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**Front cover:** Long-tailed Ducks at Cherry Creek Reservoir. Bill Schmoker.

**Back cover:** Rufous Hummingbird. BB Hahn.

## Letter from the Editor

In the first issue of 1997, then-editor David Leatherman made this prophetic statement on the name change from *C.F.O. Journal* to *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*, "It is not the first time our name has been altered, and it may not be the last." It indeed was not the last.

Beginning with Volume 37, the journal will be known as *Colorado Birds*, and will retain the subtitle *The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly* which has been used since Volume 13. Simple. To the point. A splash of the new while maintaining a connective string to the journal's legacy. You ask, "But, isn't that the name of the book by Robert Andrews and Robert Righter?" Well, yes it is. Bob Righter has graciously given his endorsement to CFO to use that name. Thanks Bob!

Why the name change? Do you want the long or short story? Here's the long just in case the short would leave you begging for more information. Well, you may have noticed a few other differences in this issue as well. Because all of a journal volume's covers are printed together at the beginning of the year (sans photos), alterations to the cover can only be made before that volume's first issue is printed. Since becoming editor last year, I have wanted to print full-color photos on the cover. However, the paper we had used does not allow for nice, crisp images. If the journal is going to go to color photos, they might as well be of high quality. The CFO Board approved my request to go with a higher-quality, coated paper for the cover providing for dazzling photos. So, what does this have to do with the name change? I'm getting there, this is the long version after all.

Once the decision had been made to go with a coated cover, Tony Leukering suggested that other changes should be made at the same time. Consistency is important to the overall appearance of a publication, so make all major changes at one time and be done with it. He suggested a name change was in order (Tony also did the brunt of the work designing the new cover). I wholeheartedly agreed. There wasn't anything wrong with the name *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*, it was the cover. The organization's name, Colorado Field Ornithologists, appeared on the cover three times! Now then, I believe CFO should promote itself, but this was a little overboard. Keeping the subtitle was imperative. It has been the one constant since 1979. So, the only thing left was to change the title. I enlisted the help of Scott Gillihan, one of my associate editors, to brainstorm for a new title. He immediately recommended that we use the title *Colorado Birds*. It very

succinctly says what the journal's contents are about - Colorado's birds. The Board of Directors approved the title and cover design at the December 2002 meeting.

A few other changes have also occurred in the journal. Scott Gillihan and Rich Levad have completed their tenures as associate editors. Both of them were very helpful in my first year as editor and, undoubtedly, will continue to be so, although in less formal roles. Scott, as the editor preceding me, not only taught me how to use the publishing software, but continued to be a reliable source of information on the technical aspects of journal editing. Rich, a retired high-school English teacher, helped with the syntax problems that editors run into when bringing together articles, each composed with a different writing style, for an issue. I will always cherish the times we talked about split infinitives and auxiliary verbs. Thank you both for the time and effort you have devoted to CFO, and myself, as associate editors.

Lastly, Chris Wood has written his last News from the Field. I have been told that the least appreciated, and perhaps hardest, CFO position was that of journal editor. If that's true, then being a News from the Field author is a close second. The time put into soliciting and gathering bird reports, compiling them into ordered accounts, researching regional weather and migration patterns, looking for some rhyme and reason in the magnitude of an entire season, and putting it all together so that we can marvel at what we had already experienced (but maybe didn't realize since we individually witness only small parts of the whole) is tremendous. News from the Field authors probe into questions like, "What effect did the drought have on the state's birds?" and "Colorado experienced several southwest rarities, did that occur elsewhere in the region?" Without their hard work and sleuthing, the reports would just be a list of species with dates and observers. So, thank you Chris (and Larry and Peter) for a job well done and I sincerely hope that you will continue to contribute to the journal.

Now, send in your seasonal reports so the NFTF editors can do their jobs!

Doug Faulkner



## 2003 CONVENTION UPDATE

This year's CFO Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Frisco, June 6-8. The convention will feature many field trips, a trade show, paper sessions and, one of Colorado's own, renowned ornithologist Dr. Van Remsen, Jr. as the keynote speaker for the Saturday banquet. Information packets and registration materials will be arriving shortly. If you can't wait until then, visit the CFO website for more information. Hope to see you there!

## 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 1995: Harold R. Holt, Hugh E. Kingery, and Bob Righter.

Members of CFO are encouraged to submit nominations for the award. Nominations may be submitted to Rich Levad, Chair of the Awards Committee, by U.S. mail or via e-mail. 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  
564 Villa Street  
Grznd Junction, CO 81504  
e-mail: [levadj@gvii.net](mailto:levadj@gvii.net)

### CALL FOR 2003 CONVENTION PAPER SESSION

The annual CFO Convention hosts a paper session in which professional biologists, professors, students, and amateur ornithologists are given the opportunity to present their work. Presentations are typically 30-45 minutes in length and cover a broad range of topics related to Colorado ornithology. Abstracts are now being accepted for the 2003 Convention in Frisco. If you are interested in presenting, please contact Rich Levad ([levadgj@gvii.net](mailto:levadgj@gvii.net)) immediately as this session fills up quickly.

### RARE BIRD ALERT NUMBER CHANGE

The state-wide Rare Bird Alert hotline, sponsored by the Denver Field Ornithologists, will change its phone number effective January 31, 2003. The new number is **(303) 659-8750**. The answering machine is being moved to the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory where it will reside indefinitely.

Along with sending messages about rare birds to COBIRDS, please call in your bird sightings to the DFO hotline, since many folks do not have internet access and rely on the tape for information about rarity sightings. Or, you can also "cc" your COBIRDS message to the e-mail address set up for the hotline's announcers at [rba@cfo-link.org](mailto:rba@cfo-link.org). Thank you.



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### CFO WEBSITE

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

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

**JACK REDDALL: A LEGEND  
AND HIS LEGACY OF FIELD RECORDS**

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**Introduction**

Jack Reddall was well-known to birdwatchers in Colorado as an expert at bird identification. Jack's great and unusual accomplishment, however, was not his skill at field identification. Others have also excelled at that. His legacy to all of us is the meticulous and voluminous record of sightings of Colorado birds which he compiled for more than thirty years. Mike Carter, founder of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, puts it this way, "Jack's mark on Colorado birding is his field records. Without exception, he had the best personally collected long-term records of sightings of any individual in the nation."

**Records**

In the early days of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO; formerly Colorado Bird Observatory), RMBO was looking for information about bird population declines in Colorado. Someone suggested they talk to Jack. Mike Carter spoke with Jack, who pulled out three-ring binders for each year starting in 1962, most with at least 110 field trip records per year. The records were sporadic in 1962, but became regular beginning in 1967. Jack usually made two trips a week – one mid-week and another on the weekend – most of them to northeastern Colorado.

Jack recorded details that many others don't, much more than just a list of birds seen. He included time started and ended, hours in the field, weather, route, other observers, and numbers of each species. Birds were organized in taxonomic order, and included sex and color morph. Mike suggested to Jack that the records be computerized. By then Jack had retired, so he came to RMBO each Tuesday for most of a year to input his records into a database.

This was the first time he had used a computer. Jack asked, "I won't crash planes at DIA will I?" and Mike assured him that he would not.

Mike describes Jack as being a "blue-collar birder." Mike recalls, "He would come in each Tuesday at 9 A.M. with his lunch box which his wife Dorothy had packed. He always wore a faded New York Yankees cap. He always had some cliché. A favorite was 'is the Pope Catholic?' He would sit at the computer for eight hours. Then the whistle blew and he would leave. As he was leaving he would holler out 'you guys sure do good work but you need to do more of it'." The next week, Jack would be back again. Jack had recognized that what he was doing to maintain trip records was important, but he had no idea of its potential use until he saw it on the computer screen. Jack input about two-thirds of his trips.

His will left his records to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS, formerly Denver Museum of Natural History), which Jack and Mike had agreed was the best place for permanent storage; however, the balance of his records are still not entered into his trip database. Mike suggests that volunteers are needed to enter the rest of the records into the database at RMBO.

Records such as Jack's do have value as "birder generated data." Jack's data was analyzed and included in a preliminary report to Colorado Division of Wildlife in 1995 entitled "Long-term Trends in Bird Populations: Results from Analyses of Breeding Bird Survey and Reddall Bird Counts for the Central Region of Colorado Division of Wildlife" (Fleck and Carter, unpublished report). Jack modestly declined to be listed as one of the authors of this report.

Jack birded primarily in northeastern Colorado. Mike states, "Jack's data set was South Platte focused. It shows trends, for example, the almost wholesale collapse of the wetland bird community. The river has been channelized and is no longer a wide, shallow wetland complex. It has been taken over by cottonwoods. So there are more landbirds but fewer wetland birds. The South Platte now takes water from the surrounding area rather than adding water to it."

Some of Jack's data was also used to present the paper "Population Trends of Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night-Herons in the South Platte River Valley" at the 1992 CFO convention. The abstract indicated that an analysis of Jack's "550 field trips over the last 26 years indicated statistically significant declines for Great Blue Herons (-6.29% per year) and Black-crowned Night-Herons (-8.70% per year) in the South Platte River Valley" (Carter, Barker, and Reddall 1992).

