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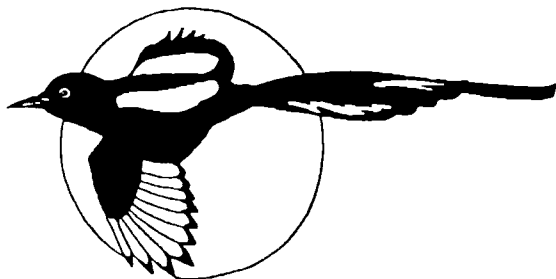
*Journal of the*

# ***Colorado Field Ornithologists***

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly

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*JOURNAL OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS* (USPS 0446-190) (ISSN 1094-0030) is published quarterly by the Colorado Field Ornithologists, 3410 Heidelberg Drive, Boulder, CO 80303-7016. Subscriptions are obtained through annual membership dues. Periodicals postage paid at Boulder, CO. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*, P.O. Box 481, Lyons, CO 80540-0481.

**OFFICERS OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS:** Dates indicate end of current term. An asterisk indicates eligibility for re-election.

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- Vice-President:** William Fink, 1225 Columbia Drive, Longmont, CO 80503; 303/776-7395; 1999\*
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- Journal Editor:** Cynthia Melcher, 4200 North Shields, Fort Collins, CO 80524; 970/484-8373; email: cynthia\_melcher@usgs.gov

**COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE:** Mark Janos (Chair), Pueblo, 1998\*, e-mail rednot@juno.com; Robert Righter, Denver, 1998\*, e-mail rrighter@sni.net; Vic Zerbi, Glenwood Springs, 1998\*, e-mail victor@ROF.net; Joey Kellner, Littleton, 1999\*, e-mail KLLNJM@edex.litc.lockheed.com; Bill Lisowsky, Fort Collins, 1999\*, e-mail NCSWPL@aol.com; Joe Mammoser, Fort Collins, 2000\*; John Rawinski, Monte Vista, 2000\*; Bill Prather (Former Chair), Longmont. Terms expire on 12/31.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** (renewable quarterly): Regular \$16; Family \$20; Institution \$20; Contributing \$25; Supporting \$40; Sustaining \$100. **Effective January 1, 1999, dues and membership categories will change to: General \$20; Student \$16.00; Institution \$30.** The annual membership dues also 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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## DESCRIPTIONS OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTWORK

**PEREGRINE FALCON:** At 14 years of age, Isa Paulsen is already a very accomplished artist. She specializes in using colored pencils, which is what she used to draw this magnificent Peregrine Falcon. Isa has won several local and state awards for her artwork, including first prize in her age class for the Colorado Duck Stamp Competition—two years in a row! She concentrates on drawing wildlife, often using her own photographs as sources of inspiration. Isa lives on a farm in Lamar, Colorado with her parents and younger sister, Emily, who is also an artist.

*Isa Paulsen*.....Front Cover

**TRACKS AND MEADOWLARK:** Sally Niemann created the bird tracks (page 207) and the meadowlark (page 215) on her computer. She actually drew these wonderful illustrations freehand with her computer's mouse! Sally lives in Fort Collins, Colorado and works at Hewlett-Packard, where she uses her talents and artistic eye to create web pages for the Internet.

*Sally Niemann*.....207, 215

**MOUNTAIN PLOVER:** Stephen J. Dinsmore is a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He photographed this Mountain Plover on the Comanche National Grasslands in Baca County, Colorado, on 9 April 1998. Although Steve is stationed in Fort Collins, Colorado, most of his work on the population dynamics and genetics of Mountain Plovers takes place on the eastern plains of Montana. He is also a Ph.D. candidate in the Fisheries and Wildlife Department at Colorado State University.

*Stephen J. Dinsmore*.....217

**THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** Kim Potter sketched this Three-toed Woodpecker. Her work as a biologist for the White River National Forest, for which she often conducts bird surveys, is an obvious source of inspiration for her.

*Kim Potter*.....218

**CAT WITH A BARN SWALLOW:** This pet cat was caught red-handed with a Barn Swallow, proving that even the most aerial-dwelling birds do not escape predation by cats.

*Marjorie Gibson*.....221

**HERMIT THRUSH:** Joseph Rigli sketched this Hermit Thrush in February 1979, when Colorado's thrushes are usually far to the south. Was Joe simply looking forward to spring that February day when he used pen and ink to sketch this bird, or had he caught a glimpse of the occasional Hermit Thrush that lingers through the winter in Colorado?

*Joseph Rigli*.....229

**HOODED WARBLER AND NEST:** In July 1998, Hooded Warblers nested in Gregory Canyon, Boulder, Colorado. They were the first Hooded Warblers ever documented nesting in Colorado. Randy Siebert captured on film the female on her nest and the nest with eggs in it when she was away from the nest.

*Randy Siebert*.....230

**DR. RICHARD C. BEIDLEMAN AND CAROL BEIDLEMAN:** In this picture, Dr. Beidleman and his daughter, Carol Beidleman, were on rain forest hike at St. Kitts in January 1998 during a Clipper nature cruise, for which Dr. Beidleman was a guest lecturer.

*Linda Beidleman*.....237

**ROCK WREN:** Alan Versaw, whose term as Vice-President for the CFO recently ended, now has time to work hard on his photography. In April 1998, he somehow managed to capture this razor-sharp shot of a Rock Wren—often nothing but a blur in other people's photos because these birds are so active! Alan found this wren lurking about the foothills west of Colorado Springs.

*Alan Versaw*.....247

**BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE:** This Black-billed magpie posed nicely—expecting a handout, no doubt—for Brendan O'Rourke in Rocky Mountain National Park. Brendan, who lives in Indiana, was visiting his father in Colorado in July 1998.

*Brendan O'Rourke*.....252

### COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' MISSION STATEMENT

The Colorado Field Ornithologists organization 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.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

### Introducing: A New Regular Feature Column

It is with great hopes for the future of birds in Colorado that I present to readers of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* (JCFO) a new regular feature entitled **Conservation Focus** (see feature article and companion article on pages 219-226). The purpose of this feature will be to keep the JCFO readership as up-to-date as possible on important conservation issues involving birds. While some of you will have already read or heard something about these issues, chances are good that many of you have not heard about them at all, and most of us know too little about the issues—or we have misinformation—even if we have heard about them. Furthermore, the majority of articles on important bird-conservation issues are written for national audiences, whereas I will try to ensure that articles in the **Conservation Focus** column present the issue with a Colorado and/or regional “angle.”

Authors of **Conservation Focus** articles will be asked to provide reference/literature cited sections so that interested readers may investigate the issues more fully. In addition, I will encourage authors to provide “tool boxes” with their articles, which are intended to help you take some kind of action to “fix” a problem. Tools may include contact information for specific legislators or organizations, things you can do around your home or workplace, events or activities you could initiate in your community, products to buy or avoid, and so on. My objective is to help keep you informed and encourage you to become, or continue to be, actively involved in bird conservation. My goal is to ensure that not we do not snuff out the vital role that birds play in keeping Colorado’s ecosystems—and our human spirits—functioning and healthy.

If there is a specific bird-conservation issue about which you would like to read or have more information, please let me know what it is. I will try to find an appropriate author. If you have ideas for authors or would like to write for **Conservation Focus** yourself, let me know. I am looking forward to hearing your ideas.

### Abstracting the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*

Something that brings recognition to a given journal is how often its papers and articles are cited in other journals. Yet, in today’s information-overload world, it has become impossible to keep up with what comes out in all the literature. Fortunately, most academic and research libraries have electronic search systems that provide easy access to huge databases of articles and papers from sources all over the world. For example, if you are looking for what is published on the life history of Piping Plovers, all you need to do is run a “key

word" search on Piping Plover and the search system will show you all citations on that topic in its database. If you know an author who works with Piping Plovers, you can search on the author's name and see what she/he has published. If desired, papers and articles can be ordered for a small fee.

In fall 1997, the Board of Directors of the Colorado Field Ornithologists decided that articles and papers published in the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* should be made more available to researchers and the general public through an electronic search system. Thus, in the spring of 1998, we entered into a contract with The UnCover Company. UnCover® is a widely used electronic search system available through most academic and research libraries, as well as through the Internet. It searches the current tables of contents in more than 17,000 journals published in the U.S., Europe, and Australia, making more than eight million articles available for delivery through the UnCover® article delivery system. Not only will this circulate more JCFO papers and articles, it will give CFO a small kickback of royalties for each article delivered. This service is in addition to the abstracting of JCFO articles that Scott Gillihan is doing for Recent Ornithological Literature, and Thomas Shane's regular JCFO feature that abstracts recent papers published on Colorado birds by Colorado ornithologists. Thus, the works of JCFO authors and other Colorado ornithologists are reaching more people.

### **Gifts and Exchange for Morgan Library at Colorado State University**

Many of you may not be aware of another way in which the JCFO is circulated beyond its own membership. CFO publishes 100 extra copies of each issue of the JCFO to donate to Colorado State University's Gifts and Exchange Program at Morgan Library. CFO's journals are then used as exchanges for journals from libraries and organizations around the world. As a result, Morgan Library has a much better collection of the smaller journals than it could otherwise afford, and the JCFO gains exposure in Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Spain, Malta, Italy, Croatia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Estonia, Russia, both South and West Africa, Malawi, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, Australia, New Guinea, Venezuela, Belize, and Jamaica, as well as in many libraries and organizations across the United States!

### **Interested in Serving as Editor or Associate Editor for the JCFO?**

My three-year commitment to the JCFO Editor position will end before I know it (after January 2000), and there is a strong possibility that I will be unable to extend that commitment further, particularly if I have to continue doing most of the work myself. Not only do I wish to pass the Editor's baton gracefully, I want to make it easy for the next Editor to hit the ground running and avoid "Editor burnout!" One approach I would like to try is building a "staff" of

associate editors for the JCFO, thus helping me with the current work load and giving potential editors experience with what needs to be done. I would love to hear from people who might be seriously interested in an Associate Editor and/or (eventually) the Editor position. I need good writers who could "wordsmith" and/or copy edit articles and papers, people with a background in science and/or enough experience with scientific papers to send papers out for review and format them appropriately, people who have (or want to gain) experience in desktop publishing, people with an interest in photography and artwork, and good "people" people who could help solicit materials for, and promote, the JCFO. I have already begun to build such a staff, (Thank you, Beth Dillon and Mona Hill!), and I hope to have an even stronger network in place before I pass this position to the next Editor, thus making that person's job much easier. So think it over and let me know... Working on the Journal is a lot of fun, very rewarding, and an opportunity to interact with many wonderful, interesting people.

Best always,  
Cynthia Melcher, Editor

4200 North Shields  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524  
h) 970/484-8373  
w) 970/226-9258  
cynthia\_melcher@usgs.gov



### CBC DATA REQUEST

Well, believe it or not, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) time of year is almost upon us, and once again Alan Versaw would like to summarize the results of all Colorado CBCs for the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*. Thus, he would appreciate it if Colorado CBC compilers would send a copy of their CBC results to him for inclusion in the overall CBC summary. You can contact Alan at:

Alan Versaw  
403 Maplewood Drive  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907  
719/598-7130  
aversaw@juno.com



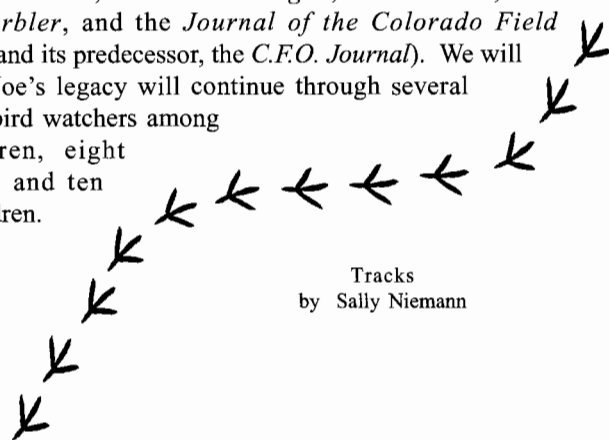
## IN MEMORIAM: JOE TENBRINK

Jean Maguire  
1842 South Eudora  
Denver, Colorado 80222

I share with you the loss of Colorado's birding-community friend, Joe TenBrink, who passed away April 14, 1998. Joe went birding almost every day for the last ten years, and he had an uncanny way of finding rare species. He worked as a cab driver for twenty years, which convinced him that all good birds are found by sitting still in parking lots. Since he had marched all the way across France and Germany during World War II, he preferred to sit still in one place and let the birds come to him. The ultimate car for him was one with a sunroof so that he could lie back in his car under a tree and look up through the roof to spot birds—such as Blue-winged Warblers—right over his head! His favorite birds were chickadees because they often led him to golden birds like Prothonotary Warblers.

Joe put his birding skills to work by contributing to scientific study. He found the first Piping Plovers in Colorado in recent history and the first nesting Poorwills in Elbert County. He also surveyed many Atlas blocks for the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas and conducted breeding bird surveys. All of us benefited from his pursuit of the birds he loved and worked to save.

Joe was also a writer. His beautiful prose and poetry have graced the pages of the *Rocky Mountain News*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Birder's World*, Denver Audubon's *Warbler*, and the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* (and its predecessor, the *C.F.O. Journal*). We will miss him, but Joe's legacy will continue through several generations of bird watchers among his six children, eight grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.



Tracks  
by Sally Niemann

## UPCOMING CFO FIELD TRIPS

### **4-5 December 1998 -- Gull Identification: A Workshop and Field Trip.**

Prepare for those "gull surprises," which seem to occur more and more frequently in Colorado. Tony Leukering will conduct an evening classroom session on 4 December at the Denver Museum of Natural History, and he will lead a field trip the next morning. At class, Tony will announce where the field trip will be, pending what the birds are up to! [Last year the field trip was at Cherry Creek Reservoir in Denver.] Please call Tony at 303/659-4348 at least one week ahead to let him know you plan to attend.

**17 January 1999 -- Roamin' Rawhide.** Rawhide Power Plant/Hamilton Reservoir is a northern Colorado winter-birding hotspot. The reservoir (the plant's "cooling pond") remains a fairly constant temperature. During freezing weather, it can be the only open water around, attracting waterbirds in droves, as well as occasional "odd ducks," such as Yellow-billed Loon, Black Scoter, and Oldsquaw. Landbirds at Rawhide (recall the 1998 Gyrfalcon?) can be interesting too! Dr. Ron Ryder has been banding birds there for years and has access to most of the otherwise off-limits grounds. Take I-25 to exit 288 (~ 15 miles north of the northern-most Fort Collins exit), go west on Buckeye Road (CR 82) about 3 miles, turn right at the Rawhide sign, take your first left to the Rawhide visitors' overlook parking lot. Meet at 8:00 a.m. Please call Dr. Ryder at 970/482-8089 for details.

**27 March 1999 -- Western Slope Owl Prowl with Grand Valley Audubon Society.** Plan to bird with your leader, Rich Levad, all afternoon and evening, weather permitting, to look for Long-eared, Barn, Western Screech, Great Horned, and, with some luck, Saw-Whet, Flammulated, and Boreal Owls. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Colorado Welcome Center just off I-70 in Fruita. Please call Rich for details at 970/242-3979.

### **Notice to FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS**

Please contact the field trip leader(s) at least one week in advance if you intend to participate on a CFO field trip. In many cases, CFO field trips visit areas where we must either limit the number of participants or give notice of the number of participants we will have. In all cases, knowing the number of participants in advance helps the leader(s) to plan the best possible trip and ensures that you know where/when to join the trip and any other important information.

## ANNOUNCING THE 1999 CFO CONVENTION

\*\*\*\*\*

The 1999 Convention of the Colorado Field Ornithologists will take place from **Friday through Sunday, 21 - 23 May, in Fort Collins, Colorado**, at the Marriot Hotel. Registration will begin Thursday evening, 20 May. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!** Look for details in future CFO mailings, the January and April issues of the *Journal*, and on the CFO Home Page (see page 210). If you would like to present a paper, lead a field trip, or help with anything else, please call the Convention Chair, Rachel Kolokoff at 970/495-1751, or e-mail Rachel at [hopko@frii.com](mailto:hopko@frii.com).

