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## CFO BOARD MINUTES

Sherry P. Chapman, Secretary

The regular quarterly meeting of the CFO Board of Directors was held on Saturday, August 17, 2002, at 11 A.M. at the home of Rachel Hopper, Ft. Collins, CO with the President in the chair and the Secretary being present. Board members attending: Sharon Dooley, Doug Faulkner, BB Hahn, Rachel Hopper, Tony Leukering, Norm Lewis, Bob Spencer, and Mark Yeager. The minutes of the prior meeting were approved as read.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

BB Hahn reported that our current assets are \$28,844.10. A detailed report is on file with the minutes. The 2002 Convention was very successful with net proceeds of \$4,887.23.

She recommended that \$2,500 be allotted to the Project Fund. Rachel Hopper moved to accept the recommendation and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

BB also reported that Drew Smith, artist for T-shirts that were originally printed for the 2002 Convention, determined the printing was of very poor quality, and on Drew's recommendation she stopped payment on the check for them. She and Drew filed complaints with the Better Business Bureau in Minnesota. A stop payment must be renewed every six months, so BB closed the checking account to avoid the possibility of the check being cashed. New signature cards are needed for the new bank account and BB requested a resolution that the president, secretary and treasurer be authorized to sign checks and make deposits to the CFO checking account. Norm Lewis moved the resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### FIELDTRIPS

Norm Lewis reviewed the field trips that were conducted this spring and summer and reported that all were well attended, interesting and successful. Rachel Hopper suggested a joint trip with The Nature Conservancy to Phantom Canyon. The possibility of a trip combining birding and butterflying was also suggested.

### COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Tony Leukering reported that circulation of the 2001 records should be completed by the end of the year. Re-circulation of historic jaeger records (those submitted prior to 1995) is also nearly complete.

Karleen Schofield has chosen not to serve a second term on the committee and Tony recommended Coen Dexter to fill the vacancy. Coen served previously on the committee in the 1990s. The Board approved the recommendation.

#### JOURNAL EDITOR

Doug Faulkner reported that the next issue of the Journal is almost full. The Belmar Park bird list is ready and will be included as a center pullout.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Sharon Dooley reported that membership currently stands at 348 as of August 15. Renewal postcards have been sent to members with June expirations. In an effort to attract new members from COBIRDS, Doug Faulkner will post the *JCFO* index including information that CFO absorbs the costs for COBIRDS.

#### WEBSITE

COBIRDS currently has 625 subscribers and Rachel mentioned that subscribers using virus infected computers is an on-going concern for her. If it appears that a subscriber has a virus in his or her e-mail, Rachel blocks the user at the server until the issue is resolved. Peter Gent moved that the board support her policy. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws revision - Norm Lewis and Sherry Chapman reviewed several of the changes to the bylaws that they are contemplating. Many of the changes consist of syntax and revisions to bring more consistency to the current bylaws. The board discussed length of terms for officers and whether the number of terms should be limited by the bylaws. A final version with changes will be presented to the board in December.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2003 Convention - Peter Gent reported that due to unavailability of facilities, the location of the 2003 Convention has been changed from Silverthorne to Frisco. The Holiday Inn will serve as Convention headquarters. Peter also reported that he will negotiate the speaker's fee with Dr. Van Remsen, Jr. Tony Leukering will organize field trips and Rachel will assist Mark Yeager in putting together the Convention brochure. Peter will coordinate "Stump the Chumps" which is slated for Friday evening following registration.

#### DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the CFO Board of Directors will be held on December 7, 2002 at 11 A.M. at Mark Yeager's gallery in Pueblo.

## PROJECT FUND COMMITTEE CFO PROJECT FUND GUIDELINES

CFO has a limited amount of money generated by the Project Fund from which to make grants to qualifying individuals or organizations for projects that will have a lasting benefit to Colorado Birds and the habitats upon which they rely. CFO urges those applying for grants to become members of Colorado Field Ornithologists. CFO Project Fund grants can be considered matching funds for other grants. The Project Fund Committee requests that the recipients of funding publish a short year-end summary of their funded work in the *JCFO* and/or present some of their findings at the CFO convention the next calendar year.

### Guidelines

1. All applications should contain name, address, and telephone number of person or organization applying for grant.
2. Applications should include a description of the project - what will be done, who will direct the project, who will actually do the work, timetable, and rationale (explaining how the project will support the Mission of CFO).
3. All applications must be postmarked no later than December 1, and must be submitted directly to chairperson of Project Fund committee.
4. All projects must have an anticipated starting and completion date. Projects should be realistic in terms of time required to complete project.
5. Applicants must submit a complete budget. Projects should be realistic in terms of financial and volunteer resources. Applications should contain all items that the project requires and the items the applicant is seeking funding from CFO for and should contain amount requested from CFO.
6. Travel expenses and equipment readily available from private sources (such as camera, spotting scopes and office equipment) are usually not funded.
7. Application should contain amount already funded from other sources.
8. Following the receipt of a grant and completion of the project, the applicant must submit a final report, in writing, to the chairperson of Project Fund by February of the next calendar year. This report should include a full description of the project activities and an accounting of money spent.

Please include 3 copies of grant proposal. If there are additional brochures or copies of financial reports included in the grant application, please include three copies, one for each of the committee members.

Applications will be notified after the winter (February) CFO Board Meeting, whether or not their project has been funded. All monies not used will be returned to the CFO treasurer.

Committee Members:

Jameson Chace  
Project Fund Chairperson  
Villanova University  
Department of Biology  
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Linda Vidal  
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Pearle Sandstrom-Smith  
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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 (Schofield and Finch 1998), Hugh E. Kingery (Levad 1999), and Bob Righter (Echelmeyer et al. 2000).

Members of CFO are encouraged to submit nominations for the award. Nominations may be submitted to Rich Levad, Awards Committee Chair, by U.S. mail or e-mail ([levadgj@gvii.net](mailto:levadgj@gvii.net)). Nominations should include a full description of the nominee's contributions to the Colorado Field Ornithologists and to Colorado field ornithology.

Rich Levad  
Awards Committee Chair  
564 Villa Street  
Grand Junction, CO 81504

### Literature Cited

- Echelmeyer, P., L. Willcockson, and D. Pantle. 2000. Bob Righter: the accomplished amateur—recipient of Ronald A. Ryder Award. *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 33:150–158.
- Levad, R. 1999. Hugh E. Kingery receives Ronald A. Ryder Award. *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 33:163–165.
- Ronald A. Ryder Award for Distinguished Service to Colorado Field Ornithology. 1995. *CFO Journal* 29:44.

Schofield, K., and W. I. Finch. 1998. Harold R. Holt received Ronald A. Ryder Award: a biography and interview. *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 32:138–141.

Selection Criteria and Guidelines for Ronald A. Ryder Award for Distinguished Service to Colorado Field Ornithology. 1996. *CFO Journal* 30:155.

## **BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*BUTEO PLATYPTERUS*) IN BOULDER: FIRST DOCUMENTED COLORADO WINTER RECORD**

Bill Schmoker

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On Christmas Eve 2001, I was looking for a Varied Thrush found by Gillian Brown the previous day during the Boulder Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The thrush was seen at the University of Colorado's South Campus, an undeveloped area directly east of the Tantra Park neighborhood, in Boulder. I was walking back to my car at about 3:40 P.M. after several false alarms with American Robins and Northern Flickers when I noticed a small raptor perched in a tree on the dike surrounding the property. The raptor then flew to a tree bordering the property about 50 feet to the northwest of my position and right over the backyard fence of a neighboring house. In optimistic anticipation of the thrush, I already had my digital camera ready and was able to snap five photos of the bird from below and left of the bird. I was changing position for more photos when the bird flew west into the neighborhood, disappearing from view. I had observed the bird for only about 2 minutes, and hadn't carefully looked at it through binoculars, opting for photos instead. Noting the fairly small size, pale brownish streaking on the breast, and the habit of hunting from a perch in abundant songbird habitat, I guessed that the bird was probably an accipiter. I assumed that I would sort out the immature Cooper/Sharp-shinned Hawk issue from the photos later that evening.

When I got home and downloaded the pictures for study, I was immediately struck by the short, nearly unmarked tail. The clear creamy throat was troublesome, and the dark moustachial stripe with a lighter brown cheek behind got me wondering if it was a Merlin in a plumage I hadn't seen before, perhaps with a damaged or abnormal tail. I sought the help of Doug Faulkner and Tony Leukering of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO). Tony identified the bird as a Broad-winged Hawk. My limited experience with this species and the improbable prospect of seeing one in Colorado in the winter prevented me from considering it as a possibility until Doug and Tony responded to my e-mailed photos and request for ID help. Upon review of the photographs, brown streaks are seen on the creamy chest and sides becoming heavier towards the sides, but decreasing towards the belly. The bird has a light, creamy, unmarked throat, and a medium-sized bill with a yellow base and dark gray tip. The most distinctive facial features are a dark brown moustachial stripe with a lighter brown cheek behind. The iris is dark, and the area around the eye appears darker than the rest of the brown head. The wings appear dark



brown, and few other features are visible in them. The back is obscured by the angle of viewing (I was about 20 feet below the level of the bird). The underside of the tail appears to be light, with little or no markings visible. The tail only projects slightly beyond the wingtips as the bird perches. The photos nicely match David Sibley's illustration of a light juvenile Broad-winged Hawk, between "lightly marked" and "heavily marked" in appearance (Sibley 2000). Although Red-shouldered Hawks are more likely during the winter in Colorado (Andrews & Righter 1992), the nearly unmarked tail underside, light throat, apparent lack of barring in the secondaries, and sparse streaking pattern on the breast did not support that identification.

Documented winter records of interior North American Broad-winged Hawks are very unusual or lack details (T. Leukering, pers. comm.). This highly migratory species primarily winters in Central America and northwest South America, traveling mainly along migration corridors in eastern North America and through Central America that bottleneck at famous raptor count sites such as Veracruz, Mexico. Nearly every Broad-winged Hawk must pass these geographical funnels, which may record over a million Broad-wingeds each fall (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001). Small numbers winter in Florida, with regular strays along the Gulf Coast. Christmas Bird Count data would also suggest that southern California regularly hosts late strays or a few wintering birds, with 40 CBC records in the last 34 years. Prior to this sighting, seven interior states west of the Mississippi have recorded Broad-winged Hawks in the history of the CBC (NE, KS, OK, MN, IA, MO, & AR). The most recent of these was on the Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma CBC in the 82nd count year (Dec. 1981- Jan. 1982; National Audubon Society 2002). The review of CBC records has become more stringent since the mid-1980s and no interior CBC sighting has been recorded since, leading to suspicion about the true identity of previous records (T. Leukering, pers. comm.).

Broad-winged Hawks are unusual but regular visitors to Colorado. Most are seen in spring migration. The Dinosaur Ridge Hawkwatch (DRH), founded by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and now operated by RMBO, has been instrumental in documenting their regular presence as spring migrants in the state (Nelson 1997). Data provided by Jason Beason, RMBO's 2002 DRH monitor, provide insight into the pattern of spring migrant Broad-winged Hawks in Colorado. Apparently, this population breeds in Alberta and takes a "shortcut" along the Front Range, bypassing the typical migration corridors for this species to the east. For the years 1991-2001, DRH tallied 621 Broad-winged Hawk sightings, averaging 56 a season, with a low of 12 in 1994 and a high of 198 in 1997. The average median date of passage (50% of the season's flight recorded) is April 25, and the highest daily average is May 1, which is

heavily influenced by the record high daily count of 56 on 1 May 1997. The earliest Broad-winged Hawk recorded at DRH was on 1 April 1994 and the latest was 9 May 1992, although they probably regularly occur later, but aren't recorded after the watch formally shuts down (RMBO, unpub. data). While the DRH count may record several orders of magnitude fewer Broad-winged Hawks than major eastern counts, it is interesting that about the same number of dark-morph birds are recorded each year as the eastern counts (J. Beason, pers. comm.).

