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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' MISSION STATEMENT

The Colorado Field Ornithologists exists to: promote the field study, conservation, and enjoyment of Colorado birds; review sightings of rare birds through the Colorado Bird Records Committee and maintain the authoritative list of Colorado birds; publish the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*; and conduct field trips and workshops, and hold annual conventions.

Cover: This ghostly flycatcher is just in time for Halloween. Photo taken at Crow Valley Campground, Weld County, by Steve Messick.

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Now I come to the end of my second year as editor. The time has flown by, and I have enjoyed (nearly) every minute. This has been a wonderful opportunity for me personally and professionally, and I am grateful. When I signed on as editor, I agreed to serve for two years, but lately I have wrestled with serving another year. Unfortunately, I have found it increasingly difficult to devote sufficient time to the journal. This is frustrating for me personally, and the CFO membership deserves better.

Therefore, this is my last issue as editor; I am stepping away to pursue other opportunities. In the business world, this phrase is usually coded language for "I'd rather have an all-day root canal than stay here one more minute." However, in my case, I would *love* to stay, but I have decided to focus my energies on other projects. I will remain active as a *JCFO* contributor and reviewer, and perhaps even do a little editing if called upon.

The transition from one editor to another is fraught with peril, beginning with the problem of actually finding someone to take on the job. I had just started making informal inquiries of potential editors, receiving polite rejections, when I found an outstanding, and willing, candidate right under my nose. I am pleased to introduce Doug Faulkner as the new Editor-in-Chief of your journal. Doug brings many years of birding experience to the position, as well as academic and professional credentials in ornithology. Doug is both a coworker and a friend, and I know him well enough to know that he will be a fine Editor. You may send him your manuscripts, photographs, notices, etc., at the address on the inside back cover of this issue.

Thanks for the opportunity, and good birding.



CFO CONVENTION 2002

It's not too early to start thinking about next year's convention! Plan to spend next Memorial Day Weekend in Durango with hundreds of your closest birding friends. Although the specific site has not yet been finalized, the banquet speaker has: it will be Kenn Kaufman. Watch for more details here and on the CFO web site (www.cfo-link.org).

In addition to flaunting your birding skills on the field trips, the convention offers you a chance to dazzle your peers by presenting the results of your research at the Papers Session. Contact Rich Levad if interested (contact information on inside front cover).

CFO Convention 2001 BIRD LIST

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The 2001 Colorado Field Ornithologists' Annual Convention was held in Pueblo 18–20 May 2001. The field trips went in all directions from Pueblo; what follows is the list of species found during those field trips. The most exciting trips went to Chico Basin Ranch on both Saturday and Sunday. CFO birders were treated to an incredible fallout of Swainson's Thrushes (200+), and warblers, vireos, and other land birds.

The field trip leaders were: Doug Faulkner, Paul Hurtado, Mark Janos, Tony Leukering, Rich Leivad, Bill Maynard, SeEtta Moss, Duane Nelson, Stan Oswald, David Pantle, Brandon Percival, Larry Semo, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith, David Silverman, Clif Smith, Van Truan, Alan Versaw, Jim & Rosie Watts, and Chris Wood.

These birds were all found in s.e. Colorado during the convention in Pueblo, Fremont, s. El Paso, Otero, Crowley, Bent, Prowers, Kiowa, Huerfano, and Las Animas counties.

1. Common Loon (one at Big Johnson Reservoir on the 19th and 1 at Trinidad Lake on the 20th)
2. Pied-billed Grebe
3. Horned Grebe
4. Eared Grebe
5. Western Grebe
6. Clark's Grebe
7. American White Pelican
8. Double-crested Cormorant
9. American Bittern
10. LEAST BITTERN (one seen by a few at Chico Basin Ranch on the 20th)
11. Great Blue Heron
12. Great Egret
13. Snowy Egret
14. Cattle Egret
15. Green Heron
16. Black-crowned Night-Heron

17. White-faced Ibis
18. Turkey Vulture
19. Snow Goose
20. Canada Goose
21. Wood Duck
22. Gadwall
23. American Wigeon
24. Mallard
25. Blue-winged Teal
26. Cinnamon Teal
27. Northern Shoveler
28. Northern Pintail
29. Green-winged Teal
30. Canvasback
31. Redhead
32. Ring-necked Duck
33. Greater Scaup (seen at Orlando Reservoir on the 20th)
34. Lesser Scaup
35. Bufflehead
36. Common Merganser
37. Red-breasted Merganser (a female at John Martin Res. on the 20th)
38. Ruddy Duck
39. Osprey
40. Mississippi Kite
41. Northern Harrier
42. Sharp-shinned Hawk
43. Cooper's Hawk
44. COMMON BLACK-HAWK (seen by several at Trinidad Lake on the 20th—the fourth Colorado record)
45. Swainson's Hawk
46. Red-tailed Hawk
47. Ferruginous Hawk
48. Golden Eagle
49. American Kestrel
50. Prairie Falcon
51. Ring-necked Pheasant
52. Wild Turkey
53. Scaled Quail
54. BLACK RAIL (heard by a few on the 18th near Ft. Lyon)
55. Virginia Rail
56. Sora
57. American Coot

58. Black-bellied Plover
59. Snowy Plover
60. Piping Plover (seen by all on the all day trip in s.e. Colorado on the 18th)
61. Killdeer
62. Mountain Plover
63. Black-necked Stilt
64. American Avocet
65. Greater Yellowlegs
66. Lesser Yellowlegs
67. Solitary Sandpiper
68. Willet
69. Spotted Sandpiper
70. Marbled Godwit
71. Sanderling
72. Semipalmated Sandpiper
73. Western Sandpiper
74. Least Sandpiper
75. White-rumped Sandpiper
76. Baird's Sandpiper
77. Stilt Sandpiper
78. Long-billed Dowitcher
79. Common Snipe
80. Wilson's Phalarope
81. Red-necked Phalarope (lots were found at many locations)
82. Franklin's Gull
83. Ring-billed Gull
84. California Gull
85. Herring Gull
86. Common Tern (one seen by a few at Upper Queens Res. on the 18th)
87. Forster's Tern
88. Least Tern (seen by all on the all day trip on the 18th in s.e. Colorado)
89. Black Tern
90. Rock Dove
91. Band-tailed Pigeon
92. EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (seen in Rocky Ford, as well as Las Animas)
93. WHITE-WINGED DOVE (two seen by several in Pueblo at Van Truan's yard on the 18th and 19th)
94. Mourning Dove
95. INCA DOVE (seen in Rocky Ford)
96. Yellow-billed Cuckoo (only one seen, it was at Canon City on 18 May)
97. Greater Roadrunner

98. Great Horned Owl
99. Burrowing Owl
100. Common Nighthawk
101. Chimney Swift
102. White-throated Swift
103. Black-chinned Hummingbird
104. Broad-tailed Hummingbird
105. Belted Kingfisher
106. Lewis's Woodpecker
107. Red-headed Woodpecker
108. Red-bellied Woodpecker (one at Lamar on 18 May)
109. Red-naped Sapsucker
110. Downy Woodpecker
111. Hairy Woodpecker
112. Northern Flicker
113. Olive-sided Flycatcher
114. Western Wood-Pewee
115. Willow Flycatcher
116. Least Flycatcher
117. Hammond's Flycatcher
118. Gray Flycatcher
119. Dusky Flycatcher
120. Cordilleran Flycatcher
121. BLACK PHOEBE (one seen on the Canon City Riverwalk on the 18th and 19th)
122. Eastern Phoebe (one seen on Burnt Mill Road on the 19th)
123. Say's Phoebe
124. VERMILION FLYCATCHER (pair seen at Higbee Cemetery on the 18th and 19th)
125. Ash-throated Flycatcher
126. Great Crested Flycatcher (a few people heard them at Lamar and Fort Lyon on the 18th)
127. Cassin's Kingbird
128. Western Kingbird
129. Eastern Kingbird
130. Loggerhead Shrike
131. Plumbeous Vireo
132. Cassin's Vireo (two seen at Chico Basin Ranch on the 19th)
133. BLUE-HEADED VIREO (one seen at Chico Basin Ranch on the 19th)
134. Warbling Vireo
135. Red-eyed Vireo
136. Steller's Jay

- 137. Blue Jay
- 138. Western Scrub-Jay
- 139. Pinyon Jay
- 140. Clark's Nutcracker
- 141. Black-billed Magpie
- 142. American Crow
- 143. Chihuahuan Raven
- 144. Common Raven
- 145. Horned Lark
- 146. Tree Swallow
- 147. Violet-green Swallow
- 148. Northern Rough-winged Swallow
- 149. Bank Swallow
- 150. Cliff Swallow
- 151. Barn Swallow
- 152. Black-capped Chickadee
- 153. Mountain Chickadee
- 154. Juniper Titmouse
- 155. Bushtit
- 156. Red-breasted Nuthatch
- 157. White-breasted Nuthatch
- 158. Pygmy Nuthatch
- 159. Brown Creeper
- 160. Rock Wren
- 161. Canyon Wren
- 162. Bewick's Wren
- 163. House Wren
- 164. Winter Wren (one seen at Chico Basin Ranch on the 19th)
- 165. Marsh Wren
- 166. American Dipper
- 167. Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 168. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- 169. Mountain Bluebird
- 170. Western Bluebird
- 171. Veery (three seen at Chico Basin Ranch on the 19th)
- 172. Swainson's Thrush (hundreds moved through at Chico Basin Ranch on the 19th, most were gone on the 20th)
- 173. Hermit Thrush
- 174. American Robin
- 175. Gray Catbird
- 176. Northern Mockingbird
- 177. Brown Thrasher

178. European Starling
179. American Pipit
180. Cedar Waxwing
181. BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (one male seen by a few on the 20th at Fort Lyon)
182. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (one male seen by many on the 19th at Chico Basin Ranch)
183. Tennessee Warbler (one seen at Lamar, one at Neenoshe Res., and one at Chico Basin Ranch)
184. Orange-crowned Warbler
185. Nashville Warbler (one seen at Cheraw)
186. Virginia's Warbler
187. Yellow Warbler
188. Chestnut-sided Warbler (one male seen by a few at Fort Lyon on the 18th)
189. Magnolia Warbler (one–two seen by several at Chico Basin Ranch on the 19th and 20th)
190. Yellow-rumped Warbler
191. Black-throated Gray Warbler
192. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (one male seen by a few at Chico Basin Ranch on the 19th)
193. Palm Warbler (one seen by several at Chico Basin Ranch on the 19th)
194. Blackpoll Warbler (one–two at Chico Basin Ranch on the 19th and 20th)
195. Black-and-white Warbler (one at Chico Basin Ranch on the 20th)
196. American Redstart
197. WORM-EATING WARBLER (one seen by some people at Fort Lyon on the 18th)
198. Ovenbird
199. Northern Waterthrush
200. MOURNING WARBLER (one male seen by many at Chico Basin Ranch on the 19th and 20th)
201. MacGillivray's Warbler
202. Common Yellowthroat
203. Hooded Warbler (one female seen by a few at Chico Basin Ranch on the 19th)
204. Wilson's Warbler
205. Yellow-breasted Chat
206. Summer Tanager (one at Lamar on the 18th, one female at Penrose on the 19th, one female at Chico Basin Ranch on the 20th)
207. SCARLET TANAGER (one male at Fort Lyon on the 19th)
208. Western Tanager
209. Green-tailed Towhee
210. Spotted Towhee

211. Canyon Towhee
212. Cassin's Sparrow
213. Chipping Sparrow
214. Clay-colored Sparrow
215. Brewer's Sparrow
216. Vesper Sparrow
217. Lark Sparrow
218. Lark Bunting
219. Savannah Sparrow
220. Grasshopper Sparrow
221. Song Sparrow
222. Lincoln's Sparrow
223. White-crowned Sparrow
224. Dark-eyed Junco
225. Northern Cardinal (seen at Lamar and in Bent County)
226. Rose-breasted Grosbeak (seen in good numbers all over the place)
227. Black-headed Grosbeak
228. Blue Grosbeak
229. Lazuli Bunting
230. Indigo Bunting
231. Dickcissel
232. Bobolink (one in Fremont County on 20 May)
233. Red-winged Blackbird
234. Western Meadowlark
235. Yellow-headed Blackbird
236. Brewer's Blackbird
237. Common Grackle
238. Great-tailed Grackle
239. Brown-headed Cowbird
240. Orchard Oriole
241. Bullock's Oriole
242. Cassin's Finch
243. House Finch
244. Red Crossbill
245. Pine Siskin
246. American Goldfinch
247. Lesser Goldfinch
248. Evening Grosbeak
249. House Sparrow

The most exciting mammal found during the convention was a **BLACK BEAR** on Fremont County trip on 20 May.





Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory **Occasional Paper Number 6**

FIRST ANNUAL COLORADO EARLY-WINTER WATERBIRD SURVEY

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Introduction

In 1995, one of us, Kim Potter, initiated an annual count of Barrow's Goldeneye (scientific names in Appendix A) in the main Colorado wintering area (Rio Blanco, Eagle, Mesa, and Grand counties) in an effort to track winter population numbers. The count was designed to occur in a very short time period in early December to minimize the chance of double-counting and to count the goldeneyes after they move out of high-elevation locations (due to freezing water), but before mid-elevation reservoirs freeze, thus forcing the birds to rivers on which they are difficult to census.

In 2000, The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, in consultation with Potter, signed on as a cooperator in the belief that this project would provide data enabling the tracking of Barrow's Goldeneye breeding populations (assuming that the wintering and breeding populations were one and the same) as part of its *Monitoring Colorado's Birds* program. Though the effort was originally targeted at just one species, we felt that the additional resources and contacts of the RMBO would enable us to greatly increase the scope of the project in both geography and the number of waterbird species counted. We also believed that if the Colorado birding community supported such an ambitious

Editor's note: This continues the Occasional Papers series of the Colorado Bird Observatory (see *JCFO* vol. 35 p.2 for a notice about the organization's name change).

undertaking, we could do a very good job at monitoring early-winter populations of most species of waterbirds in the state.

Methods

We enlisted volunteers from Colorado's birding community, mostly via personal contacts and the COBIRDS listserver, for help in censusing various water bodies on the first weekend of December 2000 (2nd and 3rd). Because the project is still designed to count Barrow's Goldeneyes and because of the pilot nature of our expanded effort, most of the water that we searched was in the mountainous part of the state where virtually all Colorado-wintering Barrow's Goldeneyes occur (Andrews and Righter 1992). However, we also requested that volunteers visit many of the lakes on the plains in the immediate vicinity of the Front Range, a few of which have a history of occurrence by this species. We also asked volunteers to provide, at each location censused, various simple weather data (wind speed and an index of cloud cover and precipitation), ice cover in 10% increments, and number of boats on the water (as an index to disturbance).

Results

The weather for virtually all counters was at least not inclement and often downright pleasant. Temperatures were relatively high and wind speeds low across the study area, particularly on 2 December. This made for conditions in which it was easy to locate all birds on the water. A total of 40 observers counted in excess of 72,330 waterbirds of 42 species at 196 sites in 29 counties (Tables 1 and 2).

Discussion

November 2000 was the second-coldest on record at Denver, with the average temperature of 28.9°F being 8.7° below normal (National Weather Service 2001). However, a warm spell starting on 30 November and continuing into early December helped re-open many water bodies that had partially or completely frozen over.

While we did not visit all possible locations in the mountains and did not cover most of the water bodies on the plains, we still feel that our results are very informative. They provide a better window on early-winter waterbird distribution in the state than even the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) program. We were able to visit many sites well away from areas with CBC circles, which are concentrated on the Front Range and in western valleys near human population centers. We hope to include a large number of the plains reservoirs in future years in order to get a statewide snapshot of waterbird distribution. There was a number of sites that, had they been surveyed, would have

provided otherwise unrecorded species and/or larger numbers of certain species than those reported here (e.g., Pueblo Reservoir hosted three species of loons (Gent 2001) and Fossil Creek Reservoir hosted >1000 Northern Shovelers (R. Kolokoff pers. comm.) in early December 2000).

As with all extensive ornithological efforts, the 2000 Early-winter Waterbird Survey recorded a number of surprising occurrences. Among these are the four Common Loons on Ridgway Reservoir (Ouray Co.), one Western Grebe at each of two sites in Lake Co. (no previous reports for the species from the county (Andrews and Righter 1992)), Greater Scaup on two West Slope reservoirs, both Surf and White-winged scoters, and both Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-backed gulls.

Should anyone be interested in assisting on future winter waterbird counts in Colorado, please contact one of the authors (Potter for north-central mountains; Levad for West Slope; Leukering for Front Range and eastern plains).

Acknowledgments

Firstly, we extend a very hearty thank-you to all the volunteers that donated their time, energy, and gas money to count the few to many birds on the various water bodies. We particularly thank Rachel Kolokoff who did all of the above to find nary a waterbird in Jackson Co., where all bodies of water were frozen (we bet she'll stay at home and check Larimer Co. water bodies in 2001). Also, we greatly appreciate the support of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund, which body funds the *Monitoring Colorado Birds* program, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife, which agency manages the above funding (contracts#PSC-347-00 and PSC-715-2001).

Literature Cited

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- Gent, P. 2001. News from the field: winter 2000–2001 report (December–February). *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 35:143–150.
- National Weather Service. 2001. Denver's November 2000 Monthly Summary, 2001-09. Available from <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin-den/>.

Table 1. Number of sites per county (with location of high count) in which each species was recorded.

Species	County	# of sites with species	Location with highest number in county (#) (bold-faced entry indicates project high count)
Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	Mesa	2	Highline Res (2); Whitewater S&G (1)
	Ouray	1	Ridgway Res. (4)
Pied-billed Grebe (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>)	Adams	3	S. Platte R. gravel pit #3 (2)
	Arapahoe	1	Cherry Creek Res. (1)
	Archuleta	1	Echo Canyon Res. (2)
	Boulder	1	Leggett Res. (1)
	Douglas	1	Chatfield Res. (5)*
	Eagle	1	Blue Lake (1)
	El Paso	2	Fountain Creek Reg. Park (6)
	Fremont	1	Brush Hollow Res. (3)
	Jefferson	4	Standley Lake (64)
	Lake	1	Turquoise Lake (1)
	Larimer	2	Lake Loveland (4)
	Mesa	4	Whitewater S&G (10)
	Montezuma	1	Totten Res. (1)
	Ouray	1	Ridgway Res. (5)
	Pueblo	1	Valco Ponds (2)
Horned Grebe (<i>Podiceps auritus</i>)	Boulder	1	Valmont Res. (1)
	El Paso	1	Big Johnson Res. (1)
Red-necked Grebe (<i>Podiceps grisegna</i>)	Boulder	1	Valmont Res. (1)
Eared Grebe (<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>)	Douglas	1	Chatfield Res. (2)*
	El Paso	1	Big Johnson Res. (1)
	Jefferson	1	Coors Ponds (2)
	Larimer	1	Lake Loveland (1)
	Mesa	1	Jerry Creek Res. #2 (4)
	Ouray	1	Ridgway Res. (1)
Western Grebe	Weld	2	35 Rd Pond S (1); Stonybrook Housing Complex (1)
	Adams	1	Lowell Ponds

Table 1, cont'd

Species	County	# of sites with species	Location with highest number in county (#) (bold-faced entry indicates project high count)
Western Grebe, cont'd	Archuleta	1	Navajo Res. (3)
<i>(Aechmophorus occidentalis)</i>	Boulder	2	Highland Res. #2 (2)
	Delta	2	Confluence Park (1); Sweitzer Lake (1)
	Douglas	1	Chatfield Res. (16)
	Fremont	1	Brush Hollow Res. (1)
	Grand	1	Lake Granby (1); Wolford Mtn. Res. (1)
	Jefferson	1	Standley Lake (13)
	Lake	2	Turquoise Lake (1); Twin Lakes Res. (1)
	Larimer	2	Hagler Res. (3)
	Mesa	4	Whitewater S&G (12)
	Montezuma	1	Totten Res. (1)
	Ouray	1	Ridgway Res. (3)
	Clark's Grebe	Boulder	1
<i>(Aechmophorus clarkii)</i>			
Double-crested Cormorant	Boulder	2	Hillcrest Res. (2); Leggett Res. (2)
<i>(Phalacrocorax auritus)</i>	Delta	1	Confluence Park (1)
	Larimer	1	Lake Loveland (1)
Greater White-fronted Goose	Boulder	1	Stearns Lake (1)
<i>(Anser albifrons)</i>	Delta	1	Confluence Park (4)
Snow Goose	Boulder	1	Dodd Res. (1)
<i>(Chen caerulescens)</i>	Delta	1	Confluence Park (10)
	Grand	1	Lake Granby (400)
	Larimer	2	Claymore Lake (75)
	Weld	1	Woods Lake (131)
	Ross's Goose	Arapahoe	1
<i>(Chen rossii)</i>	Boulder	1	Dodd Res. (1)
	Delta	1	Confluence Park (1)
	El Paso	1	Gates Country Club Lake (1)
	Mesa	1	Fowlers Pond (9)
	Weld	1	Woods Lake (17)

Table 1, cont'd

Species	County	# of sites with species	Location with highest number in county (#) (bold-faced entry indicates project high count)
Canada Goose	Adams	3	Hidden Lake (246)
(<i>Branta canadensis</i>)	Arapahoe	2	McLellan Res. (520)
	Archuleta	1	Navajo Res. (88)
	Boulder	21	Dodd Res. (3000)
	Delta	1	Confluence Park (1152)
	Denver	1	Marston Res. (1150)
	Douglas	2	Chatfield Res. (89)*
	Eagle	2	Blue Lake (18)
	El Paso	6	Prospect Lake (932)
	Garfield	1	Rifle Gap Res. (6)
	Grand	1	Lake Granby (38)
	Jefferson	5	Standley Lake (1366)
	Lake	1	Twin Lakes Res. (79)
	Larimer	15	Watson Lake (4100)
	Mesa	10	Fowlers Pond (1200)
	Montezuma	2	Bauer Lake (24)
	Ouray	1	Ridgway Res. (354)
	Rio Blanco	1	Lake Avery (10)
	Summit	1	Silverthorne sewage pond (9)
	Weld	8	Woods Lake (7500)
Wood Duck	El Paso	2	Big Johnson Res. (2); Fountain Creek Reg. Park (2)
(<i>Aix sponsa</i>)	Larimer	1	Windsor Res. (1)
	Mesa	1	Walter Walker SWA (4)
Gadwall	Adams	6	S. Platte R. gravel pit #1 (37)
(<i>Anas strepera</i>)	Arapahoe	2	Cherry Creek Res. (4)
	Archuleta	2	Mile 24 Hwy 151 (22)
	Boulder	3	Burch Lake (20)
	Douglas	1	Chatfield Res. (4)*
	Eagle	1	Blue Lake (16)
	El Paso	2	Big Johnson Res. (52)
	Jefferson	1	Standley Lake (122)
	Larimer	1	Hamilton Res. (4)

Table 1, cont'd

Species	County	# of sites with species	Location with highest number in county (#) (bold-faced entry indicates project high count)
Gadwall, cont'd	Mesa	6	Walter Walker SWA (30)
	Montezuma	2	McPhee Res. (4); Totten Res. (4)
	Pueblo	1	Valco Ponds (4)
American Wigeon (<i>Anas americana</i>)	Adams	3	S. Platte R. gravel pit #2 (61)
	Archuleta	1	Mile 24 Hwy 151 (6)
	Boulder	7	McCall Lake (45)
	Douglas	1	Chatfield Res. (14)*
	El Paso	5	Prospect Lake (453)
	Grand	1	Lake Granby (1)
	Jefferson	3	Standley Lake (92)
	Lake	1	Twin Lakes Res. (34)
	Larimer	5	Horsetooth Res. (101)
	Mesa	11	Jerry Creek Res. #2 (80)
	Pueblo	1	Valco Ponds (4)
	Rio Blanco	2	Piceance Creek Ranch (42)
	Weld	2	Woods Lake (11)
	Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	Adams	5
Arapahoe		2	McLellan Res. (25)
Archuleta		3	Echo Canyon Res. (11)
Boulder		17	Panama Res. (1000)
Denver		1	Marston Res. (58)
Douglas		1	Chatfield Res. (65)*
Eagle		3	Blue Lake (46)
El Paso		7	Prospect Lake (488)
Garfield		3	Rifle Falls Fish Hatchery (28)
Grand		2	Lake Granby (18)
Jefferson		7	Coors Ponds (92)
Lake		2	Twin Lakes Res. (88)
Larimer		18	Sheklon Lake (400)
Mesa		19	Walter Walker SWA (2500)
Montezuma		2	Bauer Lake (18)
Park	1	Elevenmile Res. (47)	

