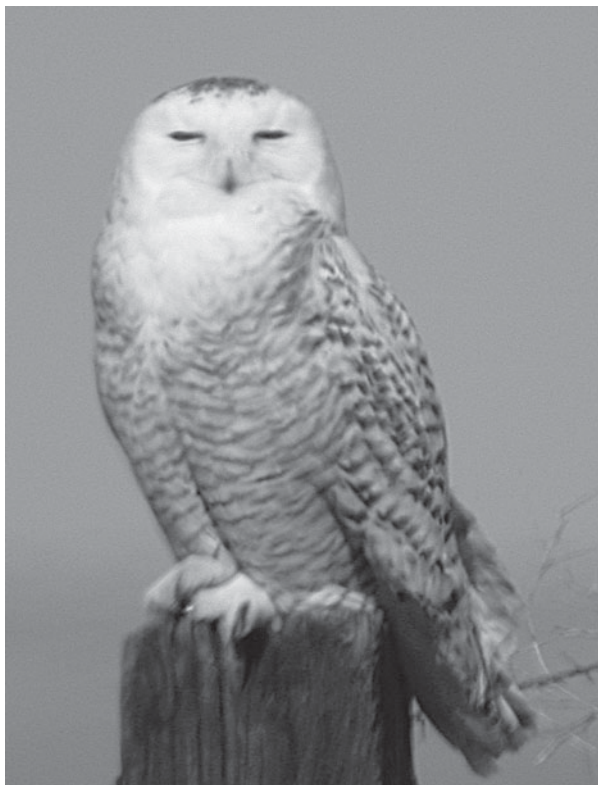

Journal of the

Colorado Field Ornithologists

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly



**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.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Doug Faulkner

This is more of a plea than an actual letter. The *Journal* is in need of “filler”, that is, photos, drawings, etc. that can be used to fill in empty spaces. You may notice that the same individuals are credited with photos in the past several issues. This is not a case of favoritism, it’s just that those are the only members who have submitted photos. I encourage anyone with an “eye for the canvas” or photography to send their stuff in. They don’t even have to be of rare birds, common ones are just as interesting (and photogenic). Who knows? Yours could be the next front cover.

And while I’m at it, the *Journal* needs articles too! Full-length scientific papers are of great interest to many and increase everyone’s overall understanding of avian natural history. However, let’s be honest, they aren’t that much fun to read. If you have an interesting encounter, birding trip, or experience pertaining to Colorado ornithology, please send it in. This *Journal* is about the birds of Colorado, so anything is fair game.

Thank you.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

September 28, 2002 Wyoming’s Fall Migrants - Join Doug Faulkner to visit some of southern Wyoming’s migrant hotspots. Sites we’ll visit include Wyoming Hereford Ranch and Lion’s Park, both in the Cheyenne area. This trip will be half-day (maybe longer if the birding is good) and is for serious birders only. Be prepared for wind. Meet Doug at the Fort Collins Welcome Center at 6 A.M. (Exit 268 of I-25, Prospect Road). Group size is limited to 10 participants. Carpooling will be mandatory since parking is limited at some locations. Doug will continue birding the south-central WY reservoirs the next day and welcomes additional company. To reserve a spot for this trip or for more information, please e-mail Doug at pomjaeger@aol.com.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Original Howard Rollin bird paintings are available. These 78 paintings were completed during the 1930-60s and are one-of-a-kind. Sizes vary from 5"x7" to 9"x12", unframed. Please contact Joe Rigli for more information at 970-483-5200 or 6877 County Road 14, Fort Morgan, CO 80701.

CFO BOARD MINUTES

Sherry P. Chapman, Secretary

The regular quarterly meeting of the C.F.O. Board of Directors was held on Saturday, April 13, 2002 at the Silverthorne Library, Silverthorne, CO with the Vice-President in the chair and the Secretary being present. Board members attending: Raymond Davis, Cheryl Day, Doug Faulkner, Warren Finch, Rachel Hopper, and Tony Leukering. The minutes of the prior meeting were approved as read.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Norm Lewis reported that Dave Leatherman has agreed to lead a field trip in early June in the Fort Collins area. The trip will center on birds, bugs and owls. Doug Faulkner volunteered to lead a trip to Wyoming in September.

Norm requested the ratification of two votes taken via e-mail in March. Sherry Chapman moved the ratification of the vote to request the resignation of Mark Janos. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Rachel Hopper moved to ratify the vote to send a letter of protest to the Canon City Chamber of Commerce regarding their plans to build soccer fields close to the riparian areas of the city's River Walk. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sherry Chapman reported for BB Hahn that our current assets are \$37,305.07. A detailed report is on file with the minutes. She mentioned that the figure is probably higher than normal due to convention registration fees that have been received recently.

COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Tony Leukering reported that old (prior to 1995) jaeger sighting records are almost finished being circulated.

JOURNAL EDITOR

Doug Faulkner reported that the April issue of the *JCFO* includes the reports that were accepted by the CRBC for the year 2000. The next issue of the *Journal* will include the revised CBRC Bylaws and revised parameters for submitting records.

Warren Finch has prepared a map and bird list of Belmar Park which Rachel Hopper suggested putting on the website. Additionally, Warren and Doug will

work together to prepare it for inclusion in the *Journal*.

MEMBERSHIP

Ray Davis reported that membership currently stands at 346 with eight new membership applications received during the previous week. He is expecting ten additional renewals within the next couple of weeks.

WEBSITE

The COBIRDS listserve currently has 561 users. Rachel has arranged for BB Hahn to act as an additional administrator in Rachel's absence.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Norm Lewis reported for Bob Spencer that Peter Gent has agreed to serve as CFO's next president. The nominating committee will present the following slate for election at the Durango annual meeting: President - Peter Gent, Vice-President - Norm Lewis, Secretary - Sherry Chapman, Treasurer - BB Hahn, and Directors - Cheryl Day and Sharon Dooley.

Raymond Davis moved that the Board waive the term limitation for BB Hahn as Treasurer for one additional term subject to reconsideration by the Board of the term limitations in the Bylaws. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2002 Convention - The Board agreed that anyone interested in attending only the banquet in Durango must pay the convention registration fee.

JCFO Index - The *Index* has been printed and Raymond Davis will mail copies to institutions. Copies will be available for sale at the convention and via the website.

NEW BUSINESS

2003 Convention - The Board voted to hold the 2003 Convention in Silverthorne from Friday, June 6 through Sunday, June 8. Several possible speakers were suggested with Dr. Van Remsen being the first choice.

August Board Meeting - The next meeting of the CFO Board of Directors will be held on August 17, 2002 at 11:00 A.M. at the home of Rachel Hopper in Ft. Collins.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 P.M.

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE REVIEW LIST

Lawrence S. Semo
Secretary, CBRC
SWCA
8461 Turnpike Drive, Ste. 100
Westminster, CO 80031

Tony Leukering
Chair, CBRC
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
14500 Lark Bunting Lane
Brighton, CO 80603

Joanne E. Stewart
9054 Dover Street
Westminster, CO 80021

Introduction

Per the requirements of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (CBRC), the following report details recent changes to the state list of review birds, effective 1 January 2002. Due to changing occurrence patterns and sufficient records, some species have been removed from the main statewide review list. Clarification on where or when documentation is required for other species listed on a conditional review list is provided.

History of the State Review List

Colorado is a state juxtaposed between various biogeographic regions of latitude, longitude, and elevation, that provide many different habitats. This medley of habitats provides for a large and varied avifauna. The potential for a large array of species occurrence in the state, especially occasional vagrant occurrences, was cause for difficulties in establishing and maintaining an accurate record of the measure of frequency for many species in Colorado. It was through the creativity and foresight of a corps of Colorado birders in the early 1970s that a formal state records committee was chartered.

Prior to the establishment of the CBRC (formerly entitled Colorado Field Ornithologists' Official Records Committee) on 20 May 1972, substantiation of observations was quite partisan as no protocol for documenting sightings had been established. Prior to establishment, Jack Reddall, in an 11 October 1971 letter to other future CBRC members, stated, "I am not satisfied with the

definition set forth.... I consider it far too general and I am afraid it will create far too many reports for the [future] Committee to concern itself with." Once the CBRC was instituted, Mr. Reddall initiated the process of establishing an official review list through a 6 June 1972 letter to other CBRC members in which he stated, "I would request each of you to submit to me your ideas of what should constitute an unusual report or record....one that the committee should concern itself with." The purpose of the CBRC was to provide an official state bird list based on known specimens, photographs, and narrative descriptions.

In addition to the evaluation of first state records, the CBRC was also responsible for providing a list of accidental or unusual species and review reported occurrences of those species in Colorado. This main review list was used to develop a foundation of status and distribution in the state. Prior to 1972, the state review list was arbitrary and the only records reviewed (via seasonal report editors) were general at best.

The original CBRC, chaired by the late Jack Reddall, initially addressed three categories of species recorded in the state (19 November 1972 letter from Mr. Reddall to CBRC members): 1) published reports from specimens accepted by Bailey and Niedrach (1965); 2) sight or photographic reports accepted by Bailey and Niedrach (1965); and 3) sight/photographic reports from all other published sources or verbal reports. Mr. Reddall proposed that "the first five records of a species occurring in Colorado should be judged by the official records committee.... Furthermore, I propose that we publish a list of those species which have been recorded [fewer] than 100 times in CO and encourage reports of these species be submitted to the committee for judgement.... Should the 100 mark prove to be too unmanageable, we can revise the list of species downward to suit the needs of the committee." Most CBRC members responded (through various letters to Mr. Reddall) that a threshold of 100 occurrences was too weighty for both CBRC members to review and observers to document, and that proposal was subsequently rejected. The task of reviewing documentation for species under that original proposed criterion would virtually be a full-time position, unless observers opted not to document that many species.

Based upon replies from CBRC members, a formal list of state review species was ultimately established through a combination of objective and subjective means. Subsequent changes to that main state review list, and methodology for selecting that criterion, is somewhat clouded from that point onward. In a 29 June 1975 letter from Jack Reddall to Glen Mahler (the charter Chair of the New Jersey records committee), it was indicated that the Colorado charter committee established the official list of review species during its annual

meeting in 1973. In that letter, Mr. Reddall mentions that the review list generally includes species recorded 15 times or fewer. Presumably, this threshold was a result of the previous canvassing of the CBRC members. We know that at the first CBRC meeting, held in Durango, the committee screened the original list of 119 species that occur casually or accidentally in Colorado and for which documentation was required. They approved a revised list of 97 species, which would be so noted on the official state list.