The summer presence of Broad-winged Hawks in Colorado is considered accidental, with only six records (including 1 confirmed breeding record) through 2001 (Andrews & Righter 1992; Dexter 1993; Percival 1995; Wood and Semo 2002). Without a Colorado fall raptor migration count, records of Broad-winged Hawks in autumn are more sparse than in the spring. Andrews & Righter (1992) list their status as a very rare fall migrant on the eastern plains with the latest record in early December, although details are not provided. A literature search of the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* did not yield any other winter sightings. The 24 December 2001 Boulder sighting provided the first documented winter record of the species in Colorado, and is likely the first photographed North American interior winter record as well.

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- Percival, B. 1995. News from the field: summer (June-July 1995). *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 30:34-40.

Sibley, D. A. 2000. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York.

Wood, C. L. and L. S. Semo. 2002. News from the field: the summer 2001 report (June-July). *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 36:36-49.

Juvenile Broad-winged Hawk photographed by the author on 24 December 2001 in Boulder, CO.

**Author's Note:**

My photos were taken using a Nikon Coolpix 995 with a 3X teleconverter lens. With the built-in 4X zoom, this gives an effective 12X without resorting to digital zooming. The Coolpix is a popular and effective digiscoping camera, but I think that using various telephoto lens combinations is often more effective because of the ability to take hand-held photos equivalent to binocular or wide-angle spotting scope fields of view. The use of teleconverter lenses also has little cost in light-gathering ability, allowing fast exposures and eliminating the tripod requirement in most situations. I have found that I can attach a 5X zoom lens with a 1.7X teleconverter to achieve 34X (when multiplied by the camera's built-in 4X) and shoot in marginal light using only my knee, a branch, or a buddy's shoulder as a brace. This rig can be carried around ready to go for catching those impatient or shy birds. Of course, this doesn't substitute for digiscoping when more reach is needed, but I don't think I ever would have captured the Broad-winged Hawk digitally through my scope (it was too dark and the bird didn't stick around long enough). Serendipity played the biggest role in recording this unusual sighting, but I've also learned the value of having a digital camera with zoom lenses on hand for documenting rare birds.

## CHANGES TO THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION *CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS*

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### Introduction

The American Ornithologists' Union is a leading ornithological authority in the western hemisphere. Its *Committee on Classification and Nomenclature* includes respected experts such as Jon Dunn, Andrew Kratter, Van Remsen, Jr., and James Rising. Every two years this committee reports on changes in North American bird taxonomy and distribution based on current scientific knowledge. The second Supplement since the publication of the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Check-List of North American Birds* (AOU 1998) was recently published in the July issue of *The Auk* (Banks et al. 2002). The synopsis provided here only reports on some changes made, particularly for those species occurring in the United States.

### Species Changes

#### **Hawaiian Petrel** (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*)

Split from Dark-rumped Petrel. This species and the other form, Galapagos Petrel (*P. phaeopygia*), are both likely to occur on the west coast for which there are records of Dark-rumped Petrel.

#### **Wilson's Snipe** (*Gallinago delicata*)

Split from Common Snipe. "Our" snipe now reverts to its original name – Wilson's Snipe – since the Old World form takes precedence in nomenclature.

#### **Gray-hooded Gull** (*Larus cirrocephalus*)

Added due to several sightings, including one in Florida in 1998.

#### **Kelp Gull** (*Larus dominicanus*)

Added due to several sightings, including on the Chandeleur Islands, Louisiana, since 1989, and Texas, Indiana, and Maryland.

#### **Mitred Parakeet** (*Aratinga mitrata*)

Added due to established populations in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, California, since at least 1980.

**Black-crested Titmouse** (*Baeolophus atricristatus*)

Split from Tufted Titmouse. This is the only addition to the list caused by a split in a species that breeds in the contiguous United States. The Black-crested Titmouse is found in southern Texas.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

Added due to a documented report from St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, in 2000.

**Scientific Name Changes**

**Roseate Spoonbill** - *Ajaia ajaja* changed to *Platalea ajaja*

**Purple Gallinule** - *Porphyryla martinica* changed to *Porphyrio martinica*

**Red Phalarope** - *Phalaropus fulicaria* changed to *Phalaropus fulicarius*

**Blue Grosbeak** - *Guiraca caerulea* changed to *Passerina caerulea*

**Common Name Changes**

**Eared Quetzal** (*Euptilotis neoxenus*)

Formerly Eared Trogon, this species name is changed to “indicate its affinities more precisely.”

**Other Nomenclature Changes**

**Gunnison Sage-Grouse** (*Centrocercus minimus*)

The “first available name” for taxonomic purposes of this species is attributed to Young et al. (2000). Dr. Jessica Young is a professor at Western State College of Colorado located in Gunnison, CO.

**Literature Cited**

American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Banks, R. C., C. Cicero, J. L. Dunn, A. W. Kratter, P. C. Rasmussen, J. V. Remsen, Jr., J. D. Rising, and D. F. Stotz. 2002. Forty-third Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-List of North American Birds*. *The Auk* 119:897-906.

Young, J. R., C. E. Braun, S. J. Oyler-McCance, J. W. Hupp, and T. W. Quinn. 2000. A new species of sage-grouse (Phasianidae: *Centrocercus*) from southwestern Colorado. *Wilson Bulletin* 112:445-453.



## LITTLE-KNOWN BIRDING AREAS

### BELMAR PARK: POPULAR BIRDING HOTSPOT IN LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

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Dedicated to Alfred Clebsch, Jr. (1921-2002)

#### Introduction

Belmar Park is a popular birding area that is virtually an island in a sea of urban development. The park is an important natural resource and an excellent place to see both resident and migrating birds, other wild animals, and wildflowers. It is located adjacent to the Lakewood City Commons in the southwest corner of the intersection of Wadsworth Boulevard and Alameda Avenue in Jefferson County (Fig. 1). Historically, the park area is a remnant of the garden below the now demolished mansion of the May Bonfils-Stanton estate. The name Belmar was derived from the first three letters of May Bonfils' mother's name, Belle, and the last three letters are from Virgin Mary (Wilcox 1976).

#### Belmar Park - Origin and Description

The original area of Belmar Park was farmland and cow pasture with a large lake called Grassmere Lake (later site for Kountze Lake) formed in the late 1800s by damming the small basin draining from the north and west. In 1973, the City of Lakewood acquired 127 acres where the old lake, as part of Bonfils' garden, and the original boating pond had been drained, leaving small pools, swamp, and cattails. In 1980, a master plan was adopted to develop Belmar Park with several ecosystems to promote a nature and multi-use park and construction began in 1982 (Ross Williams, pers. comm.). Deed restrictions would not permit Kountze Lake to be as large or deep as the original lake. Kountze Lake, which

was named after a prominent Lakewood banker (Wilcox 1976), is a shallow lake mostly less than five feet deep with the deepest part being no more than 14 feet deep. Observance of diving ducks reveals the deep sections. The surface of the lake is designed to fluctuate only 6 to 8 inches, controlled by an electronically powered valve in the drain of the dam along the south edge of the lake. Excess water is released into steep cascading pools and wetlands along the previously existing drainage south down to Weir Gulch. Kountze Lake is at an elevation of about 5,525 feet, and Weir Gulch to the south ranges in the park from 5,490 to 5,455 feet at Wadsworth Blvd (Fort Logan 7.5 minute Quadrangle, revised 1994; Fig. 1). The lake is irregularly shaped and about 1,000 feet in diameter. The large island in the center of the lake is a sanctuary where birds can safely nest and raise their young. Two very small islands are north and west of the lake. A wetland wraps around its northwest edge just north of the lake. To the west of the lake is a small holding pond for agricultural ditch water that is pumped into Kountze Lake. Two wells are also used to supply water to Kountze Lake. Weir Gulch is an eastward flowing intermittent stream with a riparian habitat (Fig. 1). From the gulch, a perennial grassland covers the steep slope northward toward Kountze Lake and a meadow extends to the southern boundary of the park marked by West Kentucky Avenue.

The natural area of the park is bordered on the east by Wadsworth Boulevard, the Irongate Office Park where the Bonfils mansion once stood on the north side of West Ohio Avenue, and by the Lakewood Heritage Center that consists of historic buildings of Belmar Village and a Museum of Belmar Village (Fig. 1). The new Lakewood City Commons now sits on what was, until recently, a large undeveloped grassland area at the corner of Alameda and Wadsworth. In 2000, a white Teflon Band Shell was built for musical performances and festivals adjacent to the Heritage Center near Weir Gulch. Also, in 2000, an additional five acres were acquired for the park south across West Kentucky Avenue. There is a complex of trails in the park. Concrete cycling and walking paths circle the park along the north edge and south of Weir Gulch, and an east-west concrete cross path connects within the center of the park just south of Kountze Lake. A few crushed rock paths are connected to the concrete paths. Users have created their own foot trails along the wetland and along both sides of Weir Gulch. A horse trail is maintained for use by horse riders. A large, covered foot-bridge/gazebo is at the east edge of Kountze Lake. This is a good place to observe the island and warblers seem to concentrate in the willows here. The Irongate parking lot is just east of here.

### **Habitats**

The main habitats include lake, wetland, stream, and grassland within the park and residential areas bordering the park. Because of farming and land

Figure 1. Map of Belmar Park. Contour interval = 10 feet; --- = park boundary. (Modified portion of the Fort Logan 7.5 minute topographic map, U.S. Geological Survey, 1994)



disturbance during construction, no natural vegetation remains (Ross Williams, pers. comm.). Kountze Lake has aspen, pinyon pine, juniper, blue spruce, Russian olive, plains cottonwood, and small willow trees around its edges. A small forest of ponderosa pine was planted on the ridge between Kountze and the small pond to the west. The cattail, willow, and tree area in the steep discharge gulch is very good for warblers, snipe, and wintering Red-winged Blackbirds. Mature plains cottonwood trees line Weir Gulch. A bluegrass lawn covers the formal park strip along West Virginia Avenue in the northwest part of the park.

### Survey of Bird Species Occurrence

The first survey of the birds in Belmar Park was done by the late Donald Groves, who made the first checklist printed by the Lakewood City Parks in May 1990. Regular field observations were made in most months by Warren Finch from 1991-2001 and by Karleen Schofield from 1993-2001. The late Alfred Clebsch and his wife, Albina, made many observations in Belmar Park from 1992-1998. Alfred Clebsch initiated the preparation of a new field checklist. The new detailed checklist was a team effort. The computer format design document for the checklist was created by David Laliberte.

The common names and the order on the checklist conform to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th edition and its supplements (AOU 1998). The seasonal occurrence of each species is shown on the checklist as c- common, u-uncommon, r-rare, and v-very rare for the seasons of Sp- spring (Mar-May), S- summer (Jun-Aug), F- fall (Sep-Nov), and W- winter (Dec-Feb). The status of each species is shown as R- resident, year-round or seasonal; M- migrant; and H-historic species. An asterisk (\*) marks breeding species. A total of 177 bird species have been observed in the park as listed in the checklist. The end of the study was 31 December 2001. In the spring of 2002, Schofield confirmed the Brewer's Blackbird as a breeder.

### Seasonal and Year-round Residents

Seasonal residents are those species that spend a part or all of a spring, summer, fall, or winter season in the park. Migrants that spend time to breed and then return to wintering grounds are seasonal residents (\*RM).

Non-breeding seasonal residents/migrants (RM) include Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, California Gull, American Tree Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco.

Year-round residents (R) are Canada Goose, Gadwall, Mallard, American Kestrel, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Great Horned Owl (rarely seen), Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, European Starling, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, and House Sparrow. Jefferson County year-round resident species (Andrews and Righter 1992) that are occasionally observed include Western Scrub-Jay and Common Raven. Also included as residents on the checklist are irregular visitors in fall and winter due to altitudinal movement: American Goldfinch, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Brown Creeper.

