

Colorado Birds

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly



Vol. 37, No. 2

April 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONVENTION UPDATE.....	47
WELCOME HOME VULTURES PARTY.....	48
1967-2000 JOURNAL INDEX.....	48
CFO BOARD MINUTES (DEC 2002).....	49
<i>Sherry Chapman</i>	
CFO BOARD MINUTES (FEB 2003).....	52
<i>Sherry Chapman</i>	
CFO PROJECT FUND.....	54
<i>Cheryl Day</i>	
SOME WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL OBSERVATIONS DURING THE WINTER 2001-2002 INVASION OF COLORADO'S LOWER ELEVATIONS.....	56
<i>David Leatherman and Duane Nelson</i>	
PRONUNCIATION OF ORDERS, FAMILIES, AND SUBFAMILIES OF AVIFAUNA REGULARLY OCCURRING IN NORTH AMERICA, NORTH OF THE MEXICAN BORDER....	64
<i>Robert and Sandy Righter</i>	
TOOL USE BY EUROPEAN STARLING.....	71
<i>Mark Niemeyer and Hugh Kingery</i>	
MERLIN.....	72
<i>Jason Beason</i>	
JAEGERS IN COLORADO: A REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE.....	73
<i>Tony Leukering</i>	
NEWS FROM THE FIELD: FALL 2002 REPORT (AUGUST - NOVEMBER).....	92
<i>Peter R. Gent</i>	

ILLUSTRATIONS

Western Bluebird.....Cover
Glenn Walbek

Northern Harrier.....46
David Waltman

Pomarine Jaeger.....78
William Lybarger

Parasitic Jaeger.....82
Larry Semo

Long-tailed Jaeger.....83
Harold Holt



Northern Harrier scavenging on a Canada Goose carcass in Boulder, December 2002. Photo by David Waltman.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' 41ST ANNUAL CONVENTION: FRISCO, CO - JUNE 6-8, 2003

CFO will hold their annual convention at the Holiday Inn in Frisco, June 6-8, 2003. The Convention offers numerous birding fieldtrips, a scientific paper session, exhibits, banquet, evening programs, and other special activities. You do not need to be a member of CFO to attend the convention and everyone is welcome. If you are interested in birds, this is the event for you!

Colorado native Dr. Van Remsen is the 2003 Convention Keynote Speaker and will present "Our Lost Natural Heritage: Searches for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker" on Saturday evening, June 7th. Van is a leader in neotropical ornithology, having spent over four years doing field research in Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru. He is the McIlhenny Distinguished Professor of Natural Science at Louisiana State University and a member of the American Ornithologists' Union's Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. He is also the Chair of the AOU's South American Checklist Committee.

There is a charge to attend convention events. CFO members receive registration forms in the mail. If you did not receive yours, contact Rachel Hopper at the e-mail address below or check the CFO website where they are available by download. All forms must be completed and returned by May 7, 2003.

For more information: <http://www.cfo-link.org>

Contact: rhopper@cfo-link.org

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 fieldtrips and workshops, and hold annual conventions.

WELCOME HOME VULTURES PARTY

When: April 27, 2003 from 3-6 P.M.

Sponsor: Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park

Drop in to the west side of the park to welcome the return of the Turkey Vultures. Castlewood Canyon State Park hosts the largest roost site for vultures in Colorado. Masters of the air, these huge soaring carrion-eaters have a wing span of five and a half feet and fly for miles without flapping.

Take this opportunity to observe and learn about them from park naturalists. The park will provide telescopes for viewing. Short hikes will allow for observation of vultures and other early spring migrants. Refreshments provided. Parks pass required.

Directions: Go west 0.25 mile from traffic light in Franktown on Colorado 86; just across Cherry Creek bridge, turn south on Castlewood Canyon Road and go 2 miles to park entrance and another 0.5 mile to the welcome tables. [*This party will NOT occur at the park visitor center south of Franktown off Colorado 83.*] Carpooling is encouraged as the park has limited parking.



Colorado Field
Ornithologists



Colorado Field
Ornithologists



Colorado Field
Ornithologists

1967-2000 JOURNAL INDEX

A subject Index to the first 34 years of the Journal is now available. This supplement to Volume 36, was carefully compiled by long-term CFO member Warren Finch and edited by past Journal editors Cynthia Melcher and Scott Gillihan. This 62-page Index references all published articles from 1967-2000, organized by subject words taken from titles and selected key subjects from the text.

This supplement is available for \$6. To receive a copy, please send a check or money order payable to Colorado Field Ornithologists to BB Hahn, CFO Treasurer, 8230 Mule Deer Drive, Pueblo, CO 81004. Please put "Journal Index" in the memo field. The supplement will also be available at the 2003 Convention in Frisco.

CFO BOARD MINUTES (DEC 2002)

Sherry Chapman, Secretary

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Colorado Field Ornithologists was held on Saturday, December 7, 2002 at the John Deaux Art Gallery at 11:00 A.M. with the President in the chair and the Secretary being present. Board members attending: Cheryl Day, Sharon Dooley, Doug Faulkner, BB Hahn, Rachel Hopper, Tony Leukering, Rich Levad, and Mark Yaeger. The minutes of the prior meeting were approved as corrected.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Peter Gent reported that arrangements are completed for the use of the Holiday Inn in Frisco for the 2003 Convention.

He also commented that he and Tony Leukering worked together on a letter to the editor of the Black Canyon Audubon Society newsletter regarding an article by Dick Guadagno. The letter concerned incorrect parameters for reporting rare birds in Colorado.

Peter also reported that Bob Righter's publication regarding the Birds of Barr Lake has received funding from the Denver Field Ornithologists. The CFO Board had agreed to contribute up to \$500 toward the publication and the treasurer was directed to disburse the funds.

TREASURER'S REPORT

BB Hahn reported that our current assets are \$29,950.60. A detailed report is on file with the minutes.

The proposed budget for 2003 of \$15,088.50 was presented and approved unanimously.

COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Tony Leukering reported that Larry Semo has agreed to serve a second term on the committee and will continue to serve as CBRC's Secretary. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Tony suggested that members continue to submit rare bird sightings despite the large number of photographs which are taken. He feels this will keep people in practice for occasions when photos are impossible.

The committee is researching historic records of California Condor, Passenger

Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet for Colorado with a view to adding them to the state list if they can be verified. Most of the old (prior to 1995) sightings of Parasitic Jaeger records have been rejected by the committee and there will be an article regarding them in a future JCFO issue.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Rich Levad reported that Landowner Appreciation Plaques will be presented to Cyndi Mosch and Bob Myers for their hospitality in allowing birders to view, respectively, a Purple Gallinule and a Broad-billed Hummingbird that frequented their yards.

A nomination for the Ron Ryder Award has been submitted along with two seconding letters and a preliminary canvassing of the committee indicates that the nominee is an appropriate candidate. The award will be announced at the 2003 Convention.

JOURNAL EDITOR

Doug Faulkner reported that Scott Gillihan and Rich Levad have completed their terms as Assistant Editors and that two new assistant editors will be recruited for 2003.

MEMBERSHIP

Sharon Dooley reported that the current membership stands at 354 with 87 memberships expiring in December which is about the usual number for the end of the year. She and Raymond Davis will post e-mail reminders and also mail post cards in January. They predict about 340 renewals by the end of January which is low for CFO.

WEBSITE

The number of COBIRDS subscribers is almost double that of the CFO membership and Rachel will add a tag line identifying CFO as the list owner and will occasionally post an appeal for donations.

FUNDED PROJECTS

The Board is concerned with the lack of follow-up information regarding projects which have been funded in the past. In an effort to improve communication, BB Hahn moved that a board member become a committee member. Cheryl Day volunteered and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

BB also moved that all standing committees include at least one board member and Peter Gent moved that a change in the bylaws be recommended to

designate Funded Projects as a standing committee. Both motions were seconded and passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2003 Convention - Tony Leukering will send his list of field trip possibilities to the board in the near future. He requested that we plan to include field trips from Frisco on the Friday before the Convention and the board approved the request.

Mark Yaeger will not be able to attend the Convention and requested a volunteer to handle the exhibitors. Sue Bonfield and Norm Lewis were suggested and Sue will be contacted first as she lives in the Silverthorne area. Peter Gent will act as chair for on-site arrangements. Sharon Dooley and Raymond Davis will work together to assemble and mail the registration packets.

Rich Levad is soliciting papers for the Convention and has a list of ten possibilities.

NEW BUSINESS

Reduction of treasurer's duties - Due to personal time constraints BB Hahn would like someone else to handle CFO's merchandise on a permanent basis. Tony Leukering will ask Sue Bonfield if she is willing to assume the job.

2002 Booklet Style Checklist - The board will sell the remainder of the checklists rather than including them in the 2003 registration packets.

Journal Name Change - Doug Faulkner feels that the Journal needs a jolt of life to maintain interest in the publication. He recommended a color cover with coated paper, a new cover design and a new title. The Journal staff recommended Colorado Birds: The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly. Doug presented three cover designs, one was picked by the Board and the name change was approved unanimously. Doug will contact Bob Righter to ask if Bob feels there is any conflict with his book title.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the CFO Board of Directors will be held on February 15 in the offices of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory at 11:00 A.M.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 P.M.

CFO BOARD MINUTES (FEB 2003)

Sherry P. Chapman, Secretary

The regular quarterly meeting of the CFO Board of Directors was held on Saturday, February 15, 2003 at the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory at 11:00A.M. with the Vice-President in the chair and the Secretary being present. Board members attending: Sherry Chapman, Cheryl Day, Sharon Dooley, Doug Faulkner, BB Hahn, Rachel Hopper, Tony Leukering, Norm Lewis, and Bob Spencer. The minutes of the prior meeting were approved as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT

BB Hahn reported that our current assets are \$31,218.16. A detailed report is on file with the minutes. BB requested that the Board ratify the e-mail vote to change the name of "Funded Projects Committee" to "Project Fund Committee." The change was approved unanimously.

COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

The committee continues to circulate 2001 reports (approximately 189); work on re-submitted reports from earlier years, pre-1996 jaeger reports, and reports from 2000. The committee plans a report on the old jaeger records for the April Colorado Birds issue. Plans are to include the 2001 report in the July issue.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Landowner Appreciation Plaque has been presented to Bob and Pauline Myers. More than 200 birders added the Broad-billed Hummingbird to their life and/or state lists.