### Documenting Field Observations

Jack wrote a four-part article “Documenting Field Observations” which appeared in the Denver Field Ornithologist’s (DFO) monthly publication *The Lark Bunting* for March, April, May, and July 1991. In the first part, Jack discussed the “perceived declines in our migrant songbirds” and possible causes for declines. Then he suggested that “we, as amateur field ornithologists” can do something about the situation. First, to “continue to actively support” environmental issues and organizations. “But we can do more, a lot more!...There is...a great potential for generating substantial amounts of extremely important data from our observations. This data, in time, could be significantly valuable in coming to grips with the dilemma of whether or not we are losing our song and shorebirds, and, if indeed we are, which ones and how quickly...”

Jack indicated that “work will soon begin to computerize the data compiled from an estimated 1500 to 1700 daily field trips that I have made in Colorado during the past 26 years. This represents a start. But a great deal more information is required, and many of you can help by beginning immediately to properly document your observations.” He contended that “being too busy” was not an acceptable excuse for failing to prepare good field notes.

In the next two parts, Jack discussed in minute detail what should be recorded. First was locality, giving for an all-day trip the route, and the date. “Time birding” and “miles covered” were important so that others might use them with statistical formulae to accurately discern trends in bird populations. Other items included elevation for trips into the mountains, habitat, barometer, weather, wind, temperature, leader, and observers. For each species, the number of individuals should be recorded, including the number for even very common species, along with identifiable subspecies, color morph, sex, and age. Birds heard should be recorded, as well as those seen.

In part four, Jack suggested that this information be recorded in a small note pad which would fit into a pocket and later be transcribed onto a field checklist to be filed away in an annual journal. For very rare species, notes and sketches should be prepared in as much detail as possible.

### Colorado Bird Records Committee

Another major accomplishment of Jack’s was the creation of the Colorado Field Ornithologists’ Official Records Committee. He was its founder in 1972 and served as its first Chairman until mid-1977. His interest in creating a records committee had been encouraged by his friend Van Remsen, Jr., then in college in California after growing up as a birder in Lakewood, Colorado. (Van



is now a world-renowned ornithologist at Louisiana State University. See our article “Van Remsen: Loving Birds from Barr Lake to Bolivia,” Echelmeyer et al. 1997.) In a letter to the editor, Van had stated, “Jack Reddall and myself strongly believe that the CFO should be responsible for establishing an official state list and also key details of all unusual observations and slides on file. I have recently sent to Jack my outline of a proposal...” (Colorado Field Ornithologist 1971). At the CFO annual meeting on May 20, 1972, the Board of Directors created the Official Records Committee, with members Jack Reddall (Chair), Hugh Kingery, Thompson Marsh, Kip Stransky, Bill Davis, Dave Griffiths, and Paul Julian.

Jack’s committee quickly undertook a massive effort and soon published its first report in March 1973 which included a list of 119 species for which the “Committee is most anxious, therefore, to receive documentation” (Reddall 1973a). The Official Records Committee held its first general meeting on May 18, 1973 to establish the Official State List and adopt bylaws (Reddall 1973b). The first official state bird list for Colorado, which Jack had prepared, listed 426 species (Reddall 1973c).

After Jack had performed this laborious task as Chairman for five years, he turned the job over to Robert Andrews. In 1977, the *C. F. O. Journal* Editor thanked Jack as follows, “We commend Jack for his superior efforts at stimulating an active committee, and for the unparalleled collection and organization of Colorado rare-bird data. It is the single most impressive body of data which C. F. O. as an organization has generated during its 15 years of existence” (Kingery 1977).

Jack’s belief in the importance of the work of the Records Committee did not end when he retired as its Chairman. He continued to review the records of the Committee, which were housed at the Museum, where Jack also volunteered one day a week as a Department Associate. Finally, Jack felt compelled to publish his concern whether the Committee was continuing to give proper attention to details in an accurate and professional way. He compared the records filed at the Museum with the published Committee reports, and found numerous technical discrepancies, such as the total number of files, duplicate or missing numbers for files, taxonomic order, and dates of observations (Reddall 1994). Jack valued these records and was a stickler for accuracy.

### **Other Volunteer Activities**

Jack became a member of DFO in early 1968 after he had met Hugh Kingery while birding at Cherry Creek Reservoir and learned about the group. In June 1968, he began leading trips for DFO, often to Northeastern Colorado and also

some to Cherry Creek State Park. David Pantle first met Jack on July 2, 1978 when Jack led a trip to North Central Colorado, including Pawnee National Grasslands. David was privileged to ride with Jack, who showed him his first Mountain Plover. This long outing was typical of Jack's trips, totaling 269 miles and 12 hours of birding!

Jack twice served as Editor of DFO's monthly publication, *The Lark Bunting*, serving from February 1976 through September 1981 and again from October 1987 to August 1989. Being editor meant that he typed each issue himself, with two fingers on a typewriter in the days before easy computer typing. In addition to giving detailed and lengthy results of the many DFO field trips, he began to publish "additional reports" of other important sightings.

He also served as president of DFO for 1974-75, a term as vice-president/program chair, as well as several terms on its Board of Directors. The 2001 Denver Christmas Bird Count was dedicated to the memory of Jack Reddall. "Jack was compiler of the Denver Count for several years in the 1980s in addition to the many other offices he held in DFO over the years" (Schottler 2002). At the May 3, 1989 DFO monthly meeting, Jack was presented with its "Ptarmigan Award" for outstanding service. Jack proudly displayed this framed award on the wall of his bird room at home, along with several other plaques and awards.

Jack served on the board of the Colorado Bird Observatory, including two years as its president. As president, Jack was serious, meticulous, and business-like. Jack proudly displayed at home a framed photograph of a Western Scrub-Jay with a plaque inscribed "For many years of service to Colorado Bird Observatory as a Volunteer, Board Member, and Board President."

After Jack retired, he became a volunteer at the Museum. Once a week for ten years, he made a long bus ride back and forth to the Museum. He went through the bird collection, organizing it, and looking for taxonomic problems. He helped redo the Colorado bird display. Jack also led many field trips for the Museum after he retired. Members of the group gave him a framed print of a Wood Duck. Also on the wall of Jack's bird room is a plaque with a crystal on it and the inscription "Jack Reddall - Ten year volunteer award - Denver Museum of Natural History 1997."

These Museum trips were responsible for starting many people in birding. In August 1994, Richard Mendez and Chris Owens took one of Jack's Museum trips to the Sterling area. They had never birded before, and after returning

from that trip they went out the next day and bought binoculars and a field guide. When asked what it was about the trip that turned them on to birds they said, "It was Jack's passion for birds that grabbed us. Jack showed us what birding was – relaxing, fun, and you could see beautiful birds." Richard and Chris began taking regular field trips and now lead trips for DFO.

### **Other Publications**

In the early years of CFO, Jack published several articles in its journal of notable sightings which he had made. These included the second record in Colorado for a Black-Legged Kittiwake (Reddall 1971) and a possible Iceland Gull or Thayer's Gull (Reddall 1972). After he retired, he co-authored, with Betsy Webb, "Recent State Record Specimens of Birds at the Denver Museum of Natural History" (Webb and Reddall 1989). Jack also assisted James A. Lane and Harold R. Holt in preparing their first edition of *A Birder's Guide to Eastern Colorado* (Reddall 1973d). He wrote the section "The Fort Morgan Loop."

Jack lived near Cherry Creek Reservoir and was constantly there looking for birds. He published an "Annotated Check-list of Cherry Creek State Park" (Reddall 1996). He indicated that "this check-list was prepared primarily on the basis of the compiler's extensive field notes covering 389 individual daily visits over the past 30 years." In addition he had used "data derived from daily visits" to Cherry Creek as part of some 1,164 day-long field trips that had continued on to northeastern and north-central Colorado. His checklist contained 300 species!

Jack also wrote for American Birding Association an article published in its national newsletter, *Winging It*. This was a very detailed report entitled "Spring Migration on Colorado's Plains - Bonny State Recreation Area and South Republican State Wildlife Area" (Reddall 1993).

### **The Accomplished Birdwatcher**

Finally we come to the accomplishment for which Jack was probably most admired by other birders, his skill at locating and identifying birds. Jack took this very seriously, and spent long days in the field perfecting his skills. Jack was proud, meticulous, tireless, and demanded accuracy in identifying and reporting birds. Those few who accepted his high standards for birding, and went into the field with him for long and intense days, found him to be a loyal and inspiring friend.

A humorous account of birding with Jack and Harold Holt was published in *Bird Watcher's Digest* (Leo 1989). John Leo, on the staff of *U. S. News & World Report*, wrote about several days of birding in Colorado in the spring with

Harold Holt. After two days with Harold, John met Jack Reddall, "The next morning Harold comes by our motel with a birding buddy, Jack Reddall, whom he introduces as 'the best birder in Colorado.' Jack is a funny, fast-talking fellow in his mid-50's, and if he is not the best birder in the state, he will do..." Later in the day, "Harold and Jack have the first of their odd-couple arguments. Like affectionate old fighters, they fondly disagree on everything, and shake their heads often at each other's obvious birding folly." Leo's trip ended with 20 lifers, 132 species "not to mention the extraordinary hospitality and warm bickering of the Odd Couple."

Jack was competitive and proud of his life list of 707 for the ABA Area. He was very thorough and would not add a bird to his life list unless he saw all of the field marks. Jack would chase birds, but not if they were very distant in another state. If he heard of a new bird in Colorado, he would probably try to see it.