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE RONALD A. RYDER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGY

\*\*\*\*\*

### SELECTION CRITERIA

1. For distinguished service to the Colorado Field Ornithologists' 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 Colorado.

### NOMINATION & SELECTION PROCESS

1. The Award will be given every year.
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.
5. The Award will be a plaque designed to match the original plaque given to Dr. Ronald A. Ryder.
6. Nominations should be submitted in writing to the Award Committee Chairperson on or before February 1 to be considered by the Colorado Field Ornithologists' Board of Directors.

\*\*\*\*\*

Submit nominations to Award Committee Chair:  
Rich Levad, 2924 Ronda Lee Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81503  
970/242-3979; [levadgj@mesa.k12.co.us](mailto:levadgj@mesa.k12.co.us)

## ANNOUNCING: The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Home Page

We are pleased to announce the completion of the Colorado Field Ornithologists' (CFO) new Home Page. A home page, more commonly known as a "website" or "webpage," may be described as a "brochure" that you access through the Internet with your computer. Unlike a brochure, however, a home page is *interactive*. That is, you can "click on" "hotlinks" that take you to other sections of the home page, enable you to send an e-mail message to someone affiliated with the organization, or view other related home pages on the Internet. For example, the new CFO Home Page has a "hotlink" to the Denver Field Ornithologists' Home Page. Here are just some of our Home Page's key features:

- CFO's mission statement, Board members & their contact information, activities
- CFO's upcoming field trips and annual Convention information
- Table of Contents from the most current issue of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*
- 1-2 articles from the most current issue *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*
- Colorado Bird Records Committee Documentation Form
- Membership and subscription information

So, we invite you to "browse" our home page! If you don't own a computer, your local library probably does; just ask one of the computer reference librarians to help you... and keep checking back, because new items and changes will appear regularly on CFO's Home Page. The Internet "address" for the CFO Home Page is: <http://www.frii.com/~hopko>

### A NOTE OF THANKS FROM THE PRESIDENT

CFO owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Rachel Kolokoff for the great amount of time and dedication she has donated in the creation of CFO's Home Page. It is our good fortune that she also has the skills to match. The Home Page is very informative, visually attractive, and promotes a professional image for CFO. Thank you, Rachel!



Cordially,  
Leon Bright, President  
Colorado Field Ornithologists

**MINUTES OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS'**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**22 AUGUST 1998**

The Board of Directors of the Colorado Field Ornithologists met on 22 August 1998 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. at the People's Clinic, 3305 North Broadway, Boulder, Colorado. Present: Leon Bright, Toni Brevillier, Jim Chace, Raymond Davis, BB Hahn, Warren Finch, Bill Fink, Rich Levad, Bill Lisowsky (for Mark Janos), Suzi Plooster, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith, Bob Spencer, and Mark Yaeger; Absent: Cynthia Melcher (report submitted), Linda Vidal.

**Remarks from the President**

Leon introduced the new Board Members: Toni Brevillier, BB Hahn, Jim Chace, Rich Levad, and Mark Yaeger.

**Secretary's Report**

Minutes of the 10 May 1998 Board meeting in Lamar, Colorado were corrected as follows: Leon Bright agreed to write to Hugh Kingery informing him that at this time the CFO was unable to oversee the escrow account for start-up funds for the next Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported the following:

Cash on hand	\$10,040.92
Certificate of Deposit	\$10,326.43

On a motion by Suzi Plooster, seconded by Warren Finch, the Treasurer was reimbursed \$60.00 for bookkeeping software. A motion, made by Suzi Plooster and seconded by Pearle Sandstrom-Smith, to spend \$115.00 to file the Biennial Report and Application for Reinstatement of CFO's not-for profit status was passed unanimously. Members requesting reimbursement of expenses are asked to send receipts, copies of telephone bills, etc. to the Treasurer. Members not requesting reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses are asked to send the Treasurer a total of unreimbursed dollars spent to better assess the cost of projects for budget forecasting.

**Committee Reports**

**Bird Records:** Bill Lisowsky reported for Mark Janos. The 1996 records are complete and have been published. There was one small error that will be corrected. The 1997 records have been circulated (~115 reports); initial voting has been completed and over 82% have been accepted on

the first round. This is the highest acceptance rate in many years, and it may go higher after the re-circulation of records with inconclusive votes. This is attributable, in large part, to the excellent birders and careful observers here in Colorado and the high quality of reports that have been submitted. Mark will try hard to complete the report by the end of the year, which would be way ahead of when it was completed in previous years. The 1998 submittals are streaming in at a record pace. Mark suggests that it may well be over 130 records, which would be an all-time high. The Records Committee reports that Chris Wood will replace Bob Righter, and Vic Zerbi has agreed to stay on for another term when his current one expires this year. The use of the postcard notification system is being well received. Brandon Percival is computerizing the bird records and will be finished in about 6-8 weeks.

**Checklist:** Suzi Plooster presented the new Colorado Field Ornithologists' Field Checklist of Colorado Birds to the Board. The checklists will be available through ABA Sales. The fourth page of the new checklist has on one side the mission statement of the CFO and on the other side an application form for membership in the CFO.

**1998 Annual Convention:** Pearle Sandstrom-Smith reported that the convention has a current net profit of \$3,671.29.

**1999 Annual Convention:** A motion was made and passed to rescind the previous vote of Memorial Day weekend for the Convention in Fort Collins, Colorado. The date has been changed to 21-23 May 1999.

**Field Trips:** Report by Bill Fink

17 January 1999: Ron Ryder--Rawhide Power Plant

27 March 1999: Rich Levad--West Slope Owls

**Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists:** Cynthia Melcher, unable to attend the meeting, submitted her responses to the agenda items and expressed a growing feeling that the Editor of the *Journal* needs a printer local to the Editor's home. Currently, the Editor is in Fort Collins and the printer is in Boulder. The Board authorized the Editor of the *Journal* to investigate and report to the Board on other possible printing arrangements. In response to Cynthia's request for help with editing the *Journal*, Jim Chace volunteered to assist her with those responsibilities.

**Membership:** Raymond Davis reported 338 active members.

**Nominating:** The Secretary announced that she will be unable to complete her term of office. Warren Finch stated that the nominating committee will seek a replacement.

**Publicity:** On a motion by Raymond Davis, seconded by BB Hahn, it was agreed unanimously to dissolve the publicity committee.

**Ronald A. Ryder Award:** Rich Levad requested publication in the next issue of the *Journal* a call for nominations for the Ronald A. Ryder Award.

**Website:** Mona Hill and Rachel Kolokoff submitted a report on the CFO Website, and a printout of the website's contents was circulated. The website address is <http://www.frii.com/~hopko>. The Board expressed its appreciation for the excellent work that has been done and agreed that the website will be an important tool for the CFO. The website should be considered as a work in progress. Rich Levad will handle the official announcement on the COBIRDS listserver.

### Old Business

Field Trip insurance for one year has been purchased at the cost of \$568.00. The Treasurer has the policy.

### New Business

It was decided to form an Ad Hoc Committee to study the possible uses for some of CFO's funds. The committee will be Linda Vidal, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith, and Rich Levad. The question was raised: Should the chairpersons of important committees be ex officio voting members of the Board of Directors? Further discussion was postponed until the next Board of Directors meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the CFO will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on 14 November 1998 in the Creekside Room of the El Paso County Park Headquarters in Colorado Springs. The Board expressed interest in birding before and/or after the meeting.

### Adjournment

On a motion by Bill Fink, seconded by the Board, the meeting of The Board of Directors of the Colorado Field Ornithologists was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Toni Brevillier, Secretary



## **COLORADO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS: PUBLICATION IMMINENT**

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To CFO members who worked on the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas: at last you can get the book, this fall! All CFO members will receive prepublication order forms in early fall.

Ten years in the making, and worth the wait, the 600-page book describes the breeding distribution and biology of 265 species of birds that breed in Colorado. It has chapters on Colorado ecosystems, post-settlement changes to Colorado habitats, Colorado ornithologists, and a 16-page folio with color photographs of Colorado habitats, nests, nestlings, and fledglings. Dave Leatherman provided most of the bird pictures, although Beverly Tomberlin and Ann Higgins each contributed a sensational photograph.

The Species Accounts, written by 30 Colorado Atlasers, describe habitats, breeding cycles, and distribution of all birds that breed in the state. Each account maps the Colorado breeding distribution, charts the habitats used by the species, and depicts the dates of breeding activity. My report in the April issue of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* lavished praise on our layout designer, but didn't mention the source of the distribution maps. Don Schrupp, computer whiz in the Habitat Section of the Division of Wildlife, used Atlas reports to produce a distribution map for each species. This shows the best current information about where each species breeds in Colorado, and will constitute the benchmark for further studies.

Sketches of each species—by Pueblo artist and CFO member Radeaux—show all types of breeding behaviors reported by atlas field workers. The book cover (front and back) features a Radeaux painting with his unique blend of detailed wildlife depictions and stylized patterns of nature from ancient cultures.

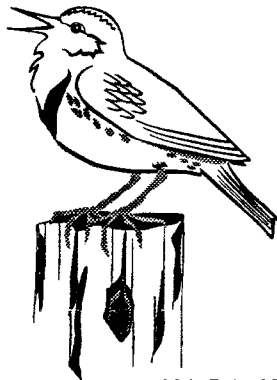
Since my April report on the Atlas, Bob Berman, Cindy Lippincott, and Virginia Maynard have entered the scene as Publications Managers. They produce the ABA Bird-Finding guides and have extensive experience and high skills in managing the publications process. Their contributions have brought the Atlas publishing effort together.



The Atlas project, assisted by CFO and most Audubon chapters, bird clubs, and government wildlife agencies in Colorado, surveyed the state for breeding birds from 1987 to 1994. Atlasers sampled blocks three miles on a side, one in each topographic map of Colorado. The book aggregates data they collected from 1745 blocks. Over 1200 people participated in this largest-ever survey of Colorado birds.

The Atlas database contains 86,498 records with information on locations, habitats, and seasonal breeding behaviors for the 265 species. This database comprises the greatest collection of information on Colorado birds ever assembled. The Atlas book condenses this data into readable and informative essays on each species.

The Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas will be sold at a list price of \$34.95, but CFO members may place prepublication orders **before 15 November 1998** at a \$5.00 discount. Anyone who does not receive a prepublication order form may place an order by sending a check (\$29.95 plus \$5.00 handling fee) to the Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 211512, Denver, Colorado 80221. The Atlases will be shipped in late fall.



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Western Meadowlark  
by Sally Niemann

## RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE PERTAINING TO COLORADO, No. 2

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At this time, the journals I will search regularly for publications on Colorado birds include: *Auk*; *Condor*; *Wilson Bulletin*; *Journal of Field Ornithology*; *Western Birds*; *Southwestern Naturalist*; *Prairie Naturalist*; *North American Bird Bander*; the bulletins of the Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas ornithological societies; *Nebraska Bird Review*; *Birding*; and *Living Bird/Birdscope*. If any member or non-member of the Colorado Field Ornithologists becomes aware of a paper on Colorado birds published in journals other than those listed above, I would appreciate receiving a reprint of, or a full citation for, the paper so that I may include it in this regular column of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*.

Defusco, Russell P., Herbert, J. Finch, and James W. Weissmann. 1996. **Winter bird population study no. 18 ponderosa pine-scrub oak forest.** *Journal of Field Ornithology* 67 (Suppl.):15. Nineteen species were recorded on a 12.0-hectare plot in El Paso County; the Pygmy Nuthatch was the most common species.

Finch, Herbert, J., James S. Kent, Russell P. Defusco, and James W. Weissmann. 1996. **Breeding bird census no. 58 ponderosa pine-scrub oak forest.** *Journal of Field Ornithology* 67 (Suppl.):59-60. Twenty-five species were recorded on a 12.0-hectare plot in El Paso County; the Chipping Sparrow was the most abundant species.

Hallock, Dave. 1996. **Breeding bird census no. 87 montane mesic willow carr.** *Journal of Field Ornithology* 67 (Suppl.):75-76. Eighteen species were recorded on a 14.0-hectare plot in Boulder County; the Wilson's Warbler was the most common species.

Herring, Louise. 1996. **Winter bird population study no. 14 ponderosa pine forest.** *Journal of Field Ornithology* 67 (Suppl.):13. Sixteen species were observed on an 8.1-hectare plot in Boulder County; the Pygmy Nuthatch was the most common species.

Herring, Louise. 1996. **Breeding bird census no. 45 ponderosa pine forest.** *Journal of Field Ornithology* 67 (Suppl.):52. Sixteen species were observed

on an 8.1-hectare plot in Boulder County; the Pygmy Nuthatch was the most abundant species.

Knopf, Fritz L., and Jeffery R. Rupert. 1996. **Reproduction and movements of Mountain Plovers breeding in Colorado.** *Wilson Bulletin* 108:28-35. Studies in Weld County during 1993 and 1994 showed a 26% and 37% hatching success rate, respectively. Plover broods moved an average of 337 meters/day in 1993 and 298 meters/day in 1994. Plovers that fledged chicks used an average of 56.6 hectares. Success of the plovers appeared to be related to fox activity and/or the ability of plovers to detect and distract these predators. Landscape fragmentation does not appear to be a factor in the species' decline.

Ortega, Catherine P., Joseph C. Ortega, Stacia A. Backensto, and Cristin A. Rapp. 1996. **Improved methods for aging second-year and after-second-year male Brown-headed Cowbirds.** *Journal of Field Ornithology* 67:542-548. Techniques for determining the ages of male Brown-headed Cowbirds were studied and developed in La Plata County.



Mountain Plover  
by Stephen J. Dinsmore

## THREE-TOED WOODPECKER FIELD TRIP -- A SUCCESS!

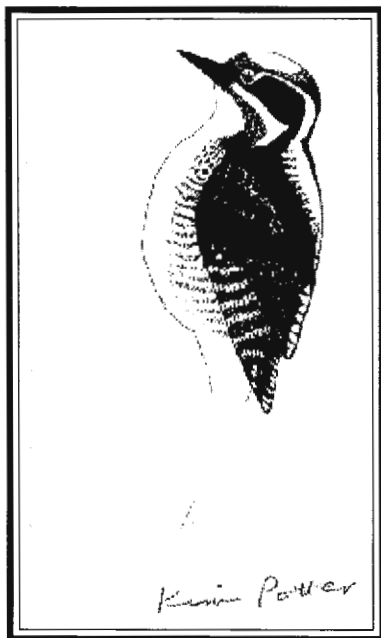
Bill Fink  
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Sunny skies and warm temperatures greeted Marvin and Hannah Woolf, Sue and Art Jaeger, and trip leader, Bill Fink, on 12 July 1998 for the "Elusive Three-toed Woodpecker" field trip. At the beginning of the trip, we saw more Colorado blue columbine than birds. I suggested at one point that we should have billed the trip as a wildflower walk, but eventually the birds did cooperate.

Since we were searching for Three-toed Woodpeckers and sticking to their general habitat, our trip list was not large--19 species. We did, however, find four woodpecker species, including Hairy Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Williamson's Sapsucker, and, lo and behold, the "Elusive Three-toed Woodpecker" (with only 30 minutes before the end of the field trip)!! We were on our way back to our cars and decided to check a likely looking area of habitat one more time. Hannah and Marvin stayed behind while Bill ran to get the other participants.

Hannah and Marvin, watched the bird (a male) for 20 minutes, and as they watched, they were surprised to see it also feed a large juvenile Three-toed Woodpecker! They first found the birds on a live ponderosa, about five feet from the ground, and as they slowly moved from tree to tree, neither bird ever climbed higher than about eight feet from the ground. The habitat was a rather open, mixed stand of live ponderosa, spruce, a few firs, some aspen, and low junipers. There also were some dead trees in the area, apparently killed by disease or insects. The area is just off the entrance road to Wild Basin in Rocky Mountain National Park.

It's amazing how much better we all felt after we saw "the bird," but we'd had fun even before that!