In establishing the first state records committee, it was decreed that future committees should continue to evaluate the state review list, adjusting the list as warranted. The reasons for change would be to add species for which documentation is desired by the CBRC or delete species for which sufficient documentation had been received and that were no longer considered rare or unusual. Being able to change the review list is important, as both bird distribution and abundance change through time.

The first revision to the state review list was in 1977, a mere five years after construction of the initial list. Following the establishment of the original CBRC and an increase in the number of documentations received, the number of accepted records for many species had exceeded the list criterion of 15, though the species were still considered rare in the state and ultimately remained on the state review list. Therefore, the list criterion was changed to include all species that had been recorded 20 times or fewer.

That 20-record threshold apparently remained in place until the early 1990s. Due to rapid turnover in CBRC members during the early 1990s, little information regarding committee affairs was published or archived. However, about 1993, the CBRC again revised the state list. That revision, which was valid through 2001, reflected the status of species in a more temporally discrete fashion. That CBRC chose to base the review list on those species that occurred in the state less than an average of three times per year over the most recent ten-year period. This allowed for deletion of certain species from the review list in which accepted records were increasing dramatically and actual documentation for such species was decreasing due to observers' disinterest in documenting species that were becoming quite "common." The current CBRC continues to use this criterion as a guideline for species to remain on the list. However, some species may remain on the list even if the occurrence record exceeds the guideline. Although no deletions to the state review list occurred during the last 30 years, several species were added to the list as the state's birders found many new state records.

2002 Amendments to the State Review List

An agenda item presented during the annual CBRC meeting on 9 February 2002 (Leukering and Wood 2002) was to discuss the state review list as it had become unwieldy. Documentation for some review species was rarely submitted, despite numerous reports of those species being seen. Even CBRC members commented that, due to time constraints and relative “abundance” of some species on the review list, they rarely submitted documentation for such species anymore. A quorum of committee members met a second time on 3 March 2002: Tony Leukering, Ric Olson, Karleen Schofield, Larry Semo, and Chris Wood, along with out-going member and long-time Colorado birder, Peter Gent. Though unable to attend, Brandon Percival did provide comments on the review list for discussion in the meeting.

Main Statewide Review List

The CBRC investigated many species on the main review list to determine if their status as a review species was still warranted. The guideline of an average of at least three records per year over a ten-year period was used to evaluate whether any species had met that threshold and could possibly be removed from the review list. The CBRC used the sample period 1990-99 to determine the number of species that met the criterion and were thus candidates for removal from the list. Though meeting that threshold was an indicator that the species could be removed, other factors played a part in whether a species was ultimately removed from the list. Such factors included recent increases in the number of records that may be attributed to a periodic anomalous flux in populations, willingness of observers to document the species, and problems of identification between very similar species. A few species were removed from the main review list because there were sufficient accepted records, though most were added to a conditional list (see below). There was debate over whether additional species should be eliminated from the list. There are sufficient accepted records for a number of species to average about two records/year over the previous ten years. Many of these are actually reported at higher rates, but submissions did not achieve a higher rate, thus most of these were retained. A slightly higher submission rate for these species would enable the CBRC to remove them from the review list. We strongly encourage all observers to submit documentation for such species to effect that change, *even if the records are from past years.*

Table 1 details the new main review list, along with the total number of accepted records and the number of records accepted in the period 1990-1999. All occurrences of the species listed in Table 1 should be documented. Required documentation for two species, Little Blue Heron and Short-billed Dowitcher, have been limited. In the future, only juvenile Little Blue Herons

and adult Short-billed Dowitchers need to be documented. Species removed from the statewide main review list include Red-necked Grebe, Black Scoter, Black Rail, Ruddy Turnstone, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Spotted Owl, Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Carolina Wren, Prothonotary Warbler, and Worm-eating Warbler. In addition, Tundra Swan and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were added to the main review list. In the case of the swan, an increase in Trumpeter Swan sightings (which causes identification problems) and an apparent decrease in Tundra Swan observations over the past years led to its inclusion. The CBRC has always believed Yellow-bellied Sapsucker to be quite rare in the state. Despite the annual occurrence of birds in Pueblo, the species remains very difficult to locate in Colorado. Most species removed from the main statewide list have been placed on the conditional list which describes particular areas where documentation will still be required. Two species, Black Scoter and Ruddy Turnstone have been totally removed from all state review lists. Unless special circumstances warrant review (i.e., extraordinary numbers or a bizarre location or season), the CBRC will not require documentation, though a dramatic decline in occurrences could cause a species to be added to the review list.

Table 1. Main CBRC statewide review list with total number of accepted records through 1999 and total number of records accepted during the 1990s.

Species	Total # of accepted records	Total # of accepted records (1990-99)
Red-throated Loon	25	15
Yellow-billed Loon	14	9
Brown Pelican	12	11
Neotropic Cormorant	11	4
Anhinga	2	1
Least Bittern	15	1
Little Blue Heron ¹	33	14
Tricolored Heron	16	4
Reddish Egret	4	3
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	13	9
White Ibis	2	1
Glossy Ibis	20	17
Roseate Spoonbill	1	0
Wood Stork	3	0
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	1	1
"Atlantic" Brant	2	2

Species	Total # of accepted records	Total # of accepted records (1990-99)
"Black" Brant	8	5
Trumpeter Swan	18	11
Tundra Swan	0	0
Eurasian Wigeon	22	9
American Black Duck	16	9
Garganey	2	2
Tufted Duck	1	1
Harlequin Duck	4	0
Swallow-tailed Kite	4	2
Common Black-Hawk	2	1
Harris's Hawk	3	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	14	8
Zone-tailed Hawk	1	1
Crested Caracara	1	1
Gyr Falcon	9	7
Ruffed Grouse	2	1
Yellow Rail	1	0
King Rail	2	0
Purple Gallinule	1	0
Common Moorhen	7	2
Whooping Crane	3	1
Eskimo Curlew	2	0
Hudsonian Godwit	23	10
Red Knot	16	6
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	2	0
Curlew Sandpiper	1	1
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	21	6
Ruff	1	0
Short-billed Dowitcher ²	25	12
American Woodcock	4	1
Red Phalarope	20	8
Pomarine Jaeger ³	11	5
Parasitic Jaeger ³	18	2
Long-tailed Jaeger ³	6	5
Laughing Gull	23	11
Little Gull	20	10
Black-headed Gull	3	2
Mew Gull	20	16
Iceland Gull	1	1

Species	Total # of accepted records	Total # of accepted records (1990-99)
Slaty-backed Gull ⁴	0	0
Glaucous-winged Gull	7	4
Great Black-backed Gull ⁵	18	13
Black-legged Kittiwake	23	10
Ross's Gull	1	0
Ivory Gull	1	0
Royal Tern	1	1
Arctic Tern	7	5
Long-billed Murrelet	2	1
Ancient Murrelet	4	2
White-winged Dove	23	16
Inca Dove	7	7
Common Ground-Dove	4	2
Black-billed Cuckoo	13	1
Groove-billed Ani	4	0
Snowy Owl	9	2
Barred Owl	1	0
Lesser Nighthawk	13	11
Whip-poor-will	9	2
Green Violet-ear	1	1
Blue-throated Hummingbird	12	5
Magnificent Hummingbird	6	3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3	3
Anna's Hummingbird	7	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	0
Eastern Wood-Pewee	17	7
Alder Flycatcher	10	4
Buff-breasted Flycatcher	1	1
Vermilion Flycatcher	15	4
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	1	0
Thick-billed Kingbird	1	1
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	12	8
Blue-headed Vireo	5	4
Philadelphia Vireo	21	8
Sedge Wren	15	6
Gray-cheeked Thrush	32	20
Wood Thrush	15	4
Varied Thrush	13	5
Long-billed Thrasher	2	1

Species	Total # of accepted records	Total # of accepted records (1990-99)
Bendire's Thrasher	7	2
Sprague's Pipit	5	2
Phainopepla	9	3
"Brewster's" Warbler	1	1
Lucy's Warbler	2	0
Cape May Warbler	21	8
Hermit Warbler	11	6
Blackburnian Warbler	31	15
Yellow-throated Warbler	23	9
Pine Warbler	18	9
Prairie Warbler	17	12
Bay-breasted Warbler	30	8
Cerulean warbler	3	2
"Western" Palm Warbler	1	1
Swainson's Warbler	7	4
Louisiana Waterthrush	4	1
Kentucky Warbler	25	12
Connecticut Warbler	7	5
Mourning Warbler	19	11
Canada Warbler	22	7
Red-faced Warbler	1	1
Painted Redstart	3	0
Scarlet Tanager	18	9
Eastern Towhee	8	6
Baird's Sparrow	8	1
Henslow's Sparrow	2	0
Le Conte's Sparrow	8	5
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	2	0
"Red" Fox Sparrow	2	2
Golden-crowned Sparrow	12	6
Pyrrhuloxia	3	2
Painted Bunting	17	11
Eastern Meadowlark	7	1
Bronzed Cowbird	1	1
Brambling	2	0
Purple Finch	30	10

¹ Only records of juveniles need be documented.² Only records of adults need be documented.

³ The CBRC is currently reviewing all Colorado jaeger records up to 1995. We strongly suspect that the number of accepted records, particularly for Parasitic Jaeger, will be changed downward.

⁴ Slaty-backed Gull is accepted to the state list, though the only accepted record was of the individual in 2000. Thus, the species is listed with no accepted records.

⁵ The numerous annual occurrences of the returning individual at Cherry Creek and Pueblo Reservoirs are currently each counted as separate occurrences. The CBRC will be re-reviewing these records to determine the number of actual different records of the species in the state. Thus, the number of accepted records will be revised downward.