### **Migrants**

Spring migrating birds are attracted to the south-facing, high, open area characteristic of the park, whereas fall migrants are less common. One hundred and two non-breeding migrants (M) have been observed. Very rare single observations as "one-day-wonders" include Cattle Egret, Olive-sided, Willow, and Vermilion Flycatchers, Winter Wren, and Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers. Migrant songbirds (passerines) are most commonly found along the Kountze shoreline and fringes of the wetland northwest of the lake. The grassy/weedy area between the lake and wetland attract sparrows in spring and fall.

### **Breeding Records**

The breeding records over the 10-year period of observations in the small 1/8 square-mile area of the park total 35 confirmed species. This compares to 47 total, of which 36 were confirmed, nesting species in the large 10-square mile southeast quadrant along South Platte River in the Fort Logan 7.5 minute Quadrangle recorded in the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas Survey (Kingerly 1998).

The most common and obvious breeding species are the Canada Goose and Mallard. The colorful American Avocet attracts attention of birders and non-birders alike feeding on the northeast shore near the Great Blue Heron sculpture. A photo of an American Avocet is shown on the title page of the checklist. Avocets nest on the islands in Kountze Lake beginning in late March. Four or more pairs have nested every year during our study, but few, if any in some years, of their young survive because of predation. Along Weir Gulch, American Kestrel, European Starling, and Bullock's Oriole nest in the cottonwood trees; Belted Kingfisher and Northern Rough-winged Swallow nest in the banks of the creek near the new band shell; Song Sparrow nests in willow shrubbery in the creek bed; and Cliff and Barn Swallows nest under the

bridge at Wadsworth. In the wetland, Pied-billed Grebe, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, American Coot, Song Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird nest. In addition, the Green-winged Teal may nest in the wetland. In the grassland along both sides of Weir Gulch, the Western Meadowlark, heard singing throughout spring and summer, is a probable nester. Tree nesters include Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker (red-shafted only), Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Mourning Dove, Yellow Warbler, and Common Grackle. Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper nest in the unmowed grassy area along the north shore of the lake. A single Swainson's Hawk nest was observed from the park in large trees on the ridge south of the park boundary. These Swainson's hunted in Belmar Park. An American Redstart was observed nest building in the wetland in the steep drainage below the dam for one year only. Brown-headed Cowbirds parasitize the warbler and other species' nests. The House Finch and House Sparrow nest mainly in residential yards surrounding the park on the north and west.

### **Historic Species and Environmental Changes**

Historic species, those observed before May 1991, include Ferruginous Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Baird's Sandpiper, Forster's Tern, Horned Lark, and Bohemian Waxwing, all reported by Donald Groves. Perhaps, a few of these will be seen in the future.

In the past decade, many environmental changes have occurred that have affected species distribution, such as greatly increased vehicular traffic on adjacent Wadsworth Blvd., new construction of homes east and south of the park, increased use of the park by pedestrians and cyclists on new paved paths. Expansion and increased activity at the Heritage Center and Belmar Museum have also affected the environment. The new Lakewood City Commons and the new Band Shell near Weir Gulch will further reduce wildlife, particularly the nesting of the Belted Kingfisher and Rough-winged Swallow along the creek.

### **Other Vertebrates**

Other wild animals observed in the park during the bird study are fox squirrel, raccoon, field mice, Norway rat, vole, weasel, muskrat, beaver, coyote, red fox, desert cottontail, painted turtle, snapping turtle, garter snake, bull snake, largemouth bass, and carp (Holt 1997).

### **Directions to Belmar Park**

Belmar Park can be reached from Denver by exiting I-25 at Exit 202 onto westbound Sixth Avenue and driving west to the south exit onto Wadsworth

Blvd. Drive south on Wadsworth past Alameda Avenue and continue to the stop light at West Ohio Avenue (800 South) and turn right, driving straight ahead to the parking lot overlooking the park. This lot is meant mainly for occupants of the Irongate Office Park. The lots at the Museum are also available (Fig. 1). During weekend festivals and summer evening concerts, the lots may be full.

Belmar Park may be accessed also from a second direction by taking Carr Street south from Alameda to the four-way stop sign and turning left onto West Virginia Ave (Fig. 1). Beyond the large sign marking the entrance to Belmar Park, street parking is available. Walk east on the paved path to Kountze Lake.

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## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' CONVENTION 2002 PAPERS SESSION ABSTRACTS

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### SOME BLACKBIRDS OF COLORADO: CHANGES IN DISTRIBUTION AND NUMBERS

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In Colorado, several species of blackbirds have undergone profound changes in distribution and numbers in the past 50 years. The Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) is still the most abundant and widespread species in Colorado, but it seems to be decreasing as a winter resident in the northeast while increasing on the Western Slope and in the Arkansas Valley. Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) continue to increase on Breeding Bird Surveys (1% per annum), seem to have displaced the Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) in many Front Range towns, and are invading West Slope towns. Brewer's Blackbird is a widespread nester and a regular winter resident, whereas most Common Grackles winter in Texas. The Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) remains a rare winter visitor. Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) numbers and nesting areas seem to be declining (6.7% per annum) due to urban sprawl and loss of wetlands. The most spectacular change has been the increase (+148.4% per annum) in Great-tailed Grackles (*Quiscalus mexicanus*), first observed in Gunnison in 1970, found nesting near Monte Vista in 1973, and by 1998 reported in 27 (2%) of 1,745 Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks. They now winter regularly in the San Luis Valley, the Arkansas Valley, and near Denver and Grand Junction.

**MANAGEMENT OF BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS: MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE  
LEGALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CONTROL PROGRAMS**

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According to the Breeding Bird Survey, at least 109 species of North American songbirds have significantly declined over the last three decades. Habitat loss and alterations, both on breeding and wintering grounds, have undoubtedly contributed to the declines. However, many of these declining species are also hosts of Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), and cowbird parasitism significantly reduces the reproductive success of some of these hosts. Many cowbird control programs have been implemented in spite of the fact that Brown-headed Cowbird populations have also significantly declined over the same three decades. Misconceptions and false assumptions about cowbirds and their hosts are often at the basis of cowbird control programs. Therefore, many these control programs are irresponsible and/or ineffective. Some of them, such as the control program in the Fort Hood, Texas, community are even illegal.

Brown-headed Cowbirds are a native species and are theoretically protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty, which makes it illegal to trap, kill, or otherwise damage or possess these birds or their parts (including eggs) without a permit from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Depredation Order (CFR 21.43) provides what some people believe to be a loophole in the law, and this order has been used for trapping programs in the USFWS region that encompasses Texas. However, the interpretation of the Depredation Order is inconsistent across regions.

The only justification for cowbird control is to buy time for an endangered host if and when it has been shown that cowbirds have a serious impact that threatens the existence of their populations. Therefore, cowbird control must be viewed as a stop-gap measure while other problems, such as critical habitat loss, are addressed.

**COLORADO HUMMINGBIRD BANDING: A BLACK-CHINNED NEST STUDY ON  
CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA**

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We are engaged in a broad range of banding studies of both breeding and migrant hummingbirds in Colorado. In our primary behavior study of nesting Black-chinned Hummingbirds (*Archilochus alexandri*), we locate and map nests in our apple orchard, capture and band the birds to collect plumage and mensural data, color mark hens and their chicks for individual field identification, and observe interactions. Our objectives are to investigate all aspects of Black-chinned nesting including chronology, site fidelity, nest clustering and territorial behavior, maternal care of fledglings, juvenile vocalizations, factors affecting the number of broods, and the impact of migrants on the local nesting population. Initial observations show that nests are not randomly distributed, but “clustered” in spatial arrangements determined through agonistic territorial interaction. Clustering of nests elicits questions about the possibility of other semi-colonial behaviors, such as whether mothers feed young other than their own. Black-chinned hens have been observed tending first and second brood nests concurrently, with fledged young from the first nest visiting the mother and begging for food at her second nest. Three general brood periods have been identified but confirmation of third brood nesting in Colorado requires further study.

Our additional banding study objectives are to better determine migration patterns of all hummingbird species in the state; to gather information on plumage characteristics unique to species, sex, and age; and to document rare birds for the Colorado Bird Records Committee. We hope to investigate reports of other hummingbird species statewide, and when practical, to trap, identify and band those individuals for possible addition to the state list. The assistance from volunteers and contributions from observers is solicited to further the knowledge to be gained from these studies.

**COLORADO'S BLACK SWIFTS**

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The Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*) is a bird with a history of mystery and intrigue. It nests at waterfalls and in caves, where it lays a single egg in a moss nest high on a hidden ledge or in a natural niche. Its incubation and nestling periods are extremely long, 30 and 45 days respectively. The 75 day period from egg laying to fledging, which compares to a typical 28-30 day period for most birds its size, is necessitated by the staple of its diet, flying ants. As soon as their youngster is capable of thermoregulation, the parents spend 16 hours each day on the wing, feeding many miles from the nest on the high flying ants and gathering a bolus of them to feed the youngster after returning at dusk. These habits make locating nest sites of this USDA Forest Service Sensitive Species a challenging task. Following the path of Dr. Owen Knorr, who located the first nest in Colorado in 1949 and who located the first 27 Colorado colonies in the 1950's, researchers from the Forest Service and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory have been building an inventory of Colorado's colonies during the past four nesting seasons. They have located more than 300 waterfalls and are in the process of surveying and evaluating them for their potential for Black Swift nesting, using guidelines developed by Dr. Knorr. By the end of the 2001 field season, they had evaluated 189 waterfalls and had discovered 30 new nest sites, raising the total of known sites in Colorado to 67, far more than any other state's total.



**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES IN EL PASO COUNTY**

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The author has focused observation and banding efforts on Loggerhead Shrikes (*Lanius ludivicianus*) in eastern El Paso County since 1993. The purpose of this study is to document site fidelity, survival and longevity, breeding success, and to track migrational movements through band recovery. The study area was a 1.6 km-square area in central El Paso County, bounded on the north and east by Dearing Road, Myers Road on the south, and Squirrel Creek Road on the west. Observations and trapping usually took place March-August. Trapping and handling methods are included in the presentation, as well as shrikes' requirements for nesting locations. Comments on ways to reduce roadside mortality and suggestions to enhance breeding sites are also addressed.

Adult male Barrow's Goldeneye. Photo by Bill Schmoker.

## MEET THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

### Larry Semo, Westminster

The lure of birding was inherent in me as a child since my father, my mother, and my grandfather were all wildlife biologists. My earliest sentience of the avian world was as a toddler when my father insisted that I keep quiet in the blind as Greater Prairie-Chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse performed their spring rituals in central Wisconsin.

Growing up and birding in the wilds of far northwestern Wisconsin near Duluth was certainly a pleasure. As a youth, I met another local serious birder, Robby Johnson, who became my mentor and introduced me to the information that there was a vast army of others who had the same interests.

During college, I began conducting research on a wide array of avian species, particularly raptors with emphasis on breeding dynamics of Sharp-shinned Hawks and wintering owl populations. After completing my wildlife biology education at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, I became a wildlife biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and later became a bander at Hawk Ridge in Duluth for many years. During that time I conducted numerous nesting and migration studies on a wide variety of other raptor species. I also began distributional and population studies on a multitude of North American avifauna including boreal species, shorebirds, waterfowl, upland gamebirds, and passerines.

I have worked for SWCA, Inc., Environmental Consultants since 1993 and have worked mostly in Texas. I have conducted breeding surveys and monitoring of endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo populations in central Texas, but have worked on a large number of taxa in Texas. While seven years of continuous Texas birding was certainly kind to my North American list (i.e., Collared Forest-Falcon, Ruddy Quail-Dove, Black-tailed Gull, Gray Silky-flycatcher), the oppressive heat finally impelled me north to better climes (despite almost eclipsing 500 for the state) and I transferred to Westminster.

As a Senior Scientist with the same firm here in Colorado, my current duties are to oversee the company's biological research and surveys on endangered resources in the state. My wife, Joanne, who is also a wildlife biologist, has been very gracious in understanding my birding desires and often accompanies me on forays to discover and understand the bird life of our new home state. I hope to see you in the field.