Table 1, cont'd

Species	County	# of sites with species	Location with highest number in county (#) (bold-faced entry indicates project high count)
Mallard, cont'd	Pueblo	1	Valco Ponds (8)
	Rio Blanco	1	Piceance Creek Ranch (94)
	Summit	1	Silverthorne sewage pond (59)
	Weld	6	Union Res. (4000)
Northern Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>)	Adams	4	Hidden Lake (177)
	Boulder	5	Panama Res. (600)
	Eagle	1	Blue Lake (8)
	El Paso	4	Gates Country Club Lake (380)
	Jefferson	3	Lake Arbor (108)
	Larimer	3	Sheldon Lake (26)
	Weld	1	Woods Lake (1)
	Northern Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)	Adams	3
Boulder		1	Teller Lakes (1)
Douglas		1	Chatfield Res. (4)*
El Paso		1	Big Johnson Res. (11)
Lake		1	Twin Lakes Res. (1)
Mesa		4	Purdy Mesa (20)
Weld		4	Windsor Res. (12)
Green-winged Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)		Adams	4
	Archuleta	3	Navajo Res. (36)
	Boulder	1	McCall Lake (8)
	Delta	1	Fruitgrowers Res. (117)
	Douglas	1	Chatfield Res. (23)*
	Eagle	1	Eagle River (1)
	El Paso	2	Big Johnson Res. (34)
	Garfield	1	Rifle Falls Fish Hatchery (3)
	Grand	1	Williams Fork Res. (4)
	Larimer	1	Claymore Lake (56)
	Mesa	6	Jerry Creek Res. #2 (6)
	Montezuma	2	Totten Res. (33)
	Ouray	1	Ridgway Res. (5)

Table 1, cont'd

Species	County	# of sites with species	Location with highest number in county (#) (bold-faced entry indicates project high count)
Green-winged Teal, cont'd	Park	1	Elevenmile Res. (1)
	Summit	1	Silverthorne sewage pond (6)
	Weld	3	Windsor Res. (2)
Canvasback (<i>Aythya valisineria</i>)	Adams	1	McKay Ave. Pond (3)
	Boulder	2	Hillcrest Res. (2)
	Denver	1	Marston Res. (4)
	Jefferson	2	Prospect Park (2)
	Larimer	1	Cattail Pond (5)
	Mesa	7	Highline Res. (38)
Redhead (<i>Aythya americana</i>)	Archuleta	1	Echo Canyon Res. (5)
	Boulder	4	McCall Lake (33)
	Denver	1	Marston Res. (14)
	Douglas	1	Aurora Rampart Res. (2)
	El Paso	1	Prospect Lake (3)
	Jefferson	2	Coors Ponds (18)
	Larimer	5	Cattail Pond (49)
	Mesa	3	Purdy Mesa (20)
	Montezuma	1	Totten Res. (2)
	Park	1	Elevenmile Res. (6)
Ring-necked Duck (<i>Aythya collaris</i>)	Adams	4	74th Ave. Pond #1 (84)
	Archuleta	1	12577 Hwy 151 (8)
	Boulder	9	Leggett Res. (40)
	Eagle	1	Blue Lake (4)
	El Paso	3	Gates Country Club Lake (12)
	Garfield	1	Rifle Falls Fish Hatchery (26)
	Jefferson	3	Olivet Cemetery (30)
	Larimer	4	Sheldon Lake (41)
	Mesa	12	Colorado River SP - Fruita (500)
	Montezuma	1	Totten Res. (2)
	Ouray	1	Ridgway Res. (3)
	Pueblo	1	Valco Ponds (6)

Table 1, cont'd

Species	County	# of sites with species	Location with highest number in county (#) (bold-faced entry indicates project high count)
Greater Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>)	Larimer	1	Cattail Pond (1)
	Montezuma	1	McPhee Res. (3)
	Ouray	1	Ridgway Res. (2)
Lesser Scaup (<i>Aythya affinis</i>)	Adams	2	McKay Ave. Pond (8)
	Boulder	4	Valmont Ponds (10)
	Denver	1	Marston Res. (53)
	Eagle	1	Blue Lake (16)
	El Paso	6	Big Johnson Res. (103)
	Fremont	1	Brush Hollow Res. (3)
	Jefferson	2	Prospect Park (12)
	Larimer	4	Sheldon Lake (8)
	Mesa	9	33 Road Pond (30)
	Montezuma	1	McPhee Res. (8)
	Weld	3	35 Rd Pond S (3); Stonybrook Housing Complex (3)
Surf Scoter (<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>)	Grand	1	Lake Granby (1)
White-winged Scoter (<i>Melanitta fusca</i>)	Boulder	1	Lafayette Lakes (1)
Long-tailed Duck (<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>)	Larimer	1	Warren Lake (3)
	Montezuma	1	Totten Res. (1)
Bufflehead (<i>Bucephala albeola</i>)	Adams	4	McKay Ave. Pond (2); Thornton Wastewater Res (2)
	Arapahoe	1	McLellan Res. (13)
	Boulder	7	Lafayette Lakes (26)
	Denver	1	Marston Res. (1)
	El Paso	3	Big Johnson Res. (35)
	Grand	3	Lake Granby (9)
	Jefferson	2	Mt. Olivet Cemetery (16)
	Larimer	8	Cattail Pond (5)
	Mesa	8	Jerry Creek Res. #2 (20); Purdy Mesa (20)

Table 1, cont'd

Species	County	# of sites with species	Location with highest number in county (#) (bold-faced entry indicates project high count)
Bufflehead, cont'd	Montezuma	4	Totten Res. (15)
	Park	1	Elevenmile Res. (3)
	Pueblo	1	Valco Ponds (12)
	Rio Blanco	1	Lake Avery (2)
Common Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	Adams	8	McKay Ave. Pond (44)
	Arapahoe	3	Cherry Creek Res. (1)
	Archuleta	2	Navajo Res. (4)
	Boulder	15	Lafayette Lakes (80)
	Delta	3	Confluence Park (4)
	Denver	1	Marston Res. (31)
	Douglas	3	Chatfield Res. (45)*
	Eagle	1	Blue Lake (1)
	El Paso	5	Big Johnson Res. (74)
	Garfield	3	Harvey Gap Res. (3); Rifle Gap Res. (3)
	Grand	3	Lake Granby (301)
	Jefferson	6	Standley Lake (42)
	La Plata	1	Vallecito Res. (8)
	Lake	2	Mt. Elbert Forebay (42)
	Larimer	17	Horseshoe Lake (179)
	Mesa	9	10 at each of three sites
	Moffatt	1	Yampa River near Craig (39)
	Montezuma	5	Totten Res. (95)
	Ouray	1	Ridgway Res. (8)
	Park	1	Elevenmile Res. (38)
	Pueblo	1	Valco Ponds (42)
	Rio Blanco	1	Lake Avery (2)
	Summit	1	Silverthorne sewage pond (11)
Weld	4	35 Rd. Pond N (23)	
Barrow's Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala islandica</i>)	Eagle	1	Blue Lake (5)
	El Paso	1	Big Johnson Res. (3)
	Garfield	2	Rifle Falls Fish Hatchery (6); Rifle Gap Res. (6)
	Grand	2	Williams Fork Res. (34)

Table 1, cont'd

Species	County	# of sites with species	Location with highest number in county (#) (bold-faced entry indicates project high count)
Barrow's Goldeneye, cont'd	La Plata	1	Vallecito Res. (1)
	Larimer	1	Horsetooth Res. (7)
	Mesa	3	Jerry Creek Res. #1 (9)
	Montezuma	2	McPhee Res. (1); Totten Res. (1)
	Pueblo	1	Valco Ponds SWA (3)
	Rio Blanco	2	Lake Avery SWA (28)
	Summit	1	Silverthorne sewage pond (8)
Hooded Merganser (<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>)	Adams	2	McKay Ave. Pond (4)
	Arapahoe	1	Cherry Creek Res. (1)
	Archuleta	1	12577 Hwy 151 (32)
	Boulder	4	Hillcrest Res. (25)
	Denver	1	Marston Res. (16)
	Douglas	1	Chatfield Res. (4)*
	El Paso	2	Big Johnson Res. (19)
	Jefferson	4	Coors Ponds (15)
	Larimer	3	Warren Lake (5)
	Mesa	4	Jerry Creek Res. #2 (22)
	Montezuma	2	McPhee Res. (24)
	Park	1	Elevenmile Res. (2)
	Pueblo	1	Valco Ponds (4)
	Weld	1	35 Rd Pond N (2)
	Common Merganser (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)	Adams	2
Arapahoe		1	Cherry Creek Res. (390)
Archuleta		1	Navajo Res. (12)
Boulder		13	Hillcrest Res. (200)
Delta		1	Fruitgrowers Res. (2)
Denver		1	Marston Res. (1450)
Douglas		1	Chatfield Res. (300)*
El Paso		1	Big Johnson Res. (24)
Grand		3	Wolford Mtn. Res. (22)
Jefferson		3	Standley Lake (93)
La Plata		1	Lemon Res. (14)

Table 1, cont'd

Species	County	# of sites with species	Location with highest number in county (#) (bold-faced entry indicates project high count)
Common Merganser, cont'd	Larimer	10	Horseshoe Lake (190)
	Mesa	7	United S&G Lake (40)
	Montezuma	3	McPhee Res. (181)
	Ouray	1	Ridgway Res. (18)
	Rio Blanco	1	Lake Avery (4)
	Weld	3	Woods Lake (4)
Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)	Adams	1	McKay Ave. Pond (3)
	Archuleta	1	Navajo Res. (1)
	Boulder	1	Hillcrest Res. (2)
	Denver	1	Marston Res. (12)
	Douglas	1	Chatfield Res. (18)*
	Jefferson	2	Coors Ponds (26)
Larimer	2	Warren Lake (3)	
Ruddy Duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>)	Boulder	1	Lafayette Lakes (2)
	Denver	1	Marston Res. (6)
	El Paso	2	Big Johnson Res. (4)
	Mesa	2	Jerry Creek Res. #2 (20)
	Montezuma	2	Narraguinep Res. (32)
American Coot (<i>Fulica americana</i>)	Adams	2	McKay Ave. Pond (19)
	Arapahoe	1	McLellan Res. (69)
	Archuleta	1	Echo Canyon Res. (18)
	Boulder	5	Leggett Res. (60)
	Delta	1	Sweitzer Lake (1)
	Denver	1	Marston Res. (245)
	Douglas	1	Chatfield Res. (36)*
	Eagle	1	Blue Lake (6)
	El Paso	4	Prospect Lake (54)
	Jefferson	5	Standley Lake (268)
	Larimer	5	Boyd Lake (50)
	Mesa	8	Walter Walker SWA (100)
	Montezuma	1	Totten Res. (205)

Table 1, cont'd

Species	County	# of sites with species	Location with highest number in county (#) (bold-faced entry indicates project high count)
American Coot, cont'd	Pueblo	1	Valco Ponds (6)
Bonaparte's Gull (<i>Larus philadelphia</i>)	Larimer	1	Hagler Res. (2)
Ring-billed Gull (<i>Larus delawarensis</i>)	Adams	6	McKay Ave. Pond (80)
	Arapahoe	2	Cherry Creek Res. (91)
	Archuleta	1	Navajo Res. (23)
	Boulder	11	Eric Lake (135)
	Delta	1	Confluence Park (5)
	Denver	1	Marston Res. (1170)
	Douglas	3	Chatfield Res. (25)*
	El Paso	5	Ray Nixon Power Plant (210)
	Jefferson	6	Prospect Park (143)
	Larimer	10	Warren Lake (313)
	Mesa	1	Colorado River SWA (1)
	Montezuma	2	Totten Res. (48)
	Ouray	1	Ridgway Res. (4)
	Pueblo	1	Valco Ponds (6)
	Weld	4	35 Rd Pond N (63); Windsor Res. (63)
California Gull (<i>Larus californicus</i>)	Adams	1	Lowell Ponds (7)
	Arapahoe	1	Cherry Creek Res. (4)
	Boulder	2	Eric Lake (4)
	Denver	1	Marston Res. (3)
	Douglas	1	Chatfield Res. (4)*
	Jefferson	4	Taylor Lake (90)
	Larimer	5	Warren Lake (32)
	Montezuma	1	Totten Res. (2)
	Ouray	1	Ridgway Res. (1)
Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	Arapahoe	1	Cherry Creek Res. (9)
	Boulder	1	Boulder Res. (5)
	Douglas	1	Chatfield Res. (6)*

Table 1, cont'd

Species	County	# of sites with species	Location with highest number in county (#) (bold-faced entry indicates project high count)
Herring Gull, cont'd	El Paso	1	Ray Nixon Power Plant (1)
	Jefferson	2	Taylor Lake (4)
	Larimer	9	Horseshoe Lake (38)
	Pueblo	1	Valco Ponds (1)
	Weld	2	Woods Lake (4)
Thayer's Gull (<i>Larus thayeri</i>)	Jefferson	1	Taylor Lake (1)
	Larimer	2	Warren Lake (2)
Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)	Jefferson	1	Taylor Lake (1)
Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>)	Arapahoe	1	Cherry Creek Res. (1)

* Indicates a location split among two counties (Chatfield Res. - Douglas and Jefferson counties)

Table 2. Sites surveyed for Colorado wintering waterbirds, 2-3 December 2000.