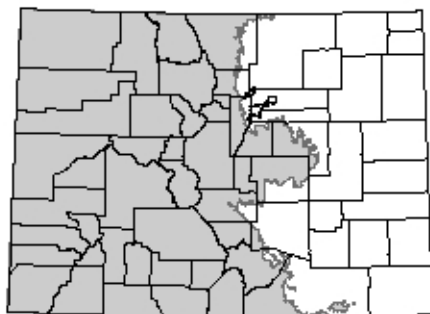
Conditional Review List

One of the salient topics regarding revising the state review list was to remove areas of subjectivity, wherever possible, for observations of species that are not necessarily rare to the entire state but are unusual to certain areas (e.g., species that are regular on the West Slope but rare in eastern Colorado). Areas warranting documentation were also noted for species that are regular in localized areas but are rare outside those areas. A Chihuahuan Raven in Weld County warrants documentation and Snow Bunting is extraordinarily rare in La Plata County. Furthermore, the CBRC felt that documentation should not be required for species that breed in the state annually, though they might be found in only a few locations (e.g., Black Rail, Spotted Owl, and Acorn Woodpecker), provided the occurrences fit known patterns (e.g., the Arkansas River valley in Bent and Otero counties for Black Rail). Previously, there were no definitions provided for those types of occurrences and it was up to the CBRC Chair to request documentation. Hopefully, defining the areas in which certain species should be documented in the state will alleviate potential biases of various CBRC Chairs and will allow for a standard approach and understanding by both observers and CBRC members.

For ease in defining the areas in which documentation is required for certain species, the CBRC established a code-based system. The following definitions are provided as strong guidelines for documenting rare birds in Colorado. Though seemingly complicated, we believe that the system will assist both local and traveling birders to understand the complex distribution patterns of Colorado's avifauna. Future printed checklists of the birds of Colorado will note a letter code behind those species for which documentation is required with these definitions also provided on that checklist. A definition of each code, its corresponding map, and a list of all species to which that code applies is found below.

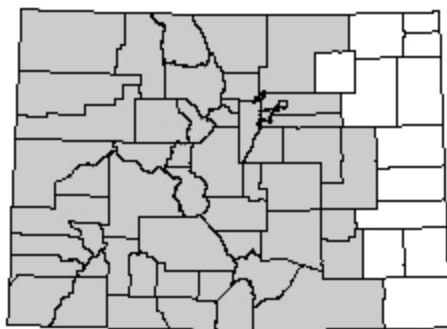
Code A – Code A species are those on the main statewide review list. All observations within the state should be documented (see Table 1).

Code B – The Code B area is Colorado west of the Front Range 6000-foot elevation contour, as shaded on the following map.



Code B species - Pacific Loon, Broad-winged Hawk, American Golden-Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Whimbrel, White-rumped Sandpiper, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Chimney Swift, Red-headed Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Winter Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, "Western" Palm Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Cassin's Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, McCown's Longspur, Lapland Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Northern Cardinal, Dickcissel, Rusty Blackbird, and Orchard Oriole.

Code C – The Code C area is Colorado west of Logan, Morgan, Washington, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Bent, and Baca counties, as shaded on the following map.

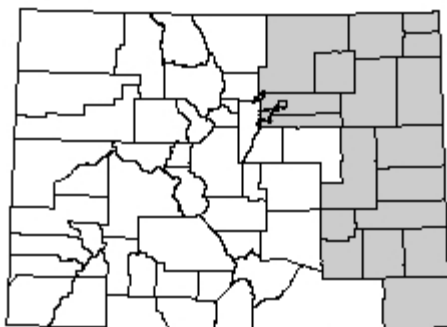


Code C species - Red-bellied Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo (*including* Morgan County), "Eastern" White-breasted Nuthatch (*including* Morgan County), Field Sparrow (*excluding* Otero County), and Baltimore Oriole.

Code D – The Code D area is species-specific. For each species, occurrences outside of the known range should be documented. "Known range" is currently defined by Andrews and Righter (1992), any additions provided by the Breeding Bird Atlas (Kingery 1998), and recently published records of significant changes in our knowledge of those species' ranges within the state.

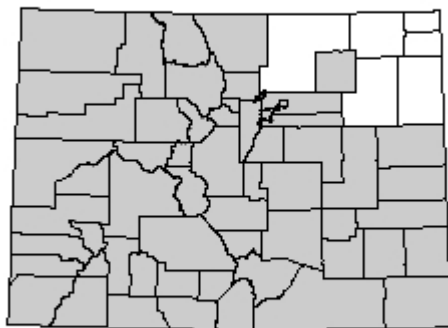
Code D species - Mississippi Kite, Black Rail, Snowy Plover, Piping Plover, Least Tern, Eurasian Collared-Dove (locations/towns with no accepted records only), Western Screech-Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Spotted Owl, Boreal Owl, Gray Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Chihuahuan Raven (*excluding* Fremont, Pueblo, and El Paso counties), Canyon Wren, Bewick's Wren, Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, and Scott's Oriole.

Code E – The Code E area is Colorado east of the Front Range counties of Larimer, Boulder, Jefferson, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Pueblo, and Las Animas, as shaded on the following map.



Code E species - Band-tailed Pigeon, Flammulated Owl, Black Swift, White-throated Swift, Williamson's Sapsucker, Three-toed Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker, Common Raven (*excluding* Baca County and westernmost Weld County west of U.S. Highway 85), Pygmy Nuthatch, American Dipper, Western Bluebird, Sage Sparrow, "Slate-colored" Fox Sparrow, all rosy-finches, Pine Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, White-winged Crossbill, Lesser Goldfinch.

Code F – The Code F area is Colorado *except* Weld, Logan, Washington, Sedgwick, Phillips. and Yuma counties. as shaded on the following map.



Code F species - Snow Bunting and Common Redpoll (*excluding* Boulder and Larimer counties)

Special-Case Birds

The following species have ranges that do not encompass the entire state and also do not correspond to the coded regions above. Documentation areas are:

Mountain Plover - west of Continental Divide

Acorn Woodpecker - all areas of the state except for the known Durango sites

Black Phoebe - all areas except known breeding areas along the San Miguel River in Montezuma County and the St. Charles River in Pueblo County

Purple Martin - east of Continental Divide

Hepatic Tanager - outside of Las Animas County and known Ft. Carson site

"White-winged" Junco - west of the Front Range counties of Larimer, Boulder, Gilpin, Clear Creek, Park, Fremont, Custer, Huerfano, and Las Animas

Acknowledgments

It was through the thoughts and ideas of all CBRC members that this revised review list was made possible. We wish to thank Jennifer Chester for assistance in graphics preparation.

Literature Cited

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- Kingery, H.E., ed. 1998. Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas. Colorado Bird Atlas Partnership and Colorado Division of Wildlife. Denver, CO.
- Leukering, T. L. and C. L. Wood. 2002. Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee: 2000 Records. *J. of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 36: 82-113.





Greater Scaup. Photo by Tony Leukering.

A BIT OF *JCFO* HISTORY

10 Years Ago in the Journal...

A copy of the Grand Valley Audubon Society's Mesa County Bird Check List was printed in the *Journal*.

15 Years Ago in the Journal...

Janet Schreur reported on an albino Eared Grebe found at Russell Lakes SWA and provided an overview of albinism in birds.

20 Years Ago in the Journal...

Bruce Webb provided a detailed look at the distribution and nesting requirements of the Northern Pygmy-Owl and Boreal Owl in Colorado.

30 Years Ago in the Journal...

Van Remsen reviewed identification challenges for some similarly-looking species possible in Colorado.

2001 BREEDING BIRD SURVEY OF THE POUDE RIVER CORRIDOR, LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

Nicholas Komar¹, Phil Friedman, Joseph LaFleur, Jeff Stark, and Alex Cringan

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Introduction

The Cache La Poudre River ("Poudre River") flows 114 miles from its alpine source in Rocky Mountain National Park, Larimer County, through several ecological zones -subalpine, montane, foothills and plains -until it merges with the South Platte River in Weld County. Shortly after entering the plains ecological zone, the river flows through the urban zone of Fort Collins.

Fort Collins is the center of a burgeoning metropolitan area of more than 236,000 people, with rapid growth of urban and residential development reflecting an annual population growth of 3.9% (U.S. Census Bureau 1999). This growth threatens existing natural areas, including the riparian corridor along the Poudre River.

In order to help document the diverse avian community that relies on the habitats of the Poudre River corridor, we designed and implemented a survey of birds utilizing the Poudre River corridor during the June breeding season. The results of this survey are presented in this document. We hope that these results will support designation of the Poudre River corridor as an Important Bird Area, as defined by the National Audubon Society, as well as provide data to civic officials when considering the potential environmental impact of future development projects adjacent to or within this corridor.

Methods

The survey period was 9-11 June 2001. At each survey site, bird observations were collected between 0500 and 1000 to ensure that bird activity was near maximum. A team of 1-4 observers visited each site. Team leaders are listed as authors of the document (except for Mr. Stark who contributed in other ways); other team participants are listed in the Acknowledgments. Teams recorded all individual birds by species, whether seen or heard, as well as any evidence of attempted nesting ("breeding"). Data on observer effort were collected in a similar way as Christmas Bird Counts. Owling effort was tallied separately. Scientific names for the bird species in this article are available from the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U. 2002).

Evidence for Breeding

Breeding activity codes used in this document are described in Table 1. The following breeding behaviors or observations were considered evidence of confirmed attempted nesting: presence of nestlings or fledglings, nest visitation, occupation or construction, and carriage of food or fecal sacs. Probable attempted nesting was evidenced by territorial behavior, copulation and courtship behavior. Possible attempted nesting was evidenced by observation of singing males. These criteria for confirmed, probable and possible breeding categories follow those used by Kingery (1998).

Table 1. Codes used for describing breeding activity and their descriptions.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Definition</u>
A	Nestlings
B	Fledglings
C	Sitting on nest
D	Building or Visiting Nest
E	Carrying food
F	Carrying fecal sac
G	Territorial behavior (other than singing)
H	Courtship
I	Singing adult
J	Copulation

Site Selection

Sites included in the survey were all natural areas adjacent to the river in eastern Larimer County (Fig. 1). Participants were permitted to count birds throughout, up to each natural area's borders (usually represented by roads, housing developments, etc.). In no instance were counted birds located more than one mile from the river. Sites and approximate area surveyed are listed in Table 2. Poudre Canyon was surveyed along Colorado State Highway 14 from the intersection of U.S. Route 287 west to the intersection of Stove Prairie Rd. (a stretch of 16 miles). The survey along this stretch was conducted by counting birds at 25 stops along this stretch. Owling was conducted only at one location in the foothills ecological zone, a 0.8 mi. stretch of Stove Prairie Rd. extending south from the Poudre River and Highway 14.

Estimating Area Surveyed

Arc/Info 8.02 Unix (ESRI) was used to generate area estimates for each site surveyed. Because of the subjective nature of this type of bird survey, we assume an inherent error of up to 10% associated with these area estimates.