Jack's exploits were featured in the Sunday Magazine of the *Rocky Mountain News* for April 17, 1988. He had set out the prior year to break the record for the number of species of birds spotted in one year in Colorado, and broke the record with a total of 349. During the year he drove 22,000 miles across Colorado, covered another 374 miles by foot, spent 127 days in the field, and a total of 1,290 hours. Van Remsen stated, "He's the best birder in the state, in most people's opinion. In my opinion there's no one even close. He just wiped the Colorado record completely off the map. He saw more species in one year than I've ever seen in Colorado."

One important field trip which Jack and Mike Carter took together on June 28, 1989, was never published. They found breeding Piping Plovers in Colorado! They had gone to southeastern Colorado to see Least Terns and endured a long, hot day, including a flat tire. They had been out since 6 A.M. and at 7:30 P.M. still decided to stop at Neenoshe Reservoir in Kiowa County. When they got out of the car they heard a bird calling, which Jack identified as a Piping Plover. Then they saw two adult Piping Plovers with four chicks. Usually Jack didn't eat meals out, but to celebrate they stopped for a dinner of chicken-fried steak. Colorado Bird Observatory's report to Colorado Division of Wildlife indicated this was the first documented nesting of Piping Plovers in Colorado in 40 years, since 1949 on the South Platte (CBO, unpublished report).

Unknown to many, Jack was also an accomplished bird artist, although he had never taken a formal art class. His bird room contains many wooden ducks, beautifully carved and painted by him, including Surf and White-winged Scoters and Barrow's Goldeneye. With colored pencils, he made many excellent drawings, like Golden-winged Warbler and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

### **Personal History**

John William Reddall, Jr., was born in San Francisco in 1929, but his family moved to Long Island, New York when he was two years old. Then they moved to the Chicago area where Jack went to school, and then back to New York.

Jack started birdwatching when he was five or six years old. Once when he was sick, his mother gave him a bird book to entertain him. A photograph on the wall of the Reddall family room shows Jack, age six, holding a long pair of field glasses. Jack's first records were made in 1941, when he was 12 years old.

Jack graduated in 1951 from Colgate University, from which his father had also graduated. He kept no bird records during college. When he graduated the Korean War was occurring. Jack was drafted into the Marines (one of the few times the Marines ever drafted recruits). He later described the Marines "as the best thing that ever happened to me. They made a man of me." Jack was sent for training to North Carolina. During that time, some Marines, including Jack, went to a women's college for blind dates. As they were assigning dates, Jack said "I'll take that one", referring to Dorothy. Jack and Dorothy married two years later, and now have two children, daughter Carol who lives in Colorado, and son John William Reddall III who lives in southern California.

Jack worked 30 years for Western Electric and one year for AT&T (after their merger). He held a number of management positions. Before they moved to Denver, they were living in Phoenix. Jack took early retirement at age 55, in part because he hated to fly so much on business. His order of priorities were, first - family, second - birding, and third - work.

Carol, who lives in Highlands Ranch, and was interviewed along with Dorothy, thought the word for Jack was "thoroughness." When Carol and brother John were little, they would go out with Jack. Jack didn't talk a lot. Carol recalls, "He always carried binoculars, and we knew we must freeze when he would flip his glasses off, hanging them over one ear and bringing his binoculars up. He had bad ankles, because he would walk around looking up and catch his foot in holes."

In later years, Jack continued to go out a couple days a week. The week before he died, he went to Springfield and called Dorothy to ask if she wanted to go on Bob Righter's trip to Estes Park that coming weekend. They went. They drove home early on Sunday to avoid the traffic. Jack was tired and lay down on the couch at home. By early afternoon "he was gone."

Jack was buried in Rowland, North Carolina, Dorothy's hometown which they

had visited many times over the years. They had been there about a month before Jack died, and for the first time he said “this is the place where I want to be buried.” When they got home, Jack “bugged her” to write instructions to the children for his burial there. She finally wrote out the instructions, and two weeks later he died. Jack was buried with an old pair of his binoculars, and a Marine honor guard attended his funeral. The family selected the following for Jack’s headstone:

John William Reddall  
May 15, 1929-June 24, 2001  
Dedicated Birdwatcher Dwells Within  
Life List-707



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## **SIBLEY BIRDING: HOW MUCH DOES YOUR BIG DAY WEIGH? OR, BIRDING WITH A CALCULATOR**

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With the publication of *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (Sibley 2000) and its rapid ascendancy to status as the premiere birding book, we figured that its new approach – its concern with the weight of birds or avimass – would set a standard for whole new variations on the hobby of listing and add nuances never before entertained. For example, spring migration may not be the best time to do your listing. In southern New England, November might be prime birding season, just as it is deer-hunting season, and for the same reason: that's when the species' masses are at their greatest. Also, with the arrival of the larger winter birds, ducks and geese and even the winter cormorants (Greats), there is a distinct increase in average mass-per-bird seen. You can forget about your warblers (10-20 g), kinglets (6 g), and other minuscule songbirds; give us a Canada Goose (4500 g), or Mute Swan (10,000 g), or even a Common Eider (2150 g).

Avimass birding also is a great leveler for beginning birders: obviously, larger birds, in general, are easier to find and to identify than are smaller birds. Even a novice is unlikely to miss or misidentify an Andean Condor (if in the right habitat; yes, avimassing can be done outside the ABA area) or American White Pelican (7500 g). One good Wild Turkey (7400 g) easily spotted by a beginner will more than make up for dozens of songbird species carefully located and identified by expert birders.

Listing birds in order by weight will benefit beginning birders as well, as species are much easier to find than when the A.O.U. taxonomic order is used. The latter is relatively incomprehensible for a beginner; the former, common sense.

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*This article appeared in the February 2002 issue of the Bird Observer and has been reprinted with the kind permission of that journal's editor and the authors.*



Early mornings are not particularly necessary for finding heavy birds, unless you are going for Great Horned Owls (1400 g), so beginning birders, especially children, do not have to get out of bed before the crack of dawn to be competitive. Even so, an extra Canada Goose will compensate for three Great Horneds, more than which you are not likely to find anyway. However, as the new jargon for avimass birding develops, time may become a factor: "A Ton by Ten" we realized was much too generous as we identified more than a ton of Mute Swans at our second stop on our annual November Big Day. We could easily visualize "A Ton by Sun (set/rise)" becoming catchwords.

Avimass birding adds a new parameter that amateur birders can use to contribute to the ornithological literature. The Christmas Bird Count effort that has defined so well for so long the status of resident and winter birds in North American and elsewhere can now have a new dimension. The avimass of each count can be calculated retrospectively as well (Swansea Journal 2001). There may be significant ecological and environmental insights and knowledge to be gained by considering where the bird mass is and how it is changing. In the southeastern Rhode Island area, for example, the avimass has become dominated over the past decade by Canada Geese and Mute Swans.

Consequently, as we conducted our Big Day, we not only counted species and number of each species, but we also calculated the mass of the avifauna identified. Although our 2001 count was abbreviated and did not approach the species count for the RI November record of 85, it clearly established a new standard for November avimass, coincidentally at almost exactly 10,000 kilograms, with Canada Geese accounting for 54 percent of the total.

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## ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIRD OBSERVATORY: 15 YEARS OF BIRD CONSERVATION

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*Editor's note: RMBO and CFO have a long history of collaborating on workshops, seminars, publications, and field work. The two organizations share a common interest in bird conservation, but approach the topic from slightly different angles. CFO encourages the contributions of dedicated amateurs and volunteers; this article describes RMBO's approach. — DF*

Bird observatories are organizations that conduct education programs and long-term research on bird populations. Traditionally, observatories have been strategically located along travel corridors for large numbers of migrating birds—Cape May Bird Observatory in New Jersey is a good example. In 1988, Mike Carter was working at Barr Lake State Park, northeast of Denver. At the time, there were no bird observatories in the interior U.S. Mike saw the need for a bird observatory in Colorado to track bird populations and migration patterns. His observations of birds at Barr Lake convinced him that it would be a good site for an observatory. In addition to migrants, an active Bald Eagle nest, and a large heron rookery, Mike had at his disposal 100 years of ornithological records from the Barr Lake area—a longer history than for any other site in the state. Convinced of the need and potential for success, Mike wrote a proposal to the Colorado Division of Wildlife for the “Barr Lake Bird Observatory” but later changed the name to Colorado Bird Observatory (CBO). With a small challenge grant, CBO was off and running.

To say that CBO's beginnings were humble would be an understatement. We began with one employee working in a donated mobile home. It was noisy, crowded, cold in the winter, hot in the summer, prone to power outages and frozen pipes, and located in the most tornado-rich county in the state. Still, this 800 square-foot office would house CBO for most of our first 12 years in business. The staff and space needs grew steadily and, in 1999–2000, we restored a 115 year-old Swiss-style stone house (the only one of its kind in the state and a Colorado State Historic property) for use as our main office. As we outgrew the trailer, we also outgrew our name. In early 2000, we not only moved into our new office, we also adopted a new name: Colorado Bird Observatory became Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO).