Three-toed Woodpecker  
by Kim Potter

## **Conservation Focus**

### **DO FREE-ROAMING CATS AFFECT BIRD POPULATIONS?**

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Depending on the species and the location, the answer is, "yes." Everyone agrees that loss of habitat and fragmentation are the primary causes of bird population declines. Predation, however, is the next most significant factor, and domestic cats are numerous, efficient, and prolific predators. A recent nation-wide telephone poll indicated that approximately 40 million of the nation's 66 million pet cats are outdoors unsupervised some or all of the time. Estimates of the stray and feral cat population range from 40 to 60 million.

Cats were introduced in this country only a few hundred years ago, so our native wildlife did not evolve with the domestic cat. As a result, cats can have a significant impact on local populations of birds and small mammals in isolated habitats, and cat predation on declining and endangered species can threaten the very existence of these species. Birds that nest on or near the ground are particularly vulnerable to cat predation, as are fledglings of almost any bird species.

An example of the profound effects that cats can have on local populations of birds and small mammals was illustrated in a recent two-year study in two California parks with grassland habitat. One park had no cats, but more than 20 cats were being fed daily in the other park. There were almost twice as many birds seen in the park with no cats as in the park with cats. California Thrashers and California Quail were seen in the no-cat area, whereas they were never seen in the cat area. In addition, over 85 percent of the deer mice and harvest mice trapped were in the no-cat area, and 79 percent of the house mice (an exotic species) trapped were in the cat area.

#### **The Future of Colorado's Birds and the Cat Factor**

According to a recent report by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the state's human population is growing rapidly, with a projection of 5.5 million people residing in Colorado by the year 2020. Estimates of the rate of development or habitat loss in the state range from 43,584 to 117,000 acres per year. At the

same time, the number of threatened and endangered species in Colorado has increased. They include: 26 federally listed threatened or endangered species; 32 state listed threatened or endangered species, and 41 state species of special concern.

The majority of the species on these lists have declined due to the human-induced conversion, degradation, or alteration of their habitats. Grassland species are experiencing some of the steepest declines of any group of wildlife in the state. Six of the nine bird species closely tied to prairies are declining. Of an additional 20 species with more widespread ranges, but for which prairies represent a substantial proportion of their ranges, 14 are declining. Approximately 40 percent of Colorado's shortgrass prairie has been converted to other uses. Species that require specialized habitat—such as the Lark Bunting (Colorado's state bird), which inhabits native grasslands—generally are unable to survive in areas of residential development. Humans not only destroy grassland habitat through subdivisions and agricultural practices, they let their cats out to roam the remaining fragments of habitat, further degrading the habitat's quality. Based on work conducted in Wisconsin, the Colorado Division of Wildlife estimates that 23 million birds are killed every year by cats in Colorado. Can Colorado's declining grassland bird species survive the additional stress of predation by cats?

### **"Managed" Cat Colonies**

A little known facet of the whole cat predation issue is "managed" cat colonies. Aggregations of cats can form around an artificial food source, such as garbage dumps or places where food is deliberately left out for them. Such colonies often occur on college campuses or military bases when irresponsible pet owners move away. Animal control personnel often are called in to trap the cats for adoption or humane euthanasia. However, there is a growing movement across the country of animal rights activists who are strongly opposed to euthanasia of stray cats. They believe that the only humane solution to cat overpopulation is to practice what is known as trap/neuter/release. The cats are trapped, sometimes tested for fatal feline diseases, such as feline immunodeficiency virus or feline distemper (there is no rabies test for a live animal), vaccinated for rabies and possibly for other diseases, spayed or neutered, and then released, usually back to the site of capture. Seriously ill cats are usually euthanized. The colonies are then "managed" by volunteers who feed the cats on a daily basis.

There are many problems with this method, not the least of which is continued cat predation on birds and other wildlife by cats in the colonies. Scientific studies show that well-fed cats still kill wildlife. In addition to college campuses and military bases, trap/neuter/release is being practiced in cities, suburbs,

parks, wildlife refuges, islands, and farms. Although some cats in a colony are neutered or spayed, the food source continues to attract more cats, and some cats simply cannot be trapped. In addition, not all diseases or parasites that can be transmitted to other cats and to humans, such as fleas, ticks, toxoplasmosis, roundworm, hookworm, and cat-scratch fever, can be controlled in a cat colony.



Cat with a Barn Swallow (lower left corner)  
by Marjorie Gibson

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cats are the domestic animal most commonly found to have rabies, and raccoons and skunks, both of which are attracted to food left out for cats, are major carriers of rabies in wildlife. Cat food also attracts foxes (as well as rats), which, when concentrated in one area, can have significant impacts on bird populations as well (Fritz Knopf, personal communication). The American Bird Conservancy, American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, American

Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, and National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians have passed resolutions opposing trap/neuter/release of stray cats.

### **“Managed” Cat Colonies in Colorado**

While trap/neuter/release of stray cats is most popular in California and Florida, two states with high numbers of endemic, threatened species and tremendous human population pressures, managed cat colonies also exist in Colorado. For example, according to a 14 March 1998 article in the *Denver Post*, Alley Cat Allies (ACA—not affiliated with the national group Alley Cat Allies based in Maryland) began an effort to trap the 35 to 40 stray cats that lived on the University of Denver campus, spay or neuter them, and “attempt to place the animals through its barn program, which finds families or organizations that need the animals to catch mice or other rodents.” The University had worked with ACA to “stabilize” the population of cats by trapping, spaying, and then releasing them on campus, but campus development has since disturbed the cats’ housing, so they needed to be removed. Roughly 80 percent of Colorado’s croplands are located on former grasslands, and now Colorado’s grassland bird species must withstand the additional stress of cats imported to farms from the University of Denver campus and elsewhere.

From 1991 to August 1996, ACA claims to have neutered and released, rescued, tamed and placed, or resocialized and placed over 2,000 “unsocialized” and abandoned cats and kittens. Other groups in Colorado that practice or support trap/neuter/release of stray cats include the Cat Care Society in Lakewood, Every Creature Counts in Lyons (also formed in 1991 and which reportedly has handled at least as many cats as ACA), and Volunteers for Inter-Valley Animals in Pueblo. In June 1997, SPAY/USA hosted a conference in Denver about public funding of local stray-cat sterilization efforts. It was billed as one of the most important conferences ever held for anyone interested in large-scale, nonlethal stray cat control programs.

### **Keeping Cats Indoors Isn’t Just for the Birds**

Animal welfare groups and many veterinarians routinely recommend that cats be kept indoors. The average life expectancy of an outdoor cat is just two to five years, while an indoor cat may live for 17 or more years. Millions of cats annually are hit by cars, injured, or killed by other animals, starve, or become lost, stolen, or poisoned. Free-roaming cats are more likely to contract debilitating, life-threatening diseases, such as rabies, feline leukemia, and distemper. Free-roaming cats are also the principle cause of cat overpopulation. Millions of cats are euthanized each year because there are not enough homes for them.



### **ABC's *Cats Indoors!* Campaign**

The American Bird Conservancy initiated *Cats Indoors! The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats* to end the unnecessary predation of birds and other wildlife by cats. *Cats Indoors!* consists of partnerships at the national, state, and local levels, and it educates cat owners, decision makers, and the general public about the problem and promotes the benefits to cats, birds, and other wildlife through keeping cats indoors; advocates policies and actions to protect birds and other native wildlife from cat predation; and supports the humane removal of free-roaming cats, beginning with areas important to birds and other wildlife. Far from being ABC's exclusive initiative, *Cats Indoors!* can be everyone's campaign. To make meaningful inroads in resolving this problem, bird conservationists must become involved!

### **Tool Box**

It's wrong to blame cats for doing what comes naturally. It's the responsibility of humans to make sure both cats and birds are safe. Here are some things you can do:

- Keep all cats indoors or in a safe outdoor enclosure or on a leash. Encourage other cat owners to do the same.
- Spay or neuter your cat before it has a chance to reproduce.
- Never abandon a cat. Take it to an animal shelter for a better chance of finding a good home.
- Work for cat protection and control ordinances in your community that require licensing, spaying and neutering, and a prohibition on free-roaming cats.
- Do not feed stray cats without making a commitment to giving or finding them a permanent indoor home.
- Take cats for whom you cannot care to a local animal shelter to give them the best possible chance of adoption into loving, lifelong homes.
- Support the humane removal of free-roaming cats from areas important to wildlife.
- Join the *Cats Indoors!* Campaign. For more information, contact:

#### **AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY**

Cats Indoors! The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats

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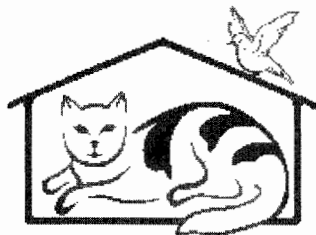
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**CAT'S INDOORS!**

'TITE CAMPAIGN FOR SAFER BIRDS & CATS

## A CAT-OWNER'S TESTIMONY

Janet M. Ruth

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I am a research biologist who studies avian ecology... and I am a cat owner--two indoor cats. Both Chaka and Wa Iyapa would love to be outside, as evidenced by their lurking at the front door and regular attempts to escape past me when I come home or mindlessly stand in the front door talking to someone.

Why have I decided to keep them indoors? In reality it is for several reasons. As a research biologist I have seen the data -- the thousands and thousands of birds that are killed by cats every year. This is not just feral cats, but in many areas it is primarily our "well-fed, contented, harmless" pets. I live in a neighborhood that has LOTS of cats, most of which are permitted to roam outside unsupervised. I cannot in good conscience contribute to the large numbers of birds that I know these cats are killing. I know it is happening. I witnessed one of my neighbor's cats stalk and carry off a young squirrel that was free-loading off the seed under my feeder. I've watched robin parents screeching and attempting to drive off two persistent cats that were after their recently fledged young. I've seen feathers by my birdbath... I hope it got away just a few feathers shy of a load!

I love most of these neighbor cats and know some of them by name. They regularly come over to my yard for a scratch behind the ears or to "help" me with the yard work. It is not their fault. They are just doing what cats are designed to do. I also like most of my neighbors, but I do not like what they do when they permit their cats to roam. I believe that it is irresponsible.

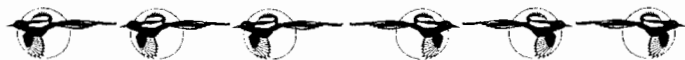
I can hear it now. "Oh, but my cat isn't part of the problem! He (she) doesn't kill birds." Let me tell you about Chaka. She is 10 years old and has been declawed since she was a kitten (something that I couldn't bring myself to do again with Wa). She is also at least slightly overweight. When I lived in an apartment complex in Virginia, I would sometimes bring her out with me into the courtyard while I read the paper and soaked up the sun. She would never wander far. Part of her entertainment was to stalk squirrels--chasing them up one tree and watching them jump across to another. I quickly realized that the speed with which she chased them was inversely proportional to how close she was to them. Wisely, she wasn't too sure she wanted to be near those sharp teeth. I would also laugh when I watched her stalk birds in the bushes. She'd

crawl through the grass like a snake, waving her tail furiously and I would say, "Aaah, Chaka, you're way too fat to catch a bird and besides, you don't have any claws." Imagine my amazement when I watched her launch herself into a bush one day and come out with a bird in her mouth! Trust me, they do catch birds. Even if they are well fed. She didn't really know what to do with the bird and as a result of my screeching and rushing at her, she dropped it and it flew away. I have no way of knowing whether there were any internal injuries that later resulted in its death.

Let me tell you about my other reason for keeping my cats indoors. I love my cats. There are lots of dangers out there for pets and I don't want to expose them unnecessarily. Chaka, without her claws, has learned to go immediately onto her back when challenged so that she can use her hind claws. However, she would be at a distinct disadvantage if she came up against most of the other cats I see out there. Even Wa Iyapa, with his intact claws and amazing quickness, is no match for the dangers of crossing a street busy with cars, or the diseases to which he could be exposed.

Since I have moved to Colorado I haven't let my cats out at all. We have the luxury of a screened-in back porch and a back door with a cat door in it, so Chaka and Wa can experience being "outside" without exposing them or the wildlife to danger. They love the porch, spending hours stretched out in the sun or crouched near the door watching the birds coming to the bird bath or the squirrels doing a tightrope walk on the powerlines.

One of the things I love about cats is that, unlike dogs, there is something about a cat that has not forgotten what it was like to be truly wild. I just have to look into Chaka's eyes when she is angry to realize that I am only around at her sufferance! But I don't fool myself. I have reconciled myself to the concept of living with a pet and the implications of domestication. In other words, the argument that a cat "simply has to roam" is a little disingenuous. Being a pet owner means taking responsibility for the care of animals that are dependent on me AND taking responsibility for the behaviors of those animals.



## THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: AN UPDATE AND A NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

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The purpose of this short article is to update readers of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* on the recent activities of the Colorado Field Ornithologists' (CFO) Bird Records Committee (hereafter RC).

Currently, the 1997 records batch is in circulation and has made it through the initial votes. I hope to have non-definitive records recirculated and resolved soon, and the report should be published at the beginning of 1999.

Records for 1998 are being submitted at a high rate. I wish to thank all of you who have submitted records of your rare 1998 sightings in Colorado thus far. Circulation for the 1998 batch of records will begin early in 1999.

The RC assisted Suzi Plooster of the CFO in publishing the current CFO Field Checklist of Colorado Birds. It is now available from ABA Sales (American Birding Association) in Colorado Springs (see article on page 268 for ordering information).

Finally, I would like to introduce to you a new RC member, Chris Wood. Chris is a superb young birder, who will replace Bob Righter on the RC on 1 January 1999. As with other members of the RC, Chris brings with him to the RC an amazing range of life experiences, birding skills and knowledge, and a wide range of interests. Chris writes:

"I began bird watching when I was about four or five years old. At that time, my birding was limited to my backyard and I roamed only as far as my bike and parents would allow. Gradually, the area I birded grew larger. Trips to Barr Lake and Chatfield Reservoir soon became at least monthly excursions for my parents and me. When I was in sixth grade, I found out about the Colorado rare bird alert and the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO). My father and I soon began going on at least one DFO trip each month. Not much later, I went on a fall count at Chatfield Reservoir, which was led by Joey Kellner. Since that time, Joey has served as my mentor, asking me to go along on virtually all his birding trips and teaching me a lot about birding in Colorado. With

support from my parents and virtually all the members of the DFO, birding became one of the central parts of my life.


“Jack Reddall invited me to Nome and Gambell—my first birding trip to Alaska, and one I know I will never forget! Even family vacations soon turned into birding trips. (Thanks Mom and Dad—I know the Brownsville Dump wasn’t exactly your top choice for a winter vacation! But, then again, you did enjoy the trip to Machias Seal Island—with all the Atlantic Puffins and my 500th life bird, Great Cormorant—on my fifteenth birthday).