**John Vanderpoel, Niwot**

John Vanderpoel has been birding for over thirty years and has birded throughout the United States and Mexico, as well as on trips to South America and Europe. He graduated from the University of Colorado in 1971 with a degree in environmental biology. He's married to a non-birder, Linda, who usually is tolerant of his occasional "birding binges." John and Linda have a son, Scott.

John is the creator of the highly-acclaimed The Advanced Birding Video Series® with Jon L. Dunn. He co-wrote the first two videos in the series, The Large Gulls of North America and The Small Gulls of North America, and is currently videotaping hummingbirds throughout the United States and Mexico for the upcoming identification video on this group.

Most Wanted ABA Bird – Ivory Gull! Despite two weeks at Gambell and a February trip to St. John's, Newfoundland, this bird has eluded him.

Most Exciting Bird trip – Two weeks in Gambell on St. Lawrence Island, AK. "Everyday at the point, 400,000 birds would fly by. Most were seabirds (Parakeet Auklets, Crested Auklets both murrelets, and both puffins; even a couple of Dovekies) but anything could turn up. Shorebirds, songbirds, ducks (including all four eider species), gulls, and jaegers. Standing at the point in 35° wind, measuring your skills with the fastest guns in the west- it doesn't get any better than that."



## NEWS FROM THE FIELD: THE SPRING 2002 REPORT (MARCH - MAY)

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The drought conditions during the summer of 2002, though temporally off topic, remain in our memories since it was during that season that the worst drought in Colorado history became a household discussion. The health and viability of bird populations during that period of drought were certainly of concern, though the events that predated that season can be just as important. As we remember the spring of 2002, we wonder how the developing drought conditions influenced the vigor and distribution of avian life. This life includes both those species and populations that reside in Colorado during the breeding season and those that pass through to other lands, though are still dependent upon the resources of this state to be successful in their breeding and survivability. It is unclear how birds actually fared during the spring and how their fitness influenced their success during the following season. For some, lack of precipitation certainly would have negatively impacted the necessary food resources. For waterbirds and shorebirds that prefer marshy conditions, the lack of water could have had significant impact. For others, the lack of water actually could have been positive, especially for those species of shorebirds that are adapted to foraging in open, muddy areas. During the spring of 2002, many reservoirs were lower than usual and the extensive shores and mudflats associated with the drought conditions most likely afforded higher food availability to some shorebirds enroute to northern climes. This comment is not made to downplay the seriousness of the current drought, but rather to bring some kind of positive note to an otherwise depressing thought.

In the Denver area, March 2002 was a cold month, with an average monthly temperature 5.7 degrees below normal. The first few days of March were

especially cold, with high temperatures recorded in Denver on March 1 and 2 of 20 and 12 degrees, respectively. On the morning of March 2, the low was -4, which was the second coldest temperature recorded for the year up to that date. As is typical in March, temperatures fluctuated greatly every few days as winter cold fronts battled the continued warming of the northern hemisphere. The highest temperature recorded in Denver during March 2002 was only 69 degrees. A precursor for a pattern that would continue more significantly later in the year, the measured precipitation in Denver was 0.75 inches below normal. The greatest snowfall occurred during a cold snap in early March when 6.5 inches fell on the landscape. Winds were generally balanced over the course of the month between northeast and west, depending on the high and low pressure systems that developed. The lower than typical temperatures in March may have allowed some lingerers from the winter season to remain during the month, including Snowy Owls, Snow Buntings, and White-winged Crossbills.

April 2002 temperatures in the Denver area were near normal, being only 2.6 degrees above the average. The highest temperature, 84 degrees, was recorded on April 15. The lowest monthly temperature was recorded on April 19, when the mercury dipped to 18 degrees. As a sign to come, April's precipitation was the third lowest in recorded history, with only 0.23 inches recorded. Only a trace of snow fell during the month. Winds dominated from the southwest and west during the month.

The dry spring conditions continued and exacerbated during the month of May. Though the average monthly temperature was one degree below normal, precipitation levels declined. The highest temperature in Denver during the month was 93 on May 31, while the lowest temperature was recorded on May 9, when the temperature fell to 22. Overall precipitation was 1.38 inches below normal for the month. A late spring snow occurred on May 24, when 0.7 inches of snow fell. Winds generally were from the south or west. All weather information for the Denver area was provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA 2001).

The climatic conditions in Denver this past spring were similar to those of the remainder of the state. Precipitation patterns were dismal throughout. Conditions in the southwest were especially bleak. In Durango, the precipitation amounts for the months of March, April, and May were 38 percent, 33 percent, and less than 1 percent of average, respectively, for that period. Grand Junction fared slightly better than the southwest. March precipitation was 70 percent of normal amounts, though conditions deteriorated to monthly averages of 24 and 59 percent of normal for April and May, respectively. In the northwest, though still not receiving average precipitation, precipitation levels

in Craig were 74 and 73 percent of normal for March and April, respectively. Ultimately, the drought conditions in Craig also became worse when May rains only accounted for 8 percent of usual rainfall amounts. Conditions on the eastern plains were also as poor. Precipitation levels at Bonny Lake were less than 1 percent of average for March; 31 percent of average for April; and 11 percent of average for May. At Campo, rainfall and snow patterns yielded less than 1 percent of average for March, 18 percent for April, and 40 percent for May. All precipitation information for areas in the state outside of Denver was provided by the Colorado Climate Center (Colorado Climate Center 2002).

Based on the observations of birders this past spring, no clear-cut indication of the future conditions was evident. Negative perceptions of the status of some species were provided by a few observers. Rich Levad, in describing the results of waterbird surveys in the San Luis Valley, maintained that "Extremely dry weather seems to have resulted in at least a small reduction of Colonial Waterbird numbers..., especially noticeable with White-faced Ibis. The only sites in Colorado (2) which supported Black Tern nesting last year have little water and no terns. I could find only one pair of Black-necked Stilts - at Blanca Wetlands. However, we did count 25 Snowy Plovers at a single playa at Blanca Wetlands." Rich also commented that "The Long-eared Owl areas in the Grand Valley and Disappointment Valley that supported more than 20 nest starts in 1998 had a single nest in 2002, and it failed. Drought apparently has whacked the rodent numbers." In contrast, Rich also related that three historical sites in the San Luis Valley had five active Long-eared Owl nests.

Despite dim forecasts for some waterbirds, passerine migration, especially on the eastern plains, was believed to be stellar. Peter Gent asserted that "May, especially the first two weeks, was the best birding in Boulder County I can remember for a very long time. I saw more Black-throated Gray Warblers in the County this May than the total for the previous 25 years. There were many other birds from the southwest as well. I saw five new county birds in the period April 27 to May 13; there were five others reported that I looked for and didn't see." Joey Kellner reported similarly by saying that "LOTS of Western Tanagers and Audubon's Warblers stayed late on the plains... Virginia's Warblers seem to have been all over the place in Eastern Colorado this spring (due to SW winds?)..." Other evidence of southwest species heading north this past spring included the presence of a Zone-tailed Hawk, an amazing number of White-winged Doves, a female Magnificent Hummingbird on the plains, numerous Black Phoebe in the southern portion of the state, and a Lucy's Warbler. One wonders if it was the southwest winds alone that blew southwestern and montane passerines onto the plains or if that movement was also partly attributed to the extremely dry conditions on their nesting grounds.

As southwestern and montane birds spilled onto the plains, there was also a large push of eastern warblers into eastern Colorado. As evident of the observations of many eastern Colorado birders, Tennessee Warblers especially wandered westward. Joe Fontaine expressed it well by stating that "Clearly the story of warbler migration this year was the abundance of Tennessee Warblers. During the period May 16 - May 25, I observed over 25 Tennessee Warblers in western NE, eastern WY, and northern CO. The westward shift in migration of Tennessee Warblers was extraordinary."

Rarities again drew attention to the spring season in Colorado. The real goodies, those listed by the CBCR as review birds, included no fewer than 44 species observed during the period. These included Red-throated Loon, Brown Pelican, Tricolored Heron, multiple Glossy Ibis, both Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, an Eurasian Wigeon, Red-shouldered Hawk, a potential second state-record Zone-tailed Hawk, Common Moorhen, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot, multiple Short-billed Dowitchers, Laughing Gull, Mew Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, a big push of White-winged Doves, continued Inca Doves, Black-billed Cuckoo, lingering Snowy Owls, a first plains record for Magnificent Hummingbird, continued Acorn Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, multiple Gray-checked and Wood Thrushes, a potential second state-record Lucy's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warblers, Bay-breasted Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Hepatic Tanager, Painted Bunting, and Purple Finch.

In what was to later develop into the worst drought in Colorado history, surpassing the dust bowl era of the early 1930s, observations, data, theories, and reflections of avian responses to the summer of 2002 is vital to the ornithological history of the state. The authors implore all who have thoughts, perceptions, or, especially, data that provide some hint of how the drought affected bird life in those months following spring, to submit the information to the authors for the next issue.

**We are interested in receiving reports of high counts, early dates and departure dates for ALL species. This is a PLEA to please report this information to us.**

As always, our continued thanks go to Brandon Percival who organizes and supplies mountains of information for *North American Birds*. Much of this information is not used in that publication and we commend him for all his hard work.

**Note 1:** The reports contained herein are largely unchecked, and the authors do not vouch for their authenticity. Underlined species are those for which the Colorado Bird Records Committee requests documentation. The Colorado Field Ornithologists' web site (<http://www.cfo-link.org>) has a link to the rare bird Sight Record reporting form that can be submitted electronically; the same form is also printed on the inside cover of this journal's mailer.

**Note 2:** All locations are annotated as to county (and counties are italicized). Locations that are reported five or more times have the county listed only on the first notation. For sites that are split between counties, the county in which the sighting occurred is given, if known, otherwise both are listed.

**Abbreviations:** **A&R**=Andrews and Righter (Andrews, R. and R. Righter. 1992. *Colorado Birds*. Denver Museum of Natural History.); **BBA**=Breeding Bird Atlas (Kingery 1998); **CBR**=Chico Basin Ranch; **CBRC**=Colorado Bird Records Committee; **CVCG**=Crow Valley Campground; **FLWE**=Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement; **LCC**=Lamar Community College; **m.ob.**=many observers (used for birds that were refound, either the same day or on subsequent days, by others); **NP**=National Park; **NWR**=National Wildlife Refuge; **ph**=photographed; **PNG**=Pawnee National Grassland; **Res.**=Reservoir; **RMBO**=Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory; **SP**=State Park; **SWA**=State Wildlife Area; **v**=videotaped.

**Red-throated Loon:** The only report of the spring was one (age? – Eds.) seen at Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*, on 13 April (LE). Observers are encouraged to note the ages of all loons when possible, as it seems that most records of Yellow-billed and Red-throated Loons pertain to immature birds. More study is needed since many observers do not note the age.

**Common Loon:** Average numbers were reported from the start of the period along Front Range counties. The last report was of a 2<sup>nd</sup>-calendar year bird on 24 May at Lathrop SP, *Huerfano* (CLW, BKP, m.ob.).

**Red-necked Grebe:** While no longer a review bird, this species is still quite rare, particularly outside of fall migration. A molting bird was found near Brighton, *Adams*, on 21 March (CLW) and an alternate-plumaged bird was present at the Goodnight River Trail Pond, *Pueblo*, from 2-14 May (DSi, m.ob.).

**Western Grebe:** The high at Standley L., *Jefferson*, was 216 on 19 April (LS).

**Clark's Grebe:** Rather unusual for *Archuleta* was one seen at Navajo Res. on 6 May (JiB, SA, PD).



**Brown Pelican:** A sub-adult was found by Lyle Anise at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 4 May and remained for at least ten days (m.ob.).

**American Bittern:** The only reports received were of three singletons from Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, where first noted on 12 April at Cottonwood Hollow (RH), and last reported on 20 May at Cattail Chorus Nature Area along the Poudre River (DL). One was also seen at the Environmental Learning Center 11 May (JF).