FIELDTRIPS

Norm Lewis will ask Sue Hirschman to repeat her trip for Black Swifts in Box Canyon and also to possibly expand the trip into a full day.

JOURNAL EDITOR

Doug Faulkner reported that the January issue of Colorado Birds is ready for mailing. The April issue is on track.

MEMBERSHIP

Sharon Dooley reported that the current membership stands at 354 as of January 15. Forty-four memberships that expired in December have not been renewed. Sharon and Raymond Davis are in the process of contacting members on the list.

WEBSITE

Rachel received a couple of complaints from COBIRDS users who objected to postings announcing trips, etc. with a fee. She responded to them individually and will continue to do so. Board members agreed that CFO will not allow commercial companies to post trip information on COBIRDS, but there is a fine line in allowing users to post services, trips, or classes requiring a fee.

PROJECT FUND COMMITTEE

Linda Vidal turned over the chair of the committee to Cheryl Day and also forwarded reports from previous grantees to Cheryl. The Board requested that Cheryl improve the reporting parameters from the committee and present her suggestions at the next Board meeting. The committee received seven applications for the year 2002. One was late and was not considered. The recommendations totaled \$3,018 and were approved unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bob Spencer reported that the committee currently has no members and asked for suggestions from the Board. Sherry Chapman will not run for another term as Secretary and a candidate needs to be found for the position.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2003 Convention - Most of the arrangements for the Convention are in place. The registration brochures will be mailed within the next seven to ten days. Peter Gent will be asked to make land transportation arrangements for the keynote speaker, Van Remsen. The remaining CFO pins will be used as door prizes at the banquet.

A major change from past years is the requirement for the registration fee for those interested in attending only the banquet. The full registration fee will not be charged; the amount will be reduced to \$10.00 plus the banquet fee itself.

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws revisions - Norm Lewis and Sherry Chapman presented extensive revisions to the bylaws. Many were discussed at length and additional changes were made. The revised bylaws will be published in an upcoming issue of the journal.

APRIL BOARD MEETING

The next quarterly meeting of the CFO Board of Directors will be held on April 26 at 11:00 A.M. at the home of BB Hahn, Pueblo, CO.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

CFO PROJECT FUND

Cheryl Day, Project Fund Chair

Since 1999, the CFO Project Fund has made grants to qualifying individuals or organizations for projects that will have a lasting benefit to Colorado birds and their habitats. The Project Fund has funded several projects, including research on Least Terns, Piping Plovers, and Loggerhead Shrikes, as well as studies on the effect of fragmentation and urban development on passerine birds in ponderosa pine forests, and the effects of recreational trail use on behavior and nesting success of American Robins and Yellow Warblers.

Monies for the Project Fund come from donations and the CFO budget. The CFO Board designates an amount available to the Project Fund for the upcoming year each August. In addition to these allocations, individual donations provide significant support for these important Colorado bird research projects.

The Project Fund Committee reviews and rates all applications in terms of which have best met the criteria for the mission of CFO. The data are tabulated and applications are ranked by the Project Fund Committee. Grants are divided among the highest-ranking applications with the amount of support provided dependent on the Project Fund budget.

This year the Project Fund received seven applications. Of these, the four applications funded for the year 2003 are:

Amy A. Yackel Adams (CSU graduate student) - Population demography of Lark Buntings on the Pawnee National Grassland, Colorado; post-fledging survival and female fecundity. CFO approved fully funding the request to refurbish 39 transmitters.

Gretchen Jehle (CSU graduate student) - Avian response to prescribed fire in the upland shrub/ponderosa pine system of Rocky Mountain National Park. CFO approved to fully fund housing for a graduate student and field technician during the field season.

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory - Request for a treetop peeper. A treetop peeper is a miniature camera mounted on a telescoping pole and connected to a hand-held monitor, which enables field workers to safely inspect a large number of cavities or nest boxes in a shorter period of time. CFO approved to fully fund the request.

Colorado Natural Heritage Program - Reproductive success of the Mountain Plover on private agricultural lands. CFO approved to fund six radio transmitters.

To submit an application to the Project Fund, refer to the October 2002 JFCO which has guidelines on how to submit a proposal, or go to our website at <http://www.cfo-link.org>. Remember that all applications must be postmarked by December 1.

Help support avian research in Colorado. Support the CFO Project Fund with your tax-deductible donation. Make checks payable to Colorado Field Ornithologists, clearly marked "Project Fund." Send to: BB Hahn, 8230 Mule Deer Drive, Pueblo, CO 81004. Remember that CFO is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation and members can designate the CFO Project Fund in estate planning or wills.

Committee Members:

Cheryl Day
Project Fund Chair
2836 Hwy. 92
Hotchkiss, CO 81419

Pearle Sandstrom-Smith
2853 Fifth Ave.
Pueblo, CO 81003

Jameson F. Chace
Villanova University
800 Lancaster Ave
Villanova, PA 19085-1699



SOME WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL OBSERVATIONS DURING THE WINTER 2001-2002 INVASION OF COLORADO'S LOWER ELEVATIONS

David Leatherman
612 Stover Street #7
Fort Collins, CO 80524
dleather@lamar.colostate.edu

Duane Nelson
342 East 6th Street
Las Animas, CO 81054
leastern@centurytel.net

Introduction

Crossbills, worldwide, are famous for their nomadic exploitation of sporadically-produced conifer seeds. In North America pine, spruce, hemlock, and, to a lesser extent, other conifers play host to crossbills. These trees typically produce bumper seed crops every three to five years. Given the vast ranges these trees occupy in northern and western North America, it is likely adequate food resources exist at least somewhere within the host ranges most years. But at widely-spaced intervals of a decade or more, it is also likely a poor cone set occurs basically throughout the host ranges. At such times, these highly-mobile birds are forced to extend their search for food into unexpected locales. This paper details behavioral observations of White-winged Crossbills (*Loxia leucoptera*) made at two such Colorado sites - Las Animas (3893 feet ASL in Bent County) far out on the southeastern plains, and Fort Collins (4998 feet ASL in Larimer County) at the base of the northern Front Range.

Las Animas Observations

The Las Animas bird, an immature male, represents the first record of the species in Bent County, spent most of its time at the black oil sunflower feeder of one of the authors (Nelson). The period of occurrence was 31 December 2001 to 6 January 2002.

The Las Animas White-winged Crossbill appeared with House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) late in the morning on 31 December 2001. Ironically, this was the first White-winged Crossbill reported from the plains in Colorado in 2001, despite being further south and farther from typical habitat than other white-wingeds found later that winter. Sensing that there was something of

interest, it immediately landed on a home-made hopper-style feeder, custom designed to incorporate the presentation of a large open tray. Not only did it recognize the feeder as a potential food source, but it also quickly managed to extract the seeds from the shells. My personal experience with Red Crossbills (*L. curvirostra*) at feeders indicates that crossbills can be abundant in an area, but do not always make the connection between feeders and food. However, once they master feeders and sunflower seeds, they are usually pretty sure to return.

A brief identification of the bird: The first fieldmark that is seen on a White-winged Crossbill is usually the bold white wingbars on blackish wings. Compared with House Finches, the notched tail looked very short, while the head looked proportionally heavier. The crown and upper back feathers were a burnt-orange color, flecked with black tips. The auriculars were bordered with dark brown, paler brown on the inside of the patch. The bill was obviously crossed, with the lower mandible crossing to the left, and the upper mandible to the right. The bill was more delicate than seen in the spectrum of Red Crossbill beaks. The most striking fieldmark, other than the bold wingbars, was an unmarked upper breast of an unusual peach color. The upper tail coverts were reddish, but flecked with dark. There were dark brownish streaks on the flanks. The legs were black. Perhaps in the absence of others of its species, this bird was conspicuously silent.

As a nomadic species is wont to be, the Las Animas crossbill was unpredictable in its appearances. On warm days, it did not show up until after 11:30 A.M. On colder days, it appeared as early as 7:30 A.M., and stayed near the feeders. Its routine at the feeders was slightly more standardized. Usually, when it showed up, it gorged until sated. Once full, it would not come back for about an hour.

Every visit I saw to the feeding station always began with a flight in from the northwest. Usually, the crossbill landed in one of two small trees 20 feet north of the feeders, always 15 to 20 feet above the ground. The bird would sit still, but rapidly tilt its head back and forth, as if to determine that it was safe to land on the feeder. This perching behavior usually lasted for several minutes. When it landed on either of the two feeders it frequented, it habitually engaged in two peculiar activities. If there were few birds at the feeder, it would eat several seeds, and make several counter-clockwise loops, feeding from the opposite side of the feeder, then continued around to the original side. If it encountered House Finches, Pine Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*), or American Goldfinches (*Carduelis tristis*) on these loops, it would nip at them. When there were lots of birds at the feeder, it would lean one side of the body against

the plexiglass, and feed with an eye out away from the feeder. This allowed more aggressiveness to other birds on the feeder, while it continued feeding, and may have been a method of keeping aware of potential predators. It was the dominant bird at the feeder, except when a wintering intergrade Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) chose to dine on sunflower seeds.

The crossbill was deliberate when drinking water. There was a heated birdbath close to the feeder, which it visited. Before landing on the edge of the birdbath, the bird perched on top of a two-foot tall capped waterline pipe. On one five-minute-long occasion, the crossbill successfully fed on Black Niger seeds from a home-made thistle feeder. It was never seen returning to that feeder again.

Until the last day of its visit, it was never observed lower than the level of the two sunflower seed feeders. On the last day it was seen, it hopped on the ground, where it appeared to be looking for seed fragments, in the fashion of Dark-eyed Juncoes (*Junco hyemalis*) or White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*).

Always unpredictable, the last day the crossbill was here was the day it was at the feeder the most. It seems possible that it had replenished depleted fat reserves, and left to seek out more traditional habitat.

Fort Collins Observations

White-winged Crossbills (also referred to as “crossbills”) were first detected in Fort Collins during the winter of 2001-2002 by Joe Mammoser at Grandview Cemetery (GC). In recent history, they have been recorded at GC in December 1985, December 1989, and January 1990. Their appearance there this winter had been semi-seriously predicted in autumn 2001 by Joe and one of the authors (Leatherman), based on the heavy cone crop and an observation of 25 White-winged Crossbills at the relatively low elevation of 7522 feet ASL in Estes Park by Chris Wood on 17 November 2001. One to 22 birds were seen at GC between 4 January and 9 February 2002.