RMBO is a member-supported nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, governed by a Board of Directors, and dedicated to the conservation of Rocky Mountain and Great Plains birds and their habitats through research, monitoring, education, and outreach. We fulfill our conservation mission by working in five program areas: Education, Monitoring, Wetlands, Prairie Partners, and Forested Ecosystems. We currently have 17 permanent employees and three adjunct employees working in four offices in central, northern, and western Colorado, plus one employee in Nebraska and one adjunct staff member in New Mexico. We add an additional 20–30 people during the summer, as we bring in temporary help for breeding season projects. We have worked on field projects in ten states and Mexico, but our work influences bird conservation efforts throughout North America.

Here are some examples of RMBO's work in the five program areas:

**Education:** We provide up-close and hands-on bird experiences for more than 4,000 K-12 schoolchildren annually at our bird-banding stations and through our field education programs. The students learn about birds and their conservation, ecology, and life histories. We also offer classroom programs, summer residential bird camps, a program that uses bird study to interest girls in science, printed educational materials, and a letter exchange program between U.S. and Mexican classrooms that uses bird migration to link students in the two countries.

**Monitoring:** We established statewide bird monitoring programs in Colorado and Wyoming to track bird populations in order to identify conservation concerns before they become critical; our program is also monitoring bird populations on the prairies of Nebraska, Kansas, and New Mexico, and on U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service units in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Our Monitoring program has located nearly 90 nesting sites for Black Swifts and over 100 sites of tree-nesting Purple Martins in Colorado; we provide management recommendations so that natural resource agencies can offer protection to these rare birds and their special habitat needs. Each year, volunteers in our ColonyWatch program monitor more than 7,000 nests of Great Blue Herons and other colonial-nesting species. Through our bird-banding stations, we have banded more than 42,000 birds of more than 250 species, contributing to the body of knowledge about bird longevity, life histories, and migration patterns.

**Wetlands:** This program is active in wetland habitat conservation programs in Colorado, working with a variety of partners in landowner-based working groups throughout the state to implement habitat protection and restoration

projects that benefit birds. We also monitor the success of these wetland conservation projects in achieving biological objectives through site visits and interviews with project managers. In addition, we do site-specific monitoring at a wetlands mitigation bank to determine how wetlands restoration efforts benefit rare or declining bird species.

**Prairie Partners:** Staff in this program have made personal contact with more than 400 private landowners in eight states, representing more than 1,000,000 acres of private lands, to talk about habitat conservation. Staff have also distributed more than 10,000 copies of our landowner manual, "Sharing Your Land with Shortgrass Prairie Birds," and conducted workshops and presentations reaching many more landowners. In 1999, we entered into an agreement with the managers of the 87,000-acre Chico Basin Ranch in Colorado; our agreement includes cooperative efforts on bird conservation, education, recreation, and research on this working cattle ranch.

**Forested Ecosystems:** This program provides land managers with information about birds so that the information can be integrated into forest management decisions. Research projects have focused on bird distribution and density in relation to natural features of forests (such as fires and insect outbreaks) and human activities in forests (such as timber harvesting and prescribed burning).

In addition to an annual report and quarterly newsletter, we spread the word about bird conservation through our web site, radio interviews, presentations to professional and general public audiences, K-12 educational materials, outreach materials to landowners and land managers, and publications. Staff publications have appeared in scientific journals and popular magazines, including *The Auk*, *Birding*, *Journal of Raptor Research*, *NebraskaLand*, *North American Bird Bander*, *Purple Martin Update*, *Western Birds*, *Wilson Bulletin*, and *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*.

During our 15-year history, we have won a number of awards for our work, including the Colorado State Parks Board's *Land Stewardship Award*, the Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society's *Lifetime Achievement Award for Wildlife Education*, the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District's *Creativity Award* for our Women Afield program, the Partners in Flight *Award for Outstanding Investigations* for our conservation priorities database, the Partners in Flight *Public Awareness Award* for our Prairie Partners program, and the Colorado Historical Society's *Stephen H. Hart Award* for restoration of the 115 year-old farmhouse as our main office.

As we finish our 15th year, we look forward to what our future holds, including

strengthening our research component, expanding our work on wintering birds in Mexico, and broadening opportunities for the direct involvement of our members in our work. More information about RMBO, including opportunities for volunteering, can be found on our web site at [www.rmbo.org](http://www.rmbo.org).

You can help support RMBO's conservation efforts by becoming a member. A basic membership is just \$30/year. Make your check out to *Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory* and mail it to: RMBO, Membership Dept. C, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO 80603.



### A BIT OF JOURNAL HISTORY

*10 Years Ago in the Journal...*

Pantle, Echelmeyer, and Willcockson featured Thompson Marsh in a biography about CFO's first President.

*15 Years Ago in the Journal...*

The cover photo by Brian Wheeler was of Colorado's infamous Red-backed Hawk. A bird whose origins continue to be debated.

*20 Years Ago in the Journal...*

Aulenbach and O'Shea-Stone authored an article entitled "Bird Utilization of a Ponderosa Pine Forest after a Fire."

*25 Years Ago in the Journal...*

Charles Campbell recounted his experience watching N. Rough-winged Swallows and Clark's Nutcrackers migrating south while he was hiking on Mt. Bross at the elevation of 11,500 feet.

## **BAD BOYS! BAD BOYS! WHATCHA GONNA DO?**

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In mid-July, Colorado birders listen expectantly for the definitive buzz of adult male Rufous Hummingbirds (see back cover photo). Joyful shouts of “Yes! They’re back!” or “Our first Rufous this year has arrived!” can be heard. Then, after a few days, one might hear a bit of carping about how “those little buggers hog the feeders and scare other hummers away.”

Adult (and immature) Rufous males aren’t really bad boys, they are simply fierce defenders of their feeding territories, both on the breeding grounds and during migration. Adult males dominate all other ages and sexes of their own, and other species, and tend to defend more densely-flowered areas.

Several feeder strategies work well enough to give all hummers time to feed. First, space your feeders well away from one another, using foliage to hide one from the next, if possible, but not too close to cat-hiding shrubbery. Second, hang a feeder or two on the opposite side of the house. Finally, if you are fortunate enough to have a tall tree, flip a clothesline over a limb 15-20 feet high, letting one end fall to the ground. Attach a hummer feeder to a loop on that end, then pull the line and feeder up until it is high off the ground. Secure the line to the trunk of the tree with a nail. Use a fairly large feeder so the weight of it will pull the line earthward when you need to clean and refill it.

So, “whatcha gonna do?” Enjoy those bad boys of summer, by mid- to late September they will depart for Mexico, and it will be months before we can once again eagerly hope to hear the telltale buzz of the first adult male Rufous of the year.

### **COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS’ MISSION STATEMENT**

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

## **SITE FIDELITY: A MODEL FOR DISCOVERING THE AFFILIATION OF BIRDS AT PARTICULAR LOCATIONS**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Colorado birders habitually make use of the abundance categories outlined by Andrews and Righter (1992; hereafter, A&R), such as “abundant,” “common,” and “rare.” These terms are defined by a range of numbers to indicate the daily likelihood of seeing any bird; for example, “uncommon: 1-10/day, usually seen daily.”

Such categories are useful to observers who want a standard measure of what they are seeing from day to day. However, when applied uniformly across a variety of geographic areas, these categories disguise the unique gatherings of birds at particular places. For example, at O’Fallon Park, in Jefferson County, according to the categories presented in A&R, the Song Sparrow would be “uncommon,” but this is misleading because the Song Sparrow is one of the most numerous and frequently seen birds of this small ecosystem. Based on similar reckoning, the White-breasted Nuthatch would rank between “uncommon” and “rare,” yet this is another of the dominant birds at O’Fallon Park. In Table 1, the 16 dominant birds are identified by an asterisk (\*) and are among those I will shortly define as “Loyalists.”

I noticed this problem of nomenclature while counting birds for Birds in the Balance, a project organized by the Evergreen chapter of the Audubon Society. Since 1995, project participants have been recording birds in a dozen different locales in the Bear Creek Watershed. I am the project leader for O’Fallon Park.

Therefore, I propose residence categories that emphasize the varying site fidelity of birds, the purpose of which is to discover which birds most successfully exploit the niches of a particular place. From this perspective, frequency of appearance in one season, and duration across several seasons or years, become as important as abundance.

### **PROPOSED RESIDENCE CATEGORIES**

Each residence category or group identifies a different rank of site fidelity. I

begin with a general definition of each group that can be applied to any specific place. But every place is distinctive, and birders working in their own spots may need to refine the general definitions given here, as I will demonstrate in the next section.

Loyalist: The most frequently seen and most abundant, as well as the confirmed breeders at the site.

Regular: Seen in all years (or periods) of monitoring, of greater than average frequency, and of moderate abundance; breeding not yet confirmed.

Explorer: Usually seen at less than average frequency, and at the minimum abundance level, regardless of the duration of its appearance. Though some Explorers are cryptic and difficult to find, all (like the Regulars) are possible or probable breeders in one or more habitats of the site and are assumed to be searching for ways of “becoming” Loyalists.

Wanderer: Mostly seen during migration, moving to or from a more favorable locale, but also includes irruptive species and vagrants.

#### LOCAL CONDITIONS AT O’FALLON PARK (2001-2002)

O’Fallon Park is located near Kittredge, Jefferson County. It is geographically small and dominated by few bird species, but it sustains a fair diversity because of a variety of habitats. The entire park covers about one square mile, but less than 1/8 of that area is feasible for bird surveys. Between two and four volunteers surveyed there one day a month from May to September, logging an average of 8 observer hours per survey in 2001 and 8.6 hours in 2002.