County	Observer	Location
Adams	Karleen Schofield	74th Ave gravel pits, 74th Ave Pond #1, 74th Ave Pond #2, Dahlia Ave Pond, McKay Ave Pond, S. Platte River #1, S. Platte River #2, S. Platte River #3, Thornton Water Res.
Adams	Larry Semo	Hidden Lake (Mayham Lake), Lowell Ponds
Arapahoe	Bob Brown	Cherry Creek S.P., McLellan Res.
Archuleta	Doug Faulkner & Elena Thomas	12577 Hwy 151, Echo Canyon Res., Mile 24 Hwy 151, Navajo Res.
Boulder	Myron & Suzi Plooster	Autrey Res., Baseline Res., Culver Pond, Dodd Res., Stearns Lake
Boulder	Bill Kaempfer	Big Gaynor Lake, Boulder Res., Burch Lake, Clover Basin Res., Erie Lake, Hayden Lake, Highland Res. #2, Hillcrest Res., Lafayette Lakes, Lagerman Res., Leggett Res., Little Gaynor Lake, McCall Lake, McCaslin Lake, McIntosh Lake, Panama Lake, Prince Lake #2, Sixmile Res., Swede Lake, Teller Lakes, Terry Lake, Valmont Res., Walden Ponds

Table 2, cont'd

County	Observer	Location
Boulder	Tony Leukering & Joe Bens	Marshall Lake
Chaffee	Tony Leukering & Joe Bens	Clear Creek Res.
Conejos	Doug Faulkner & Elena Thomas	La Jara Res.
Delta	Coen Dexter & Brenda Wright	Confluence Park, Fruigrowers Res., Sweitzer Lake
Denver	Karleen Schofield	Marston Res.
Douglas	Joey Kellner	Aurora Rampart Res., Platte Canyon Res.
Douglas / Jefferson	Joey Kellner	Chatfield Res.
Eagle	Dave Clark	Blue Lake, Spring Park Res.
Eagle	Kay & Tom McConnell	Edwards sewage pond
El Paso	Bill Maynard & Peter Gaede	Big Johnson Res., Broadmoor Community Church, Broadmoor Hotel Pond, Gates Country Club Lake, Palmer Lake, Prospect Lake, Woodmoor Lake
El Paso	Alan Versaw	Fountain Creek Reg. Park, Fountain sewage ponds, Pinello Ponds, Ray Nixon Power Plant
Fremont	Jim & Rosie Watts	Brush Hollow Res.
Garfield	Phil Hayes	Colorado River at Parachute
Garfield	Kay & Tom McConnell	Sweetwater Lake
Garfield	Kim Potter	Harvey Gap Res., Rifle Falls Fish Hatchery, Rifle Gap Res.
Garfield / Eagle	Kay & Tom McConnell	Colorado River
Grand	Dave Claasen	Lake Granby, Shadow Mtn. Res.
Grand	Mike Crosby	Williams Fork Res., Willow Creek, Windy Gap Res.
Grand	Jim Liewer	Wolford Mtn. Res.
Grand	Arvind Panjabi	Grand Lake, Lake Granby, Shadow Mtn. Res., Williams Fork Res.
Gunnison	Ron Meyer & Don Radovich	Blue Mesa Res.
Jackson	Rachel Kolokoff	Alkali Lake, Clayton Res., Cowdry Lake, Cowdry Ponds, East Delaney Lake, Fisher Lake, Lake John, Meadow Creek Res., North Delaney Lake, North Michigan Creek Res., Pole Mountain Lake, pond E of Clayton Res., Seymour Res., South Delaney Lake, Walden Res.
Jefferson	Tony Leukering & Joe Bens	Arvada Res., Coors Ponds, Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Prospect Park, Taylor Lake
Jefferson	Larry Semo	Lake Arbor, Standley Lake
La Plata	Doug Faulkner & Elena Thomas	Electra Lake, Lemon Res., Pastorius Res., Vallecito Res.
Lake	Tony Leukering & Joe Bens	Balltown, Mt. Elbert Forebay, Turquoise Lake, Twin Lakes Res.
Larimer	Arvind Panjabi	Barnes Meadow Res., Claymore Lake, Water Supply & Storage Res. #3, Watson Lake

Table 2, cont'd

County	Observer	Location
Larimer	Steve Dinsmore & Tammy Hamer	Bee Lake, Douglas Res., Hamilton Res., Horsetooth Res., Lake Loveland, N. Poudre Res. #3, N. Poudre Res. #3, N. Poudre Res. #6, Sheldon Lake, Terry Lake, Warren Lake, Windsor Res.
Larimer	Nick Komar	Boyd Lake, Carter Lake Res., Cattail Pond, College Lake, Flatiron Res., Horseshoe Lake, Lee Martinez Park, Lon Hagler SWA
Larimer	Scott Rashid	Lake Estes, Mary's Lake
Mesa	Rich Levad	1100 O Road Pond, 33 Road Pond, Colorado River S.P. - Fruita, Colorado River W.A.-Colorado River S.P., Cheney Res., Clifton Marsh Pond, Clifton Sewage Pond, Clifton Water Pond, Connected Lakes S.P., Corn Lake, Dupont Ponds, Fowlers Pond, Golden Pond/Lurvey, Highline Res., Jerry Creek Res. #1, Jerry Creek Res. #2, Juniata Res., Mack Mesa, Purdy Mesa, Redlands Parkway Bridge Pond, United S&G Lake, Walter Walker SWA, Whitewater S&G
Moffatt	Forrest Luke	Yampa River at Craig
Montezuma	Doug Faulkner & Elena Thomas	Bauer Lake, Mancos Res., McPhee Res., Narraguinne Res., Puett Res., Summit Res., Totten Res.
Ouray	Coen Dexter & Brenda Wright	Ridgway Res.
Park	Tony Leukering & Joe Bens	Antero Res., Elevenmile Canyon, Elevenmile Res., Lake George
Pueblo	Brandon Percival	Valco Ponds SWA
Rio Blanco	Dona Hilke	Kenney Res., Lake Avery SWA, Rio Blanco SWA, White River at Meeker
Rio Blanco	Kim Potter	Piceance Creek Ranch
Summit	Sue Bonfield	Green Mountain Res., Lake Dillon
Summit	Tony Leukering & Joe Bens	Silverthorne sewage pond
Weld	David Hanni	35 Rd Pond, Lake Thomas, Neff Lake, Neuman Lake, Seely Lake, Stony Brook Housing Complex, Veteran's Memorial
Weld	Bill Kaempfer	Union Res.
Weld	Steve Dinsmore & Tammy Hamer	Windsor Lake, Windsor Res., Woods Lake

CFO WEBSITE

We invite you to browse the Colorado Field Ornithologists' website. If you don't own a computer, check your local library. Check the site regularly, because new items and changes appear regularly. The Internet address is:

<http://www.cfo-link.org>

BIRDING THE SOUTHERN SAN LUIS VALLEY FOR ADVENTURE

John J. Rawinski¹
Monte Vista, Colorado



My heart was still pounding. I had just stepped over a 3-foot prairie rattlesnake and already this was more adventure than I had bargained for. Fortunately, it was still morning and the snake seemed a little drowsy. I was glad I had worn my snake chaps just in case this snake had not been so sleepy. This was the beginning of another trip into the San Luis Valley's San Luis Hills, where adventure seems to occur with each visit.

The southern San Luis Valley (SLV) presents birders the unique opportunity of finding some undiscovered, rare, and unusual species. One such place is in the central part of the southern SLV that consists of low-elevation rolling basalt hills called the San Luis Hills. These are the brown-colored hills you see to the south of Alamosa. They appear to be fairly nondescript, which may have led to their being overlooked throughout the years. Birding here, amongst the hazards of steep rocks, long walks, and numerous rattlesnakes, is anything but ordinary.

¹John Rawinski is a Soil Scientist for the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in the San Luis Valley.

There are two distinct sets of hills with the north hills called Flat Top Mountain and the southern area called the Pinyon Hills. Both are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) because of the unique resource values (though birds were not considered unique until perhaps now). Part of this area is also a Wilderness Study Area (you guessed it...WSA). Both Flat Top and Pinyon Hills have excellent birding possibilities. In the Pinyon Hills, John James Canyon (JJC) is one of the better sites to bird. To reach it from Alamosa, drive south on Hwy 285 to Antonito. In Antonito, turn east onto 8th Ave. At 3.8 miles the road turns to gravel; at 9.7 miles there is a cattle guard; 100 feet after it, there are two primitive roads that go to the north. Take the one to the east. It runs in an arc and at 11.85 miles you should be at the entrance to John James Canyon. The birding from here must be done on foot and it is 3 miles up the canyon to the top of the mesas. Be sure to bring along water as there is none available in the canyon.

It was during a visit in June 2000 that I noticed a small group of sparrows feeding along the brushy "dry-parian" area (dry riparian area). I was excited to find no less than five Black-throated Sparrows feeding and singing in this brushy draw. This sparrow is listed as a rare migrant through the SLV with no summer records (Andrews and Righter 1992). There were no records of the species in the SLV in the Atlas (Lambeth 1998a). These five birds had all the appearance of a small breeding population and were there on subsequent visits that month. I was not too surprised to find at least nine of them in three different canyons, again including five in John James, in May and June 2001. This species, and a number of others, will require updates to many of the Colorado bird distribution publications for the San Luis Hills area in the south-central SLV.

Sage Sparrows are listed as possible breeders in the San Luis Hills (eastern Conejos County) (Andrews and Righter 1992; Lambeth 1998b). In 2000, I flushed a Sage Sparrow from her nest with one egg and one chick (documentation sent to CBRC). This represents a new location for the species in this area.

In March 2001, I noticed a raspy chickadee-like scolding coming from some pinyon trees. I was very surprised to see my first San Luis Valley Juniper Titmouse. The SLV has plenty of pinyon and juniper habitat, but because of our cold climate, some "expected" species like Juniper Titmouse do not often occur here. The Valley perimeter is considered secondary range of Juniper Titmouse (Andrews and Righter 1992), though this bird was the first I had seen in 19 years of birding this large Valley (Rio Grande National Forest 2001). To

give you a better idea of this species' scarcity, in all of the atlas blocks that folks did in the SLV, none of them reported Juniper Titmouse. Perhaps the San Luis Hills are slightly warmer and more amenable to these "expected" species.

Once in the lower two miles of John James Canyon, you should find numerous Spotted Towhees, Green-tailed Towhees, Rock Wrens, Sage Thrashers, Northern Mockingbirds, and Black-throated, Sage, Brewer's, Lark, and Vesper Sparrows during the summer.

As you hike further up JJC canyon you will be entering more pinyon and juniper habitat. As the canyon rises to the north, you will find an old mining trail leading up to the rim. Watch for Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Bushtit, Mountain Chickadee, Virginia's Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Mountain Bluebird, Plumbeous Vireo, and Dusky Flycatcher. This area is the most reliable place in the SLV to find Blue-gray Gnatcatcher which likely breeds in this location. The agitated behavior I observed when a Pinyon Jay was in some trees seemed to indicate this. The SLV perimeter is only considered secondary range, but the Pinyon Hills represent a likely breeding place.

On top of these basalt plateaus, you will find pinyon and juniper scattered with grasslands. Here a population of likely-breeding Bewick's Wren occurs. There are about five singing males that have been documented thus far, but there are likely more. Why this plateau has them when they are scarce throughout the rest of the Valley is open to speculation. For example, there were no summer, migration, or winter records for Bewick's Wrens in the SLV (Andrews and Righter 1992). Valley records kept over the years show a few migration and winter records (Rio Grande National Forest 2001). Only one Atlas Block found any at all, and it showed Bewick's Wren as a possible breeder near the town of San Luis (Levad 1998). Other birds on this plateau include Violet-green Swallow, Townsend's Solitaire, Common Nighthawk, and nuthatches.

With all the adventure this area has to offer, I think it is the intrigue of what might be found here next that excites me the most. Who knows what southwest species might turn up next? And there is so much more area to cover including San Pedro Mesa south of San Luis; Rio Grande river canyon (Black Phoebes reported here in the past), and the Punched Hills and Valley. Near Eastdale Reservoir (private reservoir), Harris's Hawks and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers have been reported. The town of San Luis has tremendous potential for southwest specialties, yet is rarely birded. I would invite you to come to this remote part of the San Luis Valley and let me know what you find. Be sure to stop by the BLM and Forest Service office south of La Jara and get a map showing public lands. There are so many more canyons in the San Luis Hills

yet to be explored. And when you bird here, bring plenty of water, an adventurous attitude, and don't forget your snake chaps.