Grandview Cemetery is an old memorial park founded in 1887. As such, it represents perhaps the oldest collection of trees within Fort Collins. The population of cone-bearing Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*) numbers in the few hundreds, occurring within an area of 45 acres. An irrigation canal runs along the cemetery’s east boundary and just across a wide city street along the north edge.

Colorado Blue Spruce was most visited by the GC crossbills. Virtually every blue spruce was mature and bore a heavy cone crop during winter 2001-2002.

As is typical of spruce, the great majority of cones hung in the top quarter of the tree. Crossbills were conspicuous when moving between spruce tops, but could be quite inconspicuous once settled in for a spate of feeding. Most individuals seemed to disappear into the interior of the crown, with just a few individuals showing on the edge. Most feeding occurred on crown parts in the shade (i.e., the north, east and west sides). As others have observed, vocalizations by the crossbills provided an excellent indication of how the seed extraction operation was progressing. When the pickings were good, the birds were relatively silent. When the pickings got slim, the chattering began, building to a chorus of agreement, and it was time to change restaurants.

The big group of approximately 20 crossbills present in late January, visited the few Engelmann Spruce (*P. engelmannii*) at GC. This is their normal host in the high country of Colorado and their sessions in trees of this species, which is a smaller-coned spruce, seemed about as lengthy (15-30 minutes) as those in individual Colorado Blue Spruce. One difference noted while in Engelmann Spruce was the higher frequency at which cones were removed from their stalks prior to seed removal. In such cases, the bird would bite the peduncle, hold the cone in one foot, or pin it to a branch, grasp the tree branch with the other foot, and engage in typical prying and twisting of the cone with the bill. On two occasions, a young male was observed doing this while upside down. Add to this simultaneous production of meaningful vocalizations, searches for danger, meticulous actions of the tongue, seed cracking in the pallet, and swallowing. In total, the coordination and skills required for successful and rapid execution of such maneuvers are remarkable.

Red Crossbills are reported to consume 3000 spruce seeds per day and typical daily seed consumption by white-wingeds is probably similar. They also are reported to drink 22% of their body weight daily. That would be the equivalent of a 200-pound human consuming 25 pounds of food and five gallons of water per day. Perhaps their aerobic exercise during and between meals explains why they are not cross-billed blimps.

On 21 January, the big crossbill flock was in Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) about half the time during four hours of observation. This host is not reported commonly for White-winged Crossbills. As in Engelmann Spruce, cone removal prior to seed extraction was observed commonly in Douglas-fir. Also on that day, an immature male ate a few swollen flower buds of American Elm (*Ulmus americana*).

Another aspect of White-winged Crossbill feeding at GC is the consistent association of other species with them. The species most often feeding in the

cone-laden tree tops with crossbills was Pine Siskin. While spruce seeds are normal fare for siskins, their tendency to associate directly with crossbills seemed more than coincidental. With many trees available for foraging, it appeared the siskins keyed into the selections of crossbills. When the crossbills changed trees, so did a small contingent of siskins. Is this simply the siskins relying on the crossbills to make good tree selections? Is it the siskins relying on the crossbills to break up partially-closed cones and expose resources the siskins otherwise could not access? Or are the siskins simply associating with crossbills for some of the normal improved predator alert capabilities that commonly motivate bird species to form mixed flocks?

From the standpoint of a human observer on the ground, the activities of crossbills away from feeders are distinctively “schizophrenic.” They are either “aloof” in tall conifer tops eating seeds, or on the ground drinking water and eating diet supplements and very tame. While their activities are all quite interesting, when they come to the ground, observation of “alternate” activities is much easier. The problem becomes one of interpretation.

The GC crossbills were quite regular in their descent to earth. About once an hour they would come down for various purposes. Seeing birds leave a cone-laden tree top for the lower branches of the same or nearby conifer, was a sure sign this process was underway. Sometimes they went from the lower conifer branches directly to the ground, but usually they would leave the lower part of a conifer, go to a shrub or small-diameter tree, and then fly to the ground. This staged transition to the ground would appear to be part of an instinctive awareness of increased vulnerability on the ground, as if they were “sneaking down the back stairway.” While on the ground at GC, they tended to stay in the shade, near tree trunks, under shrubs, or near the edge of the irrigation canal. Most time on the ground was spent consuming snow. Sometimes a bird would plunge its head into a patch of deep, soft snow, coming up looking like a comedian who had been hit with a cream pie. Most snow drinkers would go to soft, thin patches of snow under shrubs and delicately bite off small pieces or open their bills wide and chip off chunks of icy snow. While eating snow, the birds were very tame. One female landed within a foot of Leatherman’s shoes. (Yes, I had my camera but a full-blown case of “crossbill fever” interfered with my shutter finger). Small groups of birds often consumed snow together, and were seen using the same locations repeatedly.

On 10 February, one female flew to a Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) and joined Pine Siskins, Black-capped Chickadees (*Poecile atricapillus*), Mountain Chickadees (*P. gambeli*), Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*), House Finches, and Fox Squirrels (*Sciurus niger*) in licking sap

oozing from the branches. At one point the crossbill spent time consuming a small, sweet icicle of sap.

Another activity seen at least 5 times is difficult to positively interpret. Several individuals were seen scraping their bills on bark. Once this was basal trunk bark on the north side of a large-diameter spruce. Once this was blackened bark on the top of a dead Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*) branch located a few feet above a frozen ditch. Several times birds gnawed at the bark of honeysuckle (*Lonicera* sp.) branches sticking up out of the ditch ice. Most of these honeysuckle branches were also dead and blackish and the area most attractive to the birds was just above the ice. Among the possible explanations for all of the above are: 1) they were removing bits of pitch from their bills acquired while extracting seeds from resin-caked cones, 2) they were eating bark, 3) they were eating lichens, as has been reported in the literature (this would seem only likely in the case of the spruce trunk episode), 4) they were scraping and consuming sooty mold (fungal family Perisporiaceae) growing on accumulations of aphid and scale insect excrement (called honeydew) on upper bark surfaces within or under infested trees, 5) they were scraping and consuming honeydew, or 6) they were simply honing mandibular surfaces and tips, which has been reported in the literature.

Perhaps the observation of the female seeking sweet sap helps interpret the bark-gnawing. Crack willow routinely supports heavy populations of the Giant Willow Aphid (*Tuberolachnus salignus*), a species well-known for its copious honeydew production. The honeysuckles in the ditch showed clumps of abnormally heavy branching, characteristic of infestation by the Honeysuckle Witches' Broom Aphid (*Hyadaphis tartaricae*). In addition, the honeysuckles were overtopped by American Elms known to support both European Elm Scales (*Gossyparia spuria*) and the Elm Leaf Aphid (*Myzocallis ulmifolii*). The presence of black sooty mold on the willow branch top surface and the honeysuckle branches is further evidence of honeydew accumulations. It would appear the sweetened nature of these various bark substrates at least had something to do with the activities noted. Perhaps the initial gnawing was random, and the presence of honeydew brought them back (especially in the case of the honeysuckles). Perhaps the bark at the base of the spruce and on the honeysuckles where it entered the ice was chosen because of the softening effects of moisture.

Lastly, communication between White-winged Crossbills immediately prior to, during, and immediately following flight is the easiest way to detect them. But under calm conditions, the crunching sounds associated with extraction, de-winging, and consumption of seeds by a group of birds are quite audible. One

other clue to their presence is falling seed or seed wings. These are particularly visible with backlight, as they “helicopter” to the ground downwind of a tree where a group is actively foraging. Crossbills are reported as very efficient at all aspects of the seed extraction process, including seed assessment. The great majority of “confetti” falling at GC was inferior seed (small and/or non-viable) or wings from consumed seeds.

Summary

As befits a true nomad, the White-winged Crossbills invading lower elevations in Colorado during the fall and winter of 2001-2002 were equally adept at exploiting both urban tree and feeding station food resources. We look forward to the next aligning of biological and physical factors that bring about the return of this fascinating species to the lowlands.

Further Reading

- Benkman, C. W. 1987. Crossbill foraging behavior, bill structure, and patterns of food profitability. *Wilson Bulletin* 99:351-368.
- Benkman, C.W. 1987. Food profitability and the foraging ecology of crossbills. *Ecological Monographs* 57:251-267.
- Benkman, C. W. 1988. Seed handling ability, bill structure, and the cost of specialization for crossbills. *Auk* 105:715-719.
- Benkman, C. W. 1992. White-winged Crossbill. In *The Birds of North America* No. 27. (A. Poole, P. Stettenheim, and F. Gill, eds). Acad. of Nat. Sci. of Philadelphia.
- George, W. G. 1968. The association of invading White-winged Crossbills with a southern tree. *Wilson Bulletin* 80:496-497.
- Hofslund, P. B., W. H. Marshall, and G. Robinson. 1955. Wasteful feeding by White-winged Crossbills. *Wilson Bulletin* 67:215.
- Janssen, R. B. 1990. A major invasion of White-winged Crossbills, 1989-1990. *The Loon* 62:69-71.
- Larsen, T. and I. Tombre. 1989. Cyclic irruptions of Two-barred Crossbills in Scandinavia. *Fauna Norv. Ser. C, Cinclus* 12:3-10.
- Meade, G.M. 1942. Calcium chloride-a death lure for crossbills. *Auk* 59:439-440.

- Pulliainen, E. 1971. Winter nutrition of crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra* and *L. leucoptera*) in northeastern Lapland in 1969. *Ann. Zool. Fennici* 8:326-329.
- Pulliainen, E., T. Kallio, and A. M. Hallaksela. 1978. Eating of wood by Parrot Crossbills, *Loxia pytyopsittacus*, and redpolls, *Carduelis flammea*. *Aquil. Ser. Zool.* 18:23-27.
- Sealy, S. G., D. A. Sexton, and K. M. Collins. 1980. Observations of a White-winged Crossbill invasion of southeastern Manitoba. *Wilson Bulletin* 92:114-116.