Only nine of 50 species (18%) had an abundance of over 20 individuals for the whole 2001 season. In 2002, 14 of 48 species (29%) had a similar abundance. In 2001, 601 birds were observed and in 2002 a total of 717 were counted. Fifty-nine species were present over the two years, two-thirds of them (39) recorded in both years.

Over 95% of this lower montane ecosystem consists of three habitats: ponderosa pine forest, a 0.5-mile riparian section, and an open recreation area similar to an urban park. About 75% of all birds, and over 80% of all species, occurred in those three habitats. The rest scatter among five tiny habitats, most of them in the skimpy willows near Bear Creek.

Each residence group assumes a more refined definition based on local conditions. Considering the local conditions, I refine the definition of Loyalist



as a bird seen during both years, in the top level of frequency, and in the moderate or top levels of abundance. Confirmed breeders in either year also qualify as Loyalists, regardless of their frequency or abundance; they are identified with the pound sign (#) in Table 1.

Regular at O'Fallon means in greater than average frequency during at least one year, or in at least moderate abundance during at least one year, or both. No refinement of the general definitions for Explorer or Wanderer is necessary.

#### DISCUSSION OF TABLE 1

The table illustrates how site fidelity varies among the birds found at O'Fallon Park. It offers a model for assessing site fidelity elsewhere: according to local conditions, adjust the number of levels for frequency and abundance and select an appropriate range of numbers to define each. Kingery (1998) identified 23 of the birds in the table as confirmed breeders for the Evergreen block, which includes O'Fallon Park; however, I count only the 14 confirmed at O'Fallon during 2001-2002, because the Evergreen block also includes Corwina Park and Lair o' the Bear Park – two separate locations in the Birds in the Balance project.

Because avian adaptations can and do change, observers need to use judgment in assigning birds to a residence group. Note that the Western Wood-Pewee and the Common Grackle meet most of the general definition of a Regular, but because each appeared in only one year I assign them both to the Explorer category.

Also, based on the numbers, some Wanderers perform just like Explorers, so it is necessary to consult appropriate reference books on the likely residents of Colorado's habitats. A&R and Kingery (1998) tell us that the Wanderers have not yet adapted convincingly to the habitats at O'Fallon Park. But they may do so! By using the proposed residence groups in their favorite locales, birders can document such changes as they occur.

#### ADAPTIONS IN THE MAKING?

Here are a few possible changes, as suggested by the table. The Downy Woodpecker should be well adapted at O'Fallon (especially in the ponderosa pine), but its numbers indicate it has not yet become a Regular resident. Perhaps it prefers a nearby habitat. Or is it declining across the region? On the other hand, the Red-breasted Nuthatch, with numbers similar to the Downy, is normally found at higher elevations, but its consistency at O'Fallon suggests it may be "aiming" for Regular status.

Two other birds that normally prefer a higher elevation than the 6,800' of O'Fallon Park are the Hairy Woodpecker and the Pine Siskin. Both seem to be gaining a good foothold in this area.

Most of the passerines habituated to O'Fallon are holding their own, despite the severity of the drought during the past year. However, the fact that the Western Wood-Pewee and the two vireos (all of which appeared in 2001) did not show up in 2002 demonstrates the power of the drought, for each of these no-shows rely almost exclusively on insects, which are less available in a dry year. Conversely, birds that appeared in 2002, but not in 2001 – like Canada Goose, Common Grackle, Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers are more versatile feeders. They eat a greater variety of food, and/or they use more methods of feeding (Ehrlich et al. 1988). Especially during a drought, nature favors the versatile.

Given O'Fallon's proximity to the town of Kittredge, and its large park, it is surprising that such "urbanites" as Mourning Dove, Black-billed Magpie, Common Grackle, and House Sparrow are only Explorers. Especially surprising because some of their normal companions – American Robin, American Crow, European Starling, Brown-headed Cowbird, and House Finch – are well established. Is a familiar urban troop splitting up? Or are there simply not enough niches for all these aggressive and adaptable rivals? Time will tell who is waxing, who is waning, and where. Meanwhile, keeping track of such small trends may give birders advanced warning of longer-term changes to come.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank the other volunteers in the Birds in the Balance project who have participated at O'Fallon Park during the last two years: Inga Brennan, Bill Brockner, Karen Knutson, Margaret McDole, Kay Niyo, Lynne Price, Kent Simon, Terri Skadeland, and Sherman Wing.

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Table 1. Site fidelity of birds at O'Fallon Park, Jefferson County (2002-2002)

Species	Frequency						Abundance			Group
	2001		2002		2001		2002			
	1-2	3-5	1-2	3-5	6-19	<6	6-19	>19		
Great Blue Heron		X		X	X			X		Regular Explorer
Turkey Vulture	X				X					Loyalist
Canada Goose #				X				X		Loyalist*
Mallard #		X								Explorer
Sharp-shinned Hawk	X				X					Explorer
Cooper's Hawk						X			X	Regular Explorer
Red-tailed Hawk	X				X					Regular Explorer
Spotted Sandpiper	X				X					Explorer
Mourning Dove						X				Explorer
Broad-tailed Hummingbird							X			Loyalist*
Rufous Hummingbird					X					Wanderer
Belted Kingfisher	X				X					Regular Explorer
Downy Woodpecker	X				X					Explorer
Hairy Woodpecker	X				X					Explorer
Northern Flicker						X			X	Loyalist*
Western Wood-Pewee					X					Explorer
Cordilleran Flycatcher					X				X	Regular Explorer
Plumbeous Vireo	X				X					Explorer
Warbling Vireo	X				X					Explorer
Steller's Jay									X	Loyalist*
Black-billed Magpie	X				X				X	Explorer
American Crow #					X				X	Loyalist*

Table 1. (cont'd)

Species	Frequency				Abundance				Group
	2001		2002		2001		2002		
	1-2	3-5	1-2	3-5	<6	>19	<6	>19	
Common Raven	X			X	X				Regular
Violet-green Swallow #		X		X		X	X	X	Loyalist*
Barn Swallow	X		X	X	X				Explorer
Black-capped Chickadee		X		X		X		X	Loyalist
Mountain Chickadee		X		X		X		X	Loyalist*
Red-breasted Nuthatch	X		X	X	X				Explorer
White-breasted Nuthatch #		X		X		X	X	X	Loyalist*
Pygmy Nuthatch		X		X		X			Loyalist*
Brown Creeper		X		X	X				Regular
House Wren #		X		X	X			X	Loyalist*
American Dipper #		X		X	X		X		Loyalist*
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		X		X	X		X	X	Regular
Townsend's Solitaire #		X		X	X		X	X	Loyalist
Hermit Thrush	X				X				Explorer
American Robin #		X		X	X			X	Loyalist*
European Starling		X			X		X		Regular
Cedar Waxwing			X	X			X		Wanderer
Orange-crowned Warbler			X	X			X		Wanderer
Yellow Warbler #		X				X			Loyalist
Yellow-rumped Warbler #	X			X		X		X	Loyalist
Townsend's Warbler	X					X			Wanderer
Common Yellowthroat	X					X			Wanderer
Wilson's Warbler			X				X	X	Wanderer

Table 1. (cont'd)

Species	2001			2002			2001			2002			Group
	1-2	3-5	1-2	3-5	1-2	3-5	<6	6-19	>19	<6	6-19	>19	
Western Tanager #	X		X		X		X			X			Loyalist
Spotted Towhee	X				X		X						Explorer
Chipping Sparrow		X		X				X			X		Regular
Song Sparrow		X		X					X			X	Loyalist*
Dark-eyed Junco		X		X						X			Regular
Black-headed Grosbeak #	X		X		X		X			X			Loyalist
Red-winged Blackbird	X		X		X		X			X			Explorer
Common Grackle			X		X							X	Explorer
Brown-headed Cowbird	X			X			X			X			Regular
House Finch		X		X					X		X		Loyalist*
Pine Siskin	X		X		X		X			X			Explorer
Lesser Goldfinch #		X		X					X			X	Loyalist*
Evening Grosbeak	X				X		X						Explorer
House Sparrow				X						X			Explorer

**Legend:**

# - confirmed breeders

\* - dominant birds (i.e., most frequent and most abundant)

Frequency - number of months species detected (May - September)

Abundance - number of individuals observed per visit

**NEWS FROM THE FIELD:  
THE SUMMER 2002 REPORT (JUNE - JULY)**

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In many seasons, it is difficult to find a single unifying theme. Unfortunately, for this season it was all too easy. Anyone who turned on the television, listened to the radio or walked outside, could see, hear and even smell the story for the summer and spring of 2002: extremely dry conditions, which resulted in severe wildfires throughout the western two-thirds of the state. The first half of 2002 was the driest in Colorado's history, when averaged over the period January - July, while May - August was the second driest ever (NOAA 2002). Colorado joined Wyoming and four eastern states in recording the driest year on record from August 2001 to July 2002 (CNN 2002).