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- Rio Grande National Forest, 2001. Birds of the Rio Grande National Forest and San Luis Valley Area. Unpublished report. Editor: John Rawinski.



CFO SUPPORTS ETHICS CODES

The Colorado Field Ornithologists is dedicated to the conservation of avian species and to increasing the public awareness of human impact on birds. As one step toward achieving these goals, the CFO Board has endorsed the American Birding Association's (ABA) *Birding Code of Ethics* and the Ornithological Council (OC) of North American Ornithological Societies' *Code of Ethics*. The full text of the ABA *Code* and a synopsis of the OC *Code* can be found in the October 1999 issue of the *JCFO*.

CFO BOARD MEETING MINUTES: 4 AUGUST 2001

Sherry P. Chapman, Secretary

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Colorado Field Ornithologists was held on Saturday, August 4, 2001 at 12:40 P.M. at the Silverthorne Library, with the President in the chair and the Secretary being present. Board members attending: Raymond Davis, Mark Yaeger, Tony Leukering, and Scott Gillihan. The minutes of the prior meeting were approved as corrected.

President's Report

Mark Janos reported that Wild Bird Centers and Wild Birds Unlimited have agreed to serve as distribution points for our membership application and he will mail applications to each Colorado location.

Treasurer's Report

Mark Janos reported for BB Hahn that our current assets are \$26,217.02. The 2001 Convention was very successful and netted \$3,096.67. The Landowner Appreciation Plaque Fund balance is currently \$155.00 and this should carry us through to the 2002 Convention. The treasurer recommends that we follow through with Leon Bright's suggestion of "passing the hat" at the 2002 Convention to replenish the fund. A detailed report is on file with the minutes.

The treasurer recommended an allocation of \$2,000.00 for the Project Fund for 2002. The recommendation passed unanimously.

Colorado Bird Records Committee

Tony Leukering reported that the first round of voting on 2000 submittals is nearly complete and acceptance of the Slaty-backed Gull puts the Colorado list at 470.

ABA has approximately 1,100 copies (rather than approximately 100 as previously noted) of the old checklist on hand. We will not buy them back at this time but will continue to update the checklist and print a new one prior to the 2002 Convention.

Work is still in progress on updating the CBRC by-laws.

Journal Editor

Doug Faulkner has volunteered to edit the journal when Scott's term is completed. The board approved the recommendation and Doug will begin with

the January 2002 issue, with Scott assisting.

Scott has filled two additional requests for the raptor electrocution article that appeared in a recent *JCFO* issue.

Membership

Raymond Davis reported that 365 memberships are current. The status of back issues of the journal was discussed and the board concluded that Davis should keep ten copies of each issue and give Doug Faulkner the remainder so that he will have them to trade for ornithology journals that Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory would like to add to their library.

Website

Mark Janos reported for Rachel Kolokoff that the website is up to date and that Larry Semo will be taking over as photo quiz quizmaster.

Two possible new logos were presented to the board. Sherry Chapman moved that the board adopt the new logo using Papyrus type style. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Bill Kampfer wrote to Mark Janos that he would like to give up ownership of COBIRDS and feels that CFO would be an appropriate owner. Tony Leukering moved that the CFO Board encourage Rachel to take over ownership of COBIRDS as a private individual as requested in writing by Bill Kampfer, the current list owner. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee

Mark Janos reported for Bob Spencer that he has contacted two CFO members who agreed to serve on the board if asked. Mark Yeager moved that Bob ask Norm Lewis to serve as Vice-President and arrange field trips and also ask Cheryl Day to fill Aileen Roberts' unexpired term. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

New Business

The board would like to express their appreciation to Chico Basin Ranch and Sherrie York for the gracious hospitality shown to CFO members during the 2001 Convention by awarding them an appreciation plaque.

December Board Meeting

The next meeting of the CFO Board of Directors will be held on December 1, 2001 at 12:00 P.M. at the home of BB Hahn in Hatchet Ranch.

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 P.M.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD: SPRING 2001 REPORT (MARCH–MAY)

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Spring, the period most birders await with impending excitement. Though winter still hints at times, birds are moving and we are stimulated to again beat the bushes, prairies, and woods to discover and enjoy the marvel of avian migration. With the slow death of the uninspiring birding winter of 2000–2001, we became invigorated with new life. Now that the next approaching winter is upon us, let us remember and contemplate upon the happenings the past spring afforded us.

We strongly thank those who contributed information regarding observations, weather information, and hypotheses indicating what may have transpired during this past spring season and highly encourage others to do the same. Readers will notice that observation reports, weather quotes, and overall thoughts are restricted to a few individual reports. This is certainly not because of importance of those reports, but rather a lack of information provided by others in the field that certainly could have contributed. We implore ALL birders to submit sightings, weather information, and even off-the-wall theories of what birds were doing during the course of all seasons to the spring/summer and fall/winter seasonal editors. Without additional input, we are forced to provide only guesses regarding the reasons for rare sightings and migration patterns based upon only a few individual observers. Let us hear from those on the West Slope! What was the weather like that season? Were certain species more common or rare? What were your early and late dates for species? What were your high counts for species? What were your gut-hunches of the season's bird life overall? This is of vital importance to our ornithological history and we implore all birders to join. It is obvious that weather information provided for the Denver area may have absolutely

nothing in common with that occurring in Durango or Craig. But for this report, that is all we have to create an historical picture of the avian happenings of Spring 2001.

The following report includes only those observations of out-of-range species if documentation was supplied to the CBRC or if the observer avowed to provide such information to the committee. Many times, reports of rare bird sightings were included within the seasonal digests but were later not accepted due to insufficient documentation. Oftentimes, this has led to incorrect perceptions of the published News from the Field column as the final anthology of bird sightings from a given season. In actuality, rare bird observations must still be properly documented and undergo a review process to be accepted by the CBRC and to be included in the state's final records database. However, we still strongly encourage records submissions for ALL bird sightings in Colorado. These reports help determine not only the rarities observed during a given season, but also relative population trends of a particular species or cohort of species across a statewide or local level.

In contrast to the old adage, March came in like a lamb but departed like a lion through the majority of the state. Along the Front Range, the first week of March was marked by above-average temperatures, which allowed for ice-melt across most northern water bodies. Most of the remainder of the month was cold, though periodic explosive warm fronts did bring more moderate weather at times, e.g., a high temperature of 67° was recorded in Denver on 20 and 21 March. Precipitation, as usual a mixture of rain and snow, for the month was slightly below normal, at 6.7 inches. The greatest snowfall in the Denver area, which was not severe, occurred on 10 and 11 March when 3 inches fell.

April weather was warmer than average (2.8° above normal), with temperatures well above average for roughly the first half; overall, 17 days were above average. Precipitation was slightly below normal for the month. One exceptional snowfall occurred in the Denver area on 10 and 11 April when 9.5 inches layered the ground.

The final month of the spring season was somewhat normal though variances did occur. On 2 May, a big cold front pushed into the state, dropping high temperatures into the 30s and 40s. Temperatures moderated until 19 May with daytime highs as much as 13° above normal. Another late cold front quickly passed through on the 20th when high temperatures dropped into the 50s. The remainder of the month was close to normal. For the month, temperatures were 1.2° above normal, with a high temperature for the Denver area of 85° achieved on 13 May; however, frost occurred on the 20th and 21st. Precipitation for the

month was slightly above average. Total snowfall for the Denver area during May was 7.2 inches with a maximum snowfall of 3.1 inches occurring on 3–4 May. All weather information was provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA 2001).

So, how did the cold winter of 2000–2001 influence bird abundance and distribution in Colorado? Certainly the frozen water bodies that remained in many places across the state in early March had some effect on migration timing. It appeared that waterfowl seemed to stack up further south awaiting ice-out further north. As soon as ice broke on Standley Lake in Jefferson County in mid-March, waterfowl poured through en masse, but the movement was short-lived. Semo tallies waterbird numbers at Standley daily during spring, and the early spring of 2001 was considerably lackluster, compared to that of 2000, with low numbers of waterfowl and gulls. The number of warmer-weather waterbirds, namely grebes, seemed “normal,” with relatively high numbers of *Aechmophorus* at Standley in April.

The montane species that irrupted onto the Plains during the fall and winter of 2000–2001 lingered through portions of the spring period. Mountain Chickadees remained at many “lowland” areas through the third week of April. Evening Grosbeaks were locally abundant in April on the Plains. This tardiness in migrating back to breeding areas is strengthened by Merchant’s thoughts that grosbeaks were “scarce” in Eagle County during the spring.

Passerine migration seemed good, in contrast. It was the impression of Semo that sparrows cruised through the state relatively rapidly, with the warm weather in April probably moving these migrants right along. Neotropical migrants did not seem impacted by the cold winter. Observers commented that the “neotrop” migration was very good. The incredible fallout of Swainson’s Thrushes and other passerines at Chico Basin Ranch on the morning of 19 May must certainly have been an incredible experience for those CFO convention participants who opted to attend that field trip. Various participants found at least 1500 thrushes and a great diversity of eastern warblers and other neotrops (Leukering pers. comm.). The “mini” fallout of three-digit thrushes Faulkner experienced at Flagler SWA in Kit Carson County on 25 May seems minor in comparison, though would be amazing in any other year.

Spring 2001 again proved to be a good year for vagrants, with no fewer than 49 state review species being observed during the season. Topping that list in importance was most assuredly the finding of a potential first-state record Costa’s Hummingbird by Dinsmore and Fontaine in late May. Though only

enjoyed by a few, excellent video documentation was provided by Olson. Congratulations to Steve and Joe for this discovery! The finding of a first-state record is not the determining factor in gauging the magnitude of seasonal vagrancy, however. The much-observed female Harlequin Duck in Durango from this past winter lingered into mid-March. The reports of Common Black-Hawk near Durango and Trinidad this spring, if accepted, should double the tally for the state. A King Rail heard near John Martin Reservoir in late May could be the third record of this difficult-to-detect species.

Other species/phenomena of note included a Neotropic Cormorant, at least three Least Bitterns, a Little Blue Heron, two Tricolored Herons, a white-morph Reddish Egret, the continued vagrant excursions of Glossy Ibis (seven total), a Eurasian Wigeon, Ruddy Turnstone, two Mew Gulls, three Glaucous-winged Gulls, a Black-legged Kittiwake, another Lesser Nighthawk, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, two Alder Flycatchers, an amazing 11 reports of Vermillion Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (two), at least five White-eyed Vireos, an astounding seven Yellow-throated Vireos, a well-observed Blue-headed Vireo, a Philadelphia Vireo, at least two, if not three, Carolina Wrens, and 11 Gray-cheeked Thrushes.

The gentle sway of peripheral eastern warblers into Colorado each spring draws birders to vagrant traps across the state. This season did not disappoint those who ventured out, as no fewer than 39 species of warblers were recorded. Notable were nine Blue-winged Warblers (but only two Golden-wingeds), a female Cape May Warbler, a Hermit Warbler on the Eastern Plains, four Blackburnian Warblers, one Yellow-throated Warbler, three Prairie Warblers, one Bay-breasted Warbler, no fewer than five Prothonotary Warblers, six Worm-eating Warblers, three Kentucky Warblers (including one West Slope bird), an always-exciting Connecticut Warbler, and one Mourning Warbler.

Recently-arrived columbids continue their colonization of Colorado. Eurasian Collared-Doves are now present in most towns on the Eastern Plains. The small population of Inca Doves in Rocky Ford, Bent County, continues for its second year with breeding evidence again provided. Finally, White-winged Doves continue their slow march northward out of Mexico with the presence of a potential breeding pair at Van Truan's yard in Pueblo.

With this summary, we invite you into the set of data collected for the season. Remember back to this past spring and recall your memories of the birds you saw. Try to incorporate them with the reports of others supplied here and formulate your opinions on how the birds fared in Spring 2001.

We wish to thank all observers who sent us their records for this spring. Without detailed records from you, this column would be very short, indeed. Our greatest thanks go to Brandon Percival who, once again, forwarded all records provided to him for inclusion in the seasonal report in *North American Birds*, provided nearly 500 sightings of his own, and was always available to provide more detailed information on a variety of topics. We happily acknowledge the great service Brandon's seasonal record-keeping provides all students of Colorado ornithology. Finally, we extend our thanks to Tony Leukering who greatly helped in the preparation of this report. His meticulous attention to detail greatly improved this document.