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>

PRONUNCIATION OF ORDERS, FAMILIES, AND SUBFAMILIES OF AVIFAUNA REGULARLY OCCURRING IN NORTH AMERICA, NORTH OF THE MEXICAN BORDER

Robert and Sandy Righter
2358 S. Fillmore Street
Denver, CO 80210

Background on the Origins of Scientific Words and Their Pronunciation

In the Eighteenth Century, Carolus Linnaeus devised a system to classify the animal kingdom using a hierarchical method consisting of Class, Order, Family, Tribe, and Species. Each species was identified by a binomen, consisting of the genus and specific name. The majority of names that Linnaeus first assigned originated from Latin and/or Greek because they were considered “dead” languages – a language no longer in use; thus, the last meaning for a word was apt to be its final meaning (Jobling 1991, Coues 1882). A “dead” language, however, does not mean that throughout a language’s evolutionary history the meaning and pronunciation of a word has been consistent. Latin and Greek were based on even older languages whose roots went back to unspecified Indo-European languages (Umbach 1997). In the era when Greek and Latin were spoken, there was no standardization for how a word was pronounced or how a word could be used. Different periods within the language’s evolution, as well as different geographic regions, all utilized different meanings and pronunciations (Umbach 1997). The pronunciation of scientific words is further complicated by how the word was formed. Scientific words are formed by either the direct usage of an existing Latin or Greek word, the compounding or use of components of Latin and Greek words, or a word could be a completely arbitrary creation (Brown 1956, Coues 1882). The process for languages becoming standardized started with the invention of the printing press in 1476. With the continued use of printed material, the populous’ ability to read the written word increased, which eventually led to more consistency in the spoken word (Lockwood 1984, Lysaght 1975).

Methodology

While the pronunciation of Latin and Greek is not etched in granite, there is benefit to having accepted criteria on how scientific words are pronounced. Our main reference, *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms* (Parker 1994), chooses a pronunciation that “...represents a broadly acceptable rendering of the word or phrase,” stressing a more modern or Anglicized pronunciation versus classical Latin. Presented in this paper is a phonetic interpretation of names of orders and families based primarily on the

McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms (Parker 1994) and cross-referenced with pronunciations used in *Coues' Check List of North American Birds* (Coues 1882), and the *Pronunciation of Biological Latin* (Ommundsen 2000). For the sake of standardization and simplicity, some phonetic interpretations were slightly modified.

We have chosen to represent the pronunciations with phonetic syllables instead of a transcription system using diacritical markings, as we felt this form was easier for the majority of the readers to use. While diacritical markings are exact in how a sound should be spoken, some readers may find they also have to rely on an additional source to interpret the markings.

Species' scientific names include more origins than Latin or Greek; therefore, pronunciations for them is more problematical and will not be addressed here.

Literature Cited

- Brown, R. 1956. *Composition of Scientific Words*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
- Coues, E. 1882. *The Coues Check List of North American Birds*. Estes and Lauriat, Boston, Massachusetts.
- Jobling, J. 1991. *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Lockwood, W. R. 1984. *The Oxford Book of British Bird Names*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Lysaght, A. M. 1975. *The Book of Birds*. Phaidon Press Limited, London.
- Ommundsen, P. 2000. *Pronunciation of Biological Latin*.
[Internet] <http://www.saltspring.com/capewest/pron.htm>
- Parker, S. (ed.). 1994. *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms*. McGraw-Hill, New York.
- Umbach, W. E. 1997. "Etymology" *In Webster's New World College Dictionary, Third Edition*. Simon and Schuster, Macmillan Company, New York.
- Woods, R. S. 1944. *The Naturalist's Lexicon*. Abby Garden Press, Pasadena, California.

Order¹-Family²- Subfamily³	Prununciation	Common Name
Gaviiformes	gay-vee-uh-FOR-meez	Loons
Gaviidae	guy-VYE-uh-dee	“
Podicipediformes	pod-uh-suh-ped-uh-FOR-meez	Grebes
Podicipedidae	pod-uh-suh-PED-uh-dee	“
Procellariiformes	pro-suh-luh-ree-uh-FOR-meez	Albatrosses, Petrels Shearwaters, Storm-Petrels
Diomedidae	dye-uh-muh-DEE-uh-dee	Albatrosses
Procellariidae	pro-suh-luh-REE-uh-dee	Shearwaters, Petrels
Hydrobatidae	hye-druh-BAH-duh-dee	Storm-Petrels
Pelecaniformes	pel-uh-kan-uh-FOR-meez	Pelicans and Allies
Phaethontidae	fee-THON-duh-dee	Tropicbirds
Sulidae	SOO-luh-dee	Boobies, Gannets
Pelecanidae	Pel-uh-KAN-uh-dee	Pelicans
Phalacrocoracidae	fal-uh-kroe-kuh-RAS-uh-dee	Cormorants
Anhingidae	an-HIN-juh-dee	Anhinga
Fregatidae	freg-AD-uh-dee	Frigatebirds
Ciconiiformes	suh-koe-nee-uh-FOR-meez	Hérons, Bitterns, and Allies
Ardeidae	ar-DEE-uh-dee	Hérons, Bitterns, Night- Herons, Egrets
Threskiornithidae	thres-kee-or-NITH-uh-dee	Ibises, Spoonbills
Threskiornithinae	thres-kee-or-NITH-uh-nee	Ibises
Plataleinae	plat-uh-lee-uh-nee	Spoonbills
Ciconiidae	sik-uh-NYE-uh-dee	Jabiru
Cathartidae	kuh-THAR-duh-dee	Vultures
Phoenicopteriformes	fee-nuh-kop-tuh-ruh-FOR-meez	Flamingoes
Anseriformes	an-suh-ruh-FOR-meez	Ducks, Geese, Swans
Anatidae	uh-NAD-uh-dee	Ducks, Geese, Swans
Dendrocygninae	den-droe-SIG-nuh-nee	Whistling-Ducks
Anserinae	an-SEH-ruh-nee	Geese, Swans
Anatinae	uh-NAD-uh-nee	True Ducks
Falconiformes	fal-kon-uh-FOR-meez	Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies
Accipitridae	ak-suh-PIT-ruh-dee	Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies

Order-Family-Subfamily	Prununciation	Common Name
Pandioninae	pan-dee-ON-uh-nee	Osprey
Acciptrinae	ak-suh-PIT-ruh-nee	Kites, Eagles, Hawks
Falconidae	fal-KON-uh-dee	Caracaras, True Falcons
Caracarinae	kair-uh-KAIR-uh-nee	Caracaras
Falconinae	fal-KON-uh-nee	True Falcons
Galliformes	gal-uh-FOR-meez	Chachalacas, Grouse, Turkeys
Cracidae	KRAS-uh-dee	Chachalaca
Phasianidae	fay-zee-AN-uh-dee	Old World Quail
Phasianinae	fay-zee-AN-uh-nee	Partridges, Pheasants
Tetraoninae	tet-ruh-ON-uh-nee	Grouse
Meleagridinae	mel-ee-uh-GRYE-duh-nee	Turkeys
Odontophoridae	oe-don-tuh-FOR-uh-dee	New World Quail
Gruiformes	groo-uh-FOR-meez	Rails, Gallinules, Coots, Cranes
Rallidae	RAL-uh-dee	Rail, Gallinules, Coots
Gruidae	GROO-uh-dee	Cranes
Gruinae	GROO-uh-nee	Typical Cranes
Charadriiformes	kuh-rad-ree-uh-FOR-meez	Plovers, Sandpipers, Gulls, Terns, Auks, Murre, Puffins
Charadriidae	kuh-ruh-DRY-uh-dee	Plovers
Charadriinae	kuh-ruh-DRY-uh-nee	“
Haematopodidae	hee-muh-doe-POD-uh-dee	Oystercatchers
Recurvirostridae	rih-kuhr-vih-ROZ-truh-dee	Stilts and Avocets
Jacanidae	juh-KON-uh-dee	Jacanas
Scolopacidae	skol-uh-PAH-suh-dee	Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies
Scolopacinae	skol-uh-PAH-suh-nee	Sandpipers and Allies
Phalaropodinae	fal-uh-ruh-PAH-duh-nee	Phalaropes
Laridae	LAIR-uh-dee	Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls, Terns

Order-Family-Subfamily	Prununciation	Common Name
Stercorariinae	ster-kuh-ruh-RYE-uh-nee	Skuas, Jaegers
Larinae	LAIR-uh-nee	Gulls
Sterninae	STER-nuh-nee	Terns
Rynchopinae	rin-KOP-uh-nee	Skimmers
Alcidae	AL-suh-dee	Auks, Murres, Puffins
Columbiformes	kuh-lum-buh-FOR-meez	Pigeons, Doves
Columbidae	kuh-LUM-buh-dee	"
Psittaciformes	sit-ass-uh-FOR-meez	Parrots
Psittacidae	sit-ASS-uh-dee	"
Arinae	AR-uh-nee	New World Parrots
Cuculiformes	kuh-kyew-luh-FOR-meez	Cuckoos, Anis, Roadrunners
Cuculidae	kuh-KEW-luh-dee	"
Coccyzinae	kok-SIZ-uh-nee	Cuckoos
Neomorphae	nee-oe-MOR-fuh-nee	Roadrunners
Crotophaginae	kroe-tuh-FAY-juh-nee	Anis
Stigiformes	strij-uh-FOR-meez	Owls
Tytonidae	tye-TAHN-uh-dee	Barn Owl
Strigidae	STRIJ-uh-dee	Owls
Caprimulgiformes	kap-ruh-mul-juh-FOR-meez	Goatsuckers
Caprimulgidae	kap-ruh-MUL-juh-dee	"
Chordeilinae	cor-DYE-luh-nee	Nighthawks
Caprimulginae	kap-ruh-MUL-juh-nee	Nightjars
Apodiformes	uh-pod-uh-FOR-meez	Swifts, Hummingbirds
Apodidae	uh-POD-uh-dee	Swifts
Cypseloidinae	sip-suh-LOY-duh-nee	Black Swift
Chaeturinae	kee-TOO-ruh-nee	Chimney and Vaux's Swift
Apodinae	uh-POD-uh-nee	White-throated Swift
Trochilidae	trok-IL-uh-dee	Hummingbirds
Trochilinae	trok-IL-uh-nee	"
Trogoniformes	troe-gon-uh-FOR-meez	Trogons and Allies
Trogonidae	troe-GON-uh-dee	"
Trogoninae	troe-GON-uh-nee	"
Coraciiformes	kor-uh-sye-uh-FOR-meez	Kingfishers and Allies