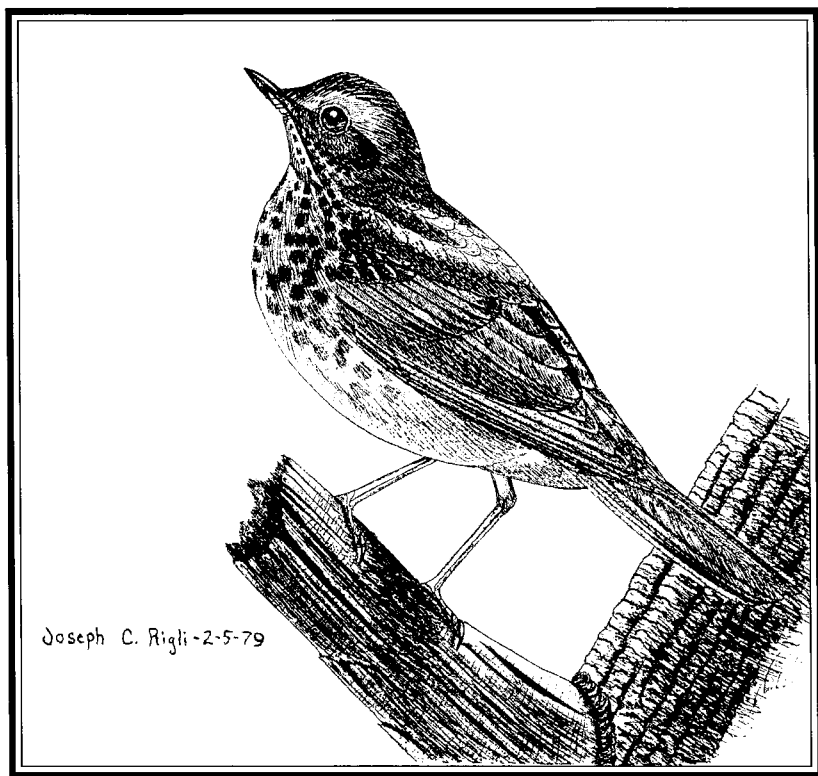
“As a teenager, the areas I birded continued to expand. I attended two of Victor Emanuel’s camps in southeastern Arizona, led by Cape May birding guru, Pete Dunne, and his wife Linda. During the summer of 1994, I spent a month birding in Venezuela on a VENT trip led by Steve Hilty. In that one month I saw more species of birds than I had seen up to that point in my life! I was also introduced to two of the “coolest” bird families in the world: the Cotingas (Cotingidae) and the Antthrushes and Antpittas (Formicariidae).

“In the fall of 1994, I left for Ripon College, a small liberal arts school in central Wisconsin, where I majored in Politics and Government, and Global Studies (emphasis on Global Political Economy), and minored in Environmental Biology. Luckily for me, I lived within ten miles of Tom Schultz while I was attending Ripon. Tom is one of the finest bird artists in the world. Often he had some great bird skins in his studio, which he would always show me when I visited his home. He and his wife, Wendy, gave me a sort of home away from home when I was in Wisconsin. During the summers of 1995-1997, I worked on the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, and I went to Costa Rica during the spring semester of my sophomore year. While in Costa Rica, I became very interested in bird vocalizations. In fact, my research project involved making tape recordings of birds inhabiting the Pacific-coast highlands of Costa Rica.

“In the summer of 1998, I worked on various projects for the Colorado Bird Observatory (CBO). Beginning this fall, I will attend graduate school and the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University (IU) in Bloomington, Indiana. While at IU, I will continue working for CBO on a Partners in Flight project, which sets conservation priorities for birds throughout North America.

“Many of my favorite birding trips still occur when I return to Colorado. The combination of birds from so many biological regions makes it one of my favorite birding locations in the world. Added to that are the wonderful birders in CFO and DFO.

"My primary interests in birds involve identification, vocalization, distribution, vagrancy, and, perhaps most importantly, conservation. I enjoy all birds, but I really like shorebirds, gulls, and warblers (provided, of course, we momentarily forget cotingas and antbirds, which really isn't possible)." — 



Hermit Thrush  
by Joseph Rigli



Female Hooded Warbler on Her Nest (left) and Hooded Warbler Nest with Eggs (right)  
by Randy Siebert

## HOODED WARBLERS NEST IN COLORADO

Peter R. Gent<sup>1</sup>

Glenda Brown & Randy Siebert<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>55 South 35th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80303

<sup>2</sup>1426 Cypress Circle, Lafayette, Colorado 80026

According to Andrews and Righter (1992), Hooded Warblers (*Wilsonia citrina*) are rare spring migrants and very rare fall migrants in Colorado. There are usually a few spring records on the eastern plains and along the foothills every year. Over the years, there have been a few birds that have sung consistently in the same location for a month or so, but breeding in Colorado had not been documented. Andrews and Righter (1992) list two of these occurrences in Gregory Canyon in Boulder from 21 June to 12 July 1982, and from 19 June to 10 July 1988.

Gregory Canyon is located at the west end of Baseline Road in Boulder, just in the Mountain Park at the foot of Flagstaff and Green Mountains. It is at an elevation of about 5700 feet (1737 meters), and there is a mixture of riparian trees and shrubs and the ponderosa pine habitat of the Colorado foothills. It is one of the best spring-migrant traps of the northern Front Range, and it is birded heavily during the spring migration.

On 15 May 1998, Bob Evans found a singing male Hooded Warbler in Gregory Canyon. During the afternoon of 16 May, Peter Gent found a female Hooded Warbler in the same location, although it had already been seen by one of the parties during the annual Boulder County Audubon Bird-A-Thon. The two birds were seen in the canyon very frequently over the next 30 days. Several other unusual warblers, which are described at the end of this article, were also seen in the area during that same period. We believe there is no real evidence



that the Hooded Warblers were nesting during those 30 days, but the birds may have tried to nest during late May and early June.

On 20 June 1998, Glenda Brown and Randy Siebert were birding in Gregory Canyon and decided to walk farther up the Amphitheater Trail than the first 200 yards where the warblers were usually seen. They had heard the male singing down below and were surprised to see it beyond the normal area. They stopped at the Amphitheater itself, which is a very popular rock-climbing area about 400 yards from the parking lot. There, they heard the male singing again. This time the bird was fairly high up in a pine. While observing it, they noticed another yellowish bird move from a low bush to the ground. Randy and Glenda viewed it for several minutes as it moved along the ground, and soon identified it as a female Hooded Warbler. Suddenly it flew, but Glenda was able to follow it with her binoculars to another shrub. There it disappeared. Closer inspection revealed a partially-constructed nest. As they continued observing the bird for another 20 minutes, she continued to bring nesting material to the nest location. The male left the immediate area, but he could still be heard singing. The male was not seen nest-building.

The nest was located in the small fork of a riparian shrub, about two feet (0.61 meters)—or a little less—off the ground. The nest was small and built mostly of dead leaves; it looked very much like the photograph of the Hooded Warbler nest on page 547 of the *Warblers* book by Dunn and Garrett (1997). The nest was in a very exposed place, only about six feet from the main Amphitheater Trail at a place where many people stop to watch the climbing activity, and it was at a height that made it vulnerable to the many dogs on the trail and to a red fox that was seen regularly on the trail and in the parking lot.

Randy showed Peter Gent the nest location on 1 July, when the female was sitting on the nest and presumably incubating eggs. Gent returned to the nest on the afternoon of 4 July, and the female was not on the nest. The nest contained two small, pinkish eggs and a larger, darker, streaked egg. Parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) is very common along the Front Range and in the area of Gregory Canyon (Chace and Cruz 1996, Chace et al. 1998). About Hooded Warblers, Dunn and Garrett (1997) say that "Parasitism rates by Brown-headed Cowbirds are high in many regions." Therefore, it was not that surprising to find the cowbird egg in the nest. Brown and Siebert checked the nest again on Wednesday, 8 July; the female was away from the nest, allowing them to see that only the two pinkish eggs remained in the nest. The female soon returned to continue incubation. She was seen on the nest on 12 July, 13 July, and 18 July, as well. Photographs were taken during some of these visits.

Gent returned to the nest site on the evening of 21 July. The female was not seen at the nest for the 20 minutes he remained there, despite the fact that it was raining lightly at the time. The male Hooded Warbler, however, was at the Gregory Canyon parking lot. This was the first time that Gent had seen the male for about a month, although others might well have seen it during this period. The authors returned to the nest on the morning of 25 July and did not see either of the warblers. By this time, it was apparent that the eggs were not going to hatch and the birds had abandoned the nest.

It is not clear to us why the nest failed. The male was around while the nest was being built, so the eggs were probably fertile, although infertility remains a possibility. The female was not observed on the nest several times, but she always returned quickly to resume incubation. Because the area was used heavily by people and dogs, however, it is possible that disturbance could have contributed to the nest failure. Despite the fact that the eggs did not hatch, this article is the first we know of that documents breeding of Hooded Warblers in Colorado. The nest and eggs are now in the Zoological Department's collection at the Denver Museum of Natural History.

This might have been the end of the story, except that Bill Tweit, a well-known birdwatcher from Olympia, Washington, went to Gregory Canyon on 31 July. He observed a female Hooded Warbler feeding two young birds near the parking lot. The young were partially obscured by dense vegetation, but were clearly too small to be Brown-headed Cowbirds. The fact that they were not moving around led Bill to conclude that they were recently fledged Hooded Warblers. The female repeatedly came to them with food and departed without it. We are certain that the two young did not come from the Hooded Warbler nest we collected. The only logical explanation we can think of is that these young came from a different nest, with the implication that there were two female Hooded Warblers and two nests. We think that there was only one male Hooded Warbler in Gregory Canyon, or else they both would have been seen and heard singing earlier in the spring. Perhaps, if the second nest was located farther down in Gregory Canyon, it might partially explain why the nest we found was much farther up the Amphitheater Trail. Except for the observation by Tweit, this paragraph is supposition, and not confirmed.

As mentioned above, there were several other unusual warbler species seen in Gregory Canyon during the spring of 1998. A singing male Kentucky Warbler was found on 6 June and subsequently seen by many birdwatchers. Gent last saw this bird on 27 June, however it was seen by Bill Tweit on the late date of 31 July. A male Blue-winged Warbler and a male Black-throated Blue Warbler were seen by Dick Schottler on 9 June. On 10 June, Duane Nelson observed a male Golden-winged Warbler. A male Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen on

16 June, and it was seen occasionally after that; Gent saw this bird on 27 June and did not hear of any subsequent reports. In addition, there were late June reports on COBIRDS, the Colorado electronic bulletin board about birds, of another male Hooded Warbler in Bluebell Canyon. This canyon is behind Chatauqua in Boulder and is less than a mile away from Gregory Canyon. This bird was seen by Gent on 3 July, but Paula Hansley, among others, had seen it before that. It was observed while the male Hooded Warbler was seen regularly in Gregory Canyon, and it was concluded that the Bluebell Canyon bird was a second male.

This article documents the first known breeding of Hooded Warblers in Colorado, and is based on a series of exciting warbler observations in Boulder in the spring of 1998.

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### EDITOR'S NOTE

For the readership's information: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act requires that one be legally permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to handle or remove--live or dead--any native, nongame birds or their feathers, eggs (including cowbird eggs), or nests under any circumstances, even for donation to a scientific collection. In fact, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently reworking the associated regulations to remove from them any ambiguities and loopholes on this issue. Violators can be prosecuted.



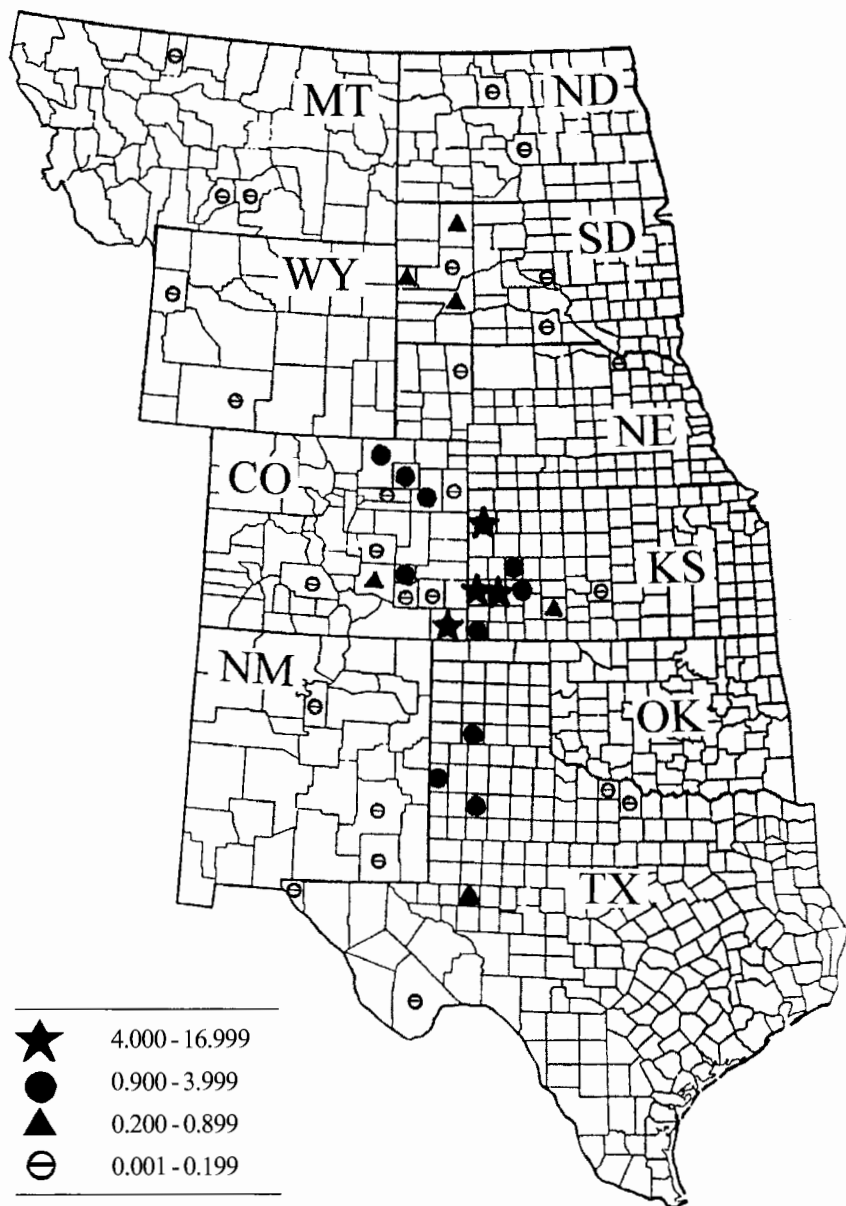
## THE NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT: LARK BUNTING STATUS

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For ornithologists and birders living on the Great Plains of North America, the migration of Lark Buntings (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) is always fascinating, spectacular (Baumgartner and Baumgartner 1992), and often a sign of a "good" summer ahead (Gerbracht 1944). What we know about the event, however, is certainly not complete. The movements of Lark Buntings in Mexico are unknown or unpublished, although a northward movement probably begins in February because the buntings start crossing the Rio Grande at Big Bend National Park the first week in March. In Texas, Wauer (1973) noted that the heaviest migration occurs between mid March through the first week in May. Small flocks reach the Texas Panhandle in mid to late March, and large flocks arrive there in mid to late April. Peak migration occurs during the two weeks in May, although a few buntings are still moving north through the area at the end of May (Ken Seyffert, personal communication). In southeastern Colorado, peak migration can vary from 6-16 May in Baca County (Janeal Thompson, personal communication). The median arrival date for Nebraska is 10 May (Johnsgard 1980), and in South Dakota migration usually occurs the second and third weeks in May (South Dakota Ornithologists' Union 1991).

On 9 May 1992, Jim Stasz initiated the first North American Migration Count (NAMC). The NAMC is operated like a Christmas Bird Count, except entire counties are surveyed instead of 15-mile-diameter circles, and all counts are conducted on one day--the second Saturday in May. The NAMC goal is to obtain "snapshots" of spring migration progress by collecting data on the abundance and distribution of each species in each county and then map the results to reveal the nation-wide status of migration for a specific day.

To learn more about bunting migration, I compiled the 1994-1996 NAMC data for Lark Buntings in nine of the ten Great Plains states (Figure 1). Because Oklahoma has had very few NAMC participants so far, there were no bunting data for Oklahoma. For all states, counties wherein Lark Buntings were not found during the NAMC were not included in my analyses. Also, many of the participants in the Great Plains region spend a good deal of their time in the riparian areas looking for warblers, thus I used car miles instead of party hours to standardize the data among counties. I averaged the number of Lark Buntings and car miles for counties wherein counts were conducted for more than one



**Figure 1.** Status of Lark Bunting migration on the second Saturday of May 1994-1996 for the Great Plains of North America. Map points represent mean numbers of Lark Buntings observed per car mile for a given county on 14 May 1994, 13 May 1995, and 11 May 1996.

year. Car mileages were not recorded for two counties (Midland in Texas and Eddy in New Mexico), therefore the highest mileage recorded in the other 44 counts (536 miles) was used to give a very conservative bunting per mile ratio for those counties.