Notes: County names appear in italics. A&R=Andrews and Righter (1992); Alternate=alternate (breeding) plumage; Basic=basic (winter) plumage; BOP=beginning of period (in this case the start of the Spring Season, March 1); CVCG = Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grasslands, *Weld*; DRHW=Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch, *Jefferson*; EOP=end of period (in this case the end of the Spring Season, May 31); FLWE=Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement; LCC=Lamar Community College, *Prowers*; m. ob. = many observers; ph = photographed; RMBO = Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory; SP=State Park; SWA=State Wildlife Area.

Common Loon: At least one wintering bird was present from BOP at Pueblo Reservoir, *Pueblo* (BKP). In addition to birds along the Front Range, single migrants were noted at Bonny Reservoir (TL, LS) and the Wray Fish Hatchery (LS, TL), both *Yuma*, on 14 April; Dotsero, *Eagle* (JMe), on 15 April; and a flyover near Lake Maria, *Huerfano*, on 21 April (TL, LS). The "high" count was of only three at Standley Lake, *Jefferson*, 3–14 April (LS). This species was last noted at Big Johnson Reservoir, *El Paso*, on 26 May (BKP, CLW).

Horned Grebe: Migrants were noted at well-watched Standley Lake 9 March–24 April with a high count of 22 on 20 April (LS). Luna Reservoir, southwestern *Weld*, hosted a large number of migrants from late March to mid-April with counts of 109 on 21 March (LS, TL) and 216 on 5 April (TL). Late birds included two at Cheraw, *Otero*, until 22 May (LS, CFO) and one in alternate plumage at Big Johnson Reservoir on 26 May (CLW, BKP).

Eared Grebe: The high count *reported* for the spring was of 65 at Standley Lake on 26 April.

Western Grebe: The high count of spring migrants was 511 at Standley Lake on 25 April. Others of interest included singles at Flagler SWA, *Kit Carson*, on 14 April (LS, TL) and 13 May (CLW).

Clark's Grebe: Rare in *Eagle*, one was at Dotsero 19–21 May (JMe).

Neotropic Cormorant: An adult present at John Martin Reservoir, *Bent*, on 8 April (MJ, BKP) would provide the first documented spring record if accepted by the CBRC.

Double-crested Cormorant: Leatherman reported 410 at Upper Queens Reservoir, *Kiowa*, which may be the highest spring count for the state.

American Bittern: First noted this spring at Ft. Lyon, *Bent*, on 22 April (MJ, TL, BKP, LS). The only other reports were from the San Luis Valley and *Adams*. Individuals remained at all these locations through EOP.

Least Bittern: One seen at Alamosa, *Alamosa*, on 13 May (JJR) was the first ever reported for the San Luis Valley, while one at Chico Basin Ranch on 20 May (CLW et al.) provided one of very few records for *Pueblo*. One reported near Ft. Lyon on 11 May (AS) fit last year's pattern at that locale in that it was not cooperative on subsequent days or nights.

Great Egret: Unusual records came from Lake Maria, *Huerfano*, on 21 April (LS, TL), at Bonny Reservoir, 11 May (DAL), and Pastorius Reservoir, *La Plata*, 29 May (JB).

Snowy Egret: Noteworthy were singletons on 3 May at Two Buttes Reservoir, *Baca* (MI, JF), and at Dotsero on 19 May (JMe).

Little Blue Heron: An adult at Lake Henry, *Crowley*, on 29 April (VZ) furnished the only spring report.

Tricolored Heron: A splendid adult was found on 25 April at John Martin Reservoir (TL). A few lucky observers saw it through 2 May mostly as it went to roost in the willows on the north side of the reservoir (e.g., MI). Another was found at Strauss Cabin Lake, *Larimer*, on 17 May (RK – video, m. ob.).

Reddish Egret: A subadult white-morph Reddish Egret was found on 17 May at John Martin Reservoir (DN) and the same bird (presumably) was last seen at Lake Hasty, *Bent* on 27 May (DAL). This is the first report of this form for Colorado.

Cattle Egret: Four on 21 April at Orlando Reservoir, *Huerfano* (LS, TL), were noteworthy as A&R list no records for the county.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: The first report of a spring migrant was of an adult at Goodnight River Trail, *Pueblo*, on 11 April (BKP); this is an average arrival date for the Arkansas River Valley.

Glossy Ibis: The seven reports this spring, all of adults, equaled the number reported last spring. The most impressive sighting was of one found in *Saguache* on 24 April (TL); pending acceptance, this will furnish the first record for the San Luis Valley. One at the Avondale Sewage Ponds on 21 April (MJ) was the first reported in heavily-birded

Pueblo. The other reports were: one east of Ft. Lyon on 14 April (DN); 1–2 near Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, 24 April–5 May (RK, DAL, MI–ph); and one at Rocky Ford Sewage Ponds, *Otero*, on 2 May (TL, JF, MI).

Greater White-fronted Goose: The only spring report was of one seen at Union Reservoir, *Weld*, on 5 March (KS).

Ross's Goose: Shattering the previous Colorado high count of this species, Leatherman found 1900 at Verhoff's Pond, *Bent*, on 5 April.

Trumpeter Swan: An adult was seen at the Fairfield-Eaton Resort, Pagosa Springs, *Archuleta*, 24–27 March (DAL). The origin of Trumpeter Swans in Colorado must always be addressed carefully, given the frequency of this species in captivity and the number of birds released in “reintroduction” programs. The odd location, coupled with the report of two summering swans west of Pagosa Springs in 2000 (Leukering and Wood 2001), does not bode well for these being wild birds.

Tundra Swan: An immature found at Bonny Reservoir on 17 April (DF) is the latest ever for Colorado, and one of only three April records. This is only the fourth spring that the species has been reported in the state since the publication of A&R. Given the rarity of this species in the state and the ease of confusion with Trumpeter Swans, the CBRC now requests documentation on all sightings of Tundra Swans in Colorado.

Wood Duck: Merchant found two males and a female at Dotsero on 23 April. Wood Ducks are very rare in the mountains and this is the first time Merchant has noted more than a single bird in *Eagle*.

Eurasian Wigeon: Just squeaking its way into the Spring Season was a male on 2 March at Ft. Collins City Park, *Larimer* (AP).

Canvasback: Faulkner's 18 April visit to Haxtun produced another first for *Phillips* when he found a Can (sex? Eds.) at the Sewage Ponds.

Greater Scaup: While no one reported double-digit concentrations this year, individuals and small groups were seen widely on the Eastern Plains. An adult male on 18 April at Haxtun (DF) represents the first record for under-birded *Phillips*, while a female at Blue Lake on 25 March (TL, GB, et al.) was the first for *Eagle*. The last report was of a female at Jet Reservoir, *Kiowa*, 22 May (TL, CLW, TRS, LS).

Harlequin Duck: The female at Durango, *La Plata*, was present from BOP to 17 March (fide M&DH).

Barrow's Goldeneye: The 50 at Spring Park Reservoir, *Eagle*, on 4 April (JMe) likely represents a spring high count for Colorado. Smaller numbers of Barrow's were seen in the El Jebel area from February to at least 19 May (JMe). On 5 April, Leukering and Semo saw a male and two

females at Luna Reservoir, where Barrow's are scarce.

- Hooded Merganser:** One at McPhee Reservoir, *Montezuma* (R&NG), provided a very rare spring record for the county.
- Red-breasted Merganser:** Three males and two females at Blue Lake, *Eagle*, on 31 March (JMe) provided a very rare county record; A&R list no records for the county.
- Osprey:** One on 25 April at Trinidad Reservoir, *Las Animas*, was interesting as A&R report no specific records for the county. Osprey is, undoubtedly, an annual migrant, both spring and fall, in the county. The DRHW recorded a high count of seven on 15 April and 49 for the season (RMBO).
- Bald Eagle:** DRHW counters tallied 46 for the season with a high count of six on 29 March (RMBO).
- Northern Harrier:** The high count for DRHW was of nine on 23 April, with 55 recorded for the season (RMBO).
- Common Black-Hawk:** Two reports this spring would double the number of Colorado records, if accepted by the CBRC. An adult was seen outside Durango on 13–14 Apr (PD, M&DH, SA, et al.). Several CFO field trip participants were in the right place at the right time and saw an adult flying over Trinidad Reservoir on 20 May (GW, TL, et al.).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** The DRHW recorded 43 for the season (RMBO), with the high count of 12 recorded on 23 April (RMBO).
- Red-tailed Hawk:** A total of 540 was recorded for the season at DRHW with a high count of 50 on 2 April (RMBO).
- Ferruginous Hawk:** Only 25 were recorded at DRHW, with high counts of seven on 31 March and 2 April (RMBO).
- Rough-legged Hawk:** A season total of 33 at DRHW almost doubles the previous high (17 in 1997) with an amazing seven birds in April, the last on the 21st. The high count for DRHW was of five on 1 March (RMBO). Other late birds included one near Bonny Reservoir on 14 April (TL, LS) and another outside Rocky Ford, *Otero*, on 15 April (BKP). Rough-legs are normally scarce in the state after early April and care should be taken in identifying the species this late.
- Peregrine Falcon:** Expectedly, the first report of the season was of two breeders on 31 March, *Fremont*. Colorado breeding *Falco peregrina anatum* typically arrive a month earlier than arctic-nesting, *F. p. tundrius*. Observers are urged to be cautious in identifying subspecies of Peregrine Falcons, given the large number of intergrades and individuals of questionable subspecific identity that resulted from the releases in the 1980s.
- Black Rail:** The earliest report from Ft. Lyon (BKP) on 30 April is on par for the first of the spring. The high count of 16 (BKP) for this area was

roughly equal to last year's high count (but see the summer report).

King Rail: One was calling infrequently around 10:30 P.M. on 22 May from the marshes on the west side of John Martin Reservoir (TRS, TL, CLW, LS). Each of these observers has significant experience with this species on the breeding grounds. There are only two previous records for Colorado (*Pueblo* in 1976 and *Weld* in 1985).

Sandhill Crane: The high count outside the San Luis Valley (no report) this spring was of 5000 on 4 March near King Reservoir, *Prowers* (DAL).

Black-bellied Plover: Earlier than average, this season's first was one on 20 April at John Martin Reservoir (BKP). Four birds at John Martin on 29 May (DAL) were the last of the season, and late.

Snowy Plover: The earliest report, from *Crowley*, was of three on 19 April (BKP). This is a typical arrival date for the species in the Arkansas River Valley.

Semipalmated Plover: The first spring report on 21 April in *Otero* (LS, TL) was somewhat early. The last bird of the season was an individual seen in *Kiowa* on 22 May.

Piping Plover: Piping Plovers are very rare in Colorado away from their breeding grounds in *Kiowa* and *Bent*; one on 17 April at Bonny Reservoir (DF) was a very good find.

Greater Yellowlegs: Two seen in *Adams* on 7 March (DF) were the first of the season.

Whimbrel: The species was last seen (one) on 26 May at Barr Lake, *Adams* (TL et al.).

Ruddy Turnstone: One adult at Bonny Reservoir on 20 May (NP, AS) provided the only report this spring.

Sanderling: One on 20 April at Lake Cheraw, *Otero* (BKP), was the first of the season, and was early for this species in Colorado.

White-rumped Sandpiper: A single bird at Rocky Ford Sewage Ponds on 8 May (BKP) was early for this late-moving calidrid. A staggering 140 were at John Martin Reservoir on 27 May (DAL); the previous state high count was 121.

Dunlin: Typically a late-migrating shorebird in spring and fall, a basic-plumaged Dunlin at Huerfano Reservoir, *Pueblo*, on 4 March (BKP, VAT) was likely a bird that wintered nearby.

Stilt Sandpiper: Percival chimes in with yet another early spring arrival: one Stilt Sandpiper on 20 April at the Rocky Ford Sewage Ponds.

Short-billed Dowitcher: The only report this spring was of a single bird in *Weld* on 14 May (PG, BA).

Red-necked Phalarope: This species was present in larger numbers than any other spring in the last decade. Over 300 were at Jet Reservoir on 22 May (TL, LS, TRS, CLW). This species was also recorded, often in

above-average numbers, in *Adams, Bent, Crowley, Delta, El Paso, Logan, Mesa, Morgan, Otero, Jefferson, Larimer, Washington, Weld, and Yuma*. A very late migrant, northbound birds were present through the EOP.

Mew Gull: Very unusual was an adult at Pastorius Reservoir, *La Plata* (SA). The only previous West Slope record yields from 15 November 1992 in Mack, *Mesa*. By contrast, roughly one-third of all accepted Mew Gull records are from Jim Hamm, *Boulder*, and Union Reservoir, *Weld*, where a Basic I Mew Gull, was present this spring 5 – 21 March (KS, PG, LS).

Thayer's Gull: Late individuals were noted at Pueblo Reservoir until 5 April (BKP) and at Bonny Reservoir on 17 April (DF).