**Great Egret:** Unusual locations for this species were at the Rigli Ranch, *Morgan*, on 16 April (JRi), one flying near the Florida River, east of Durango, *La Plata*, 26 May (LS, TL, BKP, BS), and one south of Russell Lakes, *Saguache*, on 27 May (TL, LS).

**Little Blue Heron:** Very surprising was an adult photographed by Barry Zimmer 10 miles east of Gunnison, *Gunnison*, on 20 April. Another adult was seen the same day at Two Buttes Res., *Baca* (DN, SO). The only other sighting was later on the 29<sup>th</sup> of that month, also an adult, at Lower Latham Res., *Weld* (DS).

**Tricolored Heron:** one was at Verhoeff Res., *Bent*, on 25 May (DN-ph).

**Cattle Egret:** Unusual locations were two seen north of Salida, *Chaffee*, on 7 May (VAT), and eight south of Hwy 52 in *Boulder* on 12 May (PG).

**Green Heron:** The first report was from Amache, *Prowers*, on 11 May (DAL). Others were seen at Rocky Ford SWA, *Otero*, 14 May (JaB, m.ob.), Walden Ponds, *Boulder*, 18 May (BS, m.ob.), and the Cattail Chorus Nature Area, *Larimer*, 24-27 May (DAL).

**Glossy Ibis:** This species continues to be reported in ever-increasing numbers, most often in close association with White-faced Ibis, and typically on the eastern plains. More unusual was an adult purportedly photographed on 19 May at Stagecoach Res., *Routt* (NP, AS-ph). A high count for Colorado, were three seen at the same time in a flooded field south of Barr Lake SP, *Adams*, on 2-4 May (CLW, TL, m.ob.). All other sightings were singletons, reported from: Florence, *Fremont*, 4 May (JS); Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*, 4 May (BM, ph); Rocky Ford, *Otero*, 10 May and 19 May (VAT, SO); and *Boulder* 12-13 May (PG, m.ob.). Equally interesting, and certain to raise headaches in the future, was a bird photographed in *Broomfield* that showed characteristics of hybridization (CLW). Reports of hybrids sprung up from elsewhere in the country as well. In at least one case along the Texas coast a bird was first

reported as vagrant Glossy Ibis, but upon close inspection was revealed to be a hybrid (CLW pers. obs. with Evan Obercian, Michael O'Brien, and Will Russell). How many Colorado reports pertain to hybrids which may closely resemble Glossy Ibis?

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Two were at Angel Lake, *Weld*, on 17 March (RH) and another was seen at Cornish, *Weld*, east of Eaton on 7 April (DAL).

**Ross's Goose:** Normal numbers were reported in the Arkansas River Valley in March (DAL, BKP). A rather high count for *Weld* was eight birds seen at Cornish on 7 April (DAL). One at Lake Beckwith, *Pueblo*, in Colorado City was fairly far west.

**Trumpeter Swan:** David Leatherman found a first-summer bird at Two Buttes Res., on 22 March, which is most likely the first for that county. An adult was reported at Spinney Mountain Res., *Park*, on 13 April (NP, AS).

**Tundra Swan:** Two adults were seen at Lathrop SP, *Huerfano*, 9-12 March (DJ, DS) and an immature was reportedly photographed at Sambrito Wetlands, Navajo State Park, *Archuleta*, 25 March (AS, NP).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** The only individual reported was a male found at a pond alongside CO 287 and US 50 north of Lamar, *Prowers*, 21 March (JT) and again on 26 March (DAL).

**Greater Scaup:** Slightly below average numbers of Greater Scaup were reported this spring with no concentrations of double digits or greater, as are sometimes present in spring. Reports came from throughout the Front Range including *Broomfield*. More unusual was a female found at Two Buttes Res., on 22 March (DAL).

**Surf Scoter:** The only one reported was a female at the Fish Hatchery Ponds, west of Valco Ponds, *Pueblo*, 5-13 May (RM, DSi, m.ob.).

**White-winged Scoter:** Quite rare in spring, an adult male was found at Chatfield Res., *Arapahoe*, on 13 April (JBH, AS).

**Long-tailed Duck:** An alternate-plumaged male was present at the Environmental Learning Center in Ft. Collins, from 18 April-1 May (DAL).

**Bufflehead:** The last report from the plains was of a male at the Fish Hatchery Pond, *Pueblo*, on 10 May (BKP).

**Common Goldeneye:** The last report was of a female at Lake Cheraw, *Otero*, 10 May (VAT).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** An immature male was at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, 3 March (CLW, TL, KS, RO). A female was at Park Creek Res., *Larimer*, on 3 April (DAL). On the West Slope, four were at Blue Mesa Res., *Gunnison*, on 13 April (SD), and a single male was found at Pastorius Res., *La Plata*, 24-30 March. Perhaps the same male was seen at Pastorius on the very late date of 24 May (SA).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Likely a high count for *Prowers*, and a good number for anywhere in Colorado, was 60 seen at a pond along US 50 and CO 287 north of Lamar, on 21 and 22 March (DAL, BKP). Four persisted at Union Res., *Weld*, on 26 April (JF, DF). A female on 12 May at Goodnight River Trail Pond, *Pueblo*, was late.

**Osprey:** Leatherman notes that hacking effects by City/DOW in Larimer County during early 1990s do not appear to have had a great result, but may be responsible for a few birds returning each year. Two were seen in Fort Collins this year. Osprey habitat is very limited in *Baca* so one at Two Buttes Res. on 13 May is noteworthy.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** A juvenile was found in Ft. Collins, on the very late dates of 25-26 May (DAL, RH, JF). There are precious few well-documented sightings of this species in May in Colorado.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Typical numbers were seen along the Front Range and plains. A dark-morph was seen on 20 April at LCC, *Prowers*, (DN, SO) and a dark juvenile on 26 April along the Poudre River Trail, *Larimer*, in Ft. Collins (JF).

**Zone-tailed Hawk:** One of the most exciting finds of the season was an adult Zone-tailed Hawk first found at Pueblo City Park and later at Valco Ponds, *Pueblo*, on 27 April (DAL, DCE, JM). Excellent details were provided by the observers of this one-day-wonder. There is only one previous record from Colorado.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Five seen on 15 April in *Weld* was a high number for that late in the season (JF).

**Peregrine Falcon:** Individuals were recorded away from breeding locales from 17 April through 13 May in *Adams, Bent, Crowley, Larimer, Prowers, Pueblo*

and *Weld* counties. An adult near Antonito, *Conejos*, on 28 May was presumably a local breeder (CLW, BKP).

**White-tailed Ptarmigan:** Duane Nelson found birds in locations where ptarmigan are not typically reported by Colorado birders: three at Mt. Herard, *Saguache*, on 5 May and one at Horn Peak, *Custer*, on 19 May.

**Common Moorhen:** Chris Owens and Richard Mendez found an adult on 4 May at Barbour Ponds, *Weld*, that triggered a flood of observers to rush there that day. Many observers were able to see the bird that afternoon, but the bird was not re-found after the 4<sup>th</sup> (m.ob., AS-ph).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Scarce in *Boulder*, one was at Jim Hamm, 11-12 May (PG).

**Snowy Plover:** This species was first reported on 4 April at Rocky Ford Sewage Treatment Plant, *Otero* (BKP, KH, SO). Bill Prather found an out-of-range Snowy Plover at Union Res., *Weld*, on 15 May, which stayed to 17 May (AS).

**Piping Plover:** Duane Nelson continues to monitor and assist this species in southeastern Colorado and all observations come from him. The first bird seen was a male observed on 14 April at John Martin Res., *Bent*. By 12 May, Duane had found the first nest and by the 27<sup>th</sup> he had found five nests and seven pairs. A single bird was found at Upper Queens, *Kiowa*, on 1 May and a pair was found on Tern Island, at Adobe Creek, *Bent/Kiowa*, on 21 May.

**Mountain Plover:** Brandon Percival and Ken Hollinga reported the first bird on 4 April at Lake Henry, *Crowley*. Others were noted at typical locations in *Weld*, *El Paso*, *Pueblo*, and *Baca*.

**Black-necked Stilt:** Unusual locations for this species included one at Spinney Mountain Res., *Park*, 12 April (AS, NP) and one at Jim Hamm, *Boulder*, on 12 May (PG).

**Willet:** One at Pastorius Res. on 27 April was somewhat unusual (JiB).

**Whimbrel:** First noted on 4 April at Orlando Res., *Huerfano*, Whimbrels were present in average numbers. High counts came from *Weld* with 35 at Windsor Res., on 25 April (RH) and 24 at Wood's Lake (JF). Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, hosted a single bird on 25 April (BB) and four on 9 May (BB, WF). A single bird on 19 May at CBR, *Pueblo* (BPG), was the last report of this species this spring.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Stan Oswald continues to rake in the goodies in *Otero*, this time from the Rocky Ford Sewage Treatment Plant, which hosted the only “hudwit” of the spring on the relatively late date of 28 May (SO).

**Marbled Godwit:** one at Pastorius Res. on 16 April was unusual (JiB).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Duane Nelson saw the only Ruddy Turnstones with two at Upper Queens, *Kiowa*, on 22 May and two the following day at Adobe Creek, *Bent/Kiowa*. By this point, we can safely assume that Duane has seen more Ruddy Turnstones than the rest of Colorado’s birders combined!

**Red Knot:** Staggeringly early was one photographed at Adobe Creek Res., *Bent*, on 24 March (DN-ph).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Internet rumors of this species in April in *Weld* almost certainly refer to Western Sandpipers and ALL April sightings should be documented, preferably with photographs and video. The first reliable observation was from Neenoshe Res., *Kiowa*, on 10 May (DN). Rare in *Pueblo*, nine at CBR on 19 May were noteworthy (CLW, KB). The high count was 78 at Verhoeff Res., east of Hasty, *Bent*, 25 May (DN).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** This species is rare in spring so one at Walden Ponds, in shorebirdless *Boulder* was a great find on 24 May. The rarest sighting was of two Pectoral Sandpipers documented by Jim Beatty at Pastorius Res. on 10 May, while another was seen the same day at Neenoshe Res. (DN).

**Dunlin:** A molting bird on 16 April at Lower Latham, *Weld*, (JF, JH) and an alternate-plumaged bird at Ramah Res., *El Paso*, on 24 May (AS), were the only reports for this spring.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Extremely early were two reported from Lake Cheraw, *Otero*, on 26 April (GW). A very high count for spring in Colorado was four seen at Rocky Ford Sewage Treatment Ponds, *Otero*, on the more expected date of 10 May (VAT). Observers are cautioned that molting Long-billed Dowitchers may appear similar to *hendersoni* Short-billed Dowitchers and all adults should be carefully documented and photographed. April reports from Colorado are probably best discounted unless photographed, videotaped and/or tape recorded.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Unusual locations included single birds at Two Buttes Res., on 13 May (DAL) and a female at Pastorius Res. on 26 May (LS, BKP, TL, m.ob.).

**Laughing Gull:** One in adult basic plumage was seen at Boyd Lake, *Larimer*, on 23 April (RH) and another molting into alternate plumage was present 8-17 May at Union Res., *Weld* (SR, BS, DW, m.ob., AS-ph).

**Franklin's Gull:** Six at Navajo Res., *Archuleta*, on 26 May were noteworthy (LS, BKP, TL, m.ob.).

**Mew Gull:** Typically found in populated counties bordering the foothills, this spring's Mew Gull records were no different. A basic-plumaged adult at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, was found on 11 March (BKP). An adult with an injured leg returned to Jim Hamm Pond, *Boulder*, on 23 March (CLW-ph and v, BPG, SLH). A second-year Mew Gull photographed on 4 April at Brunner Res. (CLW) was the first for sprawling *Broomfield*, and likely the best bird yet found in Colorado's newest county.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Several were seen from 10 March-15 April including one bird in *Jefferson*, at least two in *Arapahoe*, and up to four in *Boulder*.