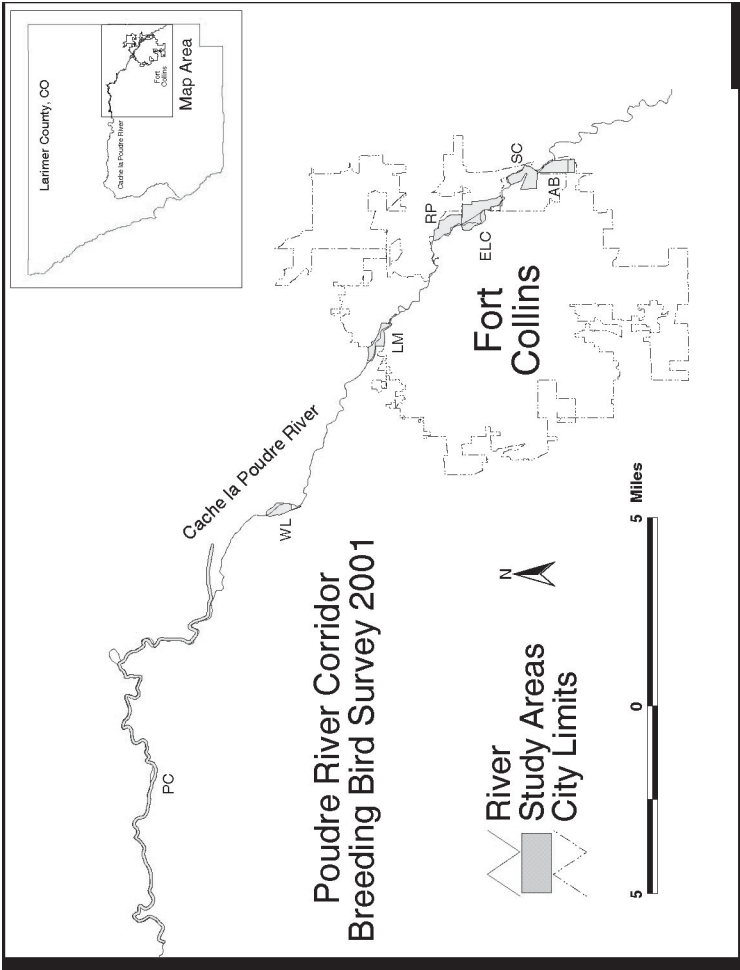


Figure 1. Map of the Poudre River Corridor indicating the sites surveyed in the Fort Collins region. Codes for sites are indicated in Table 2.

Results and Discussion

The survey covered seven locations (Table 2) and one owling site, which detected a Flammulated Owl. Weather was calm each morning, with no precipitation, and temperatures ranged between 55°F and 85°F. A total of 1843 birds were observed, representing 82 species and one hybrid. The number of birds and species seen at each survey location are presented in Table 2. The list of species observed, number of individuals for each by location, and breeding activity codes are compiled in Tables 3-5.

Table 2. Locations surveyed.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Area (ha)</u>	<u># of species</u>	<u>Total # of birds</u>
AB	Arapahoe Bend Natural Area	70	41	298
SC	Strauss Cabin Lakes	80	48	294
ELC	Environmental Learning Center*	130	52	395
RP	Riverbend Ponds Natural Area	70	36	149
LM	Lee Martinez Park/Legacy Park	50	26	243
WL	Watson Lake	40	18	170
PC	Poudre Canyon	320	46	294

*ELC includes Cottonwood Hollow Natural Area and Prospect Ponds Natural Area.

Breeding Birds

Observers compiled evidence of local breeding activity for 47 species, of which 21 were confirmed, 4 probable and 22 possible. The confirmed breeders (Table 3) included the five most abundant birds in the survey: Canada Goose, European Starling, Cliff Swallow, Red-winged Blackbird and American Robin, representing 35% of all the birds tallied. All 21 of these species were known confirmed breeders in Larimer County as of 1995 (Kingery 1998), except for Great-tailed Grackle, which is recorded as possibly or probably breeding in the *Birds of Larimer County, Colorado, Field Check List* (Hurmence and Komar 2001). This rapidly expanding species was first observed nesting in the county near Cobb Lake in Wellington in 2000 (R. Ryder pers. comm.) The nesting Great-tailed Grackles observed during our survey were located at the Environmental Learning Center and the adjacent Cottonwood Hollow Natural Area, where cattails (*Typha* sp.) were used as a nest substrate. This wetland marsh habitat is favored by the Great-tailed Grackle, especially at the periphery of its range in the interior United States (Faanes and Norling 1981).

Of the possible and probable breeders observed in our survey (Table 4), only one has not been confirmed breeding in Larimer County: Orchard Oriole (Kingery 1998). Few Orchard Orioles were recorded, one each at Arapahoe Bend Natural Area, Environmental Learning Center and Riverbend Ponds (all within five miles of Larimer County's eastern boundary). At least one of these singing males was subadult by plumage, although these young adults do breed. Finding this species in plains riparian habitat is not surprising, as these orioles are common in this habitat in neighboring Weld County, where breeding has been confirmed (Kingery 1998).

Non-breeding Birds

Several of the non-breeding birds observed would represent interesting breeding records for Larimer County (and Colorado) if some of these birds in fact bred in the Poudre River Corridor. For example, California Gulls breed at few locations in Colorado (Andrews & Righter 1992; Kingery 1998). In 2000, a few nests at Strauss Cabin Lake (a.k.a. Rigden Reservoir) produced fledglings (observed by Komar and Cringan; Fig. 2). In 2001, in the weeks leading up to this survey, a large colony of California Gulls organized a nesting effort on the island in the middle of Strauss Cabin Lake. Approximately 150 pairs of breeding adults had constructed an undetermined number of active nests, some of which were visible from the observation point to the south on Horsetooth Road. However in the days leading up to the survey, an unknown event led to the killing of several gulls, and the abandonment of the nesting activity. The extended presence of an apparent flock of adult Caspian Terns at the same location in 2001 also led to speculation of breeding activity. The only previous evidence for possible nesting of this species in Colorado was a pair courting in Fort Collins in May and June of 1990 (Andrews and Righter 1992). Up to 11 adults were present at the lake throughout May 2001, and courtship behavior was again observed (N. Komar pers. obs.). Although only 5 birds were observed during the survey, the number of birds reached 14 on June 16, 2001. Confirmed nesting attempts were never discovered.

Several of the non-breeding species observed during the survey are nesting at a heronry at Timnath Reservoir, located only a few miles from the river corridor. These include: Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Snowy Egret and Double-crested Cormorant. Most of the other species observed are probably breeding locally with the exception of several late migrants: Forster's Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo (very rare in Larimer County) and Swainson's Thrush. A few species are regular summer non-breeding residents in the habitats surveyed, including Western and Clark's Grebes (which also have bred at Timnath Reservoir), American White Pelican and Ring-billed Gull.

Whereas it is interesting to consider which unusual birds may be breeding in the Poudre River corridor, it is equally interesting to evaluate which species are not breeding there. For example, what is the status of certain invasive avian species in Colorado, such as exotic species, like Ring-necked Pheasant, Rock Dove, Eurasian Collared-Dove, House Sparrow and European Starling, and native invasive species, such as Canada Goose, Blue Jay, American Crow, Brown-headed Cowbird, Great-tailed Grackle and House Finch? Of the exotics, starlings are abundant (utilizing the large cottonwoods along the river for nest sites), but the others are essentially absent from the river corridor, occupying only the periphery where buildings provide nest sites for Rock Doves and House Sparrows. Rock Doves are also common in the cliffs overhanging the river at Watson Lake. Bridges over the river would provide nest sites as well, although few bridges were included in our survey. Eurasian Collared-Doves had not yet expanded their range into Larimer County (Hurmence and Komar 2001). With the exception of Canada Goose and Brown-headed Cowbird (11% and 2% of all birds observed, respectively), the native invasive species were present in relatively low numbers. House Finches and American Crows apparently prefer more suburban settings for nesting sites.

Observer Effort

The level of observer effort will impact the number of birds observed on a survey of this type. So that future similar surveys may be compared in a standardized fashion, we present the data on observer effort in Table 6. Several expected breeding birds in the region were not observed in 2001, probably due to low observer effort. These species include: Wood Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Virginia Rail, Sora, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift and others.

Summary

We present bird survey data collected during the breeding season of 2001 along the Poudre River corridor of Larimer County. We tallied 82 species (plus 1 hybrid), observed breeding behavior for 47 species, and confirmed nesting activity for 21 species, including Great-tailed Grackle. Relatively large numbers of California Gulls and Caspian Terns observed suggest that the Poudre River corridor may eventually become a new nesting area. We hope that the information collected during this survey will be used as baseline data for future survey work in this important riparian habitat for birds. The Poudre River corridor should be protected and conserved as the metropolitan region of Fort Collins continues rapid expansion.

Acknowledgments

We thank survey participants J. Cringan, D. DuBois, L. Hull, N. Panella, C. Seemueller and R. Vernon; and B. Miller and Ronald A. Ryder for their critical comments on earlier versions of this manuscript; and the JCFO editors and reviewers who assisted in the publication of this manuscript.

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Figure 2. This photo, taken in 2000, shows a California Gull nest with eggs. Photo by A. Cringan.

Table 3. Confirmed breeding species.

Species	Location							Total	Code
	AB	SC	ELC	RP	LM	WL	PC		
Canada Goose	53	30	27	10	55	35		210	B
European Starling	19	8	26	2	100	10	1	166	A,B,D,E,I
Cliff Swallow	55	5	15	25	4	5	6	115	D
American Robin	6	4	21	3	8	1	35	78	C,E,H,I
Red-winged Blackbird	11	15	17	15	15		2	75	E,G,I
Mourning Dove	12	7	16	4	9		4	52	C,H,I
Mallard	11	9	12	10		5	4	51	B
Common Grackle	13	5	10	6	1		5	40	B
Yellow-headed Blackbird			40					40	B,E,I
House Wren	6	7	14	1	1		7	36	D,G,I
Bullock's Oriole	12	3	10	3	2	1	3	34	C,D,H,I
Western Meadowlark	6	2	5	3	3		2	21	D,I
Eastern Kingbird	4	6	7	2			1	20	D,G
House Sparrow	1		8		1			10	A,D
Blue Jay	1		3	3	2			9	D
Cordilleran Flycatcher						1	7	8	D,I
N. Rough-winged Swallow			1	4				5	D
Golden Eagle						3	1	4	B,D
Great-tailed Grackle			4					4	D,E
American Avocet		1		2				3	C
American Dipper							3	3	C,E

Table 4. Possible and probable breeding species.

