), Jerry Wheeler (JWh), Dan T. Williams (DTW), Chris L. Wood (CLW). There were 97 cited observers (including "mob").



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HOW TO SUBMIT RECORDS TO THE Colorado Bird Records Committee

Use the standard reporting form inserted in the center of each issue of the *Journal* or use an *Audubon Field Notes* Mountain West form, available from Van A. Truan (1901 Court St., Pueblo, CO 81003; phone: 719/543-4744). Standard forms are preferred because completion of all sections helps to ensure that pertinent information is included. If you submit photographs, please send two copies (records are duplicated before being sent to the Records Committee members for review). Send records of rare birds to Mark Janos, Records Committee Chair, 10 Sedum Ct., Pueblo, CO 81001, or send them to Colorado Bird Records Committee, c/o Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver, CO 80205.