David Leatherman, Forest Entomologist with the Colorado State Forest Service, reported that during 2002, a total of 501,686 acres burned, compared to a ten-year average of 75,000 acres. Most of the burned acreage was in ponderosa and Douglas-fir, but significant amounts were also recorded in pinyon-juniper and sage shrublands. Throughout the state, two firefighters died, 1000 structures (358 homes) were lost, and \$152 million was spent on fire suppression efforts. The Hayman Fire, the largest fire in the state's history, started on 8 June in Park County, then spread into Jefferson, Douglas, and Teller counties. Some 137,760 acres burned, nearly double the acreage burned in the entire state during an average year. In this fire alone, 133 homes, a business, and 466 other structures were destroyed, costing approximately \$39.1 million to control (Colorado Office of Emergency Management 2002). However, Leatherman noted that the fires do contribute "some positive things ecologically in terms of diversifying forests that were stagnated by 50-100 years of fire suppression, lack of cutting, and increased development/recreation impacts."

The effect of fires and drought upon birds was frequently remarked upon on the COBIRDS list-serve, although in most cases these comments lacked any hard numbers. Unfortunately, many observers make few efforts to record the number of individuals while in the field, so we are often left with impressions that a given species was more common or less common. While this is better than nothing, it behooves us to take more detailed notes. Species lists are of limited utility in accessing changes in bird communities. Members of CFO can contribute significantly to our knowledge of bird distribution, but we must take quality field notes that at least include the species, number of individuals, location(s) visited, time started, time ended, miles walked/driven, and weather conditions.

It is very difficult to make generalizations concerning the effect drought and fire has on birds. For that reason, when analysis was possible, we confine it mostly to the species level. The one exception is for hummingbirds. The drought seriously depleted nectar resources, both in terms of the number of flowering plants, and the amount of nectar per flower in the foothills and mountains (fide Joey Kellner). Likely as a result of poor flower resources in the mountains and foothills, hummingbirds flowed onto the plains in early July. Feeders along the Front Range suburban sprawl belt from Douglas to Larimer counties hosted unprecedented numbers of Calliope, Broad-tailed, and Rufous hummingbirds. This effect was even greater for the fall season (see News from the Field in the next issue).

**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:** County names are italicized. For simplicity, names of observers have, for the most part, been abbreviated with their first initials within each species account. The name of each contributor is found at the end of this report.

**Abbreviations:** **A&R** = Andrews and Righter (1992); **BBA** = Breeding Bird Atlas (Kingery, 1998); **BBS** = Breeding Bird Survey; **CBRC** = Colorado Bird Records Committee; **LCC** = Lamar Community College; **m.ob.** = many observers (used for birds that were re-found, by others); **NG** = National Grassland; **NP** = National Park; **NWR** = National Wildlife Refuge; **Res.** = Reservoir; **RMBO** = Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory; **SNA** = State Natural Area; **SP** = State Park; **SWA** = State Wildlife Area.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** One was seen at the Springfield sewage ponds, *Baca*, on 15 June (TL). Two other birds were observed on Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, on the same date (TL, NG). The BBA did not record this species from that county.

**Eared Grebe:** Dexter found 11 nests of this species at Browns Lake SWA, *Hinsdale*, on 8 July. BBA work in the 1990s documented nesting of Eared Grebes in only one block of *Hinsdale*; the nests found by Dexter represent a new breeding block. Also of interest were 14 grebes observed at the Yuma sewage ponds, *Yuma*, on 8 June (TL, NG).

**Western Grebe:** Though not confirmed as nesting in South Park by the BBA, 33 Western Grebe nests were found this year at Elevenmile Res., *Park*, on 16 July (RL, AC). Additionally, one was seen on Summit Res., *Montezuma*, on 18 June (KB) where the species is uncommon to rare in the summer. The highest count reported was of 154 at Union Reservoir, *Boulder*, on 31 July (CW).

**Clark's Grebe:** One nest was found at Elevenmile Res., *Park*, on 16 July (RL, AC). This potentially represents the first documented breeding of this species in South Park. Three were on a gravel pit pond in Henderson, *Adams*, on 4 June (TL, NG); recent summer records of this species in that county are rare. Also of interest were three birds at Lake John, *Jackson*, on 23 July (RL).

**Brown Pelican:** If documented, an immature on 2 July at Big Meadows Campground, *Rio Grande*, would represent the 17th accepted record for the state (KG, MP).

**Great Egret:** Casual in western Colorado, two birds were seen at Parker Pond in Monte Vista NWR, *Rio Grande*, on 15 July (RL). Two other birds were observed at Harrance Lake, *Saguache*, on 19 July (RL).

**Cattle Egret:** Nine nests were found at Riverside Res., *Weld*, on 17 July (RL).

**Green Heron:** The only reports received this summer were of one at Tamarack Ranch SWA, *Logan*, on 2 June (BS, NKm) and one at Walden Ponds, *Boulder*, on 31 July (BS, CW).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Four were seen at the Yuma sewage ponds, *Yuma*, on 8 June (TL, NG). No *Yuma* breeding records exist for this species.

**Turkey Vulture:** Turkey Vultures are rather scarce across the northeastern plains of Colorado. Thus, the one observed on 4 July in *Morgan* was noteworthy (LS). The BBA did not record this species in that county. As



interesting, was the adult observed in southernmost Pawnee NG, *Weld*, on 19 June (TL). The BBA recorded only one possible breeding record in *Weld*. The maximum count for the summer period was of 60 birds in Castlewood Canyon SP, *Douglas*, on 23 and 29 June (HK). This site may support the largest roost in the state.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** The lingering bird observed during May in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, stayed barely into the summer season when observed by Komar on 1 June (ph.).

**Snow Goose:** An apparent summering bird was found by Levad at Trites Lake, *Saguache*, on 27 June.

**Ross's Goose:** A bird observed at Fruitgrower's Res., *Delta*, on 22 July by Beatty, was unusual considering that it should be on its arctic breeding grounds.

**Northern Pintail:** Four females were observed at Browns Lake SWA, *Hinsdale*, on 8 July (CD). The BBA did not record this species in *Hinsdale*.

**Bufflehead:** Three female-plumaged birds were seen at Antero Res., *Park*, on 16 July (RL). Levad later observed 52 Buffleheads at North Boettcher Lake, *Jackson*, on 23 July, which may be a new summer high count for the state.

**Canvasback:** Unusual in summer was a female observed at Gaynor Lake, *Boulder*, from July 29 through the end of the period (CW, m.ob.).

**Redhead:** Though not confirmed as breeding in the county during BBA work, Dexter found Redhead broods with a total of 14 young at Browns Lake SWA, *Hinsdale*, on 8 July. Other, apparently non-breeding birds, were observed in *Baca*, including three males and seven females at the Springfield sewage ponds on 15 June, a pair at Two Buttes Res. on the same date, a pair at Turk's Pond SWA on 17 June, and two pairs at the Walsh sewage ponds on 17 June; all by Leukering and Gobris.

**Ring-necked Duck:** At least three Ring-necked Ducks spent the summer in eastern *Boulder*; one or two were most frequently seen at Gaynor Lakes (BK, CW). This species is unusual in summer at lower elevations in the state.

**Lesser Scaup:** Also unusual at lower elevations in summer, one Lesser Scaup was found by Kaempfer on 8 June at Gaynor Lakes, *Boulder*.

**Common Merganser:** A female, with a brood of eight, was observed at Terry Lake, *Larimer*, on 30 June (TL).

**Hooded Merganser:** A female with a brood of four were present at McLellan Res., *Arapahoe*, on 23 June (JK). This may represent the third confirmed breeding record of this species in the state. One female was also found on Lake Annella, a tailings pond in *Conejos*, on 19 July (TL, NG), representing a rare summer record for that area.

**Osprey:** A non-breeding bird was observed at Lathrop State Park, *Huerfano*, on 16 July (JaB).

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** Quite unusual was the report of a pair of Swallow-tailed Kites near Walsenburg, *Huerfano*, in July (JT). Documentation has been submitted to the CBRC.

**Mississippi Kite:** Though Mississippi Kites are known to nest in southeastern Colorado along the Arkansas River valley and in northeastern Colorado in Wray, *Yuma*, and Holyoke, *Phillips*, evidence of expanding populations were the birds that successfully bred this past summer in Sterling, *Logan* (fide BrB).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** A second-year bird was observed at Tamarack Ranch SWA, *Logan*, on 2 June (NKm, BS). Another bird was seen on the same date in Sterling, *Logan*. The timing of these two birds is seemingly late, however, the migration timing of second-calender-year Broad-wings is typically late, with many birds observed elsewhere on the continent still migrating north well into June. More unusual was the individual found in Spring Gulch, *Boulder*, on 31 July (BS, CW).

**American Kestrel:** An apparent family group was observed on the southeast flank of Sheep Mountain, *Rio Grande*, on 18 July at an elevation of 12,350 feet (TL, NG). The birds were found near an isolated clump of trees in a protected spot above treeline and may well have nested at that elevation. According to A&R, kestrels regularly occur up to roughly 10,000 feet, but the reference only lists two isolated higher elevation records (approximately 12,000 and 13,250 feet). The BBA did not record the species higher than 9,200 feet. This suggests that this may represent one of the highest breeding records in the state for this species.

**American Coot:** The high count observed during the summer season included 1,500 adults and 500 juveniles at Lake John Annex, *Jackson*, on 23 July (RL).