Species	Location							Total	Code
	AB	SC	ELC	RP	LM	WL	PC		
Yellow Warbler	5	5	12	7	5	2	15	51	I
Brown-headed Cowbird	8	10	7	4			8	37	H,I,J
American Goldfinch	6	5	12	4			2	29	I
Song Sparrow	3	3	5	3	2		10	26	I
Warbling Vireo	6	1	1				17	25	I
Black-capped Chickadee	5		11		4		4	24	I
Spotted Towhee							20	20	I

<u>Species</u>	<u>Location</u>							<u>Total</u>	<u>Code</u>
	<u>AB</u>	<u>SC</u>	<u>ELC</u>	<u>RP</u>	<u>LM</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>PC</u>		
Black-billed Magpie		2	3		6		3	14	G
Common Yellowthroat	2	1	5	6				14	I
Red-shafted Flicker	3	1	5	1	3	1		14	I
Spotted Sandpiper	2	5	4				2	13	I
Western Wood-Pewee		1	3		1		7	12	I
House Finch			7	1	2			10	I
Broad-tailed Hummingbird							9	9	G
Cinnamon Teal	2	7						9	H
Western Tanager			1				7	8	I
Lazuli Bunting			1				6	7	I
Virginia's Warbler							7	7	I
Blue Grosbeak	2		3					5	I
Orchard Oriole	1		1	1				3	I
Black-headed Grosbeak							2	2	I
Plumbeous Vireo							2	2	I
Canyon Wren							1	1	I
Dusky Flycatcher							1	1	I
Green-tailed Towhee							1	1	I
Lazuli x Indigo Bunting		1						1	I

Table 5. Species observed without evidence of breeding activity.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Location</u>							<u>Total</u>
	<u>AB</u>	<u>SC</u>	<u>ELC</u>	<u>RP</u>	<u>LM</u>	<u>WL</u>	<u>PC</u>	
Violet-green Swallow					1	40	29	70
Double-crested Cormorant	6	42	14	1		2		65
California Gull	4	38						42
Rock Dove	9	3	4	3		20		39
White-throated Swift						20	18	38
Bank Swallow	2	10	3			20		35
Great Blue Heron	4	2	10	6	2			24
Killdeer	2	6	8	5				21
Western Grebe	3	2	1	3	12			21
Common Merganser	1	8	2	1			8	20
American White Pelican		4	12	1				17
Barn Swallow	1	1	1	2	1		6	12

Species	Location							Total
	AB	SC	ELC	RP	LM	WL	PC	
Ring-billed Gull		10				1		11
Black-crowned Night Heron		2	6	2				10
Brewer's Blackbird							10	10
Cedar Waxwing		1	2				6	9
Downy Woodpecker	1	2	3	1			2	9
Belted Kingfisher	2		1	2		2	1	8
Snowy Egret	2	3	3					8
Blue-winged Teal		2	4					6
Caspian Tern	1	4						5
Clark's Grebe	3	1						4
Lesser Goldfinch							4	4
American Crow		1			1	1		3
American Kestrel			1	1			1	3
Gadwall		3						3
Forster's Tern		2						2
Green-winged Teal		2						2
Steller's Jay							2	2
Western Kingbird	2							2
Black-billed Cuckoo			1					1
Flammulated Owl							1	1
Green Heron				1				1
Grosbeak spp.			1					1
Pine Siskin							1	1
Swainson's Thrush			1					1
Wilson's Phalarope		1						1
Warbler spp.					1			1
Empidonax flycatcher spp.					1			1

Table 6. Observer effort (except for owling, the values are rounded to the nearest mile and the nearest half hour).

Category	Total	Owling
Hours by foot	16	0.2
Hours by car	11	0.05
Miles by foot	10	0.0
Miles by car	19	0.8

BYLAWS OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE OF THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

I. NAME/AFFILIATION

The name of this committee is the Colorado Bird Records Committee, hereafter referred to as the CBRC. It is a committee of the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO).

II. PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

A. The purpose of the CBRC is to provide a repository for information regarding the records of rare or unusual birds within the state of Colorado. In order to perform this function, the CBRC shall solicit, collect, assemble, review, render opinions, and permanently archive, in a public facility, all documentation concerning records of rare and unusual birds.

B. In order to perform its functions well, the CBRC must have good communication with the birding and ornithology communities and make its mechanisms, publications, and opinions widely known.

C. The CBRC shall provide a means by which sight records can be used as scientific data.

D. The CBRC is not, nor does it intend to be, the final word in the rendering of any opinion concerning the correctness of any individual record, nor should its opinions be used as a basis for validating any particular record(s).

III. DUTIES

A. The CBRC has the following duties:

1. To solicit, collect and organize records of rare or unusual birds in Colorado. A rare bird "record" is defined as the written report(s), along with all pertinent information, such as a specimen, documentary photographs, videotapes, audio recordings, written "expert" opinion(s), and CBRC member votes and comments in regard to the written report(s).

2. To review, evaluate, and assess all records and to rule on the acceptability of the submitted documentation in supporting the record. There are two principal written accounts resulting from this activity:

1. An annual report, published in the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*, describing the activities and opinions of the CBRC (Bylaws of CBRC, Section IX(A)).

2. An “official” state list of Colorado birds based on current knowledge and historical evidence archived in the CBRC files (Bylaws of CBRC, Sections VII(D) and X). This list shall appear periodically as the “Field Check-list of Colorado Birds.”

3. To establish a permanent file of all records in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. This archive shall be maintained in good order by the CBRC and members of the museum staff and shall be open, available, and accessible for review by anyone at any time in the future, taking into account the museum hours of operation and the need for the museum to require notification and permission to enter areas of the museum normally off-limit to the general public. The establishment and maintenance of the CBRC bird records archive is the most important function of the CBRC. The opinions rendered by the CBRC shall be made in good faith and with the best available knowledge at the time. However, the actual archived records shall stand on their own merit and be available to anyone (including future CBRCs) for review.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

A. The CBRC is responsible to the Officers and Directors of the CFO, through the President, for the proper performance of its duties.

V. MEMBERSHIP

A. The CBRC shall consist of seven members: a Chairperson (hereafter, “Chair”) and six regular members. All members evaluate and offer opinions (i.e., “vote”) on records submitted for review to the CBRC. No opinion on an individual bird record may be rendered by the CBRC without the votes of all seven current members. All CBRC members are appointed by the President of the CFO as described in Section V(D).

B. The Chair, with approval of the regular CBRC members, may designate a “Secretary” to assist the Chair with various Committee tasks, particularly as they relate to organization and the circulation process. This position may be filled by a current voting member of the CBRC or any CFO member in good standing. Should the position be filled by someone other than a voting CBRC member, that person would not have voting authority.

C. Anyone is eligible to become a CBRC member if, in the opinions of the current members of the CBRC and President of the CFO, that person:

1. Demonstrates an expert ability in, and knowledge of, field

- identification of birds,
2. Is a member in good standing of the CFO, and
 3. Is a supporter of the CBRC (defined as one who regularly submits records to the CBRC) or other state or provincial records committees.
- D. The schedule of appointment of members shall occur as follows:
1. The President of the CFO shall appoint the seven members to terms of three years each. Appointment shall be on a staggered basis, with two or three regular members' terms expiring at the end of each year to maintain continuity. Regular terms shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.
 2. All members, including the Chair, are eligible to serve a second, consecutive three-year term if asked to by the CBRC and President of the CFO.
 3. After completing two consecutive three-year terms, there is a mandatory one-year retirement (excepting the role of "Former Chair") from the CBRC.
 4. No member, including the Chair, may serve more than six consecutive years in any voting capacity on the CBRC.
- E. The appointment of CBRC regular members and the Chair is by the President of the CFO, after considering Section V(C) of the CBRC Bylaws.
1. The CBRC Chair must be a current or previous member of the CBRC.
 - a. At least six months prior to the expiration of the current Chair's term of office, the current Chair shall submit a recommendation for the next Chair to the CFO President. The current Chair shall confer with current CBRC members in making the recommendation.
 - b. The President of the CFO shall consider the recommendation of the current CBRC Chair when appointing the new Chair. If the President desires, he/she may request additional recommendations for appointment. The President must make his/her appointment known by the end of the year of expiration of the current Chair's term of office. The new CBRC Chair shall begin serving his/her term of office on January 1 of the following year.
 2. The CBRC regular members shall be selected and appointed by the President of the CFO.
 - a. At least six months prior to any term expirations, the current Chair shall submit recommendations to the CFO President to fill pending vacancies on the CBRC. The current

Chair shall confer with current CBRC members in making these recommendations.

b. The President of the CFO shall consider the recommendations of the current CBRC Chair when appointing new members. If the President desires, he/she may request additional recommendations for appointment. The President must make his/her appointments known by the end of the year of expiration of the current member's term of office. New CBRC members shall begin serving their three-year terms of office on January 1 of the following year.

3. In the case that any CBRC member resigns or becomes unable to serve his/her full term of office, the CFO President shall solicit recommendations for a replacement appointment from the Chair and proceed as in Section V(E) 1 & 2. Replacement members shall fill the remainder of the resigning member's term and be eligible for re-serving on the CBRC as described in Section V(D).

4. In the case that any CBRC member appears to be incapable, unwilling, or uncooperative in carrying out his/her part of the CBRC work, the CFO President shall poll all other CBRC members as to what action to take. In the case where the CBRC majority decision is to remove a member of the CBRC, the CFO President shall request the resignation of the member. Such request constitutes removal of the member from the CBRC. The vacant member's position shall be filled as described in Section V(E) 1 & 2. Replacement members shall fill the remainder of the resigning member's term and be eligible for re-serving on the CBRC as described in Section V(D).

F. Upon completing his/her term as Chair of the CBRC, the out-going Chair shall assume the non-voting position of "Former Chair" for a term of one year. The purpose of the Former Chair is to assist the in-coming Chair with assuming his/her duties. The Former Chair shall aid the new Chair in the functions of the office, including providing a thorough knowledge of the CBRC Bylaws.

G. When necessary or appropriate, outside "expert" opinion may be solicited on particular problem records. Such experts may include scientists, ornithologists, field identification experts, and/or previous or current CBRC members. Although these experts might not be members of the CBRC, their written opinions shall be considered by the CBRC members when rendering opinions on bird records.