Glaucous-winged Gull: Most Colorado reports of Glaucous-winged Gull come from early March; this spring was no exception. Three individuals were seen: first-basics at Pueblo Reservoir 3 – 12 March (BKP, m. ob.) and Chatfield SP, *Jefferson/Douglas*, 7 – 12 March (KS, AS, JK, m. ob) and a second-basic at Cherry Creek Reservoir on 9 March (RO).

Glaucous Gull: Percival reported the only individuals of the spring, a first-year at John Martin Reservoir on 23 March and an adult at Upper Queens Reservoir, *Kiowa*, on 25 March.

Black-legged Kittiwake: Among the oddest events of the spring was the lengthy stay of a juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake discovered at Chatfield SP on 11 April (JK, AS, m. ob.). The bird still had a bold nuchal collar, thus was still almost wholly in juvenal plumage; odd for the time of year. Many were able to get terrific views and exquisite photographs until at least 16 May, at which point the bird was in very poor condition (CLW). The only previous April or May report is of an undocumented (not submitted to the CBRC) bird from late May 1988 in *Weld* (A&R).

Caspian Tern: First noted on 8 April at Lake Cheraw, *Otero* (BKP), Caspian Terns also made appearances in *Bent, El Paso, and Larimer*. Strauss Cabin Lake hosted up to eight on 31 May (RK); this may establish a new high count for the state.

Common Tern: Much rarer in spring than in fall in Colorado, single adult Common Terns were noted at Upper Queens Reservoir on 18 May (BKP et al.) and at John Martin Reservoir on 22 May (CLW et al.) Up to three adults were at Barr Lake on 26 May (TL et al.). This is probably a new high count for spring.

Least Tern: Birds at historic breeding sites were noted late in the season in *Bent* and *Kiowa* (DAL, m. ob.). One was at Shipwreck Pond, Grand Junction, on 1 May (R&NG). Surprisingly, the species has been recorded here in a few recent springs (R. Levad pers. comm.).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: This species continues its inexorable spread through eastern Colorado. Birders found them in at least nine new locations in Spring 2001. Leukering and Semo tallied them in Holyoke, *Phillips*, Burlington and Flagler, *Kit Carson*, and Limon, *Lincoln*, all on 14 April and in Kit Carson, *Cheyenne*, and La Junta, *Otero*, on 22 April. However, Duane Nelson beat them to scoring the first in Las Animas, *Bent*, in early April; Leukering and Semo did find one in Las Animas on 22 April. Oswald recorded the species in at least two new locales: Manzanola and Swink, both *Otero*. The species also continued in now-very-regular locales (e.g., Rocky Ford, Lamar, and Springfield).

White-winged Dove: While this species is rare but regular in spring, most birds do not remain longer than a day. Thus, a pair of likely breeders from 28 April through EOP in Pueblo (VT, BKP, m. ob.) provided many with their first White-winged Doves for Colorado. Thanks to the Truan family for graciously hosting all the birders who looked for these birds.

Inca Dove: Up to four were recorded throughout the period from Rocky Ford, where this species bred last summer (SO, m. ob.). Leukering watched a singing bird fly to a nest and sit in an incubating posture on 26 April.

Spotted Owl: The long-resident birds near Beulah, *Pueblo*, were heard on 22 May (CLW et al.).

Long-eared Owl: Likely breeders (based on the date) were recorded in *Fremont* 22 May (CLW et al.) and at Dixon Reservoir, *Larimer*, 16 May (DAL).

Lesser Nighthawk: Early nighthawks should be carefully scrutinized, as Lesser Nighthawk is at least as likely as Common Nighthawk before 5 May. One on 16 April at Vineland, *Pueblo* (RV, NK), was examined closely and proved to be a Lesser and provided a first record for that county.

Common Nighthawk: Careful observation of a nighthawk on 12 May allowed Percival to record the season's first Common. Something tells us he would have rather had a Lesser.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: An adult male was found feeding on insects in Russian olive trees on 12 May at the Wray Fish Hatchery, *Yuma* (CLW). There are fewer than ten previous records for the state.

Costa's Hummingbird: Many suspected that Costa's Hummingbird would eventually make it to Colorado, given that species' range expansion in the southwestern U.S. No one, however, would have suspected that the first would be found at CVCG, where Dinsmore and Fontaine found an adult male on 18 May. During its brief two-day stay, Olson

was able to capture excellent video of this first Colorado record.

Acorn Woodpecker: The male found during the winter at Ft. Carson, *El Paso*, remained until 29 May (BM).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Wintering birds and/or early migrants were noted in *Prowers* at LCC on 4 March (DAL) and until 20 April in the Paulsen's yard (BKP). Others were located through the end of the season in *Yuma* and *Sedgwick* where they breed (DAL).

Williamson's Sapsucker: Unusual was a male drumming on a utility pole in piñon-juniper habitat outside Eagle, *Eagle*, on 26 April. The species rarely nests in this habitat.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A molting bird was noted in Rocky Ford on 3 March (DF).

Alder Flycatcher: Typically a very late spring migrant, a carefully-studied calling bird on 19 May at Jumbo Reservoir, *Sedgwick* (DAL). This date is about the earliest we would expect birds to arrive in Colorado. On 27 May, a singing Alder Flycatcher was at Last Chance, *Washington* (BKP).

Willow Flycatcher: The first report of the season was on 12 May at Lake Henry, *Crowley* (BKP). This date is on the early side for arriving Willow Flycatchers, contra A&R. Individuals prior to 10 May should be carefully studied, documented, and photographed.

Black Phoebe: Once again, the only spring records for the eastern half of the state yield from Cañon City, *Fremont*, 13 May (SMo) and Burnt Mill Road, *Pueblo*, 21 May – EOP (LS, TL).

Eastern Phoebe: Interesting reports of migrants away from breeding locales came from LCC on 5 April (DAL), southeast of Holyoke on 14 April (LS, TL), and the following day at Van's Grove, *Bent* (BKP).

Vermilion Flycatcher: Eleven different Vermilion Flycatchers were reported during a 12-day period, 5 to 17 April. While recorded most years in April, the number of individuals reported during this brief period was impressive. Sightings reflect the areas with the most coverage in mid-April: the Arkansas River Valley, the extreme southeast corner of the state, and the southwestern Denver Metro area. Records: a male at Adobe Creek Reservoir (Blue Lake), *Bent*, on 5 April (DN); a male at Belmar Park in Lakewood, *Jefferson*, 5 Apr (MCh, WF, KS, m. ob.); a female at Chatfield Reservoir 12–13 Apr (RO); a male and a female at Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca/Las Animas*, 13 April (DFi, et al.); a male east of Ft. Lyon, *Bent*, 15 April (DE); and a male and female n.w. of Campo, *Baca*, 17 Apr (BKP, TL). Up to two males, an adult female, and a first-year female were seen at Higbee Cemetery, *Otero*, 14 April to EOP (DE, DAL, m. ob.), where a pair of Vermilions provided the first successful nesting in Colorado last year (Leatherman, 2000).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: As is typical for extralimital spring sightings of this species, both reports this spring were of one-day-wonders, with one on Burnt Mill Road 15 May (PSS, CS) and another photographed just west of Last Chance, *Washington*, on 18 May (DR).

Cassin's Kingbird: The first individual of the season was recorded near Higbee Cemetery on 22 April (LS, TL).

Western Kingbird: Western Kingbirds were also first noted on 22 April with individuals from *Kiowa* and *Otero* (TL, LS).

Northern Shrike: This species is regularly seen in Colorado during the first ten days of March, but sightings from south of Hugo, *Lincoln*, on 6 March (DAL) and from east of Red Feather Lakes, *Larimer*, were from areas with few March records. The last report was on 21 March in *Weld* (LS).

White-eyed Vireo: The first of the season was found at Van's Grove on 13 April (GR) and remained until 22 April (BKP et al.). Other reports included singles at Two Buttes SWA, *Baca*, on 16 April (BKP), Neenoshe Reservoir, *Kiowa*, on 3 May (TL), Littleton, *Jefferson*, on 13 May (SMA – ph), and at Dixon Reservoir 15–16 May (JM, DAL).

Gray Vireo: Among the finds of the season was a singing Gray Vireo at Willow Creek Park on 8 May (BKP). There is only one previous *Prowers* record (16–20 May 1907 near Lamar) and only two previous spring records for the plains (A&R).

Yellow-throated Vireo: An incredible seven were seen this spring in eastern Colorado from 22 April – 28 May. Two were seen in *Bent*: one on 22 April at FLWE (MJ, BKP, m. ob.) and another in Las Animas on 8 May (DN). Lamar hosted two, one at Willow Creek Park on 7 May (BKP, m. ob.) and another at the Lamar Cemetery 11–13 May (JK, AS, m. ob.). Other singles were at Chatfield SP, *Jefferson* (TL, CLW), on 15 May and a late bird at Two Buttes SWA on 28 May (MJ). One at Flagler SWA on 9 May (HK) established a first record for the county.

Plumbeous Vireo: Leatherman found the first for *Kit Carson* with one at Flagler SWA on the late date of 25 May.

Cassin's Vireo: Decidedly rarer in spring than in fall, reports from this spring were limited to three different individuals at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, 17–20 May (CLW, TRS, TL, m. ob.).

Blue-headed Vireo: A bright bird, presumably a male, on 19 May at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso* (TRS, CLW, VT), was late for this early spring migrant. This bird was studied carefully in direct comparison with a Cassin's Vireo. Great care must be taken in identifying Blue-headed Vireos in Colorado as this is among the most difficult identification challenges facing Colorado birders. Reports of briefly-seen and/or non-documented birds will NOT be included in this report.

Philadelphia Vireo: Righter reported one at the Last Chance Rest Stop, Washington, on 11 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: Sightings were widespread this season with reports from several under-birded counties including *Arapahoe* (CLW, BKP), *Kit Carson* (DF), and *Phillips* (DAL, CLW). The first was noted on 20 April at LCC, a record early date for the state. Early and late Red-eyed Vireos should be examined carefully to rule out the unlikely occurrence of Yellow-green and Black-whiskered vireos.

Pinyon Jay: Reports of this species outside of piñon-juniper are unusual (except in some areas of the northern Front Range) and reports on the plains are very rare. Two at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 13 May (TL, SY) provided a very rare spring plains record.

Tree Swallow: Two at Eagle on 24 March (JMe) were the first recorded this spring for Colorado, and exceptionally early for the mountains.

Mountain Chickadee: Remnants from the invasion onto the plains last fall and winter remained until 25 March in *Otero* and *Kiowa* (BKP), until 6 April at Two Buttes SWA (DAL), and until 22 April in *Prowers* (LS). The last birds recorded at Grandview Cemetery, *Larimer*, were found 20 April after being present all winter.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Individuals were recorded much of the winter and early spring at Willow Creek Park and three were seen at least as late as 22 April (TL). One was at CVCG until 19 May (DAL), while two were noted at Flagler SWA on the late date of 25 May (DF).

Pygmy Nuthatch: Two remained at Rocky Ford until 25 March (BKP), while one was near Marston Reservoir, *Denver*, 1–16 April (TJ).

Brown Creeper: The last report from the Plains was on 20 April at Grandview Cemetery, *Larimer* (DAL).

Carolina Wren: We daresay Stan Oswald will not make it through another spring without finding at least one “committee bird” in Rocky Ford. This year he chimes in with a Carolina Wren on 6 April. Only days later, Percival made things confusing by finding 1–2 Carolina Wrens at different locations along the Arkansas River west of Pueblo, 10–14 April.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: This species is among the earliest passerine migrants, but one at Two Buttes SWA on 6 April (DAL) is exceptionally early, and likely a record-early arrival for the species in Colorado.

Veery: Fourteen were reported 8–27 May in eight counties including *Phillips* (DAL) and *Kit Carson* (CLW).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: At least 11 reported on the eastern plains 3–15 May could represent a new high total for any season. Several were in Lamar including two at LCC, 3–8 May (TL, m. ob.), one at the Lamar

High School 3–6 May (BKP, m. ob.), and one at Willow Creek Park on 6 May (GR, m. ob.). Five were in *Bent* including one in the extreme northeastern corner on 3 May (TL), three at Lake Hasty Campground on 6 May, and one on 7 May at Fort Lyon SWA. Others were seen in *El Paso* on 7 May (DE – ph) and at Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, on 4 May (VT).

Swainson's Thrush: The most impressive count came from Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso* and *Pueblo*, where 1500 were estimated on the soon-to-be-famous 19 May fallout (CLW, TL, m. ob.). Faulkner also reported “three-digit” figures of Swainson's Thrushes from Flagler SWA on 25 May.