**Glaucous-winged Gull:** Many observers were afforded excellent opportunities to study a first-year bird from 5 March-22 April at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*. It was frequently seen alongside several juvenile Thayer's Gulls and first-year Herring Gulls (BB, TL-ph, m.ob.).

**Glaucous Gull:** Very late was a first-year bird on 9 May at Lake Beckwith in Colorado City, *Pueblo* (DS) and what was almost certainly the same bird was at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 13 May. One at Queens Res., *Kiowa*, on 16 March was at a typical time (GW).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Likely the same adult that has been present for several years was seen at Neenoshe Res., on 19 May (DN).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** Quite surprising was an adult at Lower Queens Res., *Kiowa*, on 8 March (AS, GW, m.ob.).

**Caspian Tern:** Reports of this species came from the northern Front Range between 21 April and 14 May. High counts included three at Boyd Lake, *Larimer*, on 22 April (RH) and four at Union Res., *Weld*, on 9 May (DW).

**Least Tern:** Lisa Rawinski found one at the Blanca Wetlands in *Alamosa* on 15 May – the same day they returned to John Martin (DN). Another out-of-range bird was found by Stan Oswald at Lake Henry, on 18 May.

**Black Tern:** Pastorius Res. hosted one Black Tern on 26 May (LS, m.ob.).

**Eurasian Collared-Doves:** This species continues to be found in greater abundance and distribution in the state. The high count reported was 40 at Blende, *Pueblo*, on 18 March (BKP, CLW, m.ob.). San Luis Valley reports included birds at Monte Vista, *Rio Grande*, and the Alamosa Golf Course, *Alamosa*, on 24 May, (BKP, CLW, LS, m.ob.). Other reports came from *El Paso*, *Fremont*, *Kiowa*, *Larimer*, *Lincoln*, *Otero*, *Prowers* and *Yuma* counties.

**White-winged Dove:** Did anyone *not* see a White-winged Dove this spring? If so, bow your heads and hide in the corner; there were at least 14 reported. In all seriousness, even five years ago, this species was very difficult to see in Colorado, but the past two years witnessed an onslaught of these large doves. The clear majority of this spring's records conform to the one-day-wonder trend typical of this species, the main difference being that these doves are no longer quite so wondrous. White-winged Doves were first noted in the state in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, 13 April (MA, RSt); another individual was found in that city the next day (VAT). Denver Metro birds included one in northwestern Denver on 26 April (JiB); two in Boulder, *Boulder*, one on 26 April (AB) and another on 9 May (RB, BF); one in Brighton, *Adams*, 5-7 May, (NGa, TL-ph, m.ob.); and one at Westchester Tree Park in Lakewood, *Jefferson*, 10 May (MC). Two were seen in *Fremont*: one in Penrose, 27-28 April (RW), and another in Canyon City on 4 May (fide RW). *Lamar*, hosted two birds: one seen flying over the LCC on 3 May (BPG), and another on the west side of town on 4 May (CLW). Reports away from the plains are still very unusual; this spring one was at Zink's Pond near *Durango*, 17 April, (JiB) and one was in the San Luis Valley at Del Norte, *Rio Grande*, 15 May (JR). Whew!

**Inca Dove:** This species was only noted from its toehold in Rocky Ford, *Otero*, where it was present throughout the period. The highest reported total was two on 12 April (BKP, RO, SO), but it seems that more birds could have been present and that many observers have simply tired of looking for them.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** With few recent reports, and none documented, from the (former?) breeding areas in northeastern Colorado, finding this species has become quite challenging. Excellent finds were one at Pueblo City Park, 12-13 May, (DJ, MY) and one at the LCC on 27 May (BPG).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Early sightings included one at Hasty Campground, *Bent*, on 4 May (RO, JK) and on 5 May at Two Buttes Res. (RO, JK).

**Greater Roadrunner:** One was near Lamar, on 3 May (RH), where rarely seen.

**Flammulated Owl:** Several were recorded in late May in *Larimer* including two in Rist Canyon, two in Buckhorn Canyon, and one at Storm Mountain. Three were at the Junction Creek Campground near Durango, on 26 May (BS).

**Snowy Owl:** At least four Snowy Owls remained in southeastern Colorado into the spring season: one was north of Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, from 3-17 March (SO, m.ob.); and up to three were present at Adobe Creek Res. on 10 March, *Bent/Kiowa* (DN, m.ob.), one of which lingered until 22 April (DN, TL).

**Northern Pygmy-Owl:** Three were seen at Beaver Creek SWA, *Fremont*, in late March (RM, BKP, m.ob.). The species is generally uncommon and local in that county.

**Boreal Owl:** One was found and documented at Cascade Creek, *San Juan* on 5 March (JiB, SA, PD); the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas shows one record from that county.

**Black Swift:** one on 25 April in Pueblo, was at a low elevation and very early (NL). One on 24 May at the Alamosa Golf Course, was likely brought down by strong storms that dropped snow that morning (SO, CLW, BKP, LS-v, m.ob.).

**Chimney Swift:** Two were found and carefully studied on the west slope on 24 May: one at Fairfield Pagosa Pond on 24 May (SO) and another at Naturita, *Montrose* (BSc, RL, CD). Another was at CVCG, *Weld*, on 22 May (RH), where seldom seen. It may surprise many that all carefully observed *Chaetura* swifts on the west slope have been Chimney Swifts.

**Magnificent Hummingbird:** Probably the most unusual bird captured by the RMBO banding stations this spring was a female of this species at CBR, *El Paso*, on 18 May (TL-ph, LS-ph, m.ob.). A&R list no previous plains records.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** On the far western edge of their range, Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in mid- and late May at CVCG, the Rigli Ranch, *Morgan*, and CBR, *El Paso*.

**Acorn Woodpecker:** Up to four were seen at the typical location in Wildcat Canyon near Durango, from 25 March through the end of the period (m.ob.).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** A male found at Zink's Pond, *La Plata*, on 28 March was certainly the most out of range. Others were singles at Grandview Cemetery, *Larimer*, 2 March (DAL), a juvenile from 2-18 March and an adult from 18 March-5 April at Pueblo City Park (BKP m.ob.), up to two males at Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca/Las Animas* 23 March-9 April (DN, GW) and an



immature female at Fairmount Cemetery, *Prowers*, 22 March (DAL). **Note:** the CBRC now requests documentation on this species.

**Red-naped Sapsucker:** While uncommon, this is the most expected sapsucker on the plains in spring and fall. David Leatherman recorded the first of the season, an adult female, at CVCG, on 17 March. Other birds along the plains or Front Range were two at Two Buttes Res., on 22 March (DAL), one at Beaver Creek SWA, *Fremont*, on 24 March (BKP, LE), single females at CBR, *El Paso*, on 30 March (TL, m.ob.) and 16-17 May (TL, CLW, m.ob.), an adult male at Grandview Cemetery, *Larimer*, on 3 April (DAL) and an immature male there on the 5<sup>th</sup> (DAL), and a female at Van's Grove, *Bent*, on 30 April (DN).

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker:** Each year there seem to be fewer reports of this species. Duane Nelson noted that the best place to find the species in *Bent* is at Setchfield SWA, where one was present on 31 March. Two were west of Higbee, *Otero*, on 12 April (BKP, RO).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** One was singing below the dam at Two Buttes Res., 10 May (JMK, SS, AS, NP, BKP, CLW, m.ob.).

**Gray Flycatcher:** This species made a strong showing for spring with individuals seen at CVCG, on 26 April (DAL), along Bear Creek in *Boulder* on 9 May (PG), and at the Neenoshe Res. locust grove, on 10 May (DN).

**Alder Flycatcher:** The RMBO banding station at CBR, *El Paso*, banded and photographed a single bird on May 18 (TL, LS-ph).

**“Western” Flycatcher:** Plains reports of this species group included one at Rigli Ranch, *Morgan*, on 13 May (JR) and one at Van's Grove, *Bent*, on 23 May (DN). Records of Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatchers outside of the breeding range of Cordilleran Flycatcher are best treated as “Western Flycatcher” as there is no evidence that Pacific-slope Flycatcher is not a regular migrant in Colorado (most likely in fall).

**Black Phoebe:** Many more Black Phoebes were reported this spring than typical, thanks largely to the CFO convention that brought many birders to southwestern Colorado. Front Range birds included two at Vallie, *Fremont*, 14 April (G&JH) and one at Runyon Lake, *Pueblo*, 2 April (RM). On the West Slope, the first of the year was found at Naturita, *Montrose*, on 24 March (CD). McElmo Canyon, *Montezuma*, hosted a bird on 27 April and a pair on 26-27 May (JP, M&DH). Two were at Lone Dome SWA, *Dolores*, on 28 April (NP, AS-ph). Another was found along the Dolores River at Cabin Creek

Campground, *Montezuma*, 26-27 May (M&DH). Two were seen at Navajo State Park, *Archuleta*, on 26 May (RL, CD, m.ob.). Two pairs were found in *La Plata*: a pair on the Los Pinos River near Ignacio on 26 May, (RL, CD, m.ob.); and a pair at a nest with young on the Animas River near Bondad, 25-26 May (TL, LS, m.ob.); another adult was upstream from the nest on 26 May (RL, CD, m.ob.). Finally, two were reported from the San Luis Valley: one at Home Lake, *Rio Grande*, in mid-May (fide JR) and adult at Mogote, *Conejos*, on 28 May (CLW, BKP).

**Eastern Phoebe:** This species was first recorded from breeding habitat on 30 March at Greenhorn Meadows Park, *Pueblo* (DSi). Single birds were observed in the following unusual locations: western Ft. Collins, on 30 March (JF); Van's Grove, *Bent*, on 7 April (DN); west of Higbee, *Otero*, and another west of Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, on 12 April (RO, BKP); Watson Lake, *Larimer* (RH, DAL, JBF); Lake Henry, 3 May (RO, JK); Bear Creek Trail, *Boulder*, 8 May (DW); and a late bird at Prewitt Res., *Logan/Washington*, on 24 May (RO, JK).

**Vermilion Flycatcher:** After last year's invasion, this year was quite tame, if such a word can ever be used with this spanking flycatcher. A male, presumably a returning bird, was seen from 9-12 April at Higbee Cemetery, *Otero*, (AS, RO, BKP). Two first-year males were found this spring including one at LCC on 30 April (BPG) and a displaying male present 11-18 May at CBR, *El Paso* (RL, BS-ph, TL-ph, CLW-v).

**Ash-throated Flycatcher:** Birds north or east of breeding locations were found on 9 May at Gustav Swenson Nature Area, *Larimer* (RH), on 11 May at FLWE, *Bent* (DN), and on 24 May at CVCG (RH).

**Cassin's Kingbird:** A migrant of this species was first noted on 2 May at Fairmount Cemetery in Lamar (BPG).

**Western Kingbird:** There were several April sightings of this species in eastern Colorado, the earliest on 22 April in southern *Cheyenne*.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** Undoubtedly, one of this spring's highlights for birders in southeastern Colorado was a pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at the AT&T cell towers south of Lamar. First found on 5 May, the pair remained through the end of the period (m.ob.). Further out of range was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Dotsero, *Eagle*, 17 May (JMe). Stay tuned for the summer report.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** This species was first noted away from wintering areas in Briggsdale, *Weld*, on 7 April (DAL).

**Northern Shrike:** The last report we have of this species in Colorado was one seen near Hamilton Res., *Larimer*, on 24 March (DAL).

**White-eyed Vireo:** A singing male was found below the dam at Two Buttes Res., on 5 May (RO, JK, BPG, CLW). Just to the north, another was found at the Lamar High School Grove on 11 May (DAL). Most unusual was one found in Limon, *Lincoln*, on 19 May (TL, NGo).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Singles were found at Last Chance, *Washington*, 4 May (LS), Two Buttes Res., on 13 May (DAL) and perhaps a different bird singing on 25 May (KB), at Welchester Park, *Jefferson*, 26 May (MC) and at Prewitt Res., *Washington*, 31 May (NE, JMK, RO).

**Plumbeous Vireo:** This species seemed more common than normal in *Weld* and *Larimer* (DAL, RH). David Leatherman recorded 16 migrants this spring in Colorado.