VI. GENERAL PROCEDURES

A. The Chair shall receive, number, assemble, and distribute records

for review. The Chair shall collate votes, write (or cause to have written) the annual CBRC report, and submit the report to the Editor of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* for publication as soon as feasible.

B. An annual meeting of the CBRC shall be held, preferable during the CFO convention.

1. Four CBRC members shall constitute a quorum.

2. The purpose of the annual meeting is to discuss and consider any items of CBRC business that occurred during the previous year. The CBRC shall discuss anything relating to the successful completion of the committee's duties. Matters for discussion include issues related to the circulation and review of records, including group discussion of difficult bird records that previously received non-decisive votes (Section VIII C 8 & 9), the production of the annual report and the official list of Colorado birds, and the maintenance of the CBRC archives.

3. The Chair shall keep, or cause to be kept, minutes of all meetings.

C. Special meetings may be called with the agreement of four members of the CBRC, with four members constituting a quorum.

VII. RECORDS PROCEDURES

A. The Chair maintains a duplicate set of CBRC files in his/her possession for reference and use. This duplicate set is the property of CFO and shall pass to succeeding Chairs.

B. The primary component of any bird record is a written report. Reports may consist of a standard form, narrative account, copies of field notes, or a combination of the three. Use of a standardized CFO report form is encouraged. Any additional documentation, such as photographs or drawings, shall be duplicated (if necessary), attached to the written description, and collated by the Chair to form the bird "record" (Section III(A)1).

C. It is the duty of the Chair to collate, organize, and circulate packets of records to the CBRC members. It is the duty of the CBRC Members to thoughtfully render opinions in a timely manner and pass on records packets as they are completed.

D. The CBRC maintains the "official" Colorado state list (Section III(A)2(b)). As part of the list, the CBRC shall note those species for which the committee desires documentation. The following categories shall be published in conjunction with the CBRC's "official" Colorado state list and the CBRC shall solicit records in these categories, which are:

- a. Species new to the "official" Colorado state list,
- b. Those species rare enough to merit interest by the committee
 1. Those species occurring fewer than ten times in Colorado (annotated as "rare" (= "R")),
 2. Those averaging four or fewer sightings per year during the previous ten years, but with at least ten accepted records (annotated as "unusual" (= "U")), and
- c. Additionally, those species that, at the discretion of the CBRC, are deemed to meet either of the above two criteria in particular areas of the state or particular seasons should also be considered to be review species in those areas and/or seasons. This last criterion should be well defined by political, geographic, or temporal boundaries. The resultant list of species should be published by the CBRC in the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* as often as deemed necessary by the CBRC.

E. A record that has received a final CBRC decision, whether accepted or rejected, and even though published as such, may be re-submitted by anyone if there becomes available new and substantial evidence that might reverse that decision, e.g., newly determined identification criteria, or if the decision can be shown to be in error. Records that involve taxa that have since undergone taxonomic revision by the American Ornithologists' Union may be re-submitted to determine the status of any changed taxa. Any re-submitted record shall be re-circulated as a "new" record, with previous votes, CBRC comments, publication status, and all new evidence marked as such.

VIII. CIRCULATION AND VOTING PROCEDURE

- A. Upon receipt of a record, the Chair shall do the following:
 1. Give the record a unique number as follows:
 - a. A first number corresponding to all four digits of the year in which the record is received (which is not necessarily the year that the observation was made), followed by a dash (e.g., "1997")
 - b. A second number that is a sequential number, based on order of receipt, starting with the number "1" on January 1 of each year (e.g., "77").
 2. If appropriate, the Chair shall ask the reporter for additional details which, if received, shall be attached to the original documentation in such a way as to keep these details separate.
 3. Assemble multiple reports as follows:

- a. Multiple reports that, in the opinion of the Chair pertain to the same individual occurrence, shall be collected, accessioned with a single CBRC number, and assembled jointly, as they are separate pieces of documentation for the same submitted "record."
 - b. In cases of multiple reports for a single record, the CBRC member shall vote "acceptable" for the record if the sum of individual written reports supports the stated identification.
4. Judge the record's validity and vote on it (this prior to seeing other members' votes or comments (Section VIII(C)5)).
5. Assemble the complete record, including all pertinent documentation as described in Sections III(A) and VII(B), into a packet and circulate to all CBRC members.
- B. Upon receipt of a packet of records, the CBRC member shall:
 1. Judge the validity of the records and vote on them (this is prior to seeing other members' votes or comments (Section VIII(C)5).
 2. Send the complete validation form to the Chair.
 3. Forward the records packet to the next CBRC recipient.
- C. Voting and acceptance criteria are as follows:
 1. The vote of each CBRC member, together with his/her comments, shall be submitted to the Chair on a standard validation form. This form shall include at least the following:
 - a. Accession number
 - b. Species' common and scientific names
 - c. Name of voting CBRC member
 - d. The CBRC member's vote(s)
 - e. The CBRC member's comments (Section VIII(C)4)
 2. Voting categories are as follows:
 - a. Accept
 - b. Reject, identification questionable
 - c. Reject, natural occurrence questionable
 - d. Reject, establishment of introduced population questionable
 3. CBRC members shall not abstain from voting on any record, including their own.
 4. On the first circulation, a "reject" vote shall be supported by comments by the CBRC member. On a re-circulation, either an "accept" or a "reject" vote shall be supported by comments by the CBRC member. All CBRC member votes and comments shall be considered as part of the "record" and shall be permanently archived in conjunction with the bird record.

5. In order to assure a balanced treatment of all records, CBRC members shall make evaluations independently during the first circulation. There shall be no discussion between or among CBRC members concerning the validity of any record before the Chair collates the validation forms. While considering a record, CBRC members are free to confer with anyone other than another CBRC member. If the discussion yields any significant information regarding the record, it should be passed on via that CBRC member's comments.
6. The criteria used by a member for acceptance or rejection of a record shall be based on that member's knowledge and experience. However, members should accept or reject records on that basis of as objective criteria as possible, such as the adequacy of the field marks reported or the conditions under which the observation was made. The veracity of the observer should not normally be questioned except with good cause.
7. The votes of the CBRC members shall be tabulated by the Chair after all members have voted.
8. The decision on a record is determined as follows:
 - a. "Decisive" votes:
 1. A record is considered to be decisively accepted if it receives six or more "accept" votes, (i.e., 7-0 or 6-1 (to accept)).
 2. A record is considered to be decisively rejected if it receives four or more "reject" votes, (i.e., 3-4, 2-5, 1-6, or 0-7 (to accept)).
 - b. "Non-decisive" votes:
 1. A record is considered to be non-decisive if it receives more than three, but fewer than six "accept" votes, i.e., 5-2 or 4-3 (to accept).
9. Non-decisive votes are dealt with as follows:
 - a. If a non-decisive vote is obtained during the initial circulation, the Chair shall re-circulate the record with comments and votes of all members. Regardless of whether a decisive vote was obtained during the first circulation, the Chair may re-circulate a record if he/she feels that any of the members' comments might alter the decision.
 - b. CBRC members shall re-consider the record, including other CBRC members' votes and comments. Then each member shall re-vote and comment on each record and return a validation form on the record to the Chair.
 - c. The Chair shall tabulate the votes.

- d. If, after the second circulation, the record still has not received a decisive vote as described in Section VIII(C)8(b), it shall be kept by the Chair until it can be discussed, voted on, and resolved at the next meeting of the CBRC (Section VI(B)).
 - e. Prior to the meeting, the Chair shall inform all CBRC members of any twice-circulated records still needing a final decision.
 - f. A record shall be accepted if, at the valid meeting of the CBRC, it receives no more than one "reject" vote. Any record that receives two or more "reject" votes is rejected. Proxies shall not be allowed as votes.
10. A first state record is established by the acceptance of a record with at least two observers submitting reports, one observer photographic or taped records where the photographic or taped evidence support the identification, or a specimen record. A single-observer "accepted" sight record cannot at that time be accepted as a new state record. However, if such a record is considered "accepted" other than the fact that it is a first state record by a single observer, it shall be given a status of "provisionally accepted." It shall retroactively be considered the first state record upon the acceptance of a subsequent record of that species meeting the above requirements for a first state record.

IX. REPORT PUBLICATION

A. The decisions of the CBRC shall be published annually, under the authorship of the Chair (and others if desired), in the form of a report in the *Journal of the C.F.O.*

- 1. The species shall be arranged in current taxonomic order (as per the American Ornithologists' Union). The report shall include the common and scientific names of each species listed. For each record submitted and voted upon decisively by the CBRC since the previous report, the published report will include the CBRC accession number, date(s) of observation as reported in submitted documentation, locality, reporting observers, and the opinion of the CBRC (e.g., "accepted" or "rejected"), along with any pertinent discussion on the conclusion that was reached. The names of CBRC members that voted on any or all covered records shall be included in the report. Other data may be added at the discretion of the author(s) and the voting members (e.g., the name or initials of the discoverer of the bird, even though that person may not have submitted a report).

2. In publications, the term “not accepted” shall be used in place of “rejected” when referring to the decision of the CBRC. The name(s) or initials of the observer(s) shall not be published for “not accepted” records.
3. Pending records shall not be published until such time as they receive decisive votes.

X. “OFFICIAL” COLORADO STATE LIST

- A. The CBRC shall maintain the CFO “official” Colorado state bird list. All species accepted to the list must be supported by an extant specimen, an acceptable photographed, video-taped, or audio-taped record that is on file in the CBRC archives, or an acceptable sight record involving at least two observers (independently or concurrently), with reports from each. The list shall be published as the “Field Check-list of Colorado Birds.”
- B. The “official” Colorado state bird species list shall include:
 1. The breeding status
 2. A notation indicating the relative rarity of each species and those species for which the CBRC desires documentation
 3. A notation indicating those species that require special care in identification

XI. CBRC BYLAW REVIEW

- A. CBRC bylaws shall be reviewed periodically by the CBRC, but at least every five years.
- B. Suggested amendments may be made to the President of the CFO by any member in good standing. Such suggestions shall be presented to the Chair and then to the CFO Board of Directors for their consideration and action.

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>

**NEWS FROM THE FIELD:
WINTER 2001-2002 REPORT (DECEMBER - FEBRUARY)**

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The weather this winter was mostly dry and mild. December had mostly normal weather, although the Front Range reservoirs were still open due to the warm weather during the fall. In Denver, the mean January temperature was very close to normal at 29.3°F. There was measurable precipitation on only two days, but the total of 0.48 in. is only just below normal. The average temperature in Denver in February was also just above normal at 33.4°F. However, the temperatures had quite a range. It reached 72°F on the 23rd, and fell to -8°F on the 26th. This set a new record on the 23rd, and tied the previous record low on the 26th. There was measurable precipitation on five days, but the snow total was dismal at only 2.8 in. The precipitation total was 0.32 in., whereas the average is 0.49 in.