Additional high counts of coots were the 1,000 each at South Boettcher Lake and Pole Mountain Res., *Jackson*, on 23 and 24 July, respectively (RL). Levad also reported 800 coots at Antero Res., *Park*, on 16 July.

**Piping Plover:** Through the concerted conservation efforts of Duane Nelson (and efforts by the birds themselves), Piping Plovers experienced an outstanding reproductive performance during the summer of 2002. The statewide estimate of 20 adults tied the previous high count. Of those 20 adults, nine pairs (an increase from five pairs last summer), laid 34 eggs resulting in 16 fledglings, the highest count on record for the state. Most successful nestings occurred at John Martin Reservoir, *Bent*, though Blue Lake, *Bent/Kiowa*, also produced birds (DN).

**Mountain Plover:** The maximum count reported during the period for this federally-proposed threatened species was of eight in southeastern *Adams*, on 4 July (TL, LS).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** As usual, fall migration through Colorado began in July. The maximum count for the period was of roughly 150 birds observed at Duck Lake, *Larimer*, on 29 July (RH).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Late were the two spring migrants seen at Lower Latham Res., *Weld*, on 4 June (TL, NG).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** One of the rarest species yet observed in Colorado's newest county, an adult was carefully identified at Brunner Lake, *Broomfield*, on 31 July (DE, DL).

**Sandhill Crane:** For the second consecutive year, a pair successfully nested in *Larimer* this summer, producing a single chick (NKm). An adult was also seen east of Sand Creek, *Larimer*, on 22 June (TL, NG), which may have been one of the adult nesting birds observed by Komar.

**Forster's Tern:** The ten observed at Lower Latham Res., *Weld*, and five at Prewitt Res., *Washington*, on 4 June were somewhat late spring migrants. Of interest was the observation of a copulating pair at the Yuma sewage ponds, *Yuma*, on 8 June (TL, NG). There are no recent records of confirmed breeding by this species on the eastern plains in Colorado; unfortunately, the site was not revisited later in the season.

**Least Tern:** Least Terns successfully nested along the Arkansas River valley at John Martin Res., *Bent*, Blue Lake, *Kiowa/Bent*, Neenoshe Res., *Kiowa*, and

Verhoeff Res., *Bent* (DN). Though the drought appeared to diminish available nesting habitat for this species, it seems that reproduction was at least encouraging in June and July with 19 pairs producing at least 21 young (DN). Beason also found a non-breeding bird at Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, on 26 June. Troubling is the lack of fidelity in subsequent years of young birds to natal areas following fledging, which produces a reduced recruitment of adult-aged birds to the Colorado breeding population (DN). This suggests that many terns fledged in Colorado fail to return as breeders.

**Black Tern:** A high count of 249 spring migrant Black Terns (a late migrant) was seen at Jumbo Res., *Logan*, on 2 June (BS, NKm). Other high counts during the early summer included 29 at Lower Latham Res., *Weld*, eight at Horse Creek Res., *Adams/Weld*, and 14 at Prewitt Res., *Washington*, all on 4 June (TL, NG). RMBO colonial waterbird surveys this past summer found only one successful nest site for this species, at Alamosa NWR, *Alamosa*, where four pairs were present.

**Black Rail:** Three or four were heard at Fort Lyons SWA, *Bent*, on 23 June (JC).

**Band-tailed Pigeon:** Considerably east and out of range was a bird seen in Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca/Las Animas*, on 22 July (JN). On the periphery of its northeastern range, several were observed in Estes Park, *Larimer*, on 9 July by Hopper.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Continuing the range expansion, one was observed in Gunnison, *Gunnison*, on 21 July (SO). First observed by Bray, Leatherman observed one along the Overland Trail on the west side of Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 3 July. Elsewhere, birds were again observed on the eastern plains in Snyder, *Morgan* (LS, TL), and Merino, *Logan*, on 4 July (LS, TL), as well as Las Animas and LaJunta, *Bent*, and Campo, *Baca*, on 23 June (JC).

**White-winged Dove:** Following excellent movements into the state in spring, a leftover was found at a feeder in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 22 June (FK).

**Inca Dove:** Continuing its nearly regular status in the state, one was photographed in Rye, *Pueblo*, on 20 July (CW, BKP, DS), providing the second record for *Pueblo*.

**Cuckoos:** Many may have noticed a relative dearth of cuckoos in recent years. Apparently, there may be some merit to that observation. David Leatherman provided a clear explanation of what may be causing this decline. He reported

only one cuckoo (presumably Yellow-billed) during the season. As he points out, "This was the only cuckoo I saw this summer, including trips to traditional strongholds like Julesburg, Lamar, [and] Two Buttes. I think it has been a tough last two years for tree caterpillars because of the late frosts in 2001 and early hot, dry weather in 2002 that either toughens foliage prematurely or throws off the caterpillar-budbreak synchrony. I don't recall too many cuckoo reports this summer, other than Canon City, where they have had a huge fall webworm epidemic going along the Arkansas River in Narrowleaf Cottonwoods for several years from Florence west to Salida north to Nathrop/Buena Vista."

**Flammulated Owl:** On the northeastern periphery of the species' range, Leatherman reported two active nests in *Larimer* during the season.

**Calliope Hummingbird:** In what was to become a major push of this species onto the eastern plains later in August, the migration of Calliopes began across Colorado mountains beginning as early as 14 July (JiB), with other observers reporting more typical arrival dates later that month.

**Rufous Hummingbird:** Early was the adult male seen northeast of Durango, *LaPlata*, on 23 June (JiB).

**Three-toed Woodpecker:** Despite the fact that this species is regular in upper-elevation montane areas of the state, successful nesting attempts are always of interest for this Forest Service Sensitive Species. Hopper reported a pair with young at a nest in Endovalley in Rocky Mountain NP, *Larimer*, on 9 July. Leatherman reported a pair along Pingree Park Road, *Larimer*, on 24 July. Another bird was found along the South Fork of Elk River, *Routt*, on 2 July (BS). Leatherman states, "It is a very good time to be this species (or Hairy) because of all the bark beetle caused mortality in virtually every forest type in Colorado... Combined, these bark beetles...are killing literally millions of trees statewide in 2002. In just about all cases, these bark beetle outbreaks are the result of fire suppression leading to overly-dense, stressed stands or wildfire creating injured trees attractive to them for that reason."

**Magnificent Hummingbird:** Two Magnificent Hummingbirds were reported during the season, including one male near Collbran, *Mesa*, on 1-2 July (NKr) and one female in *Larimer*, on 8 July (HH). Documentation for both birds has been submitted to the CBRC.

**Alder Flycatcher:** Leukering reported a late migrant of this rare Colorado species about 1.5 miles west of Norfolk, *Larimer*, on 11 June.

**Willow Flycatcher:** Birds were reported from typical locales in western Colorado during the summer. The most unusual report was of a bird found by Schmoker and Wood at Pella Crossing Park, *Boulder*, on 31 July.

**Black Phoebe:** One was reported from Home Lake SWA, *Rio Grande*, (date unknown) by Simmons. Hopefully, the observer will submit details to the CBRC.

**Eastern Phoebe:** One was found along the Purgatoire River south of La Junta, *Otero*, on 13 June (JaB).

**Vermilion Flycatcher:** Virtually regular now, Vermilion Flycatchers were again seen in Colorado this past summer when a pair was observed at Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca/Las Animas*, on 23 June (JC).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** An excellent summer for sightings, with birds observed at four locations, including two successful nestings. The pair found in May south of Lamar, *Prowers*, was observed to have three fledged young on 11 July (TB). Another successful nesting occurred in the same southeastern county when three young were found east of Holly on 14 July (SS). Single birds were also observed in *Chaffee*, on 12 June (JF, SF) and two miles west of Campo, *Baca*, on 26 July (KS).

**White-eyed Vireo:** Representing the first breeding record for Colorado, a pair successfully nested in Gregory Canyon, *Boulder*, where observed between 5 and 11 July (JT, m.ob.). These birds apparently produced at least two young. Interestingly, Tumasonis reported another singing male in July about one mile west and a thousand feet higher in elevation from Gregory Canyon. Away from the Gregory Canyon area, another territorial bird was found in Rye, *Pueblo*, 16 June-31 July (DS).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** One of the most fascinating outcomes of the summer season was the apparent mixed pairing of a female Yellow-throated Vireo with a male Plumbeous Vireo in Poudre Canyon, *Larimer* (NKm, RHy, TL, RHp). Komar first observed the Yellow-throated Vireo while doing bird surveys along the canyon on 10 June. Hoyer, later visited the location and found a nest and noticed behavior between the Yellow-throated and Plumbeous Vireos that suggested mating. In July, Leukering photographed the female Yellow-throated on the nest and a few weeks later was able to document one nestling. Interestingly, the youngster appeared as a typical Plumbeous Vireo with no expressed Yellow-throated Vireo genes.

**Cassin's Vireo:** Though an uncommon migrant in fall and rare migrant in spring, the presence of this northwestern species in the state in summer is unusual. Silverman found an individual in Colorado City, *Pueblo* on 21 July, which most likely represents a very early autumnal migrant.

**Gray Jay:** Leukering reported this species as being "unbelievably common" in spruce-fir in southwestern *Rio Grande* and northern *Conejos* in mid-July. He also reports that it was the most common corvid he saw in the Blowout Pass area of *Rio Grande*, 17-18 July.