Order-Family-Subfamily	Prununciation	Common Name
Alcedinidae	al-sud-IN-uh-dee	Kingfishers
Cerylinae	ser-IL-uh-nee	Kingfishers
Piciformes	pis-uh-FOR-meez	Woodpeckers and Allies
Picidae	PIS-uh-dee	Woodpeckers and Allies
Picinae	PIS-uh-nee	Woodpeckers
Passeriformes	pas-uh-ruh-FOR-meez	Perching Birds
Tyrannidae	tuh-RAN-uh-dee	Tyrant Flycatchers
Elaeniinae	el-ee-NYE-uh-nee	Tyrannulet and Allies
Fluvicolinae	sloo-vee-KAW-luh-nee	Pewees, Phoebes, Empidonaxes
Tyranninae	tuh-RAN-uh-nee	Myiarchus, Kingbirds
Laniidae	lan-EYE-uh-dee	Shrikes
Vireonidae	vear-ee-ON-uh-dee	Vireos
Corvidae	KOR-vuh-dee	Crows, Jays, Magpies
Alaudidae	uh-LAW-duh-dee	Larks
Hirundinidae	hih-run-DIN-uh-dee	Swallows
Hirundininae	hih-run-DIN-uh-nee	“
Paridae	PAH-ruh-dee	Chickadees, Titmice
Remizidae	rim-EYE-zuh-dee	Verdins
Aegithalidae	ee-juh-THAL-uh-dee	Bushtits
Sittidae	SID-uh-dee	Nuthatches
Sittinae	SID-uh-nee	“
Certhiidae	ser-THYE-uh-dee	Creepers
Certhiinae	ser-THYE-uh-nee	“
Troglodytidae	trog-luh-DYE-duh-dee	Wrens
Cinclidae	SIN-kluh-dee	Dippers
Regulidae	reg-YEW-luh-dee	Kinglets
Sylviidae	Sil-VYE-uh-dee	Gnatcatchers, Old World Warblers
Poliptilinae	poe-lee-op-TIL-uh-nee	Gnatcatchers
Turdidae	TER-duh-dee	Thrushes
Timaliidae	tim-ul-EYE-uh-dee	Babblers, Wrentits
Mimidae	MIM-uh-dee	Mockingbirds, Thrashers

Order-Family-Subfamily	Pronunciation	Common Name
Sturnidae	STER-nuh-dee	Starlings
Motacillidae	moe-duh-SIL-uh-dee	Wagtails, Pipits
Bombycillidae	bom-buh-SIL-uh-dee	Waxwings
Ptilonotidae	til-uh-gun-AT0uh-dee	Silky-Flycatchers
Peucedramidae	pew-suh-DRAM-uh-dee	Olive Warbler
Parulidae	pah-ROO-luh-dee	Wood-Warblers
Thraupidae	THRAW-puh-dee	Tanagers
Emberizidae	em-buh-RYE-zuh-dee	Towhees, Sparrows, Longspurs, Allies
Cardinalidae	kar-din-AL-uh-dee	Cardinals, Buntings, Grosbeaks, Dickcissel
Icteridae	ik-TAIR-uh-dee	Blackbirds, Grackles, Cowbirds, Orioles
Fringillidae	frin-JIL-uh-dee	Brambling, Rosy- Finches, Crossbills, Siskins, Gold- finches, Evening Grosbeak
Fringillinae	frin-JIL-uh-nee	Brambling
Carduelinae	kar-doo-EL-uh-nee	Rosy-Finches, Crossbills, Siskens, Goldfinches, Evening Grosbeak
Passeridae	pass-AIR-uh-dee	House Sparrow

¹Orders are represented by words ending in “formes”

²Families are represented by words ending in “dae”

³Subfamilies are represented by words ending in “nae”

TOOL USE BY EUROPEAN STARLING

Mark Niemeyer
1654 Humboldt
Denver, CO 80218
niemeyer_mark@hotmail.com

Hugh Kingery
PO Box 584
Franktown, CO 80116
ouzels@juno.com

On February 2, 2003 at about 2:30 P.M., a misty rain was starting to fall. A group of about twenty European Starlings was foraging on the ground, on the remains of what had once been a lawn. One of the starlings had a piece of twig in its beak about an inch and a half long, held sideways. The bird used the twig much like the other starlings simply used their beaks - to rake or rummage through the dirt and grass litter. Mark believed the twig was a broken bit of leaf stem from a sumac (*Ailanthus* sp.). At one point the starling dropped the section of stem, and poked its beak on the ground, apparently picking up some morsel of food. It then picked up what seemed to be the same section of twig and continued to scrape the ground with it. The starling continued this action for almost a minute, but without dropping it again or picking up another food morsel, before something frightened the birds and they flew away.

Tool use by birds is reported infrequently. A sampling: Brown-headed Nuthatch sometimes uses flakes of pine bark to pry off other bark flakes to search for arthropods (Pranty 1995). A Pygmy Nuthatch used a 3-cm piece of twig with which it probed in the bark; when it found something it dropped the probe and pecked at the object it found (Kingery and Ghalambor 2001).

Kingery, H.E., and C. K. Ghalambor. 2001. Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 567 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.

Pranty, B. 1995. Tool use by Brown-headed Nuthatches in two Florida slash pine forests. *Florida Field Naturalist* 23: 33-34.



MERLIN

As it flapped along four feet off the ground
it glanced back and fourth quickly
The sparrows hushed at each other's warning
The Merlin landed on a bare branch
lowered his head and closed his eyes
and chanted his sutra:
"pluck'em, eat'em
pluck'em, eat'em"
Then looked up and with a few short stocky
flaps was on his four feet way again
And the sparrows began to call
just a little louder

Jason Beason

A BIT OF JOURNAL HISTORY

10 Years Ago in the Journal...

An article by Rawinski, Sell, Metzger, and Kingerys presented evidence of nesting Boreal Owls in the San Juan Mountains.

15 Years Ago in the Journal...

Dave Hallock authored a paper entitled, "Breeding Birds of an Old-growth Spruce-fir Forest."

20 Years Ago in the Journal...

The transcript from the fourth Taxonomy Clinic with Dr. Allan Phillips, Charles Chase III, Daniel Casey, and Betsy Webb was published.

25 Years Ago in the Journal...

Peter Gent wrote an article on the Snow Bunting invasion of winter 1977-78 when an estimated 10,000 buntings were seen in one day in Weld County.

**JAEGERS IN COLORADO:
A REPORT OF THE COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE**

Tony Leukering
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
14500 Lark Bunting Lane
Brighton, CO 80603
tony.leukering@rmbo.org

Introduction

Knowledge of jaeger occurrence, distribution, migration timing, and, particularly, identification has increased manifold since Bird Records Committees came on the birding scene in North America in the 1960s and 1970s. Early in this period, the widely accepted convention was that an inland jaeger was a Parasitic unless proven otherwise. In fact, this was the convention in most parts of North America (see Lee 1989). Two bases for this convention were probably: 1) the inherent difficulty of identifying these here-and-gone wraiths in their multiplicity of plumages and, 2) the fact that few observers got to see many, except on arctic breeding grounds. The fact that Parasitic is, by far, the most common of the three species at coastal and Great Lakes locations, where one actually can see numerous jaegers in a day probably also added ammunition to this belief.

However, with the advent of regular off-shore birding trips came the opportunity for astute observers to work out the identification criteria for these myriad plumages, giving the rest of us the chance to identify a jaeger using field marks, rather than dogma. These advances in knowledge came slowly and, since most of this knowledge was not available in field guides, those of us in the interior still assumed that Parasitic was the default jaeger.

The advent of modern field guides and specialty guides (e.g., Harrison 1983, National Geographic Society 1983) provided in-depth instruction on how to, and how not to, identify jaegers. Current birders have much more accurate information on jaeger identification in one page of a modern field guide than most birders had in all published materials available to them 30 years ago. The Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or Committee) would like to point out the particularly important book, *Skuas and Jaegers* (Olsen and Larsson 1997), to which the Committee referred often.

In the past ten years or so, Colorado birders have been proving that the dogma about jaeger occurrence in the interior is just that, dogma. At least, the lion's

share of jaegers that have occurred in the state in that period has been shown to be Pomarine, not Parasitic. Additionally, even the exceedingly rare Long-tailed has proven to be not-so-exceedingly rare. The ratio of jaeger species identified in the state in the past decade is at odds with that of the 20 years prior, where most jaegers were identified as Parasitics (Table 1).

As this report deals with very different issues, compared to those of the usual Committee reports published in this journal, we follow a very different form from that typically published. We also dispense with most of the business and explanations found in typical Committee reports. Should anyone need more specifics about the operation of the CBRC, see the previous report (Leukering and Wood 2002), the recently updated and published by-laws (Anonymous 2002), and/or the Colorado Field Ornithologists' website (www.cfo-link.org).

Methods

In 2002, in order to determine why there was such an apparently strong change in jaeger ratios in Colorado, the CBRC re-circulated all reports on file that had been submitted to the Committee to document jaeger occurrences in the state prior to 1996 (plus one report from 1998 that had originally not been accepted). We chose that cutoff year somewhat arbitrarily, but that year also saw the real acceleration of the apparent change in status of the three jaeger species in the state, as judged by CBRC-accepted records. We also reviewed documents on hand for one report of a jaeger that occurred prior to the initiation of the CBRC in 1973.

The Committee reviewed documents from 36 contributors of 41 jaeger reports, including multiple reports of each of the three jaeger species and including three reports that were submitted on jaegers that were left unidentified by the reporters. Per CBRC by-laws, all accepted records received final 7-0 or 6-1 votes to accept, or, in the case of reports that remained undecided after two rounds of voting, received no more than one "not accept" vote at a Committee meeting. Each report that was not accepted received fewer than four votes to accept in the final vote for that report, or in the case of reports that remained undecided after two rounds of voting, received more than one "not accept" vote at the CBRC meeting. The CBRC members voting on these reports were Tony Leukering, Ric Olson, Brandon Percival, Karleen Schofield, Larry Semo, John Vanderpoel, and Chris Wood.

Unlike for other taxa, once a particular report was not accepted, we allowed for accepting that report at the generic level, that is, accepting the identification as a jaeger, but not as a particular species. The Committee felt that this action was

necessary to avoid a great loss of information about Colorado jaeger occurrence. Finally, I polled the CBRC members to determine what the Committee felt was the most likely identification of each jaeger that the Committee accepted generically.

Results and Discussion

Of the 41 reports reviewed, the Committee accepted specific identifications of only 17, an acceptance rate of only 41.5% (Table 1). The CBRC also accepted one report of a Parasitic as the state's first record of Long-tailed and accepted two of the three reports submitted as jaeger sp. for an overall acceptance rate of 48.8%. To our knowledge, this rate is the lowest ever reported by the CBRC. However, it is not surprising, considering the species involved and the age of most reports. Of the 21 records not accepted, seven were not accepted outright, with the balance being accepted at the generic level (Table 1).