The Front Range reservoirs opened up again quite early in February, and several water species made early appearances in the state. However, it does seem to me that the winters in Colorado are getting milder, with considerably less really cold weather than in the 1970s. This is being reflected in more individuals of more species dallying late into the winter season. This includes some waterbird species that take advantage of the lakes and reservoirs remaining open much later. It also includes several passerine species.

This season there were late reports of Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, Sage Thrasher, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, Clay-colored, Savannah, and Lincoln's Sparrows, McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Two Colorado birders, Jeff Price and Hector Galbraith, who both live in Boulder, work on the possible effects that global warming might have on North American bird populations. A report was published recently that describes possible effects on the birds of Colorado. It can be found on the Internet at <http://www.abcbirds.org/climatechange/statepage.htm>.

Probably the highlights of the season, were the Snowy Owls found late in the season. They had been expected for some time, as there were good numbers in several nearby states. Another highlight was the unexpected appearance of White-winged Crossbills to three locations in Eastern Colorado. The

appearances of this species are very unpredictable. Another very surprising occurrence was the juvenile Broad-winged Hawk that Bill Schmoker saw and photographed in Boulder in late December. This bird should have been spending Christmas much, much farther south in warmer climes.

Thanks to everyone who mailed or e-mailed me their reports and, especially, to Brandon Percival who collected many of the sightings from the COBIRDS listserve. An underlined species means that documentation is desired by the CFO Records Committee. Please send rare bird forms, which can be downloaded from the CFO web-site, of these species, to Tony Leukering at cbrc@cfo-link.org or P.O. Box 660, Brighton, 80601.

Pacific Loon: There were ten reports from the usual locations along the Front Range, plus one report from the West Slope. One was seen at Totten Res., *Montezuma*, on 9 Dec (JP).

Common Loon: Up to seven were seen at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, for most of the winter season between 1 Dec and 15 Feb (BKP, m.ob.), and two were at Standley Lake, *Jefferson*, between 1 Dec and 2 Jan (LS).

Red-necked Grebe: An adult was seen at Barr L., *Adams*, on 1 Dec (JBn, TL, JBF), one was at Standley Lake, *Jefferson*, between 9 and 23 Dec (NE, LS), one was at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, between 14 and 20 Dec (BKP, m.ob.), and two were at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 11 Feb (BKP, CLW).

Eared Grebe: A very large flock for this species in winter was 523 at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 15 Dec (LS, DF, MJ).

Great Egret: One spent almost the entire season in Grand Junction, *Mesa*, and was seen between 2 Dec and 22 Feb (LA).

Green Heron: One was seen at Fort Lyon, *Bent*, on 1 Jan (BKP, MJ, DN).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: An immature was at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, between 1 Dec and 2 Feb (KPa, m.ob.), another immature was in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 15 Dec (DSi, LE), an adult was at Runyon Lake in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 23 Dec (MY), and a first-winter bird was seen at City Park in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 10 Jan (DAL).

Greater White-fronted Goose: A total of 27 birds were reported from the Front Range and Eastern Plains, which is about the usual number.

Snow Goose: A very large flock of 50,000 was seen at Lake Hasty and John Martin Res., *Bent*, on 3 Jan (DAL).

Ross's Goose: Unusual records on the West Slope were an immature at Blue Lake, El Jebel, *Eagle*, on 15 Dec and 15 Jan (JMe), and one on the Colorado R., near Fruita, *Mesa*, on 16 Dec (CD).

Black Brant: Single adults were at Woods L., *Weld*, between 30 Nov and 6 Dec (DF, m.ob.), and at Long Pond in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, between 19 and 22 Dec (RH).

Trumpeter Swan: Two were seen at L. Avery, *Rio Blanco*, between 30 Nov and 11 Dec (DH, KPo), an adult was at Valco Pond in Canon City, *Fremont*, between 16 Dec and 17 Feb (SeM, BM, DE, m.ob.), two adults and three juveniles were seen at McKay Lake in Northglenn, *Adams*, on 13 Jan (BSc), one adult and two immatures were at Shadow Mountain Res., *Grand*, between 16 and 28 Feb (BK, m.ob.), and an immature was at Thurston Res., *Prowers*, in Feb (RC).

Tundra Swan: Two adults were at L. Estes, *Larimer*, between 30 Nov and 2 Dec (DR, SR), two were at Union Res., *Weld*, on 1 Dec (JP), an immature was at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 30 and 31 Dec (JK, SSt, AS, m.ob.), and another immature was at Thurston Res., *Prowers*, in Feb (RC).

Greater Scaup: There were about 25 birds reported from locations along the Front Range, plus a flock of ten birds at Lake Cheraw, *Otero*, between 17 Dec and 1 Jan (BKP, MJ, m.ob.).

Surf Scoter: A female was seen at Lake Henry, *Crowley*, on 9 Dec (MJ, BKP), and another female was at John Martin Res., *Bent*, on 27 Dec and 10 Jan (MJ, TL, DN).

White-winged Scoter: A female was seen at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 1 Dec (BKP, JBy).

Black Scoter: Single females were seen at Marston Res., *Denver*, between 1 and 3 Dec (TJ, LS, DAL, DCE), at Horseshoe L. in Loveland, *Larimer*, between 8 and 10 Dec (NK, LS, RH, m.ob.), and at John Martin Res., *Bent*, on 27 Dec (MJ, TL).

Long-tailed Duck: Single adult males were seen at Union Res., *Weld*, between 1 and 10 Dec (JP, BK), at Bonny Res., *Yuma*, on 2 Dec (AS, JK), and at Horseshoe L. in Loveland, *Larimer*, between 8 and 10 Dec (NK, RH, m.ob.). A female was at Chatfield Res., *Douglas/Jefferson*, on 9 Dec (JK), two birds were at John Martin Res., *Bent*, on 27 Dec (TL, MJ), an adult female was at Marston Res., *Denver*, on 1 Jan (DF, ET), and there was one bird at South Platte Park in Littleton, *Jefferson*, on 10 Feb (SO).

Barrow's Goldeneye: Eight males and eleven females were seen at Shadow Mountain Res., Grand Lake, and Lake Granby, *Grand*, on 2 Dec (BE), and a total of 15 was at the same locations on 16 Feb (BK).

Red-shouldered Hawk: An adult was seen in Fort Lyon, *Bent*, on 17 Jan (DN).

Broad-winged Hawk: A juvenile was seen and photographed at Tantra Park, *Boulder*, on 24 Dec (BSc). This is an extremely unusual sighting of this species in the interior of the country in winter.

Gyr Falcon: A gray morph adult was seen in North Park, *Jackson*, on 20 and 25 Feb (RH). Many others looked for this bird, but did not find it.

Sandhill Crane: The last birds of the fall were seen on 6 Dec and the first of the spring on 12 Feb at John Martin Res., *Bent* (DN).

Spotted Sandpiper: Unusual for winter were two on the Colorado River, Fruita, *Mesa*, on 16 Dec (CD).

Least Sandpiper: Also unusual were three on the Colorado River, Fruita, *Mesa*, on 16 Dec (CD).

Baird's Sandpiper: An early arrival was one at Rocky Ford, *Otero*, on 27 and 28 Feb (SO, DN).

American Woodcock: One was seen at Bonny Res., *Yuma*, on 4 Jan (CLW).

Laughing Gull: A bird in first-basic plumage was seen at Standley L., *Jefferson*, on 1 Dec (LS).

Bonaparte's Gull: A very large flock of this species in Colorado was 77 at Lake Loveland, *Larimer*, on 2 Dec (NK), with 52 still there on 8 Dec (LS).

Mew Gull: A juvenile was seen at Warren L. in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, between 1 and 9 Dec (NK), an adult in basic plumage was at Marston Res., *Denver*, on 1 Dec (DAL, DCE), an adult was at Bonny Res., *Yuma*, on 2 Dec (JK, m.ob.), another adult was at Horseshoe L. in Loveland, *Larimer*, on 8 Dec (TL), and a juvenile was seen at the same location between 8 and 10 Dec (RH, JV, PGe).

Thayer's Gull: A total of 18 birds were reported, all from the Front Range and Eastern Plains. This is about the usual number of reports.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: There were 20 reports this season, all from the Front Range and Eastern Plains. It is now usual to get this many reports, so that this species is no longer rare in winter in Colorado.

Glaucous-winged Gull: A cooperative bird in first-basic plumage was seen by many at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, between 23 and 28 Feb (GW, RO, DF, m.ob.).

Glaucous Gull: An adult was seen at Thomas Res., *Boulder*, on 22 Dec (TL, m.ob.), a first- or second-basic plumaged bird was at John Martin Res., *Bent*, on 27 Dec (TL, MJ), and a first-year bird was at Standley Lake, *Jefferson*, on 15 Jan (LS).

Great Black-backed Gull: The usual adult was at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, between 15 Dec and 15 Feb (MJ, DF, LS, m.ob.), another adult was at Lake Hasty, *Bent*, on 27 Dec (TL, MJ, m.ob.), possibly the same bird was seen at Neenoshe Res., *Kiowa*, on 18 Jan (LS), an adult was at John Martin Res., *Bent*, on 2 Jan (DN), and a first-year bird was also seen at John Martin Res., *Bent*, between 12 and 28 Feb (DN).

Black-legged Kittiwake: A juvenile was seen at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, on 2 Dec (BSc).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: The rapid expansion continues, with a flock of up to 23 birds in Brighton, *Adams*, between 30 Dec and 28 Feb (BK, m.ob.).

White-winged Dove: One was seen all season in Rye, *Pueblo*, (NH, DSI, SC, m.ob.), and up to two were seen in Blende, *Pueblo*, between 1 Dec and 23 Feb (RM, m.ob.).

Mourning Dove: David Leatherman's report helped to document this species wintering all across the state. He saw six at the Poudre River in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, throughout the season, several in Grand Junction, *Mesa*, on 13 Dec and 12 Feb, 11 in Lamar, *Prowers*, on 3 Feb, and one north of Riverside Res., *Weld*, on 16 Feb (all DAL).