The three-year NAMC data showed that Lark Bunting migration occurred from the Mexican border at Brewster County in Texas to the Canadian border at Liberty County, Montana. Lark Buntings were recorded in 46 counties, with Colorado represented by more than one-fourth of those. The main avenue of Lark Bunting migration appeared to follow the 102nd meridian from Midland County in Texas to Perkins County in South Dakota, with the greatest concentrations occurring between the 37th and 40th parallels in Colorado and Kansas. Counties with the greatest densities of buntings had 80 times more buntings than counties with the fewest buntings (Figure 1). Actual Lark Bunting counts ranged from 3,447 in Kearny County, Kansas; 871 in Baca County, Colorado; and 685 in Lubbock County, Texas to one each in Knox County, Nebraska; Ward County, North Dakota; and Clay County, Texas.

Coloradans deserve a huge "thank you" from the nation's ornithological community for their outstanding participation in a great project that is still in its infancy. Already the NAMC has shed more light on the migration of our continent's birds, and over time it will provide great insight.

#### **Acknowledgments**

I thank Andrea Shane and Debra Bolton for reading an early draft of this note and Jim Stasz for supplying the NAMC Lark Bunting data.

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Dr. Richard Beidleman and Carol Beidleman in St. Kitts  
by Linda Beidleman

### **Dr. Richard G. Beidleman: The Complete Naturalist**

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#### **Introduction**

Today most of us know more and more about less and less, and we often shrink back from broadening our scope of knowledge to fields beyond our own narrow areas of expertise. Many, perhaps most, of us birdwatchers who excel at finding and identifying birds have little understanding of plants, reptiles, insects, or other aspects of nature. Furthermore, most of us do little in our communities to apply our specialized knowledge to matters of general welfare, such as conservation. Many university faculty members also share these two limitations--specialized knowledge and lacking community involvement--with the rest of us.

Dr. Richard G. Beidleman, a university professor in Colorado for fifty years, has mustered the time and energy to bridge both of these gaps. While he has played a very active role in Colorado ornithology, he's a well-rounded naturalist and teacher. As a prolific writer and an energetic speaker, he extended his contacts far beyond the university community, making nature accessible and interesting to the general public, as well as to his students and academic colleagues. He has given hundreds of public lectures—including those he presented as a ranger naturalist for several National Parks, and he has conducted much research and writing on the history of natural science in the United States and Australia. He also gives much of himself to his community. In fact, his leadership helped to conserve Aiken Canyon, Mueller Ranch, and Florissant Fossil Beds. He has even served as chairman of the Colorado State Parks Board. Since taking emeritus status at Colorado College in 1988, he continues to devote himself to educating both the public and college students about nature and its values to humans.

Dr. Beidleman, who introduced himself as "Dick," met with the three of us and Lynn's wife, Liz, for an interview at Colorado College (CC) on 11 July 1998. Although he moved to northern California after "retiring," he returns to Colorado each summer to teach courses at CC, Rocky Mountain National Park, and Aspen. When we interviewed him, he and two other professors were teaching a three-week "block" (a system of taking just one course at a time) course at CC on Nature Writing. This year, he came back earlier than usual to teach a spring block course on Ecology for Non-Science Majors at CC.

We enjoyed our visit with Dr. Beidleman very much, for he is friendly, talkative, humorous, and candid. He is also very busy, and we appreciate the time he took out of his jam-packed schedule to meet with us. As he spoke of his work and volunteer activities, there emerged a story about one of Colorado's most complete naturalists, Dr. Richard Beidleman.

### **Activities and Publications in Ornithology**

Dr. Beidleman labels himself an "ecologist," although more than 125 of his approximately 375 publications have dealt with birds, and much of his work has focused on ornithology. He has been a member of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) and the Cooper Ornithological Society since 1948, the year in which he received his Master's degree. That same year, he published the results of a winter bird population study he had conducted, and he continued to conduct and publish such studies—first in *Audubon Field Notes* and later in *Journal of Field Ornithology*—for many years. He also undertook and published the results of long-term winter-population and nesting-bird



studies, which involve intensive monitoring in fixed plots year after year, all through the winter or nesting seasons.

Dick: "They are important for learning about carrying capacity and changes from year to year. Breeding Bird [Survey] Routes are still good, but don't give the same data. Christmas Counts and Spring and Fall Counts are helpful, but don't have controls to make data very comparable from year to year."

Nonetheless, he believes in the value of conducting Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs), and he has served as co-compiler for CBCs in Fort Collins and Rocky Mountain National Park. He also helped to initiate the Black Forest CBC in 1958 with Hugh Kingery.

Dr. Beidleman has published scores of books and articles on birds. In 1949, soon after finishing his Master's degree, the University of Colorado (CU) Museum published his *Guide to the Birds of Prey of Colorado*. In 1951, several of his popular birdwatching articles appeared in *Audubon Magazine*, including two articles entitled "Bird-Watching-Hobby of the Half Century," and four years later the CU Museum published his *Guide to the Winter Birds of Colorado*. Included among his extensive writings for scientific journals were several notes in *Condor*, a paper he presented at an annual meeting of the AOU, and many abstracts regarding his bird research in *Journal of Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Science*.

Dick has sought to make natural science usable and enjoyable to the public through a variety of activities, including nature writing. In his nature writing class, he explains to his students that "most nature writers now do not know much about nature," and uses examples of mistakes by such writers to illustrate his point. The production of nature writing is like the proliferation of bird books in that "most are redundant and don't add to knowledge about birds, but they sell!"

In his *Guide to the Winter Birds of Colorado*, he devised a bird-identification key that uses obvious features, such as "white line above the eye" or "white on outer tail feathers." He stated to us that there are many bird guides, none of which are very useful to a beginner. He admits, however, that he doesn't know how the birds should be arranged in 'the perfect' field guide.

Dick: "Most are just in taxonomic order, from the 'dumb' birds to the 'smart' ones. Someone will someday write a book about birds so it can be used." He went on to ask: "Why do we have this fetish about identification? As an ecologist, I don't keep a life list, but I need to identify birds as part of an ecosystem."

Although Dick does not consider himself a lister, sometimes he lists just for fun. He explained, however, that listing can be a useful way to make a point. For example, once he taught a three-day class about birds in Aspen, for which the group had to find 100 species. They learned that to find the most species they needed to go to various habitats.

### **Childhood, Education, Career, and Family Life**

Dick was born in 1923 and grew up mainly in San Diego. Both of his parents were musicians, his father teaching music at San Diego State College. At a very early age, Dick became interested in all of nature, which may be due, in part, to the influence of his dad, who spent his summers filming professional motion pictures about national parks for the California Visual Education Association. When Dick was seven years old, he also took a course for children offered jointly by the zoo and the natural history museum, where he learned "fun things like how to stuff birds and collect plants." As a result, he grew up hoping to work in national parks and study nature.

When his dad returned to Columbia University to earn a Ph.D., Dick spent two years on an academic scholarship at a prep school in New York. Then he attended Brown University for one year, majoring in zoology. He recalled having to kill a frog in one of his zoology classes.

Dick: "That was the last living organism we studied for the next nine months."

Disillusioned, he changed his major field to journalism. In the following summer, he toured Rocky Mountain National Park with his parents and a cousin. On the same trip, he visited the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he applied and was accepted into the school of journalism. Because CU journalism students were required to have a background in another field about which they could write, Dick also majored in biology. He recalled that, in the 1940s, "CU produced more naturalists for the national parks than any other institution." He lamented, however, that "later they dumped ecology for molecular biology." While at CU, Dick also wrote poems for university and other publications, and he received an essay prize for "A Critical Analysis of Theodore Dreiser's *American Tragedy*." After completing his undergraduate degree, he stayed on at CU to earn a Master's degree, for which he wrote a thesis on "The Vertebrate Ecology of a Colorado Plains Cottonwood River Bottom."

After finishing his Master's degree in 1948, Dick accepted a naturalist position at Yosemite National Park. He was under the impression that it was a permanent position, so he and his wife, Reba, moved there. He was taken with their life in Yosemite and soon published a charming article in *Audubon Magazine* entitled, "Mrs. White-foot Moves In--What a Yosemite Ranger-Naturalist Did When a

Deer Mouse Family Took Over His Bed!" He thought his dream of working in a national park had at last come true. At the end of the summer, however, the park superintendent called him in for a meeting--during which he expected the superintendent to tell him about the great opportunities ahead for him at Yosemite. Instead, he asked what Dick was going to do after the summer. So he was unemployed!

Soon after, his principal professor at CU called and said that Colorado A & M--which is now Colorado State University (CSU)--was looking for an assistant professor of zoology. Dick accepted that position, beginning his long career as a college professor. He taught at CSU from 1948 to 1956, during which time he earned his Ph.D. at CU and wrote his dissertation on "The Cottonwood River Bottom Community as a Vertebrate Habitat." He then taught at CU from 1956 to 1957, and finally he settled at CC, where he taught from 1957-1988. At CC he worked his way up from Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor to Chairman of the Biology Department.

With their three children, Dick and Reba, spent their summers in National Parks, where Dick continued fulfilling his dream of working as a park ranger-naturalist. Thus, the children grew up living with nature. He didn't encourage the three to study natural history, but they all did. His daughter, Carol, now serves as Chair for Colorado Partners in Flight. Recently, she attended a Rotary International professional exchange in the Pantanal area of Brazil and Paraguay. She earned her undergraduate degree at CU in Boulder, and she earned a Master's degree at the University of Arizona in natural resource management. One summer day, when Dick was teaching an ecology class at Hidden Valley in Rocky Mountain National Park, someone asked him a question. He gave what he thought was the correct answer, but he referred them to the park naturalist on duty for a more definitive answer. The person came back and exclaimed, "She says you're wrong." He went up to see who "she" was, and it was his daughter, Carol!

Carol is now working on a book for Falcon Press about finding birds in Colorado. Why is she doing this when there are already books about finding birds in Colorado, some good, and some not good--written by people who haven't been to the places they list? Because Carol can write about the *good* places to go to see birds--and she's been there.

Dick: "She is imaginative and has gone all over" [Colorado].

Dick's son, Sterling Kirk, earned his degree in wildlife at Washington State University, and has worked in computers. At the time of our interview, Kirk was pursuing his avocational study of geology in the San Juans. Dick's

daughter, Janet, studied geology at Carlton College, although eventually she switched to languages.

From friends, we learned that shortly after Dick and Reba moved to California to retire, a speeding car hit them both as they strolled along a bayside path, killing her and maiming him. He slowly came back to life after months of intensive care and therapy, and now (as Carol puts it) he walks the mountains again--nature pulled him back to life. He has since remarried--to Linda. She's a former CC biology major with a Master's in marine biology. Now Linda is a botanist, and she, Dick, and Dr. Beatrice Willard are writing a new flora for Rocky Mountain National Park. They developed a key that they hope the public can use easily to identify plants in the Park.

### **History of Natural Science**

While Dick taught at CSU, the Ford Foundation began to provide grants for faculty to study in fields outside of, but related to, their own fields. Reba, who taught English at CSU, suggested that he apply for a grant to study the history of science. He received the grant and used it to study "The Impact of the American Frontier on Natural Science" from 1954-1955. Living in a small trailer with their first two children, Dick and Reba traveled to 40 states, retracing the routes of early scientific expeditions. His kids remember that they "spent a lot of time visiting cemeteries containing dead scientists." Later, he taught a graduate course at CU on the history of natural science in America.

Dick: "History provides more depth to everything we see in the field. [It] helps us understand relationships" [among nature, literature, art, politics.]

Dick also took three sabbaticals in Australia, where he studied the impact of the Australian frontier on natural science and compared it with his studies in the United States.

Dick: "There have been more differences than similarities because of the continued ties of Australia to England" [for money, libraries, and scientists].

In 1956, Dick began to publish articles in specialized and popular magazines about the journeys of early naturalists. The articles included one about Thomas Nuttall for the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* and one on George Suckley for the *Annals of Wyoming*. In 1957, he published in *Colorado Outdoors*, the magazine of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, an article entitled "The Hunting Season of 1806," which described the Zebulon Pike expedition in Colorado. (This article was republished in *Colorado Outdoors* in 1976.) A year later,

*Colorado Outdoors* published his article entitled, "Steak Fry a la 1820," which covered the Stephen Long expedition. *Horticulture* magazine also published several articles he wrote on the discovery and collection of plants. In time, Dick published approximately twenty historical articles, including book reviews.

After he retired and took emeritus status at CC, he continued to research, teach, and write about the history of natural science. In April 1993, he presented a major paper about Charles Aiken--Colorado frontier ornithologist--at the Centennial Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society in Sacramento, California, and just this year he presented a slide program, entitled "Birders on the Western Frontier: From Steller to Aiken," for the Colorado Bird Observatory's lecture series. He has led tours for the Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver Audubon Society, and others to retrace early scientific expeditions. He mentioned one tour that went to the Salmon River, where Clark (of Lewis and Clark) first observed the species we now call Clark's Nutcracker.

### University Teaching

The field of nature, even ecology, has been dropped by many institutions because "the money is not there."

Dick: "It is hard to get grants in ecology, as it is general and not specific. It is hard to get money to do research in the field; money is given for esoteric equipment that may eventually be stored in a basement somewhere."

As a result, "More is known about less in the natural world."

Dick, who conducts some research at the University of California's Berkeley Herbarium, finds that many graduate students at the herbarium have never had a background in traditional botany. They are trained in molecular biology, and although they can identify a plant in the lab by virtue of its DNA, they may not recognize the plants growing in the field. At one time, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs had an environmental program, which they "dumped."

Dick: "They gave away their specimens of birds, their specimens of botany; they gave it all up for molecular biology."

Dr. Beidleman explained that to become an ecologist is difficult, as it takes continuing education in many fields. Colorado College now offers an Environmental Science major, but it requires only one course each in botany, geology, and chemistry. Therefore, students "acquire a thin veneer of knowledge, not taking the hard courses in chemistry, physics, biology." Dick

does not discourage students from entering the natural sciences, but he warns them that it is very difficult to find a paid position in the field and make it a career. Nonetheless, "There is not a better avocation in the world! It is a great avocation, with little cost, and unlimited loads of fun," and he suggests that, "All educated people need a course in geology and in field biology, as those are interests they can pursue anywhere in the world."

Mark Meyer, a 1976 graduate from Colorado College, reported to David Pantle that Dr. Beidleman's Environmental Biology class was "the most fun course" he took at CC. The course was ideally suited for the block system because it kept the class to fewer than 20 students and they could be outdoors from dawn to dark. Dr. Beidleman took them to almost every conceivable ecosystem in Colorado. Mark said that Dr. Beidleman "enjoyed and knew what he was doing. He walked fast, and there was little book learning. . . . The first day, he passed around jars of scat and asked, 'What is this?' " Mark added that "this was one of the most popular courses at CC. Dr. Beidleman had tremendous energy . . . had a wry smile. However, [he] was a tough grader."

### **The Man Who Says Yes**

Each year, Dick receives many requests to teach, speak, and consult. If someone calls about something they would like him to do many months away, he says "yes" if his schedule looks clear for that time. As a result, he's involved in a multitude of projects and finds his time heavily booked. In fact, for the week after our interview, he was scheduled to begin teaching a new course at CC on Monday, dedicate an open space on Friday, and begin teaching a course at Rocky Mountain National Park on Saturday. Earlier in the summer, he taught a bird class at Rocky Mountain National Park, gave a lecture in Golden the day after for the North American Butterfly Association's banquet, and then went to Aspen to teach for five days, much of it in the snow!

When Dick receives a request, he asks himself "Is it a worthwhile cause? Who else would do it? Somebody has got to do these things!" His wife puts a sign by the telephone that reads "SAY NO," but usually he says "yes." On rare occasions he will suggest someone else to contact. He does not perceive himself as being someone with a mission, however. "I never thought about that. I came to work every day. I had a pretty busy schedule. I had no time to think about what should be the meaning of life."