**Cassin's Vireo:** A very early, well-studied, bird was seen at Fairmount Cemetery in Lamar, on 21 April (BKP, DN). Nine days later another was seen in *Prowers* at LCC (BPG). One was at CVCG, from 3-6 May (DAL, RH). *Boulder* hosted two in mid-May, one along Boulder Creek, 12-13 May (AS, PG) and another at Gregory Canyon on 13 May (JC).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Very rare in spring, one was at CVCG, 19-20 May (RO, JBK, RH, m.ob.).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** The first report was from CBR, *El Paso*, on 11-12 May (BS, m.ob.); another was seen here on 17 May (BKP, CLW, TL). Only one was reported from Lamar, on 12 May at the Lamar High School Grove, *Prowers* (DAL). David Waltman found one along Boulder Creek, *Boulder*, on 17 May. The species was present at CVCG, from 20-27 May (RH), including two birds on the 27<sup>th</sup> (TF).

**Steller's Jay:** Two of the wintering birds at Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement, *Bent*, were last noted on 21 April (BKP, LE).

**Blue Jay:** Blue Jays in the west included one in *Eagle* on 29 April (TF), residents throughout the period in Monte Vista, *Rio Grande* (JR), and possibly the first county record for *Saguache* was a pair attending a nest in *Saguache*.

**Western Scrub-Jay:** Two were noted in a yard in Ft. Collins, on 4 March (JF)

where unusual. In southeastern Colorado, individuals were seen west of Higbee, *Otero*, and west of Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, where they most likely wintered, on 12 April (BKP, RO).

**Pinyon Jay:** More were noted along the northern Front Range than is typical. Arvind Panjabi found an astonishing 140 at Rabbit Mountain Open Space near Lyons, *Boulder* on 29 April, while Bob Brown found eight at Waterton Canyon, *Jefferson*, on 11 May.

**Purple Martin:** This species was found away from nesting locations at Zink's Pond, *La Plata*, on 26 May (BS, CD, m.ob.).

**Violet-green Swallow:** Two at Union Res., *Weld*, on 12 May, were flirting with the edge of their expected range during spring migration.

**Mountain Chickadee:** Lingerers persisted at Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs, *El Paso*, on 9 May (DAL). The species was last noted at a low elevation in Ft. Collins, on 8 April (DAL).

**Bushtit:** Three in western Ft. Collins on 26 May (JF) and one at Horsetooth Res. on 27 May were unusual for *Larimer*.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Rachel Hopper noted the last reported lingerer at CVCG, on 24 May.

**Brown Creeper:** The latest plains report we received was of a bird David Leatherman saw at Grandview Cemetery, *Larimer*, on 8 April.

**Carolina Wren:** One at Greenhorn Meadows Park, *Pueblo*, remained until 22 April (DSi). The only other one seen was on 25 April at LCC (BPG).

**Winter Wren:** Only two were reported this spring, both in March: one in Pueblo, on the 12<sup>th</sup> (VAT) and the other at Two Buttes Res., on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (DAL).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** The species was last seen on the plains on 3 May at Willow Creek Park in Lamar (RO, JK).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** More and more are reported each spring, particularly in the northern Front Range (DAL, CLW, JF), and the species is now uncommon to fairly common in spring along the I-25 corridor. A&R (1992) considered it "rare to uncommon in northeastern foothills, and rare on the eastern plains . . ."

**Eastern Bluebird:** Rachel Hopper found one at CVCG, where rare, on 20 May.

**Western Bluebird:** One on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May at Rist Canyon, *Larimer*, was interesting (RH).

**Veery:** This thrush was first noted on 9 May at FLWE (DN). It was widely noted on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, with high counts of two birds at CBR, *El Paso* (JaB, m.ob.), Last Chance, and Prewitt Res. (JK, DS). Rare as a migrant in *Boulder*, one on the 13<sup>th</sup> along Boulder Creek (PG) was noteworthy. Several additional reports came from CVCG, where the species was last recorded on the plains of Colorado on 24 May (JF, RH, RO, m.ob.).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** The first *Pueblo* County record for Gray-cheeked Thrush was found by Chris Wood and Brandon Percival at CBR on 17 May. Another was just over the border on the ranch in *El Paso*, on 12 May (BS, TL). On 23 May, Ken Behrens found one at the Neenoshe *locust grove*. Most reports came from CVCG, from 12 May -27 May where one or two birds were probably present (RH, RO, BS, JF, TF, m.ob.). The exact number seen at CVCG is difficult to tell. Some photographs indicate that at least one bird reported as a Gray-cheeked Thrush, was actually a Hermit Thrush (CLW, TL review of photos). Observers are encouraged to video and photograph all Gray-cheeked Thrushes, as the identification challenge has only recently become well-publicized.

**Wood Thrush:** This was an excellent spring for this species with four individuals reported along the Front Range counties. One was reported from Waterton Canyon, *Jefferson*, on 26 April (AS) and another was found nearby at Lair O'The Bear, *Jefferson* on 9 May (KS). The Lake Estes migrant trap, *Larimer*, hosted another on 10 May (SR) while another was at Pueblo City Park on 28 May (JaB).

**Gray Catbird:** One successfully wintered at Two Buttes Res., and was seen on 22 Mar (DAL).

**Curve-billed Thrasher:** One seen on 22 March likely wintered at Fairmount Cemetery (DAL).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Four Blue-winged Warblers were seen in eastern Colorado. The first was found at the LCC, 27-28 April (BPG, TL, NGO). One at Lake Henry, was present on 4 May (LS, RH, RO, JK). Bob Goycoolea found one at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*. CVCG, hosted a male on 27 May (SM).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** At least TEN Golden-winged Warblers were recorded in the state this spring, a spectacular spring for this species. Barr Lake SP, hosted the first bird of the spring on 1 May (SCa). A male moved quickly through the LCC on 5 May (LS, m.ob.). The most widely-seen Golden-winged Warbler was at least one male along Boulder Creek, *Boulder*, from 8 May-18 May (DW, PG, TF, RO, m.ob.). A male was at Van's Grove, *Bent*, on 10 May (DN, JiB). Two females were seen at CBR, one in *El Paso* on 12 May (TL, m.ob.) and one in *Pueblo* on 17 May. Also on the 12<sup>th</sup> was a male at Two Buttes Res. (MB, BG). One was at White Ranch, *Jefferson*, on 18 May (JRo). A female spent two days at Dixon Res., *Larimer*, 23-24 May (RH, DAL). The last Golden-winged was seen at Last Chance, 26-27 May, (JaB, JK).

**Tennessee Warbler:** An astonishing number of Tennessee Warblers moved through eastern Colorado, particularly in mid-to late May. While first noted on 4 May along Boulder Creek, *Boulder*, (ABe), most sightings of this species started after the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, and things really kicked into gear by 17 May. On that date Prewitt Res., *Logan/Washington*, hosted five Tennessees, the Poudre River Trail, *Larimer*, had four, there were three at Ft Lyon, *Bent*, and two at Last Chance. In all, over 45 were reported this spring, with other high counts of five on 24 May at both *CVCG*, and Prewitt Res. The last report came from Last Chance on 27 May (JK). The species was recorded in all the eastern counties except for poorly-covered *Sedgwick*, *Kit Carson*, *Elbert*, *Lincoln* and *Las Animas*.

**Nashville Warbler:** Only seven were reported from three counties. It was first noted on 25 April at Pueblo, (NL). Another was seen the next day near Lyons in *Boulder* (RD). Two were in Gregory Canyon, *Boulder*, on 2 May (PG) one of which remained until 3 May (DW). The other three were from Lamar, between 4 and 10 May (CLW, RH, BKP, DAL).

**Virginia's Warbler:** This species made a nice showing in eastern Colorado with at least 18 seen between 1 and 24 May. Five were seen in *Larimer* between 1 and 24 May (DAL, RH). Four were seen at Lake Henry, one on 3 May and this year's plains high count (three) on 18 May (SO) and another was at Olney Springs, *Crowley*, on 19 May (TL, NG). Two were at Two Buttes Res., on 12 May (DAL). Other singles were observed in *Prowers*, *Pueblo*, and *El Paso*.

**Lucy's Warbler:** The most surprising warbler of the spring was undoubtedly a male Lucy's Warbler found by Brian Gibbons at the LCC on 21 April – there are no previous east slope records.

**Northern Parula:** Another fine showing was at least 24 seen between 15 April

and 27 May. The first was found north of Lamar in the Paulsen's yard on 15 April (DN, and the Paulsens). Other April sightings included one at the LCC on 21 April (DN) and one at Doudy Draw, *Boulder*, 29 April (DW). Five were seen in *Prowers*. *Boulder* and *Pueblo* had at least three. Two were in *Adams*, *El Paso*, and *Larimer*, while *Alamosa*, *Arapahoe*, *Douglas*, *Kiowa*, *Jefferson*, *Washington*, and *Weld* each hosted one. The last birds of the season were females on the 27<sup>th</sup> at Last Chance (JK), and far more unusual, one at the Alamosa Golf Course (JR).

**Yellow Warbler:** One along the Poudre River Trail, *Larimer*, on 19 and 26 April was very early (JF)

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** The first bird of the spring was seen at the Alamosa Golf Course, between 2 and 4 May (LR). Two were seen at Two Buttes Res., a male on 9 May (JiB) and a female on 13 May (DAL). Adding to the madness along Boulder Creek was a female of this species on 12 May (NP, PG). The high counts came with two seen at Lake Henry, on 18 May (SO) and two at CVCG, 22 May (RH), where at least one bird was present from 19-24 May (RO, m.ob.). Two males were banded at CBR, *El Paso*, one on 11 May (JaB, TL), the other on 25 May (BPG). Three were at LCC- one on 5 May (LS), a male banded on 16 May (BPG) and another individual on 22 May (BPG). Finally, a singing male was at the Neenoshe Res. locust grove, on 22 May.

**Magnolia Warbler:** Four Magnolias were seen this spring. Larry Semo found the first, a male, at Bonny Res., *Yuma*, on 12 May. Another male was banded at CBR, *El Paso*, on 16 May and remained through the 18<sup>th</sup> (TL-ph, m.ob.). The last male was found at Barr Lake SP, on 20 May (KB). The only female of the spring was at CVCG, on 27 May (TF, SM).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Males were seen on 15 May at LCC (BPG) and Last Chance, on 20 May (KB, CLW). The only other was a female on 24 May at Prewitt Res., *Logan/Washington* (RO, JK).

**Black-throated Gray Warbler:** It was a fine season for this species on the plains and along the foothills. *Boulder* sightings included a male at Hall Ranch, Lyons, 5 May (PG), a female at Skunk Canyon, 5 May, a female along Boulder Creek and a male at Gregory Canyon, 20 May (PG). A male was at Dixon Res. from 23-27 April (RH, AP, DAL); the only other *Larimer* sighting was a male along the Poudre River Rail on 20 May. To the east, a Black-throated Gray Warbler was reported at CVCG, on 6, 11 and 12 May (RH, m.ob.). A male was at CBR, *Pueblo*, 5 May (TL, m.ob.) and a different bird was over the county line in *El Paso* on 11 May (TL, m.ob.). Meanwhile, that same day, Mark Yaeger found

another Black-throated Gray in Pueblo City Park. The LCC had one on 10 May, and up to two were seen at the Fairmount Cemetery on 12 and 13 May (BG, MB, DN, DAL). Another bird was seen in the San Luis Valley on 11 May (JR).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Four were seen in Lamar including an adult male between 1 and 3 May (BPG), and a first-spring male on 3 May (RO, JK), a female on 5 May (RO, JK, BKP, LE) and a male seen on 12 May at Fairmount Cemetery. Bill Prather reported one on 4 May from Hall Ranch, *Boulder* and Van Truan and Duane Nelson saw a male at Lake Henry, on 10 May.