**Blue Jay:** Two adults attended an active nest in Saguache, *Saguache*, on 27 May (TL, LS); the only ones found in mountain towns during the BBA nested just to the north in Salida, *Chaffee*.

**Steller's Jay:** While certainly out of place, especially for the season, a bird seen in Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca/Las Animas*, on 22 June (JN) may have been a winter leftover.

**Pinyon Jay:** On the northern edge of the species' range, Pinyon Jays were observed (and may have bred) in *Larimer*, where observed on 28 June by Hopper.

**Bushtit:** A flock of six was observed above treeline (12,000 feet) near Carbonate Mountain, *Huerfano/Alamosa*, on 27 June (AV). A&R state that the species is accidental in higher mountains. This new observation may be at the highest elevation recorded in the state (or anywhere?).

**Mountain Bluebird:** The drought apparently did not negatively affect reproduction throughout the state, as evidenced by the 88 percent success rate of nests of Mountain Bluebirds documented in *Summit*. One pair successfully fledged seven young. Another successful pair appeared to be a mixed Mountain/Eastern Bluebird pair, with the female representing the Eastern (BoB).

**Gray Catbird:** One was observed at Lamar CC, *Prowers*, 6-9 July, for an unusual plains summer record (DL).

**Purple Martin:** Though a localized nester on the western slope, eastern records of Purple Martin are few and the species has never been observed as breeding in that area. Interestingly, Leukering observed an immature male of this species in Ovid, *Sedgwick*, on 5 June. New nesting locales on the West

Slope were found north of Gothic, *Gunnison*, on 9 July (JiB) and the Box Canyon Trail near Gray Beal Springs, *Montezuma*, on 17 July (SA, GSM, JiB, PD).

**Winter Wren:** No breeding attempts have yet been documented in the state, but territorial birds were found in two locations in summer 2001. This summer was no exception when a singing bird was observed in the Wet Mountains near Lake Isabel, *Custer*, on 5 July (BKP).

**Veery:** South of its localized breeding distribution in the state, a singing bird was found along the North Fork of the Purgatoire River, *Las Animas*, on 1 July (JaB). Another was found near Rye, *Pueblo*, on 16 and 17 June (DS).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** A possible upslope-dispersing bird was observed by Leukering at the high elevation of roughly 12,350 feet on the southeast flank of Sheep Mountain, *Rio Grande*, on 17 July.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Unusual and late in its spring migration was a male observed in *Denver*, on 10 June (MB).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** A migrant observed in Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 4 June was late (DS).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** An apparent straggler from spring migration was the male observed in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 1 June (NKm).

**Hooded Warbler:** Very unusual at this location was a male observed in late May in *Montezuma* (fide SA). Another stray was a female seen at Tamarack Ranch SWA, *Logan*, on 2 June (NKm).

**Kentucky Warbler:** A male was observed at Riverbend Ponds SNA, Fort Collins, *Larimer*, 7-9 June (NKm, DB, JM).

**American Redstart:** This species breeds in localized areas in the southern and central portions of the Front Range. So, an immature male found at Watson Lake, Bellevue, *Larimer*, on 14 June, was slightly unusual (NKm).

**Summer Tanager:** Summer Tanagers are somewhat regular as spring overshoots in the state. By summer, however, observations of this species decline considerably. Thus, two males (one adult and one first-year) observed in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 13-14 June were noteworthy (VAT).



**Eastern x Spotted Towhee:** An apparent hybrid of these two species was seen 2-6 June (NKm, BS, TL ph.) in an area where mixed genes are apparently relatively common – Tamarack SWA, *Logan*.

**Cassin's Sparrow:** Cassin's Sparrows were quite common across the northern plains of Colorado this summer. Most interesting were the three birds heard along the Devil's Backbone Trail west of Loveland, *Larimer*, on 29 June (DL). This area represents one of the last remaining suitable habitats for this species along the immediate Front Range.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Leukering remarked that this species was widespread and common as post-breeding dispersers at high elevations in mid-July, as evidenced by a flock of at least 12 on Blowout Pass, *Rio Grande*, on 18 July.

**Black-throated Sparrow:** Whether drought-related or an as-of-yet unknown localized micro-population of the species, two adult and three juvenile Black-throated Sparrows were seen near Loveland, *Larimer*, between 26 June and 3 July (DB, NK, DL, RHp). Leatherman believed that this pair also raised a second brood later in the season.

**Vesper Sparrow:** Two birds on the southeast flank of Sheep Mountain, *Rio Grande*, on 18 July were thought to be upslope, post-breeding dispersers (TL).

**Lark Bunting:** Though much discussion occurred during the summer season over the lack of Lark Buntings in the state, the only information submitted was from Gent, who remarked that while running a BBS route in *Washington*, he counted a total of 42 individuals, which was an all-time low for that route. The previous low count for that route was of 190 birds in 1985, with yearly numbers running in the 200-400 birds range. Based on discussions with birders from other states, it appears that the severe drought pushed this species further north into Montana and the western Dakotas this year.

**Savannah Sparrow:** An unusual location for this species, a singing bird was found on the southeast flank of Sheep Mountain, *Rio Grande*, on 18 July (TL).

**Fox Sparrow:** A singing bird was found at the 80C Road crossing of Sand Creek, *Larimer*, on 22 June (NG, TL). This location is east of the most northeastern BBA block recording a confirmation of breeding by this species.

**Northern Cardinal:** The pair present during the spring at Lamar CC, *Prowers*, was observed during the summer season, 6-9 July (DL).

**Blue Grosbeak:** A singing male about 8.5 miles south-southwest of Yuma, *Yuma*, on 8 June, was in an area where few Blue Grosbeaks are reported (TL).

**Indigo Bunting:** One was in *Larimer* on 4 June and another was along the Arkansas River in Lamar, *Prowers*, on 9 July (DL).

**Painted Bunting:** A male (and possibly a female) was observed in Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca/Las Animas*, a rather predictable locale for this rare species in the state, on 23 June (JC).

**Western Meadowlark:** Unusual in location was the bird found singing on alpine tundra (12,200 feet) near Carbonate Mountain, *Huerfano/Alamosa*, on 27 June (AV). At least five singing males were also found above timberline along the southeast flank of Sheep Mountain, *Rio Grande*, on 18 July (TL).

**Baltimore Oriole:** Though a regular breeder in the far eastern portions of the state, the presence of a male Baltimore Oriole in Florence, *Fremont*, on 11 July was quite interesting (MPe).

**Red Crossbill:** The most unusual location for this species reported during the summer was a bird heard in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 18 July (DL).

**White-winged Crossbill:** Typically rare in the state, especially in summer, a pair of White-winged Crossbills was found nesting in *Eagle*, on 29 June (TJ).

**Lesser Goldfinch:** The only observer who commented upon abundance for this species was Kingery, who found fewer numbers around his haunts. Unusual locations included two birds seen at the 80C Road Crossing of Sand Creek, *Larimer*, on 22 June (TL). This site is further west than the blocks that recorded the species in the BBA. Though very close to the Wyoming border, Lesser Goldfinch is fairly rare in that state; however, the area in Wyoming where this species most regularly can be found lies directly north of Leukering's sighting (fide DF). Also of note were several observed by Leatherman around Lamar, *Prowers*, 6-9 July, and one male found about two miles south of Kim, *Las Animas*, on 17 June (JaB). A&R did not depict this species as being on the Plains in summer, though birds have been found in the past few years in the southeast portion of the state. Whether these birds are wandering anomalies or part of a range extension is unknown.

**Bobolink:** Eight singing males were located on 23 June at Winkler Ranch, *Douglas*, and an additional three males were found on Kmiecziak Ranch, near Franktown, *Douglas*, on the same date (HK).

### Contributing Observers

Susan Allerton, Jason Beason (JaB), Jim Beatty (JiB), Ken Behrens, Michele Bloom, Bonnie Boex (BoB), Bruce Bosley (BrB), David Bray, Tamie Bulow, Aimee Cairns, John Cobb, Peter Derven, Coen Dexter, David Ely, Doug Faulkner, Jacque Fisher, Scott Fisher, Kim Garwood, Peter Gent, Nancy Gobris, Hank Henry, Rachel Hopper (RHp), Rich Hoyer (RHy), Tina Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Joey Kellner, Hugh Kingery, Fritz Knopf, Nick Komar (NKm), Nic Korte (NKr), David Leatherman, Tony Leukering, Rich Levad, Joe Mammoser, Duane Nelson, John Nothrop, Stan Oswald, Brandon K. Percival (BKP), Mark Peterson (MPe), Molly Pollock, George San Miguel (GSM), Bill Schmoker, Larry Semo, Scott Shaum, Dave Silverman, Virginia Simmons, Kathy Stevens, Joyce Takamine, Van A. Truan (VAT), John Tumasonis, Alan Versaw, Chris Wood.

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### Corrigenda (Vol36:4):

The report of the last Vermilion Flycatcher and Blackburnian Warbler at Chico Basin Ranch were in *Pueblo*, not *El Paso*.

The last date for the Bufflehead sighting should have been 19 May, not 10 May.



Adult Greater White-fronted Goose that decided it liked Fort Collins so well, it stayed long enough to be photographed on June 1st. Photo by Nick Komar.

### **CFO SUPPORTS ETHICS CODES**

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