### **Protection of Open Spaces and Other Service**

Dick knows first hand how the Colorado Springs community "fought to save some open spaces." He served as one of the first presidents for the Colorado Springs Beautiful Association, which actively worked to preserve open spaces,

such as the White House Ranch, the Davis Property, and other additions to the Garden of the Gods. In the 1980s, he became involved with Aiken Canyon, located southwest of Colorado Springs. The Ingersolls, a couple that was very concerned about a quarry that was going to take Silverplume Granite from Aiken Canyon for gravel, kept calling Dick to come and see the area. He initiated field work there and learned how unique Aiken Canyon is.

Dick : “[I found] more wildlife there than in any other restricted area in Colorado—saw a pair of mountain lions, usually saw bears. Wapiti come down there in the winter, although usually they do not come to such low elevations. All of the jays in Colorado are found there, all of the nuthatches, practically all of the mammals. I began to give lectures about it, the public became interested, fundraising began, the schools became interested.”

The Sierra Club, Aiken Ornithological Society, and the Broadmoor Garden Club also became interested, and eventually the property was obtained by The Nature Conservancy.

In the summer of 1998, the City of Colorado Springs purchased a section of undeveloped land from the Myron Stratton Home, “the last local, undeveloped section of the nonsedimentary foothills.” Dick initiated environmental studies of this property in approximately 1973, and eventually he had “a vast amount of data about the unique value of this property.” There are three major ecosystems at the Myron Stratton property: grassland, brushland, and ponderosa pine forest, as well as all the ecotones between them.

Dick: “It is a unique area. Faulting has buried the sedimentary rocks, which support the piñon-juniper woodland at the Garden of the Gods, and [at the Stratton Property] this ecosystem is thus missing.”

In the end, Dick’s long-term studies helped to rally the support necessary to preserve the property from development.

Dick suggests ways in which birders can help preserve a unique area by gathering the data, preferably through long-term studies, to show what is there. Bird clubs may schedule trips to the same area during the same months each year to maintain such studies. Once the data have been collected, then “get in touch with the organizations that are willing to make noise to get the area set aside.”

Dick also served on a number of boards, including those of the Thorne Ecological Institute and the Nature Conservancy in Colorado. He served on various boards for the State of Colorado, including the Predator Control Board—which “did nothing,” advisory boards on outdoor and environmental

education for the Colorado Department of Education, the Governor's Front Range Planning Team, and Colorado State Parks Board, for which he served two terms (1976-1984), first as a member and later as Chairman. On the State Parks Board, he felt that they accomplished a lot, but there were constant fights with the Legislature. For example, he was on the Parks Board when the original lottery--the campaign stressing that the money would go for parks and the outdoors--was approved, but then the Legislature cut the funding for parks and began to use lottery money for prisons and other things.

### Other Activities

As a ranger-naturalist with the National Park Service (NPS), Dick spent summers in Yosemite and Rocky Mountain National Parks and Dinosaur and Black Canyon National Monuments. Apparently, his work in parks made him the envy of people seeking similar opportunities. Hugh Kingery recalls that when he was a college freshman, he found Dr. Beidleman's name in *American Birds* and wrote him asking about how to get a bird-related job in a national park. Through Dick's intervention, Hugh was hired as a janitor at Rocky Mountain National Park, which subsequently allowed him to present bird talks on the weekends. Dick was also employed by the Regional Office in Omaha to prepare administrative histories, interpretive master plans, and museum prospectuses for the NPS. In addition, he taught short courses on ecology and ornithology for Rocky Mountain National Park and provided naturalist orientations for staff at Black Canyon National Monument and Rocky Mountain National Park.

As Dick's reputation grew, corporations like Public Service Company of Colorado and American Metals Climax, hired him to assist with conducting environmental studies and reports. He also conducted environmental studies for highway projects, military bases, ranches, residential developments, and urbanization projects. In the non-profit sector, he served for six years as Executive Secretary and Editor for the *Journal of The Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Science*, and he served as president of the Academy from 1965-1966. At CC, he directed five National Science Foundation institutes between 1960-1964.

In addition to the many publications already mentioned, Dick researched and authored, or edited, many publications dealing with mammals, reptiles, grasslands, and other aspects of natural history. He even co-authored two secondary school biology textbooks and published articles on science education. Currently, Dr. Beidleman has a number of writing projects in process, including "An Annotated Bibliography of Colorado Vertebrate Zoology," "Charles



Darwin in Australia," "Frontier Ornithologist Charles Aiken," and "Journal of Frederick Creutzfeldt" (the 1853 Gunnison Expedition botanist).

### Recognitions and Awards

Dick's many contributions have been appreciated and acknowledged publicly. In 1989, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science degree by Colorado College, and, in 1992, he was appointed to CC's Hulbert Endowed Chair of Southwestern Studies. He has received awards, medals, and citations from many organizations, such as the Rocky Mountain Center on Environment, the U.S. Air Force Academy, Thorne Ecological Institute, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the National Audubon Society, and the Garden Club of America.

One of the more special honors he received was the creation of the Beidleman Environmental Center by the City of Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Department. The property is located near Sondermann Park, where he and his students have conducted much field work on wintering birds. It has a beautiful little stream with an attractive ranch-style house, so the City set it aside for education, using the house as an interpretive center. Now, each summer the Complete Naturalist, and his wife, Linda, present lectures there, continuing to enlighten, entertain, and educate people about the importance and beauty of the natural world.



Rock Wren  
by Alan Versaw

## BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE (*Pica pica*) FORAGING RESPONSE TO HUMAN PRESENCE IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

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### Abstract

The purpose of this experiment was to determine the impact of human presence on the foraging behavior of Black-billed Magpies (*Pica pica*) at food sources in urban versus rural settings. We predicted that magpies at urban sites ( $n = 29$ ) were more likely to approach a food source in close proximity to humans than magpies at rural sites ( $n = 18$ ). Sites were selected according to previous sightings of magpies and their habitat preferences. At each site, raw meat was placed 10 meters from a seated observer. In a 20-minute trial, the observer recorded how many times magpies approached within one meter (3.3 feet) of the food during 20 1-minute intervals. We also estimated the total number of magpies using the site overall. While we found no statistical difference in the total number of magpies at urban versus rural sites, repeated measures ANOVA analysis revealed a significant site type (rural vs. urban) by time interaction term. The mean number of magpie approaches to food over the 20 1-minute intervals increased at urban sites but not at rural sites. We attribute this to the habituation of magpies to human activities in urban areas. Climatic variation and occasional interruptions may have contributed to some bias in the data, however, and future studies should attempt to control for these natural errors. This experiment demonstrates that magpies often adapt to human activity and will continue to forage in the presence of a human. The ability of magpies to adjust to different levels of human disturbance will likely ensure their continued existence well into the future.

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### Introduction

Several researchers have investigated the habituation responses of rural versus urban birds. Cooke (1980) determined that birds in rural areas were far less tolerant of human approaches than birds in suburban areas. Keller (1989) showed that incubating Great Crested Grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*) on lakes subjected to more frequent contact with humans due to recreation exhibited significantly smaller flight distances in response to human approaches. Species

are more approachable in urban areas because they learn, through frequent contact with humans, that close approaches typically do not place them in danger. For example, Riffell et al. (1996) showed that repeated human intrusion did not have strong cumulative effects on forest-bird communities, and they suggested that habituation to human intrusion accounted for the continued fitness of the community. This idea is supported by Scott et al. (1996), who suggested that birds minimize the impacts of disturbance by adapting to human pressure or presence. Habituation to humans has been studied in other animals as well, such as black-tailed prairie dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*). Adams et al. (1987) found that prairie dogs in undisturbed areas displayed a greater avoidance response than populations in cities and attributed this difference to intrusion tolerance in urban areas. Wauters et al. (1997) demonstrated that red squirrels (*Sciurus vulgaris*) that were habituated to people had significantly higher initial survival rates than non-habituated squirrels when introduced in an urban park that had recently lost its squirrel population.

Habituation allows certain species to increase in urban areas. It is important, however, to assess the impact of human intrusion on animal communities and attempt to minimize any possible negative effects. By studying foraging behavior, it is possible to see how avian behaviors change when humans share the same environment. This study explores the effects of habituation to human presence on the foraging behavior of Black-billed Magpies (*Pica pica*), which are ground-foraging generalists that use a wide range of habitats in both agricultural and urban areas, preferably with wooded tracts along waterways bordering fields (Birkhead 1991). We predicted that magpies in urban areas were more likely to approach a food source in close proximity to humans than magpies in rural areas.

### Methods

**Study Areas**—We studied magpies at 29 urban sites and 19 rural sites throughout the Colorado Front Range area between Lyons and Castle Rock. We selected sites based primarily on previous sightings of magpies and on their habitat preferences. All sites contained both trees and clearings, were below 2271 meters (7,450 feet) in elevation, and most sites were near water sources. Sites within 500 meters (1640 feet) of houses or other occupied buildings, or sites that were exposed to regular human contact (more than one person every 10 minutes), were determined to be urban, while sites that did not meet these criteria were determined to be rural.

**Measurements**—We conducted our study from 13 November to 4 December 1997. At each site, we placed meat scraps (trimmings from pork, chicken, beef) on the ground 10 meters (32.8 feet) from a seated observer and

immediately began recording data. We recorded the number of magpie approaches within one meter of the meat during each 1-minute interval over a 20-minute trial. We collected the data at 7 rural and 12 urban sites between 6-10 a.m., at 7 rural and 10 urban sites between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and at 4 rural and 7 urban sites between 2-6 p.m.

We also estimated the number of magpies that used the site during the entire 20-minute trial. This was done by counting the highest number of magpies at the site at one time and adding the number of magpies that had just left the site within one minute of the count. Since magpies appeared to be leaving food areas to cache food nearby, we felt that this would be an appropriate measure.

If one or more magpies remained within one meter (3.3 feet) of the bait at the conclusion of each 20-minute trial, we would walk slowly towards the magpie(s) to determine how closely they would allow us to approach.

Statistical Analysis—We analyzed the total number of magpies at each site with a simple analysis of variance (ANOVA), and we used a repeated measures ANOVA to analyze our data on the number of magpie approaches to food.

### **Results**

We found no significant difference in the total number of magpies using urban versus rural areas ( $F = 0.29$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $P = 0.59$ ). However, there was a significant site (urban vs. rural) by time interaction term ( $F = 1.98$ ,  $df = 19$ ,  $855$ ,  $P = 0.0075$ ) in the repeated measures ANOVA. That is, over the 20-minute trials, magpies approached to within one meter (3.3 feet) of the food with increasing frequency at urban sites, but not with increasing frequency at rural sites. In other words, urban magpies were probably more habituated to people, thus willing to approach the food more frequently in the presence of a human than the rural magpies.

At the end of each experiment, when we walked towards the birds, some urban magpies tolerated human approaches of 0.5 meters (1.6 feet) or less, while magpies in rural areas would never allow us to advance closer than 6 meters (19.7 feet). Although sample sizes of this portion of our study were inadequate for statistical analysis, the data support previous studies during which researchers found greater flushing distances among rural populations of birds (Cooke 1980).

### **Discussion**

Because the total number of magpies present at urban versus rural sites was not significantly different, we attributed our trial results to the habituation of

urban magpies to humans. Climatic variation may have accounted for some bias in our study, however, as temperature, wind direction and speed, amount of snow cover, and percentage of cloud cover likely affected how many magpies were in the area and how effectively our data could be recorded. Time of day also affected magpie response to the food. We found, as did Birkhead (1991), that a greater number of magpies forage in the early morning than during other times of the day, and 28 of our 47 trials were conducted later in the day—in which no magpies were seen at all. Further research should be done to evaluate these effects, and careful attention should be given to keeping time of day and weather conditions consistent during measurements.

Other interruptions also could have affected our results. Frequently, dogs, people, and other avian species, such as crows and raptors, influenced the number of magpies that responded, especially in locations with higher pedestrian traffic. Even where magpies are adapted to this type of activity in urban areas, a disturbance in close proximity could have affected our trials temporarily by chasing magpies away.

Our results corroborate past habituation studies of other avian and mammalian species in urban versus rural areas (Cooke 1980, Keller 1989, Adams et al. 1987). The adaptability of magpies to human disturbance has far-reaching implications for the survival and abundance of this species as humans intrude more extensively into remaining wild areas. Since magpies also are able to utilize areas with a strong human presence, they will not be affected so adversely by the conversion of wild lands for human uses as would animals less able to habituate to human presence. The ability of magpies to adjust to different levels of human disturbance will likely help to ensure their continued existence well into the future.

### Acknowledgments

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Black-billed Magpie  
by Brendan O'Rourke

## NEWS FROM THE FIELD: THE SPRING 1998 REPORT (MARCH - MAY)

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Lamentably, I had very little field time during the spring period this year, and when I was out, I was generally restricted to short, local excursions. Therefore, I feel that I should probably just summarize the sightings and not spend too much time trying to analyze trends (I just don't have much of a feel for it this time around). I'll make a few of my usual "more common, less common than usual" comments below and then follow Occam's Razor (the tenet that descriptions be kept as simple as possible until proven inadequate).

In the big picture this spring, things remained static. There was the normal dose of rarities, smatterings of "late" and "early" migrant reports, and observations pertaining to population trends. As always in a Colorado spring, if you hit the right spots (CVCG, LCCW, Two Buttes Res.), you saw some good birds. There was a White Ibis, a Gyrfalcon, a Whip-poor-will, and a Hermit Warbler to drive up adrenaline levels, but for most of us it was the anxious anticipation of a mid May morning in the field that provided the jumpstart.

Many species seemed more common than normal during migration, such as Gray Catbirds and Wilson's Warblers. Others seemed to be a little less common, such as Black Terns, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Grasshopper Sparrows. This spring, the lower elevations never saw the numbers of Townsend's Solitaires, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Mountain Chickadees, Cassin's Finches, Evening Grosbeaks, and Red Crossbills that were here a year ago. Additionally, the rosy-finches and waxwings had no significant winter irruptions that carried over to the spring period.

**Note:** The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Records Committee would like documentation provided for the 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 observers 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:** Co.= county, CG=Campground, CVCG=Crow Valley Campground, imm.=immature, DNA=deoxyribonucleic acid, FLWE=Fort Lyons Wildlife Easement, LCCW= Lamar Community College Woods, mob=many observers, Res.=reservoir, RFSWA=Rocky Ford State Wildlife Area, RMNP=Rocky Mountain National Park, SP=State Park, SWA=State Wildlife Area, VPSWA=Valco Ponds State Wildlife Area

**Common Loon:** More difficult to find in spring than fall, one was found at Highline SP on 3/28 (Rgu). One was at Rist Benson Lake in Loveland on 4/3 (GMg), and one was seen at Long Pond in Fort Collins on 4/16 (RK). One in basic plumage was seen on Lake Cheraw on 5/16 (TL, PGe). An alternate-plumaged bird flew north along Highway 287 past the Little Washington Work Center in Baca Co. on 5/23 (TL, DSv, ISv, JBr).

**Brown Pelican:** An immature was located in Pagosa Springs from 5/28-30 (BFy, mob) <ND>.

**Least Bittern:** One of these reclusive marsh wraiths was reported from Pueblo on 4/30 (fide PSS) <ND>.

**Great Egret:** An early migrant was at Long Pond on 4/1 (RK). Another was at Ryan's Gulch in Loveland on 4/15 (LG).

**Snowy Egret:** Two were seen at Lower Latham Res. on 4/15 (DBo, VDi) and one was in Fort Collins on 5/29 (RK).

**Little Blue Heron:** This very rare spring Colorado migrant is usually reported from the southeastern corner of Colorado in the years it occurs. This spring observers looking south of Interstate 70 and east of Interstate 25 were shut out. An adult was seen on 5/16 at Highway 52 along the Weld/Boulder county line road (WHK, mob) <ND>. Another adult (or, quite possibly, the same bird) was domiciled in east Fort Collins along the Poudre River corridor from 5/25-31 (DAL\*, DCE, mob), ending a long "little blue" drought in the area.

**Tricolored Heron:** An adult wandered to Union Res. on 5/18, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first state record, from somewhere far away (TL\*, SBo).