The organization and style of reporting on the individual records and non-accepted reports included below follow that of Leukering and Wood (2002), with minor changes, and the nomenclature and sequence follow that of the American Ornithologists' Union (1998). The items of information are, in their order of appearance for individual occurrences: CBRC accession number (either three-parted, for reports prior to 1998, or two-parted for those after 1997), plumage, location, and date. In the parenthetical expression following the date is the re-circulation voting record for the report from one to three rounds of voting. The format of the voting record is the number of accept votes on the left side of the hyphen and the number of not accept votes on the right side of the hyphen (see Leukering and Wood (2002) for a more thorough explanation). The boldfaced and italicized numbers represent the vote on acceptance as jaeger sp. The CBRC makes a final decision for most reports on the first round.

In this report, county names are italicized, in keeping with the style established for the News from the Field column in this journal (e.g., Semo and Wood 2003). I here report only the date span for individual records that were provided in the submitted reports; many of the birds were present prior to and/or subsequent to the dates reported to the CBRC. The Committee has not dealt with the question of full date spans as compared to submitted date spans.

Abbreviations used in this report are: BL=Barr Lake, *Adams*; CCR=Cherry Creek Reservoir, *Arapahoe*; ChR=Chatfield Reservoir, *Douglas/Jefferson*; JMR=John Martin Reservoir, *Bent*; LH=Lake Henry, *Crowley*; MR=Marston Reservoir, *Denver*; PR=Pueblo Reservoir, *Pueblo*; Res.=reservoir; UR=Union Reservoir, *Weld*.

POMARINE JAEGER - *Stercorarius pomarinus*

2001-206 - Not accepted - One individual was at MR on 23 September 1956 (0-7; 3-4). This report consisted solely of an excerpt from a seasonal report in Colorado Bird Notes (vol. 4, pg. 19) and the only detail listed was of elongated central rectrices. While this report may certainly have pertained to a jaeger, the scanty information provided in the published report did not allow the Committee to eliminate a molting immature gull from identification consideration.

22-73-45 - Accepted as Pomarine Jaeger - One light-morph adult was at DeWeese Lake, *Custer*, on 12-13 May 1973 (7-0). Though the descriptions were brief and very sketchy (and unacceptable by themselves), the photographs provided were more than adequate to prove the identification.

22-73-124 - Accepted as Pomarine Jaeger - One "intermediate"-morph adult was at Prospect Res., *Weld*, on 6 October 1973 (5-2, 6-1).

22-75-147 - Accepted as Pomarine Jaeger - One dark-morph juvenile was at CCR, 5 October 1975 (5-2, 6-1).

22-76-28 - Not accepted - One bird was reported at CCR, 27 February 1976 (0-7; 0-7). Though the bird seen might have been a jaeger, the details provided did not include a description of the bird, only of its behavior (it was not described chasing other birds, but flying calmly behind Ring-billed Gulls). Additionally, most CBRC members questioned the date, as any jaeger away from the ocean in February would be quite exceptional. This report was originally accepted as an unidentified jaeger.

22-86-1 - Accepted as Pomarine Jaeger - One light-morph adult visited CCR on 23 November 1985 (4-3, 3-4, 4-0).

22-86-42 - Accepted as Pomarine Jaeger - One light-morph sub-adult (possibly a bird in Alternate III; identified in the submission as a "winter adult") was at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 5 October 1986 (7-0). Jaegers are believed to molt on the winter grounds (waters?) and birds in basic plumage do not have the exaggerated central rectrices that the bird in question had and which the reporter described quite well.

22-91-30 - Accepted as Pomarine Jaeger - One light-morph adult was at BL 29 June - 4 July 1991 (5-2, 6-1).

22-91-31 - Accepted as Pomarine Jaeger - Variably one to two dark-morph juveniles were at PR 31 October - 23 November 1991 (7-0). Only one bird was found on the first date. A dark-morph jaeger was present at the location on 26 October that may have been either of the two birds described, though the reporter did not see it well enough to be certain.

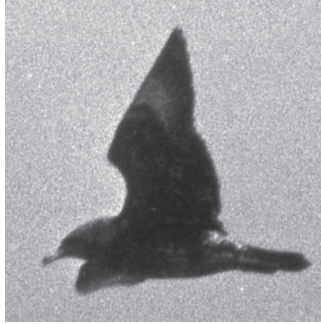
22-93-57 - Not accepted - One individual was reported at CCR on 3 October 1993 (0-7; 2-5). The submission provided little description other than overall color pattern and the behavior observed of chasing a Great Blue Heron and then an unidentified gull. The bird was reported as "considerably larger" than the gull (which the reporter suggested was either a Ring-billed or a Herring), but size compared to the heron was not provided. Regardless of which species of white-headed gull was the yardstick species, no jaegers are considerably larger than either. While the bird may well have been a jaeger, nothing in the description eliminated other taxa, e.g., Bald Eagle. This report is as good an example as exists of the importance of, not only describing the bird or birds seen, but also to explain how one eliminates all identification contenders.

22-94-29 - Accepted as Pomarine Jaeger - One dark-morph bird was at LH on 5 November 1994 (4-3, 4-3, 4-0).

1998-52 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One individual ("subadult?" in the documentation) reported near Huerfano Lake, *Pueblo*, on 30 August 1998 (0-7; 7-0). This report was originally not accepted and it received less support upon re-circulation than on its first trip through the CBRC. While some aspects of the plumage were suggestive of Pomarine, all members of the Committee felt that, overall, the bird was much more suggestive of Long-tailed. Supporting features for the latter identification include the behavior (walking on a paved road that was about 1 mile away from the lake), the overall color ("gray-brown"), and the date. The date is important if the bird was a juvenile, as only Long-tailed is likely to arrive in juvenal plumage in Colorado in late August. Though the reporter listed the bird as a sub-adult, the very short tail, with little projection of the central rectrices, points toward a juvenile; these feathers should be longer, more adult-like on sub-adults.

The Committee would like to point out that certain juvenal plumages of Pomarine and Long-tailed jaegers are very similar (see Olsen and Larsson 1997) and require the observer to correctly assess structural features and critical plumage details, e.g., number of white primary shafts, to correctly identify such birds. The Committee feels that trite expressions such as "barrel-chested" and "pot-bellied" are misunderstood and mis-used. All CBRC members felt that had the observer submitted the bird as a Long-tailed, they would have

accepted the report as such. However, the Committee was not willing to accept this report as a species different than that submitted (as for 22-73-115, see below), as there was no physical documentation upon which to base such a radical decision.



Dark-morph juvenile Pomarine Jaeger at Cherry Creek Reservoir, *Arapahoe*, on 5 Oct 1975. Photo by William Lybarger.

PARASITIC JAEGER - *Stercorarius parasiticus*

22-73-115 - Accepted as Long-tailed Jaeger - One juvenile was photographed at CCR on 20 September 1973 (2-5; 7-0 as Long-tailed). Though submitted as a Parasitic, the three photographs submitted with the report prove the bird to be a Long-tailed. The Committee solicited outside expert opinion on the photographs (but did not provide those experts details of the report, such as date), though that opinion was actually divided. By their own admissions, a few of the experts were confused by a bird showing plumage features of a juvenile Long-tailed, but the bill structure and pattern of a Parasitic. The CBRC felt that all plumage features apparent in the pictures were consistent with those of Long-tailed and inconsistent with those of Parasitic and that bill features are more variable than often appreciated. To support that contention, the CBRC noted that one picture of a juvenile Long-tailed in Olsen and Larsson (1997) showed a bird with a bill virtually identical to that on the bird in question. Additionally the Committee felt that the date ruled out juveniles of any other species. So, for the first time in the Committee's history, the CBRC accepted a report as pertaining to a species different from that submitted. As another result of this decision, the published list of species that have occurred at Cherry Creek State Park (Reddall 1996) should be changed. Though Long-tailed Jaeger should be added to that list, all reports of Parasitic from Cherry Creek State Park have now been not accepted (see below).

22-73-143 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One dark-morph juvenile was at CCR on 17 December 1973 (0-7; 7-0). This report is typical of most of the older reports of Parasitic Jaeger in Colorado. The description does a good job at describing a jaeger, but provides little or no information that would allow the Committee to distinguish the species seen. The central rectrices were described as about one inch longer than the other rectrices, but, critically, the shape of those feathers was not described. We believe that the original Committee decision to accept this and other Parasitic reports, despite the lack of definitive details, is the best support for our contention that, like most observers of the period, the Committee members were swayed by the belief that Parasitic was the default jaeger species. We have the benefit of much more information than earlier Committees had.

22-75-116 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One non-adult was harassing gulls at CCR on 15 August 1975 (0-7; 6-1). The only aspects of the description that supports an identification as a jaeger were the dark underwings, white flash in the primaries, and short projection of the central rectrices ("little nubbins"). The date of the report is early, even for Long-tailed, but that species was the only one to garner any votes (two).

22-75-152 - Accepted as Parasitic Jaeger - One dark-morph adult was at Lake Meredith, *Crowley*, on 13 September 1975 (7-0). The reporter supplied a nice sketch of the tail, which was the convincing factor for most of the Committee members.

22-75-143 - Not accepted - One dark individual was seen flying around Dye Res., *Otero*, on 28 September 1975 (1-6; 3-4). There was little actual description of the bird involved in this report, other than it was all dark and larger than Franklin's Gulls. The behavior, which comprised most of the report, was not inconsistent with that of Long-tailed Jaeger, but also was not inconsistent with that of many gull species.

22-76-96 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One dark-morph juvenile was at BL, 17-25 September 1976 (7-0). The reporter of this individual felt strongly that this bird was not the bird in 22-76-92 and that it was a Parasitic. Unfortunately, the reporter provided few specific plumage details and only one Committee member hazarded a guess on this individual's identity - Parasitic. One member felt that there was no strong case for considering this bird separate from the one described in 22-76-92 (jaeger sp.).

22-76-123 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One dark-morph juvenile was chasing Ring-billed Gulls at MR on 11 December 1976 (3-4; 5-2). This report split the

CBRC, not only as to species, but also as to whether or not the bird was a jaeger. However, though there is no policy in place to deal with the details of re-circulation, the Committee felt that there should be overwhelming support to alter previous decisions. Therefore, it accepted this report generically as a suitable compromise.