**Townsend's Warbler:** Three were seen from 10 May-18 May in *Bent*, *Crowley* and *Prowers* counties (DN, SO, BPG).

**Hermit Warbler:** Tony Leukering found a female at Barr Lake SP, on 4 May for the first *Adams* record. As should be done with all reports of this species, Tony carefully eliminated the possibility of a hybrid Townsends x Hermit Warbler.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** A male along the Animas River in Durango, on 13 May, was one of the best finds in western Colorado (JiB, SA). On the east slope, a male was found near FLWE, on 7 May (DN), and a female was seen 16-18 May at CBR, *El Paso* (CLW-v, TL, m.ob.).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** David Silverman continues to find rare eastern warblers around Colorado City. This year's highlight was a Yellow-throated Warbler at Lake Beckwith, *Pueblo*, on 2 May.

**Pine Warbler:** Two males were found at the Fairmount Cemetery in Lamar, one on 19 April (BPG) and another from 8-10 May (BPG, DAL-ph, m.ob.).

**Prairie Warbler:** Van Truan found two singing males in downtown Pueblo, on 28 May.

**Palm Warbler (Western):** Five were seen in *El Paso*: two banded at CBR on 6 May (SY, TL) and one at Fountain Creek on 4 May (KP) and two there on 11 May (fide KP). One was at the LCC on 6 May (CLW, BKP). One was at the Environmental Learning Center, *Larimer*, on 9 May, while Bill Prather found one to the south in Hygiene, *Boulder*, on 13 May. CVCG hosted one on 20 May (RH).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** The only bird reported with details this spring was a female banded at CBR, *El Paso*, on 10 May (TL-ph, CLW-ph, m.ob.).



**Blackpoll Warbler:** Fourteen were seen this year, mostly in eastern Colorado. The first was seen on 5 May at LCC (CLW). Most out of range were TWO in *La Plata*, the first at Pastorius Res. on 7-8 May (SA, JiB) and another at Vallecito Res. on 20 May (JiB, SA). The species was last noted on 24 May at Prewitt Res. (RO, JK). Other sightings were from typical locations along the Front Range and plains.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** About seventeen were seen this year, mostly along the eastern plains and foothills. Stan Oswald recorded this spring's first at Rocky Ford SWA on 9 April. Surprisingly, the only other April sighting was of a male in Ft Collins on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (DAL). One at the Alamosa Golf Course on 27 May was the latest and furthest west. Other sightings were from typical locations in *Bent* (3), *Boulder* (2+), *Crowley* (3), *El Paso* (2), *Larimer* (3), *Pueblo* (1), and *Weld* (2+).

**American Redstart:** Redstarts were noted in about average numbers starting on 5 May at Lamar (LS) and through the end of the period in breeding locations. Sightings all came from expected locations in *Adams* (1), *Baca* (3), *Boulder* (3), *Crowley* (1), *Jefferson* (6), *Larimer* (2), *Prowers* (3), *Pueblo* (6), *Washington* (3), and *Weld* (5+).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** One seen along Boulder Creek, *Boulder*, from 2-4 May (TF, m.ob.) started a Patagonia Picnic Table Effect, of sorts, along Boulder Creek.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** LCC has always been one of the best places in the state for this species. Most of us assumed that one or two birds were responsible each spring for most sightings. This year, few people saw Worm-eating Warblers here, but Brian Gibbons/RMBO banded FOUR different birds between 18 April and 1 May. Another Worm-eating was at Barr Lake SP on 18 April (DF, m.ob.). Several were seen near the foothills: one at Boulder Creek 11-13 May (BK, m.ob.) and one at Welchester Park, 1-3 May (PP, MC, m.ob.). Another was found at Pueblo City Park on 12 May (BKP). John Rawinski found one at Zapata Ranch in *Alamosa* on 16 May, the most extra-limital one found in Colorado. The latest was one at the Neenoshe Res. locust grove on 22 May (DN).

**Ovenbird:** This species was not recorded until 12 May when birds were seen at FLWE (DN), Olive March, *Pueblo* (BKP), and Bonny Res. (LS). The last report was on 24 May at CVCG (RH, JF). The species was reported in smaller numbers this spring than typical with the following county totals: *Bent* (1), *El Paso* (3), *Kiowa* (1), *Kit Carson* (1), *Larimer* (3), *Prowers* (1), *Pueblo* (1), *Weld* (2+).

**Northern Waterthrush:** This species was found from 5-24 May, with high counts of three coming from the Alamosa Golf Course on 7 May (VS), the LCC on 11 May (DAL) and Last Chance on 20 May (CLW, KB). The following are county totals: *Alamosa* (3+), *Baca* (4+), *Bent* (1), *Boulder* (1+), *Crowley* (2), *El Paso* (4+), *Larimer* (6), *Prowers* (5+), *Pueblo* (4), *Washington* (5), *Weld* (1) and *Yuma* (1).

**Kentucky Warbler:** A female or first-year male was seen at Two Buttes Res. on 5 May (BKP, LE, SC). Remarkably, two were seen at Chatfield Res., *Douglas*: a male on 7 May (GW, NP, AS) and a female on 14 May (JBH, AS).

**Mourning Warbler:** Duane Nelson found all three of this spring's Mourning Warblers in Colorado, all near FLWE: a male on the 9-11 (also SO), a first-spring male on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and another male on 23 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** This species was widespread this spring with reports from ten counties, of eleven birds. The earliest by two weeks was a male that Doug Faulkner found at Barr Lake SP on 18 April. On 2 May a male was at LCC (BPG); a female was here on 2 May (BPG). A male was at Last Chance on 3 May. Another was found at the locust grove at Neenoshe on 7 May (DN). CBR hosted one on 8 May (NGo). Ted Floyd found one at Boulder Creek on 14 May. White Ranch had at least one female, maybe two, on 18 May (JRo). A female was at CVCG on 19-20 May (DAL, RO, RH, JF). A male at Cabin Creek Campground, *Montezuma*, delighted participants on the CFO convention field trips that went there between 26 and 31 May (M&DH, m.ob.).

**Hepatic Tanager:** CBR hosted its second Hepatic Tanager, a male in *El Paso*, which was banded and present from 11-12 May. Given the limited amount of work at CBR, one wonders if this could this be one of the best places to look for Hepatics during spring storms.

**Summer Tanager:** Summer Tanager was first reported from the Clayton Grove, *Bent*, on 20 April (DN, SO) and was last seen on 25 May at FLWE (KB). This species seemed to be all over southeastern Colorado on 4 and 5 May with a male at Two Buttes Res. (JK), a male at FLWE and another east of there (LS), a male at Lake Henry (JK, LS, RH, BKP), one at the Canyon City Riverwalk (JS), a female at the LCC and a male at the AT&T cell tower in *Prowers*. Others were seen at Matthews/Winters Open Space, *Jefferson*, 7 May (JaB), at Chatfield, *Jefferson*, 11 May (JK), and at CVCG on 17-18 May (RH, WF).

**Green-tailed Towhee:** One seen on 22 March successfully wintered at Two Buttes Res. (DAL).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** The amazing wintering bird was seen on 21 March at LCC. Considered unusual on *Boulder*, one was along Bear Creek on 9 May (PG).

**Field Sparrow:** Noteworthy in *Pueblo* and very rare anywhere in the state in winter, one was at Runyon Lake, 21-24 March (RM).

**Black-throated Sparrow:** The only out-of-range bird reported was south of Pinon Hills and west of Antonio, *Conejos*, 19 May (JaB); A&R show one spring record for the San Luis Valley from *Rio Grande*. At least one bird was seen at the typical location south of Higbee in mid-April (BKP, DAL).

**Lincoln Sparrow:** One wintered successfully at LCC and was seen on 20 March (DAL).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Four wintered at LCC (DAL); the last was seen here on 25 April (BPG).

**White-throated Sparrow:** The last one was seen at a rest stop near Bennett, *Adams*, on 20 May (CLW, KB).

**Harris's Sparrow:** A singing adult male at Colorado City Golf Course on 2 May was noteworthy (DSi).

**McCown's Longspur:** The highest count of this spring was 150 at Adobe Creek Res., *Bent*, 9 March (DN).

**Snow Bunting:** Snow Buntings are now difficult birds to find anywhere in the state, so three seen south of Gunnison, *Gunnison*, 19 March (LS), were particularly unusual. A&R show one previous *Gunnison* record.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** This species was seen from 2 May through the end of the period. One at Home Lake in Monte Vista, *Rio Grande*, was the only one in an odd location (JR). County totals: *Baca* (3+), *Bent* (1), *Boulder* (4+), *Crowley* (2), *El Paso* (1), *Larimer* (5), *Morgan* (2), *Prowers* (6+), *Pueblo* (4+), *Washington* (5), *Weld* (3+) and *Yuma* (1)

**Painted Bunting:** Brian Gibbons banded the only one of the year, a female at LCC on 22 May.

**Bobolink:** Several were seen in odd locations this spring: two males in Colorado Springs on 12 May (AV); a singing male on 16 May at CBR, *El Paso*,

(TL, CLW, m.ob.); a male along the Goodnight River Trail (RM); a male at CVCG from 19-27 May (DAL, TF).

**Baltimore Oriole:** Unusual locations included a singing male at the Fairmount Cemetery, 6 May (CLW, BKP), 2 at Amache, *Prowers*, 11 May (DAL), one at the Neenoshe Res. locust grove on 14 May (DAL) and a female at *CVCG*, on 19 May (RO, JF).

**Scott's Oriole:** One coming to a feeder just west of Genesse Mountain, *Jefferson*, on 13 May (ASy) was one of the big surprises this spring. Interestingly, Colorado's first record was just down from there at Red Rocks Park, *Jefferson*, from 1-3 May 1975.

**Purple Finch:** A female or immature was seen eating elm seeds at CBR, *El Paso*, on the relatively late date of 5 May (TL, NGO).

**White-winged Crossbill:** Eight to ten were seen at Grandview Cemetery in Ft. Collins on 16 March (DAL) after not being seen there for over a month (DAL).

**Lesser Goldfinch:** Among the unusual locations this species was noted at this spring was a male on 5 May at the AT&T cell tower south of Lamar (BKP, LE) and, perhaps the same bird, later that day at Willow Creek Park in Lamar (CLW).

### Contributing Observers

Mymm Ackley, Susan Allerton, Lyle Anise, Jason Beason (JaB), Jim Beatty (JiB), Ken Behrens, Maggie Boswell, Leon Bright, Alex Brown, Robin Byers, Stacey Campbell (SCa), Sherry Chapman, Mark Chavez, John Cobb, Raymond Davis, Coen Dexter, P. Derven, Lisa Edwards, Norm Erthal, Doug Faulkner, Bob Fiehwig, Ted Floyd, Warren Finch, Joe Fontaine, Nancy Gobris (NGo), Nelda Gamble (NGa), Peter Gent, Brian P. Gibbons, Bob Goycoolea, Glenn & Jeane Hageman (G&JH), B.B. Hahn, Stephanie L. Hanson, J.B. Hayes, Mona & Dean Hill, Ken Hollinga, Rachel Hopper, David Johnson, Joey M. Kellner, David A. Leatherman, Rich Levad, Norm Lewis, Joe Mammoser, Steve Messick, Jack Merchant (JMe), Bill Maynard, Richard Mendez, Rich Miller (RM), Tony Leukering, Duane Nelson, Ric Olsen, Stan Oswald, Chris Owens, Brandon K. Percival, Nathan Pieplow, Pete Plage, John Prather, Scott Rashid, John Rawinski, Joe Rigli (JRi), Joe Roller (JRo), Larry Semo, Bill Schmoker, Alice Selby, Jack Short, David Silverman (DSi), Virginia Simmons, Steve Stachowiak, Rhonda Steenburgen (RSt), Andrew Spencer, Janeal Thompson, Van A. Truan, David Waltman, Rosie Watts, Christopher L Wood, Mark Yaeger, Barry Zimmer, Kevin Zimmer.

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Alder Flycatcher banded at Chico Basin Ranch on 18 May 2002. Photo by Larry Semo.

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