**Green Heron:** Considered accidental in the mountains, one was spotted in Estes Park on 5/4 (SRa). On 5/17, one was seen in Fort Collins along the Poudre River (DAL), where the species has been annual since at least 1992.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Very rare and very early was an adult at Rock Canyon in Pueblo on 3/28 (MJ\*, BKP).

**White Ibis:** On 4/15, an adult was discovered near Bayfield in La Plata Co., where it remained until 5/2 (fide RSt, NE, JK, JRo) <ND>. This would be only the second Colorado record if accepted by the Records Committee.

**Glossy Ibis:** Careful observers just keep finding this species in Colorado. This year there were five reports. An adult was seen near Sugar City in



Crowley Co. on 4/12 (MJ\*) and again on 4/14 (BKP, GRu), 4/19 (MJ, BKP, mob), and 4/20 (TL). Another adult was seen near Brighton on 4/18 (RO) <ND>. A third adult was at Metro Lake in Colorado City on 4/22 (DSi) <ND>. Two adults were seen at Queens SWA from 5/4-5 (DN, DSh, mob) <ND> and another was seen near Cheraw on 5/14 (DSi, BKP) <ND>.

**White-faced Ibis:** A tally of 100 at Walden Ponds in Boulder was substantial (BPr, IPr).

**Tundra Swan:** The lone report was of the individual that wintered until 3/12 at Dodd Res. in Boulder Co. (WHK, mob).

**Trumpeter Swan:** The bird that spent the winter in the company of the aforementioned species at Dodd Res. was observed until at least 3/12 (WHK, mob) <ND>.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Nine wintered until 3/1 at the perennial, albeit unusual, location of Valco Ponds in Cañon City (Valco cement company has ponds ponds in many places!) (DSi, DJ). An impressive count of 200 was recorded on 3/4 west of Julesburg (DCE, JM), while five were at Little Jumbo Res. on 3/4 (JM, DCE). Three wintered until 3/19 at Fort Morgan (RMx). One was seen at Windsor Res. in Weld Co. on 3/10 (SJD), and one was at Hamilton Res. on 3/23 (PSw, JF). On 3/26, 12 were seen at Monte Vista NWR (LRw), where the species is casual. One at Two Buttes Res. on 3/29 (LL) was also unexpected. The last report was of one at Union Res. on 4/17 (JM).

**Ross's Goose:** Noteworthy away from the immense, alabaster goose flocks of southeastern Colorado, six Ross's Geese were at Windsor Res. on 3/10 (SJD), one was at VPSWA on 3/21 (DSu), 11 were seen in Delta on 3/27 (RL, TL, KP), a locally impressive 39 made a show at Timnath Res. on 4/2 (PSw, mob), one was at Cherry Creek Res. on 4/14 (BB), and four were found at Monte Vista NWR on 4/18 (JRw, LRw).

**American Black Duck:** After its discovery in February, a female continued to reside at Bittersweet Park in Greeley until 3/15 (NK, mob\*).

**Tufted Duck Hybrids:** A male, most likely of Tufted Duck and Greater Scaup heritage, seen from 3/13-16 along the South Platte River near 74th Avenue (BHu, mob), and another, probably with Lesser Scaup DNA, seen on 3/15 east of Timnath (JM), were the source of much ornithological vacillation.

**Greater Scaup:** Careful observers always detect a few individuals of this species in the spring. This year was no different. One or two were seen at McLellan Res. from 3/5-14 (BB). Two males were at Terry Lake north of Fort Collins on 3/14 (WPu), while two were at Prospect Ponds in Fort Collins on 3/21 (WPu). One was in Delta on 3/27 (RL, TL, KP), a female appeared in Vineland from 3/28-29 (BKP, MJ, mob), four were on Lake Cheraw on 3/28 (TL, PGe), a male and a female were at Long Pond in

Fort Collins on 4/4 (RK), and a male showed up at Lake Cheraw on 4/19 (MJ, mob).

**Oldsquaw:** Females were seen at Cherry Creek Res. from 3/20-21 (BB, mob) and at VPSWA from 3/27-4/22 (BKP, mob). Two were seen at Lake Cheraw on 4/1 (VAT) and another female was seen at Big Johnson Res. on 4/3 (BG).

**Surf Scoter:** On 5/7, one constituted an interesting observation in the San Luis Valley (JRw, LRw), where the species occurs casually.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** Lone males were seen at Silverthorne from 3/1-21 (TL, SBo) and at a pond east of the South Platte River near 74th Avenue in Denver on 3/16 (BKP, CLW, DSi, BD). Nine males were reported from Watson Lake in Larimer Co. on 4/5 (PF).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Two hundred on 4/17 at Union Res. was a big count for the species (BPr).

**Mississippi Kite:** One seen on 3/26 in Pueblo was amazingly early. Another in Burlington on 5/19 (DSi) was well north of the species' typical range in Colorado.

**Northern Goshawk:** An immature was seen north of Lyons on 3/2 (DWK). An adult was observed at Chatfield Res. on 3/22 (BB) and again on 4/17 (JK). One was seen in Estes Park on 3/25 (SW) and another at Lake Estes on 5/7 (SW).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** There were two reports this season of this casual spring migrant. An immature was observed from 3/1-2 at RFSWA (MJ, BKP, mob) <ND>, and another was seen on 5/29 at Gregory Canyon in Boulder (PG) <ND>.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Single birds seen on 4/12 and 4/13 (TL) during the Dinosaur Ridge Hawkwatch were the vanguards of an impressive spring movement of this species through Colorado. Three more passed this spot on 4/17 (DSh). Twelve more single birds were reported in eastern Colorado between 4/19-5/17. A phenomenal kettle of 45-50 (!) birds wafted over Fort Collins on 4/26 (JF). This is the largest group ever reported from Colorado.

**Gyrfalcon:** The most reliable "gyr" in Colorado history remained near Hamilton Res. until at least 3/23 (RAR), after first being located on 1/18 (RAR).

**Black Rail:** Up to four were heard at Fort Lyon from 5/9-20 (BKP, mob) <ND>, while as many as three were heard at the Bent's Old Fort Marsh on 5/9 and 5/10 (CFO) <ND>. One was also discovered at Two Buttes Res. from 5/21-24 (DSi, mob) <ND>.

**King Rail:** Various observers speculate that they may have heard an individual of this species calling west of Fort Lyons from 5/9-31 <ND>.

**Mountain Plover:** A census in Baca Co. on 4/9 turned up 148 birds there (SJD), while 61 were tallied to the north in Weld Co. on 4/14 (SJD, FK).

**Black-necked Stilt:** Although the species is not seen very frequently along the northern Front Range, one on 4/11 at Fossil Creek Marsh south of Fort Collins (FAC), and another on 4/18 at Ryan's Gulch (DSn), were nice finds.

**Whimbrel:** Fourteen were seen near Galeton in Weld Co. in early May (JH). A flock of 35-40 was observed at Mile High Lake in Adams Co. on 5/2 (BB). Ten were at Adobe Creek Res. on 5/5 (DSh), four occurred at Lake Meredith on 5/8 (BD, PG, mob), two or three were found at Lower Latham Res. from 5/8-9 (NK, mob), three were at Huerfano Res. on 5/16 (MY), one showed up south of Alamosa on 5/16 (LRw), and finally four alit at Antero Res. on 5/17 (TL, PGe).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** There were two sightings this spring. A basic-plumaged female was found near Cheraw on 5/14 (BKP, BD, DSi) <ND>, and a basic-plumaged male was seen in Weld Co. along Road 42 on 5/27 (DSh, WF) <ND>.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** There were three reports of this very rare migrant. One was seen at Adobe Creek Res. on 5/11 (DN) <ND> and another was seen there on 5/31 (TJ) <ND>. The other bird was seen at Lower Latham Res. from 5/24-25 (NK, mob) <ND>.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Although slightly on the early side for this species' passage through Colorado, one was at Red Lion SWA on 5/15 (DCE) and two were at Beebe Draw south of Lower Latham Res. on 5/22 (DAL).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** An exceptionally early bird was reported from Fort Collins on 3/10 (AF). This is the earliest spring migration date for this species ever reported in Colorado.

**Dunlin:** While the species is considered casual in western Colorado in spring, one was seen at Highline SP on 3/28 (RGU). In the east, where the species occurs more regularly, there were three reports. One was seen at Big Johnson Res. on 4/17 (RB, JWb). One was at a pond west of Adobe Creek Res. (Blue Lake) on 4/20 (TL), and three were seen at Beebe Draw south of Lower Latham Res. in late April (JH).

**Laughing Gull:** One peregrinated to Cherry Creek Res. on 5/8 (BB) <ND>.

**Thayer's Gull:** A few birds persisted into the spring period after overwintering at the normal gull spots. The latest report was of a first-winter bird seen at Cherry Creek Res. on 4/19 (DQ).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** A third-winter bird was seen at Adobe Creek Res. on 3/28 (LL) <ND>.

**Glaucous Gull:** First-winter birds were seen at Union Res. on 3/14 (SJD) and at Windsor Res. on 3/22 (SJD). Another was still present at Lake Loveland on 4/20 (NK) after first being seen in January.

**Caspian Tern:** One or two were seen at Lake Loveland from 4/20-23 (NK, mob) and one was observed at Walden Ponds in Boulder on 5/21 (BS, PG).

**Common Tern:** A first-year bird was seen at the Rocky Ford Sewage Ponds on 5/10 (DQ, RO).

**Least Tern:** One at Lake Henry on 5/11 (BKP), and another at Two Buttes Res. on 5/23 (ISv), were not at expected locales.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Up to eight of the Rocky Ford denizens were seen throughout the period (mob\*), but reports from elsewhere in Colorado suggest that the species may be trying to bring a greater area under its distributional penumbra. New evidence of exploration was found in Holly, where one bird was seen on 5/7 (JE, RD, SDe) <ND>, south of Fowler (TL, PGe) <ND>, where another bird was located on 5/17, and in Campo, where a single bird was seen on 5/30 (RO) <ND>. Also of note, three individuals were seen in Cheyenne, Wyoming from 5/16-17 (CAS), possibly representing Wyoming's first record.

**White-winged Dove:** Two Buttes Res. attracted a waif on both 5/2 (KS, mob) <ND> and again on 5/23 (DSv, ISv) <ND>. Another maverick wandered into Rocky Ford on 5/11 (MPl, SPl) <ND>.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** An individual at Fort Lyon on 5/2 (NE, JK, GRu) was extra-punctual.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Bonny Res. hosted one on 5/29 (BF) <ND>.

**Western Screech-Owl:** A calling bird in Franktown, Douglas Co. from 5/18-19 (HK) added another stickpin to Colorado's screech-owl distribution charts.

**Snowy Owl:** An adult male was first observed in February north of Wiley in Prowers Co., and he delayed departure back to "Tuktoyaktuk" until 4/23 (mob\*).

**Northern Pygmy-Owl:** Two individuals were spied in RMNP on 3/8 (SRa, Spe), and three were seen there on 3/20 (SRa). On 3/28, one was sighted near Cow Creek in Larimer Co. (SW).

**Long-eared Owl:** A trio was discovered in Cottonwood Canyon on 3/3 (MI), while singletons turned up at Jackson Res. on 3/12 (JF), at the Pawnee National Grasslands on 4/14 (SJD, FK), at the FLWE on 4/19 (BKP, mob), and at CVCG from 5/18-19 (NEr). Two were seen at the Wellington SWA on 4/1 (RK), and, north of Wellington, six were present until the end of March (SMa, KMa). In western Colorado, 82 juveniles and two adults were banded beginning 4/12 (RL, KP).

**Short-eared Owl:** One appeared for a day southeast of Berthoud on 3/9 (BCh), while another was reported along Road SS in Prowers Co. on 3/23 (TMc, NK, LL). One was seen north of Wellington on 4/5 (SMa, KMa).

**Northern Saw-Whet Owl:** Finding three in Cottonwood Canyon on 3/3 (MI) was a nice surprise. More expected was the one found in RMNP on 3/31 (SW) and one in Rist Canyon west of Fort Collins in May (JLF).

**Lesser Nighthawk:** Colorado's repletion of Lesser Nighthawk reports in recent years continued with the discovery of one at Neenoshe Res. on 5/7 (DN) <ND> and the subsequent finding of both a male and a female there on 5/14 (BKP, BD, DSi) <ND>.

**Whip-poor-will:** Certainly, one of the spring season highlights was the location of a male Whip-poor-will at Neenoshe Res. on 5/7 (DN) <ND>.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Pending the Bird Records Committee's discussion, the second accepted Colorado record of this species may arise from the scrutiny of a lone male "hummer" at CVCG on 5/21 (JF\*, BF).

**Acorn Woodpecker:** A small population persists in Durango, where two were observed throughout the period (RSt, mob\*).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Two wandered beyond normal strongholds this season. One pecked away below Two Buttes Res. from 3/23-5/11 (DAL, mob), and another drifted all the way up to Georgetown on 5/9 (JAV.).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** One was seen on 3/14 in Lyons (JE), and two immatures were seen in Lyons on 4/1 (MG).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Punctilious listeners were rewarded with the discovery of a singing bird at the Little Washington Work Station in Baca Co. on 5/23 and 5/24 (DSv\*, ISv, TL, JBr).

**Alder Flycatcher:** An individual "fee-beo'd" in Pueblo on 5/23 (BKP) <ND>.

**Black Phoebe:** Now expected locally on the Western Slope, three were found on 3/22 (KP) <ND>. One was along Highway 141 in San Miguel Co., one was at the Uravan Bridge in Montrose Co., and one was in the vicinity of Road CC and Highway 141 in Montrose Co. On the other side of the "hills," Pueblo Co. seems to garner enough records to give the allusion of a small and local, but persistent, population there. This spring, one was at VPSWA from 4/20-22 (BKP, mob) <ND>.

**Eastern Phoebe:** From 4/7-18, one was at Two Buttes Res. (BKP, GRu, mob), a locale where the species isn't normally encountered.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher:** Two were in Lamar on 5/14 (BKP, DSi, BD) and another was at Neenoshe Res. the same day (BKP, DSi, BD).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** An early bird on 4/24 at Milton Res. had somewhat misplaced itself (RO). Others were at the usual haunts. One or two were in Lamar from 5/7-31 (BKP, mob), one was at Hale near Bonny Res. on 5/18 (DSi), and one was in Fort Lyon on 5/22 (DSi).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** There were three reports. A male was seen at Fort Lyon on 5/5 (BKP) <ND> and another showed up near Holly on 5/10 (MY) <ND>. Lastly, one was seen near Las Animas on 5/11 (CS, PSS) <ND>.

**Blue Jay:** After first having been located in the winter, an errant bird was still present in Eagle from 3/26-5/30 (JMe). Two others wandered into the mountains and were seen at Lake Estes on 5/13 (SW, SLR).

**Carolina Wren:** A bird wintering in Pueblo persisted until at least 3/29 (BKP, CLW, mob) <ND>. Another was seen in Lamar on 5/16 (BKP) <ND>.

**Winter Wren:** Lake Deweese in Custer Co. attracted one on 3/1 (DSi, DJ), while another was discovered at the RFSWA on 3/11 (SO).

**Sedge Wren:** VPSWA was the host site for one on 4/10 (BKP) <ND>. This is at least the second recent record for that locale. Another, seen below Two Buttes Res. from 5/10-11 (JPr, TL\*, mob), skulked its way onto many birders' state lists.

**Eastern Bluebird:** After a small group was discovered north of Fort Collins on 1/18 (WPL), a female remained there until 3/14 (WPu). Other observations this spring mirrored observations in recent years. Up to nine were seen at the RFSWA from the winter period until Saint Patrick's Day (DSi, DJ, mob), nine were found in southwest Baca Co. on 3/23 (AV), up to four were at the Hasty CG from 3/26-5/10 (BKP, MJ, mob), a male was discovered at the Rocky Ford Sewage Ponds on 4/11 (BKP, MJ), and two were at Bonny Res. on 5/16 (JKa, NKa).