22-77-63 - Not accepted - One dark-morph adult was reported at CCR on 3 August 1977 (0-7; 3-4). Andrews (1978) incorrectly referred to this report as 22-77-67, where it was accepted without comment as jaeger sp. There was little in the report to suggest that the bird reported was a jaeger and not a gull.

22-77-59 - Accepted as Parasitic Jaeger - One "intermediate"-morph adult was at UR 13-14 August 1977 (4-3, 3-4, 4-0). Though the details provided were a bit sketchy, the report received enough support at the CBRC meeting to keep it alive, despite a negative vote in the second round. Since there was not overwhelming support to alter the previous decision of the Committee, members at the last meeting unanimously accepted the report. With its acceptance, this record becomes the first, and only, "summer" record in Colorado of a jaeger other than Pomarine.

22-77-65 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One dark-morph juvenile was at UR on 4 September 1977 (2-5; 6-1). Though the reporter and, apparently, others believed that the bird in question was a Parasitic, the documentation included no strong evidence to support that identification.

22-77-71 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One light-morph adult was at ChR on 17 September 1977 (1-6; 6-1). The bird was described as being slightly smaller than a California Gull, which would make the jaeger a very large one. The Committee felt that Pomarine was not eliminated by the details provided.

22-83-6 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One dark-morph juvenile was at UR 5-6 December 1982 (0-7; 6-1). This report garnered only one vote each for Pomarine and Parasitic, despite documentation, including a nice sketch of the head, being submitted by four observers. Again, this is strong evidence that, at the time, few observers knew which features were critical in identifying juvenile jaegers.

22-83-30 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One dark-morph individual was at the Rawhide Power Plant (Hamilton Res.), Larimer, on 29 July 1983 (0-7; 6-1). As for most reports of Parasitic Jaeger, this one provided little in the way of definitive details, with the observer apparently relying almost solely on size and structure for identification.

22-84-11 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One dark-morph juvenile was at UR 15-16 October 1983 (1-6; 6-1). The reporter provided few details that would permit specific identification.

22-85-43 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One light-morph juvenile was at ChR, *Jefferson*, 7-8 September 1985 (1-6; 6-1). The date of this occurrence is early enough in fall to suggest that the bird was a Long-tailed; juvenile Parasitics are typically somewhat later migrants. In fact, three members voted for Long-tailed (versus one vote for Parasitic) as the identification of the bird in question. Despite strong beliefs by many Committee members that the bird was a Long-tailed, the lack of photographs precluded accepting the report as such.

22-85-48 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One light-morph adult was at Blue Mesa Res., *Gunnison*, on 25 September 1985 (2-5; 6-1). Though submitted by an experienced observer, the details did not permit most CBRC members to definitively identify the bird described.

22-86-41 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One dark-morph juvenile (identified as a "3rd year" in the submission) was at CCR on 26 September 1985 (5-2, 2-5; 6-1). The details provided were better than for most reports of Parasitic and included details that were not then known to be important, such as strong barring on many tracts of feathers. However, these details of the upper- and undertail coverts and the underwings were very suggestive of Pomarine, particularly for a sub-adult, so the CBRC voted to accept the report generically.

22-87-26 - Accepted as Parasitic Jaeger - One dark-morph juvenile was at Jumbo Res., *Logan*, on 6 September 1985 (5-2, 6-1).

22-87-27 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One dark-morph juvenile was at Antero Res., *Park*, on 30 August 1987 (1-6; 6-1). The details provided suggested to many CBRC members that the bird in question was probably a Long-tailed (e.g., the 30 August date, the "lead-gray color," and the "deep gray wings" with a "narrow black trailing edge"). As for 22-85-43, the Committee felt that the lack of photographs precluded accepting the report as that of a Long-tailed.

22-89-16 - Accepted as Parasitic Jaeger - One light-morph adult was at Holbrook Res., *Otero*, 14-15 September 1989 (7-0). The relatively useful description provided by the observer included an important, and little-known, feature - white forehead - that convinced the Committee that the identification was correct.

22-95-33 - Not accepted - One light-morph individual was reported north of Ouray, *Ouray*, on 15 June 1995 (1-6; 2-5). This report of a bird flying over land and seen by the reporter while riding in a car, provided little in the way of field marks to convince the Committee that it was a jaeger that was seen.

22-95-34 - Accepted as Parasitic Jaeger - One light-morph sub-adult was at LH 9-10 September 1995 (6-1). The extensive white flash on the upper side of the wing convinced most CBRC members that the identification as submitted was correct.



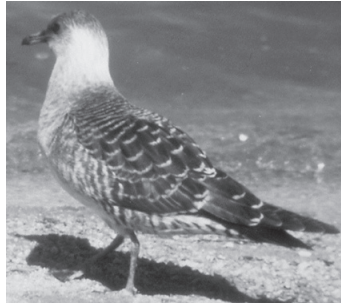
Adult Parasitic Jaeger at Chatfield Reservoir, *Jefferson/Douglas*, on 13 October 2000. Taken from video by Larry Semo.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER - *Stercorarius longicaudus*

22-92-18 - Accepted as Long-tailed Jaeger - One light-morph adult was at the Plum Creek Delta of Chatfield Res., *Douglas*, 28-29 May 1992 (7-0).

22-93-41 - Accepted as Long-tailed Jaeger - One light-morph adult graced Adobe Creek Res. (Blue Lake), *Bent*, 12 September 1993 (7-0).

22-95-35 - Accepted as Long-tailed Jaeger - One light-morph adult was at Milton Res., *Weld*, 4-6 September 1995 and at BL, 10-14 September 1995 (7-0). The CBRC subsumed report number 22-96-20 (documenting the occurrence at Milton Res.) into this report number as the CBRC felt that the likelihood of two different, identically-plumaged, adult Long-tailed Jaegers appearing at sites only about 20 miles apart, and only days apart with no overlap in temporal occurrence was much less than the likelihood of one individual being found at two different water bodies in the bird's travels.



Juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger at Cherry Creek Reservoir, *Arapahoe*, on 20 September 1973. Photo by Harold Holt.

JAEGER SPECIES - *Stercorarius* sp.

22-76-92 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One dark-morph juvenile visited BL on 11 September 1976 (6-1). The reporter submitted documentation as jaeger sp., but felt that the size (near California Gull) suggested that the bird was a Pomarine. Originally, the CBRC accepted the report and we do not here alter that decision. The reporter provided few details such that only one CBRC member voted for a specific identification - Pomarine.

22-76-113 - Not accepted - One individual was at Bonny Res., *Yuma*, on 6 November 1976 (1-6). This report received little support from the Committee, as the reporting observer provided few plumage details to support the identification as a jaeger.

22-76-117 - Accepted as jaeger sp. - One dark-morph juvenile harassed gulls at Prewitt Res., *Washington*, on 24 November 1976 (6-1). The reporter felt that the bird in question was probably a Parasitic, but the Committee could find no written details that would support an identification more specific than jaeger sp. The late date and the lack of obvious projection of the central rectrices both support an identification of Pomarine (which garnered three votes from Committee members). However, the Committee felt that these points alone were insufficient even for that species, given the lack of physical documentation.

Table 1. Results of the re-circulation of pre-1996 jaeger reports in Colorado, with the addition of one 1998 report.

Accession number	Original CBRC decision	Numbers of votes for individual taxa and categories ¹	2003 CBRC decision
Submitted as Pomarine Jaeger			
2001-168 ²	not reviewed	1 PO, 2 SP, 4 NA	Not accepted
22-73-45	Accepted		Accepted
22-73-124	Accepted		Accepted
22-75-147	Accepted		Accepted
22-76-28	Jaeger sp.	7 NA	Not accepted
22-86-1	Accepted		Accepted
22-86-42	Accepted		Accepted
22-91-30	Accepted		Accepted
22-91-31	Accepted		Accepted
22-93-57	Not accepted	2PO, 5NA	Not accepted
22-94-29	Accepted		Accepted
1998-52	Not accepted	7LT	Jaeger sp.
Submitted as Parasitic Jaeger			
22-73-115	Accepted		Long-tailed Jaeger sp.
22-73-143	Accepted	1PO, 6 SP	Jaeger sp.
22-75-116	Accepted	2LT, 4SP, 1NA	Jaeger sp.
22-75-152	Accepted		Accepted
22-75-143	Not accepted		Not accepted
22-76-96	Jaeger sp.	2PA, 5SP	Jaeger sp.
22-76-123	Jaeger sp.	1PO, 2PA, 2SP, 2NA	Jaeger sp.
22-77-63	Accepted		Not accepted
22-77-59	Accepted		Accepted
22-77-65	Jaeger sp.	3PA, 1LT, 2SP, 1NA	Jaeger sp.
22-77-71	Accepted	1PA, 1LT, 4SP, 1NA	Jaeger sp.
22-83-6	Accepted	1PO, 1PA, 4SP, 1NA	Jaeger sp.
22-83-30	Accepted	6SP, 1NA	Jaeger sp.
22-84-11	Accepted	2PA, 4SP, 1NA	Jaeger sp.
22-85-43	Accepted	1PA, 3LT, 2SP, 1NA	Jaeger sp.
22-85-48	Accepted	2PA, 4SP, 1NA	Jaeger sp.
22-86-41	Accepted	5PA, 1SP, 1NA	Jaeger sp.
22-87-26	Accepted		Accepted

Table 1. Continued.

Accession number	Original CBRC decision	Numbers of votes for individual taxa and categories ¹	2003 CBRC decision
Submitted as Parasitic Jaeger, continued			
22-87-27	Accepted	2PA, 3LT, 1SP, 1NA	Jaeger sp.
22-89-16	Accepted		Accepted
22-95-33	Not accepted		Not accepted
22-95-34	Accepted		Accepted
Submitted as Long-tailed Jaeger			
22-92-18	Accepted		Accepted
22-93-41	Accepted		Accepted
22-95-35 ³	Accepted		Accepted
Submitted as jaeger sp.			
22-76-92	Accepted	1PO, 5SP, 1NA	Jaeger sp.
22-76-113	Accepted		Not accepted
22-76-117	Accepted	3PO, 3SP, 1NA	Jaeger sp.

¹ PO=Pomarine; PA=Parasitic; LT=Long-tailed; SP=jaeger sp.; NA=not accepted

² This report was not reviewed previously; the CBRC gave it the final accession number of the circulation of 2001 reports in order to review it.