Snowy Owl: Probably the highlight of the season was an immature female at Adobe Creek Res. (a.k.a. Blue Lake), *Bent*, between 16 Jan and 26 Feb (DN, m.ob.), and two northeast of Riverside Res., *Weld*, between 15 and 24 Feb (JK, SSt, m.ob.).

Williamson's Sapsucker: A late bird was a male at Coaldale, *Jefferson*, on 8 Dec (TM).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A juvenile was seen at City Park in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 8 Dec (DAL), an adult male was at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, between 15 Dec and 15 Feb (MY, m.ob.), another adult male was at Red Rocks Park, *Jefferson*, on 15 Dec (B&LB), a juvenile was at Fairmount Cemetery in Lamar, *Prowers*, between 17 Dec and 17 Feb (DAL, m.ob.), an adult male was in Grandview Cemetery, Fort Collins, *Larimer*, between 21 Jan and 16 Feb (DAL, RH), and a juvenile was seen at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, between 15 and 28 Feb (GW, m.ob.).

Red-naped Sapsucker: An adult female wintered for the third year at Grand Junction, *Mesa*, for the entire season (LA), and an adult male was seen at Beulah, *Pueblo*, on 5 Jan (MY).

Eastern Phoebe: One was seen at Bonny Res., *Yuma*, on 5 Jan (SSe), and another was seen at Wray, *Yuma*, on 6 Jan (JBF, TL).

Say's Phoebe: A flock of four was seen near Fruita, *Mesa*, on 16 Dec (BW).

Vermilion Flycatcher: Very unusual for winter was a first-fall male seen at Vineland, *Pueblo*, between 23 and 31 Dec (MY, JY, m.ob.).

Pinon Jay: A very large flock for the far Eastern Plains of Colorado was 55 seen at Setchfield SWA, *Bent*, on 17 Feb (DN).

Juniper Titmouse: Very unusual for the northern Front Range was one seen at Horsetooth Res., Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 18 and 19 Jan (DAL, RH, m.ob.).

Carolina Wren: One was seen in Colorado City, *Pueblo*, between 1 Dec and 3 Feb (DSi, BKP, m.ob.).

Winter Wren: One was seen at Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, on 2 Jan (DAL), and an individual of the western race was at Fort Lyon, *Bent*, between 9 Jan and 28 Feb (DN).

Eastern Bluebird: This was a good season for this species, with several small flocks seen along the Front Range. The high count reported was a flock of 23 at Rocky Ford SWA, *Otero*, on 30 Jan (SO).

Varied Thrush: One was seen at Durango, *La Plata*, between 22 Dec and 2 Jan (KS, m.ob.), individual females were at Tantra Park in Boulder,

Boulder, between 23 Dec and 1 Jan (GB, BK, PGe, m.ob.), and Crosier Mountain Trail, Drake, *Larimer*, on 21 Feb (RD).

Northern Mockingbird: Two were seen near Fruita, *Mesa*, on 16 Dec (BW).

Sage Thrasher: An early migrating flock of more than 35 was seen near the Higbee Cemetery south of La Junta, *Otero*, on 23 Feb (SO).

Curve-billed Thrasher: Very unusual in northern Colorado was one that spent the entire season near Windsor, *Weld*, (MM, m.ob.).

Bohemian Waxwing: This species was rarely seen on the plains this winter, but some quite large flocks were seen in the mountains. More than 300 were seen at L. Avery, *Rio Blanco*, between 2 and 6 Dec (DHi), 250 were seen on the Indian Peaks Winter Count, *Boulder*, on 13 Jan (CL, DK, MG, BGh), and another flock of more than 300 was seen near Gross Res., *Boulder*, on 2 Feb (BSc, JS).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A male was seen at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, on 15 and 16 Dec (KPa, MJ, m.ob.).

Common Yellowthroat: A male was at Valco Ponds in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 10 Dec and 2 Jan (BKP), and a female was at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, on 15 Dec (BGo, m.ob.).

Wilson's Warbler: A male was seen at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, between 1 and 16 Dec (KPa, MJ, m.ob.).

Green-tailed Towhee: Unusual sightings during the winter were one seen at Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, on 19 Dec and 2 Jan (DAL), and one at Parker Regional Park, *Douglas*, on 20 Feb (GW).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow: Two birds were seen at the new location for this species at Pueblo Reservoir SWA, *Pueblo*, on 15 Dec (MK, SeM), and again on 31 Dec (BKP, VAT).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Very unusual for winter was a bird that stayed at Lamar Community College, *Prowers*, throughout the season (DAL, m.ob.).

Field Sparrow: One was seen on the John Martin Res. Christmas Bird Count, *Bent*, on 27 Dec (AS), and one was at Runyon L. in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, between 21 and 23 Feb (RM).

Savannah Sparrow: One was seen at Rocky Ford, *Otero*, on 9 Dec (BKP, MJ), one was at Fort Lyon, *Bent*, on 27 Dec (BKP, PGa), and another was at Lamar Community College, *Prowers*, on 13 Jan (MJ).

Lincoln's Sparrow: One was seen at John Martin Res., *Bent*, on 27 Dec (DN), and another spent the entire winter season at Lamar Community College, *Prowers* (DAL, m.ob.).

Swamp Sparrow: A large group for this species in Colorado was eight at John Martin Res., *Bent*, on 27 Dec (DN).

White-throated Sparrow: This was a poor season for this species, with few reports from the Front Range. The high count was five seen at Rocky Ford SWA, *Otero*, between 2 Dec and 4 Feb (SO, m.ob.).

Harris's Sparrow: A first winter bird was seen at Rocky Ford SWA, *Otero*, on 7 Dec (SO), one was at Mile High Gun Club, *Adams*, on 30 Dec (TL, SB), an adult in basic plumage was at Holyoke, *Phillips*, on 1 Jan (RL), one was at Bonny Res., *Yuma*, on 5 Jan (CLW, DF), and an immature was seen at Lamar Community College, *Prowers*, between 18 Jan and 17 Feb (LS, DAL, m.ob.).

Golden-crowned Sparrow: An immature bird was seen at Wray, *Yuma*, on 6 Jan (TL, JBF, JBn).

McCown's Longspur: Early returning birds were two seen near Las Animas, *Bent*, on 20 Jan (DN). By 28 Jan, three groups totaling 225 individuals were found and, by then, the males were in breeding plumage.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: An adult male was seen at Upper Queens Res., *Kiowa*, on the very early date of 13 Jan (BKP, MJ).

Black-headed Grosbeak: One was seen at Naturita, *Montrose*, between 1 and 19 Dec (CD, BW).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: This species is rather unusual in Colorado in winter. However, two were seen near John Martin Res., *Bent*, on 26 Dec (DN) and on 27 Dec (JT), an adult male was near Barr L., *Adams*, on 19 Jan and 18 Feb (TL), and a female was west of Rocky Ford, *Otero*, on 21 Feb (SO).

Rusty Blackbird: Three were seen at Rocky Ford SWA, *Otero*, between 9 Dec and 4 Feb (BKP, MJ, SO, DN), one was at Canon City, *Fremont*, on 5 Jan (SO), and one was at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 11 Feb (BKP, CLW).

Brown-headed Cowbird: This species is also rather unusual in winter, but this year was seen in good numbers. One was at the Lamar Community College, *Prowers*, on 1 Jan (DAL), two were in Lamar, *Prowers*, on 2 Jan (DAL), six were seen at the John Martin Res. marsh, *Bent*, on 3 Jan (DAL), and eight were near Barr L., *Adams*, on 18 Feb (TL).

Black Rosy-Finch: This species was seen in Colorado in much smaller numbers this winter than last. The largest flock reported was 40 in north *Larimer* on 25 Jan (RH).

Purple Finch: A female or immature bird was seen at Naturita, *Montrose*, on 2 Dec (CD, BW), and another bird in the same plumage was at the Lamar Community College, *Prowers*, on 17 Jan (DN).

White-winged Crossbill: One of the highlights of the season, this species was seen in good numbers on the Eastern Plains. A first-fall male was seen in Las Animas, *Bent*, between 31 Dec and 6 Jan (DN, m.ob.), up to 22 were at Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, between 4 Jan and 10 Feb (JMa, DAL, m.ob.), and six were at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Golden, *Jefferson*, on 29 Jan (DSc).

Common Redpoll: Two were seen between Boulder and Lyons, *Boulder*, on 8 and 9 Dec (DW), one was at Meeker, *Rio Blanco*, on 21 Dec (GK), one

was seen on the John Martin Res. Christmas Bird Count, *Bent*, on 27 Dec (AS), five were visiting feeders near Eagle, *Eagle*, between 4 Jan and 28 Feb (JMe), one was at Bonny Res., *Yuma*, on 5 Jan (CLW, DF), and two were seen at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, on 12 Jan (LS).

Contributing Observers

Larry Arnold, Jason Beason (JBn), Jim Berry (JBy), Sue Bonfield, Bob & Lea Ann Brown (B&LB), Gillian Brown, Robert Carlson, Sherry Chapman, Coen Dexter, Ruth Dick, Lisa Edwards, David Elwonger, David Ely (DCE), Norm Erthal, Bob Evans, Doug Faulkner, Joe Fontaine (JBF), Peter Gaede (PGa), Peter Gent (PGe), Beverly Gholson (BGh), Maddy Goldhawk, Bob Goycoolea (BGo), Dave Hallock (DHa), Nancy Hardcastle, Dona Hilkey, Rachel Hopper, Mark Janos, Tina Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Joey Kellner, Mike Ketchen, Glenn Klingler, Nick Komar, Dawn Kumpli, David Leatherman (DAL), Tony Leukering, Roger Linfield, Cherie Long, Marcia Maeda, Joe Mammoser (JMa), Bill Maynard, Jack Merchant (JMe), Rich Miller, Tina Mitchell, SeEtta Moss (SeM), Duane Nelson, Ric Olson, Stan Oswald, Ken Pals (KPa), Brandon Percival (BKP), Kim Potter (KPo), John Prather, Scott Rashid, Joe Rigli, Dave Rubenstein, Bill Schmoker (BSc), Jim Schmoker, Dick Schottler (DSc), Scott Seltman (SSe), Larry Semo, David Silverman (DSi), Andrew Spencer, Bob Spencer (BSp), Steve Stachowiak (SSt), Kip Stransky, Elena Thomas, Janeal Thompson, Van Truan (VAT), John Vanderpoel, Glenn Walbek, David Waltman, Christopher Wood (CLW), Brenda Wright, John Yaeger, Mark Yaeger, many observers (m.ob.).

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*.