**Veery:** Sixteen individuals were reported this spring between 5/2-31.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Be on the lookout during the first 10 days of May for this species. In 1996, three of the six reports were on 5/10 (one was on 4/28, the other two were later in May). In 1997, although the one at Lake Henry was found first on 5/8. The other report was of a bird at Lake Henry on subsequent days. In the spring of 1998, the reports were as follows: one at Lake Holbrook on 5/5 (BKP) <ND>, one at Neenoshe Res. on 5/5 (DSH) <ND> and 5/9 (CFO) <ND>, up to three at the Hasty CG from 5/8-10 (BKP, DQ\*, mob), and one at the FLWE on 5/9 (TL\*).

**White-eyed Vireo:** There were two reports of singing birds this spring. One was in Fort Collins on 5/4-5 (WPu, mob) <ND>, and the other made Chatfield SP its home from 5/19-26 (JK, mob) <ND>.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Two were found during the season, one from 5/1-2 at Two Buttes Res. (VZ, mob) <ND> and one north of Wellington on 5/19 (SMA, KMa) <ND>.

**Cassin's Vireo:** Since its recent split from the Solitary Vireo, we are still in the process of evaluating this species' status in Colorado. One, observed from 5/22-23 in Fort Collins (DAL, JM), added a data point to the deliberations.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** One on 5/22 at the Little Washington Work Center (JBr, TL) and one on 5/23 at the Colorado State University Research Center on the Comanche National Grasslands (TL, JBr) were unusual. Another was

seen on 5/22 along the Poudre River in Fort Collins (WPL, DAL), where the species is regular in spring.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** A male appeared at the LCCW from 5/2-3 (DSi, DJ, mob) <ND>. One seen on 5/8 at Lathrop State Park (JRw, LRw) <ND> will be only the second Pueblo-area record if it's accepted by the Bird Records Committee. A female was spotted at Two Buttes Res. on 5/17 (JPr) <ND>. A male was seen at Prewitt Res. on 5/19 (DAL) <ND>, and another male was discovered at the LCCW on 5/20 (DSi, BKP, BD) <ND>.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Three males were seen this spring. One was at Lake Henry on 5/11 (BKP, mob) <ND>, one was at Alamosa Canyon in Alamosa Co. on 5/16 (JRw) <ND>, and the third was at Tamarack Ranch SWA on 5/19 (DSi) <ND>.

**Tennessee Warbler:** The season's first was seen at the LCCW on 5/5 (DAL). Another was at Lathrop SP on 5/8 (JRw, LRw). One was at Neenoshe Res. on 5/9 (JK, NE, CLW), and a female was at the Hasty CG on the same date (CFO). A male was at the LCCW from 5/16-17 (BKP, RO, GRu, DQ, mob), and a female was on the Colorado University campus in Boulder on 5/23 (PG).

**Nashville Warbler:** Two Buttes Res. hosted one on 5/2 (RO, GA) and one or two again from 5/9-10 (CFO). Another was seen at Lake Henry from 5/8-9 (DQ, RO, VAT). One was at the LCCW on 5/9 (CFO), and one appeared again from 5/14-17 (DSi, BKP, BD, mob).

**Virginia's Warbler:** One took a wrong turn and ended up at Bonny Res. on 5/16 (JKa, NKa).

**Northern Parula:** A male showed up at Barr Lake SP on 4/4 and remained until 4/18 (RO, KS, GRu). This is the earliest arrival date recorded in Colorado. A female at Lake Henry on 4/19 (BD, BKP, MJ, SCh) was also earlier than normal. A male was found on 5/1 at the FLWE (RO) and a singing male was there from 5/5-7 (BKP, mob). A singing male was found in the LCCW from 5/8-11 (MJ, mob) and again on 5/14 (BKP, DSi, BD). At Two Buttes Res., three females were located on 5/10 (CFO). On 5/11, a first-year male was found in Lincoln Co. (CLW, JK, NE). A singing male was also seen in Gregory Canyon near Boulder on 5/19 (PHn).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** One or two singing males were in the LCCW from 5/14-17 (BKP, mob). Others were seen in Greeley on 5/17 (NEr), in Estes Park from 5/19-20 (SW, SLR), in Fort Collins on 5/20 (WPL), at the LCCW on 5/21 (female) (DSh), and at the FLWE on 5/22 (DSi).

**Magnolia Warbler:** A female was at the LCCW from 5/14-17 (BKP, BD, DSi, mob) and again on 5/31 (RO, DQ). A male was seen at Sand Draw SWA on 5/14 (NK). A male was seen at CVCG from 5/14-16 (DAL, WPL, JH, mob), on 5/19 (RK), and on 5/23 (DQ, GRu). Another male

was seen at the Little Washington Work Station in Baca Co. from 5/20-22 (ISv, TL, JBr, DSv).

**Cape May Warbler:** A female found at Two Buttes Res. on 5/10 (JPr) <ND> was an exceptional find.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** The "Where's Waldo" black-throated blue warbler was found this spring in the unlikely location of Dolores Co. on 5/28 (CLW). It was a male. The species is slightly more common at Concourse C within Denver International Airport (two records; see Ely, 1998) than on the Western Slope (0 records at the time Andrews and Righter went to print in 1992, and none I could locate since).

**Black-throated Gray Warbler:** A few always turn-up on the eastern plains and along the Front Range during migration. This spring, a male was seen at the LCCW on 5/1 (MJ, BD, VZ), another male was at Chatfield SP on 5/5 (JK), and one showed up at the FLWE on 5/8 (JM).

**Townsend's Warbler:** This species is far more uncommon in spring than in autumn migration. Six, however, were seen this spring. A male was at the LCCW on 5/2 (RO, mob). Females were seen at Cottonwood Canyon on 5/3 (NK), at Walden Ponds in Boulder on 5/4 (PHn), at RFSWA on 5/9 (CFO), and at Two Buttes Res. on 5/10 (CFO). The latest bird was seen on 5/17 at the FLWE (MJ, DQ, GRu).

**Hermit Warbler:** An adult male graced the yard of Tina Jones in Littleton on 5/5 <ND>.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** A singing male was discovered on 5/10 at Two Buttes Res. (JPr, mob). A male showed-up at CVCG on 5/13 (GCt), and a female was at the LCCW on 5/14 (BKP, DSi).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** "Fire-throats" were the source of much ornithological dithering this spring. A male was seen at the LCCW on 5/7 (DSv) <ND>. A singing male was at CVCG on 5/26 (CLW) <ND>. Another male was seen in north Boulder on 5/30 (PG) <ND>.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** A singing male did not escape detection at the FLWE on 5/16 (BKP, GRu, DQ\*, RO).

**Palm Warbler:** There were three reports this spring. The first was at Jim Hamm Nature Area west of Union Res. in Boulder Co. on 5/9 (BPr). The next day, one was at CVCG (DCE, WPL). On 5/12, one was seen at Lake Henry (VZ).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** As usual, there are too many individual reports to list. Upwards of 50 individuals were recorded on the eastern plains this spring. Reports spanned the period from 5/2-19. The high count was 11 birds (10 males, 1 female) at the LCCW from 5/5-11 (DN, mob).

**Black-and-White Warbler:** Two birds seen in April were noteworthy. A first-year male was at Two Buttes Res. on 4/18 (BBH), and a female was



at the LCCW on 4/18 and 19 (BKP, Sch, BBH, RK). Eight more were seen from 5/2-19, all in eastern Colorado.

**American Redstart:** Eleven were reported from 5/6-23 in eastern Colorado. This number is lower than it has been in recent years; there were 72 reports in 1995 (Percival 1995), 12 in 1996 (Ely 1996), and 35 in 1997 (Ely 1997).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** It was a very good spring for this species in Colorado. A female was seen at CVCG on 5/13 (GCt\*). A male was in Gregory Canyon near Boulder from 5/20-22 (CF, SPI) <ND>, and another male was at the LCCW on 5/24 <ND>. A singing male was at CVCG on 5/26 (CLW, mob) <ND>, while another sang at Pueblo City Park on 5/28 (BKP, MJ) <ND>.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** One was seen at Bear Creek Regional Park from 5/1-2 (JMy, mob) <ND>. One was at the LCCW from 5/2-10 (GA, DQ\*, mob). One was at Hasty from 5/8-9 (JRo, BF, GE, mob) <ND>.

**Ovenbird:** Ten were reported, which seems about normal. They were reported from 5/3-22.

**Northern Waterthrush:** From 5/2-24, 28 Northern Waterthrushes presented themselves for scrutiny.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Joe Mammoser's great discovery on 5/9 at Two Buttes Res. was produced from the convergence of a careful observer and an errant waterthrush (JM). Kudos.

**Kentucky Warbler:** This year, May 3 was the date and the LCCW was the place (BG, JDi) <ND> to see this species in Colorado.

**Mourning Warbler:** A male was seen in Pueblo on 5/15 (DSi, BKP). Most likely, many more were present but not seen in eastern Colorado.

**Hooded Warbler:** A male was found in Fort Collins from 5/14-16 (JM\*, DAL\*, mob). A male appeared in Gregory Canyon from 5/15-31 (BE, mob) and a female was with it from 5/16-31 (PG, mob). These birds may have nested. If it is accepted by the Bird Records Committee, it will be the first nesting record for this species in Colorado. A female was spotted at the Little Washington Work Station in Baca Co. from 5/23-24 (DSv, ISv, TL, JBr, mob).

**Canada Warbler:** A female was reported from CVCG on 5/21 (JF\*).

**Summer Tanager:** An early migrant was noted in Fort Collins from 4/25-27 (RK, mob). Up to two were seen at Two Buttes Res. from 5/2-4 (JK, NE, GRu, mob). A first-year male was seen at the LCCW on 5/3 (AV), and a female was at Two Buttes Res. on 5/23 (DSv).

**Scarlet Tanager:** A female was at the FLWE from 5/8-10 (BKP, DSm, DQ\*, mob). A male was in Lincoln Co. on 5/11 (CLW, JK, NE) <ND>. Also on 5/11, a male (VZ) <ND> and a female (mob) <ND> were seen at the LCCW.

**Northern Cardinal:** A male, probably the same bird that was present in the winter, was seen at the Wheatridge Greenbelt from 3/5-12 (DSH, mob). A singing male was out-of-place at Lake Henry on 5/8 (JBH, BS).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Seventeen were seen from 5/3-30. Additionally, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak x Black-headed Grosbeak hybrid was seen in Fort Collins on 5/23 (NK).

**Painted Bunting:** This is a casual migrant (accidental on the Western Slope) in eastern Colorado. One male demonstrated unusual seasonality when it showed up in Delta from 3/23-26 (MZ, SZ) <ND>. Another male was seen on 5/21 in Cottonwood Canyon (PG, LM) <ND>, a good spot to see at least one male in recent years.

**Eastern Towhee:** A male seen at the Julesburg Rest Area on 5/14 (NK) <ND> and up to two males and a female reported at Tamarack Ranch SWA from 5/14-19 (NK, mob) <ND> are a growing source of controversy. Many observers have commented that they feel territorial, singing birds in these locations display some spotted towhee characteristics, though they generally resemble eastern towhees.

**Cassin's Sparrow:** This species was found "in the highest numbers ever in five years of conducting surveys on the Comanche National Grasslands by the Colorado Bird Observatory." (JBr, TL).

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow:** One was found east of Fort Lyon on 5/8 (RK, mob), a good distance from the species' typical range in Colorado.

**Field Sparrow:** Observers noted a lot of Field Sparrows this spring. One was at Picture Canyon in Baca Co. on 4/15 (DSv), one was at Two Buttes Res. on 4/18 (BKP), six showed up at Two Buttes Res. on 5/2 (DQ, RO, mob), up to two were found at the LCCW from 5/6-8 (BKP, mob), as many as two dropped in near Fort Lyons on 5/7 (BKP, DN, mob), two were at Bonny Res. on 5/7 (JE, RD, SDe), one was at Two Buttes Res. on 5/11 (PG), and up to three were discovered at Tamarack Ranch SWA from 5/14-19 (NK, mob).

**Baird's Sparrow:** This stealthy migrant made a rare stop in Baca Co. on 4/17 (DSv) <ND>. There are only four accepted detections of this species in Colorado.

**Sage Sparrow:** Two adults showed up in El Paso Co. on 3/28 (RB), and another lingered at Chatfield Res. from 4/18-23 (SS, JK, DSh).

**LeConte's Sparrow:** One found itself lost in Estes Park from 4/25-30 (SW, mob) <ND>. An exceptional find anywhere in Colorado, this is the first mountain record (pending acceptance by the Bird Records Committee).

**Fox Sparrow:** An individual of the eastern race, which is rare in Colorado, spent the winter and first week of March at the renowned Red Rocks Trading Post feeders in Jefferson Co. (TB).

**White-throated Sparrow:** A couple were at the LCCW from 3/25-5/9 (DAL, BKP, mob), one was at Dixon Res. from 5/9-11 (DCE, NK), Lake Henry hosted one from 5/11-12 (BKP, mob), one held back at Wellington from 5/14-15 (SMa, KMa), and one stalled in Estes Park on 5/16 (SRa).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow:** Colorado birders have been spoiled by a plethora of recent records from the Red Rocks Trading Post feeders, but this species is still very rare in Colorado. An adult in Redlands, Mesa Co. from 4/25-26 was a great find (KH*i*, SBo\*).

**Harris's Sparrow:** On 3/7, three appeared at a residence west of Loveland, where they remained well into spring (BWe). A couple were in Estes Park until 3/25 (SRa), and three showed up at Long Pond on 4/3 (RK). Singletons were seen at the RFSWA on 5/3 (DS*i*), in Holly on 5/7 (JE, RD, SDe), at Bonny Res. on 5/7 (JE, RD, SDe), and in Wellington from 5/14-15 (SMa, KMa).

**Bobolink:** Two were seen in Eagle on 5/16 (JMe), constituting an unexpected sighting. A male was spotted at Chatfield Res. on 5/20 (JK). Others were noted near Estes Park, Wellington, Bellvue, and Carter Lake in mid to late May.

**Rusty Blackbird:** One was seen on 3/4 at the RFSWA (SO).

**Baltimore Oriole:** Observers noted one at Lake Henry from 5/11-12 (BKP, mob).

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### Cited Observers

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## NEW C.F.O. CHECKLIST OF COLORADO BIRDS: NOW AVAILABLE!

<sup>1</sup>Suzi Plooster, Checklist Chair

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The 1998 (7th edition) of the Colorado Field Ornithologists' (CFO) Field Checklist of Colorado Birds has been published by the American Birding Association (ABA). The new checklist conforms to the 1998 (7th edition) of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds. The Colorado list now includes 460 bird species and reflects the changes discussed in Mark Janos' article, "A Review of Some Changes Contained in the 41st Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds", which appeared in the October 1997 issue (Vol.31, No. 4) of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* (pages 171-175). Obvious changes include the Juniper Titmouse, which replaces the Plain Titmouse in Colorado, and the Solitary Vireo complex, which was split into three species --Plumbeus Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, and Blue-headed Vireo (all listed in Colorado). More subtle changes include altered species-listing sequences and scientific classifications.

As it was in the past, the checklist is printed on nice cardstock, and this time it is folded in accordion fashion--rather than folded to the inside--for easier opening. Unfolded, the three sections measure approximately 11.25 x 6.5 inches, just a "shade" larger than the previous edition of the checklist. A fourth, detachable section of the checklist includes the CFO logo, mission, and membership form. Feel free to detach these sections and share them with them anyone who might be interested in joining CFO--your friends, family, colleagues, and so on.

The new CFO Field Checklist of Colorado Birds is owned and copyrighted by the CFO. To order copies of the checklist, call ABA Sales at 800/634-7736 or 719/578-0607 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Mountain Time), or contact ABA via e-mail at abasales@abasales.com. The CFO checklist is item number 147 in the ABA catalogue, and the price is \$0.50 per checklist. Wholesale prices are available as well.



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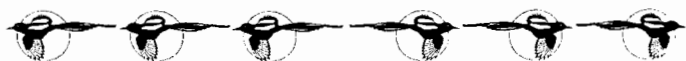
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