Hermit Thrush: Fifty were recorded at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso* and *Pueblo*, during the 19 May fallout (CLW, TL, m. ob.)

Bohemian Waxwing: Thirty were found on 2 April at Poudre Canyon, *Larimer* (DAL). There are very few reports of this species in Colorado after 5 April.

Blue-winged Warbler: An astounding nine were reported this spring, certainly the most recorded in any spring! The first, a male, was detected on 22 April at FLWE (BKP, m. ob). Another male appeared on 20 May at this location. Three were present in *Larimer*, including a male at the Northern Colorado Learning Center on 10 May (DAL), a male at Dixon Reservoir on 16 May (DAL), and yet another at Loveland, 16 May (Ken Lane, Elaine Coley, JF). Others included one at Chatfield SP on 7 May (RV) and one at LCC (JK, AS, m. ob.). Joe Harrison banded one at Lykin's Gulch, *Boulder*, on 24 May. One in Rye, *Pueblo*, on 29 May (DSi) was in appropriate breeding habitat and late enough in the season to suggest it may have been searching for a mate.

Golden-winged Warbler: In contrast to the staggering number of Blue-winged Warblers, the only Golden-wingeds were a male at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 19 May singing the alternate song, and a male singing the typical song 10–11 May in Lakewood, *Jefferson* (MAM, KS).

Tennessee Warbler: Twelve were reported this spring, including four in Lamar 6–18 May (BKP) and two at Amherst, *Phillips*, on 11 May (DAL). Others were seen in *Kiowa*, *El Paso*, *Larimer*, and *Weld*.

Nashville Warbler: The eight spring reports fell between 25 April and 25 May. The first of the season was at Trinidad, *Las Animas* (TL). The species was also recorded in *Bent*, *Crowley*, *El Paso*, and *Kit Carson*; the latter county hosted the last of the season at Flagler SWA (DF).

Northern Parula: We received reports of about 13 individuals. Records fell between 8 April at FLWE (BKP, m. ob.) and 22 May at Lykin's Gulch

(JH – banded). Percival and others saw five on 22 April in *Bent* and *Prowers*.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: All four birds seen this spring were males. Andrew Spencer reported the first at Lake Henry on 6 May. The others were singing birds at Lamar High School on 10 May (BKP, m. ob.), Neenoshe Reservoir on 11 May (BKP, m. ob.), and at FLWE on 18 May (BKP et al.).

Magnolia Warbler: Seven Magnolia Warblers were reported this season including combinations of a male and a female each at CVCG 18–25 May (m. ob.) and at Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo*, on 19 and 20 May (TL, TRS, CLW, m. ob.). Singles were seen at Neenoshe Reservoir, *Kiowa*, on 11 May (BKP), Chatfield Reservoir on 15 May (AS), and near Colorado City, *Pueblo*, 16 May (CLW).

Cape May Warbler: A female feeding alongside a Blackpoll Warbler in a spruce at the Burlington Cemetery, *Kit Carson*, on 13 May (CLW) would provide a first for the county, pending acceptance.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: CVCG hosted the only Black-throated Blue of the spring, a male on 18 May that was enjoyed by many observers (LS, TL).

Black-throated Gray Warbler: Records away from the breeding grounds included a male at Van's Grove on 18 April (BKP), a male at LCC 22 April (BKP, MJ, TL, LS), two at Lake Henry on 6 May (RO, JK, AS), and a male at Dixon Reservoir on 16 May (DAL).

Black-throated Green Warbler: The only report was of a male at FLWE 2–6 May (RO, m. ob.).

Townsend's Warbler: Males were seen at LCC on 22 April (TL, MJ, BKP, LS), at Willow Creek Park on 4 May (BKP, m. ob.), and at Hasty Campground, *Bent*, 6–8 May (BKP, m. ob.).

Hermit Warbler: A well-described singing male at Upper Queens Reservoir on 6 April (BKP, MJ) provided *Kiowa* with its first record of this very rare Colorado migrant. Observers are cautioned to carefully eliminate Townsend's × Hermit Warbler hybrids (see Eckert 2001), which are regularly encountered in the northern part of Hermit's range. Given the more northerly distribution of hybrids, it would seem that these birds are as likely to peregrinate to Colorado as are pure Hermit Warblers.

Blackburnian Warbler: Four reports fell tightly between 18 and 27 May, with the first at Dixon Reservoir (DAL). Despite being heard by many, a singing male at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, was very uncooperative and only seen by Wood (CLW, MJ, TRS, VT, m. ob.). CVCG played host to one on 24 May (SME). The highlight of a minor fallout on 25 May at Flagler SWA was a Blackburnian described as an adult female

(DF). Two days later a male was reported from the same location (IS). Given the rarity of the species, it seems most likely that these reports pertain to the same individual. *Correctly* aging and sexing birds in the field can be exceedingly difficult and often requires close views. Observers are encouraged to be cautious in reporting the sex and age of birds without close views under a variety of good light conditions.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Kellner found the only bird of the season at Lake Holbrook on 11 May; it remained through the 12th (BKP, m. ob.).

Prairie Warbler: Three were seen this spring, a female at Lake Holbrook 6–7 May (AS, m. ob) and individuals at Prewitt Reservoir on 9 May (SMe) and Franktown, *Douglas*, on 29 May (HK).

Palm Warbler: All individuals reported this spring were of the western race, *palmarum*. Palms were seen on 2 May at Lake Holbrook (MI, JF, TL), 3–5 May at Two Buttes SWA (MI, JF, TL, m. ob.), and at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 19 May (SMe, m. ob.).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Brown found the only Bay-breasted this spring in Colorado at CVCG on 16 May (RO–ph.).

Blackpoll Warbler: Roughly 16 Blackpolls were recorded 4–25 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: Only ten were reported 15 April–20 May.

American Redstart: Roughly 17 were reported away from nesting locales in the state 8–21 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: Five reports fell between 22 April and 13 May. The most unusual was from Estes Park on 13 May (SR). A female videoed at LCC on 22 April (MJ, BKP, SO, TL, LS–video) was rather early for this species. Other reports were of single birds at Lake Henry 2–7 May (JBH), Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 10 May (DSi), and a male at Wray City Park on 12 May (CLW).

Worm-eating Warbler: Six were reported this spring, 22 April – 18 May. Percival and Janos found the first at FLWE on 22 April. Most others were reported from the southeast quarter of the state, including the other *Bent* report, from Wood Thrush Grove, on 18 May (BKP et al.), one at LCC on 8 May (BKP et al.), one at Neenoshe Reservoir on 10 May (VT), and one at Two Buttes SWA on 11 May (JK et al.). The only other report was of one at CVCG on 16 May (SR, JW).

Ovenbird: Eight were recorded, 6–20 May, from six counties away from their Colorado breeding grounds.

Northern Waterthrush: Fifteen were reported from seven counties between 3 and 20 May. Wood and Leukering recorded the high count for the species this spring with five at Chatfield SP on 15 May.

Kentucky Warbler: A great find for the West Slope was a singing Kentucky Warbler near Uravan, *Montrose*, on 30 May (CD, BW). One east of Ft. Lyon on 14 April (SO) was incredibly early. The only bird that fit

within the expected timing of this species was one at Neenoshe on 11 May (AS, JK).

Connecticut Warbler: A female was observed at the Last Chance rest stop as it walked up a small branch on 27 May (CLW). Despite much searching, other observers could not relocate the bird later in the day. This is among the latest migrant warblers and this date fits well with the pattern of vagrancy.

Mourning Warbler: Part of the massive fallout at Chico Basin Ranch, an adult male in *Pueblo*, 19–20 May, provided the only report this spring (TRS, CLW, TL, m. ob.).

Hooded Warbler: This species put on a good show this spring with six individuals reported. The first arrivals were on 22 April with a male at FLWE (BKP, MJ, TL, LS, m. ob.) and a female at LCC (MJ, BKP, TL, LS, m. ob.). Other reports included males at Two Buttes SWA on 3 May (MI, TL, JF) and at CVCG on 18 May (LS, TL) and females near Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, 19 May (CLW et al.), and at Ft. Lyon on 20 May (LS).

Summer Tanager: Six were reported this season 28 April – 19 May. Kolokoff found the first of the season at Van's Grove on 28 April. Others included two at Lamar (BKP), one at Hasty (BKP), one at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso* (CLW), and one at Rock Canyon, *Pueblo*, the latter on 17 May.

Brewer's Sparrow: Birds seen on 22 April near Higbee Cemetery (TL, LS) and in *Bent* (TL, LS) were early, but Leatherman came up with a record-early arrival on 5 April at Higbee Cemetery.

Black-throated Sparrow: Two singing south of Higbee on 23 March were early (BKP et al.). Effort should be made to determine the arrival dates for this species on both slopes as, contra A&R, they are certainly in before early May.

Lark Bunting: Leukering found the first for the year at Karval SWA, *Lincoln*, on 26 April.

McCown's Longspur: Kellner found a male and a female at Chatfield SP, *Douglas*, on 8 April. There are very few previous Front Range records.

Lapland Longspur: Rare along the Front Range, Kellner found two on 11 March at Chatfield SP, *Jefferson*.

Northern Cardinal: This Christmas-card denizen enlivened birding at LCC where up to two birds were present all season (m. ob.). Others were found in *Bent*, including a female at Lake Hasty on 5 May (TL, BKP, LS, MJ) and in an isolated woodlot on 18 May (CLW et al.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: This was an amazing spring for this species in the eastern half of the state, where the species showed up in large

numbers and was found in at least 14 counties. The high count reported was of eleven birds along the Arkansas River Valley on 18 May (CLW, BKP, MJ, TRS).

Lazuli Bunting: The first report of the season was on 22 April in *Bent* (LS, TL).

Rusty Blackbird: One was found at a feedlot east of Boulder, *Boulder*, on 3 March (LS, TL, though the bird was found by others). A female was present 8 April at Chatfield SP, *Douglas* (AS, JK).

Great-tailed Grackle: This species was widely reported in eastern Colorado. A pair in Edwards, *Eagle*, was probably the same pair as was present last year (JMe).

Baltimore Oriole: A migrant male was seen at the Texaco Grove in Burlington, *Kit Carson*, on 13 May (CLW). Despite the lack of records in A&R, the species is probably annual in the county.

Cassin's Finch: Up to 20 were feeding on Siberian elm seeds at Higbee, 5–22 April (DAL, TL, LS).

Red Crossbill: Out of season was an individual at Lamar Cemetery on 12 May (BKP).

Evening Grosbeak: Merchant noted that the species was scarce in *Eagle*. By contrast, late, lingering, birds were widely noted on the southeastern plains, often foraging on Siberian elm seeds (TL). Late reports included 195 at Higbee on 22 April (TL, LS), three adult males at Trinidad on 25 April (TL), one at Two Buttes SWA on 4 May (BKP), and five at Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo*, on 13 May (TL, SY).

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR RONALD A. RYDER AWARD

On February 25, 1995, the CFO Board of Directors passed a resolution establishing the Ronald A. Ryder Award and presenting the first of these awards to Dr. Ryder. The award was presented to Dr. Ryder for distinguished service to the Colorado Field Ornithologists organization and goals, for scholarly contribution to Colorado Field Ornithology, and for sharing knowledge of Colorado field ornithology with the people of the state. These criteria were established as those which would govern presentation of the award to others in the future. Recipients of the Ronald A. Ryder award are presented a plaque at the annual CFO convention and are granted a life-time membership in the organization. Details are published in the *Journal*, and that issue features a cover photograph of the award recipient.

The award, which is presented when nominations have been presented to and recommended by the Awards Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, has been presented to three distinguished members of the Colorado birding community since that time: Harold R. Holt, Hugh E. Kingery, and Bob Righter.

Members of CFO are encouraged to submit nominations for the award. Nominations may be submitted to Rich Levad, chair of the Awards Committee, by U.S. mail or via e-mail (addresses are printed on the inside of the front cover). Nominations should include a full description of the nominee's contributions to the Colorado Field Ornithologists and to Colorado field ornithology.

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A BIT OF *JCFO* HISTORY

10 Years Ago in the Journal...

Bill Howe and Dave Leatherman presented (with photos) a springtime discovery of a Swainson's Warbler in Fort Collins

15 Years Ago in the Journal...

Hugh & Urling Kingery and Bob Righter described a Great Horned Owl, apparently blind in one eye, capturing a garter snake late one morning

20 Years Ago in the Journal...

Bruce Webb reported on a banded Steller's Jay that wandered from Boulder to Huerfano County, a few miles north of the New Mexico line—a journey of about 215 miles

30 Years Ago in the Journal...

Orville Markham offered the odd story of an aggressive Blue Grouse, which landed on vehicles and chased people on the Mount Evans road