³ This record actually comprises two different submissions that the CBRC combined into one record (see text).

In general, we found the level of documentation for these reports to be very low, with little in the way of definitive evidence provided to support the identifications as submitted. Reporters obviously were under the assumption that if it was a jaeger, then it was almost certainly a Parasitic. This poor quality in jaeger documentations was in strong contrast with the general level of identification material presented in documentations of many other taxa. Thus, the lack of quality documentation was not due to an overall lesser level of skill of writing supporting documentation for rare birds in earlier years. However, we must point out that a few documents hold up quite well to our current knowledge of jaeger identification. Those few reports that were supported by photographs also fared much better than did reports without physical evidence, as Committee members could see the birds for themselves without

having to depend on the words provided 10, 20, or 30 years ago by a reporter mostly unaware of the critical field marks required to identify jaegers. Again, the CBRC wants to point out that this lack of knowledge is not the fault of the reporters; we, as birders and ornithologists, just did not know how to do it.

The final results of this re-circulation of jaeger reports leaves Colorado with the following numbers of accepted records: Pomarine - 14; Parasitic - 6; Long-tailed - 7; and jaeger sp. - 16 (Appendix A). Thus, the status of Parasitic Jaeger in the state is virtually identical to that of Long-tailed Jaeger. In fact, should all pending reports be accepted, there would be equal numbers of records for the two species. However, I would not be surprised if Long-tailed is slightly more likely to occur in Colorado than is Parasitic, as more of the accepted jaeger sp. records are suggestive of Long-tailed than of Parasitic.

Perusal of the accepted records illuminates the seasonal timing of the three jaeger species in the state. There are accepted spring records for both Pomarine and Long-tailed, but only one and two, respectively, with both Long-tailed occurring in the very end of May. Colorado has three summer records of Pomarine falling between 17 June and 4 July, but note that there is another mid-summer record of the species pending. There is an accepted record for Parasitic in mid-August that probably represents an early migrant, rather than a summering bird. In the fall, Pomarine is typically the latest of the species to arrive in the state, with only one fall record prior to October and that occurred on 30 September. The timing of Parasitic and Long-tailed migrants is earlier; they typically arrive before the middle of September. The set of pending records does not alter our understanding of seasonality for either Pomarine or Long-tailed, but greatly extends the season of occurrence for Parasitic. Interestingly, all three pending Parasitic reports are from fall 2000, the single "best" jaeger season that Colorado birders have seen.

In considering all records, both accepted and pending, there are 56 individual birds (there are two records of two birds each). In this sample, the ratio of light and dark color morphs of juveniles is dramatically different than that of older birds. The ratio of light to dark juveniles is 3:26; in older birds it is 23:1 (I have ignored two individuals for which I cannot determine color morph and one of unknown age at this time). This difference seems exceedingly odd, considering that current beliefs are that jaegers do not change their color as they age. However, the continued lack of confirmation of the dark morph in adult Long-tailed Jaeger, despite the known (but somewhat rare) occurrence of dark-morph juveniles of the same species (Olsen and Larsson 1997), may also point toward doubt about this facet of our beliefs. Perhaps there is further dogma to illuminate.

Acknowledgments

The CBRC would like to express its appreciation to outside expert reviewers George Armistead, Richard Crossley, Paul Lehman, Matt Sharp, and Brian Sullivan. I would like to express my appreciation to all CBRC members that participated in this effort, particularly Larry Semo's efforts as Secretary. I would also like to thank John Vanderpoel for hosting the meeting at which we discussed the more difficult reports. Finally, I thank Doug Faulkner and Larry Semo for reviewing a previous draft of this manuscript.

Reporting Observers

Robert Andrews, Robert Dickson, Charles Duncan, Bill Fink, Thomas Gatz, Peter Gent, Dave Griffiths, Laurens Halsey, Lynda Hedl, Harold Holt, Barbara Hyde, Mark Janos, Joey Kellner, Hugh Kingery, Tony Leukering, William Lybarger, Larry Malone, Thompson Marsh, Ron Meyer, Mike Moulton, Peter Moulton, Mark Nikas, Robert Norton, Ric Olson, Jack Reddall, Bob Righter, Joe Roller, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith, Dick Schottler, David Silverman, Clif Smith, Mildred Snyder, Steve Stachowiak, Van Truan, Doug Ward, Judy Ward.

Literature Cited

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. The A. O. U. Check-list of North American Birds, 7th ed. Allen Press, Lawrence, KS.
- Andrews, R. 1978. Colorado Field Ornithologists Official Records Committee Report 1976 and 1977. *CFO Journal* 12:4-21.
- Anonymous. 2002. By-laws of the Colorado Bird Records Committee of the Colorado Field Ornithologists. *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 36:155-165.
- Harrison, P. 1983. Seabirds: An Identification Guide. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.
- Lee, D. S. 1989. Jaegers and skuas in the western North Atlantic: Some historical misconceptions. *American Birds* 43:18-20.
- Leukering, T. and C. L. Wood. 2002. Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee: 2000 records. *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 36:82-113.
- National Geographic Society. 1983. Field Guide to the Birds of North America. National Geographic Society, Washington.

- Olsen, K. M. and H. Larsson. 1997. Skuas and Jaegers. Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, CT.
- Reddall, J. 1996. Annotated check-list of Cherry Creek State Park. *CFO Journal* 30:124-139.
- Semo, L. S. and C. L. Wood. 2003. News from the field: The summer 2002 report (June - July). *Colorado Birds* 37:30-43.

Appendix A. Accepted and pending¹ Colorado records of jaegers. Records for which definitive photos and/or video exist are indicated by an asterisk (*) and those for which there is an extant specimen by a pound sign (#).

Date ²	Plumage ³	Location ⁴
Pomarine Jaeger		
# 30 Sep 1963 ⁵	“immature”	CCR
* 12-13 May 1973	light Def. Alternate	DeWeese Res., <i>Custer</i>
6 Oct 1973	light Def. Alternate	Prospect Res., <i>Weld</i>
5 Oct 1975	dark Juvenal	CCR
17-30 Nov 1985	light Def. Alternate	CCR
5 Oct 1986	light subadult	JR
29 June - 4 July 1991	light Def. Alternate	BL
31 Oct - 23 Nov	2 dark Juvenals	PR
5 Nov 1994	dark Juvenal	LH
* 19 Nov 1996	dark Juvenal	CCR
17 Jun 1999	light Def. Alternate	Stagecoach Res., <i>Routt</i>
30-31 Oct 1999	dark Juvenal	SL
15 Nov - 2 Dec 1999	dark Juvenal	CCR
29 Jun 2000	light Def. Alternate	PR
Parasitic Jaeger		
13 Sep 1975	dark Def. Alternate	Lake Meredith, <i>Crowley</i>
13-14 Aug 1977	light Def. Alternate	UR
6 Sep 1985	dark Juvenal	Jumbo Res., <i>Logan</i>
14-15 Sep 1989	light Def. Alternate	Lake Holbrook, <i>Otero</i>
9-10 Sep 1995	light subadult	LH
18 Oct 1999	light Def. Alternate	WR
Long-tailed Jaeger		
# 8 Oct 1902	dark Juvenal	WR
* 29 May 1963	light Def. Alternate	Rocky Ford, <i>Otero</i>
* 30 August 1973	light Juvenal	CCR
* 28-29 May 1992	light Def. Alternate	ChR, <i>Douglas</i>
* 12 Sep 1993	light Def. Alternate	Adobe Creek Res., <i>Bent</i>
* 16 Oct 1993	light Juvenal	UR
* 4-14 Sep 1995	light Def. Alternate	Milton Res., <i>Weld</i> (4-6 Sep) and BL (10-14 Sep)

Appendix A. Continued.

Date ²	Plumage ³	Location ⁴
jaeger sp.		
17 Dec 1973	dark Juvenal	CCR
15 Aug 1975	non-adult	CCR
11 Sep 1976	dark Juvenal	BL
17-25 Sep 1976	dark Juvenal	BL
24 Nov 1976	dark Juvenal	Prewitt Res., <i>Washington</i>
11 Dec 1976	dark Juvenal	Marston Res., <i>Denver</i>
4 Sep 1977	dark Juvenal	UR
17 Sep 1977	light Def. Alternate	ChR, <i>Douglas</i>
5-6 Dec 1982	dark Juvenal	UR
29 Jul 1983	dark	Hamilton Res., <i>Larimer</i>
15-16 Oct 1983	dark Juvenal	UR
7-8 Sep 1985	light Juvenal	ChR, <i>Jefferson</i>
25 Sep 1985	light Def. Alternate	Blue Mesa Res., <i>Gunnison</i>
26 Sep 1985	dark Juvenal	CCR
30 Aug 1987	dark Juvenal	Antero Res., <i>Park</i>
30 Aug 1998	dark Juvenal	nr. Huerfano Res., <i>Pueblo</i>
pending reports of Pomarine Jaeger		
* 6 Nov 1999	dark Juvenal	PR
* 30 Sep-4 Oct 2000	light Def. Alternate	JR
8 Oct 2000	2 dark Juvenals	Bonny Res., <i>Yuma</i>
* 8-13 Oct 2000	light Def. Alternate	ChR, <i>Douglas & Jefferson</i>
3-10 Jul 2001	light adult	Neenoshe Res., <i>Kiowa</i>
* 1-2 Nov 2001	light subadult	WR
pending reports of Parasitic Jaeger		
9-13 Oct 2000	dark Juvenal	ChR, <i>Douglas & Jefferson</i>
* 13 Oct 2000	light Def. Alternate	ChR, <i>Douglas & Jefferson</i>
1-2 Nov 2000	dark Juvenal	SL
pending reports of Long-tailed Jaeger		
* 2-4 Sep 2000	dark Juvenal	JR
* 25-27 Aug 2001	light Alternate II	SL

¹ Pending reports are those that have been submitted to the CBRC but on which the CBRC has not made a decision as of this writing.

² Dates are those provided in documentations on file with the CBRC, except for a small number of records that either predate the CBRC or for which more expansive dates are published in Andrews and Righter (1992).

³ Plumages are those determined by the CBRC from the descriptions of the birds in question. Capitalized terms (e.g., Juvenal and Definitive Alternate) refer to specific plumages; other terms (e.g., “non-adult”) are non-specific. Color morph is indicated by “light” or “dark.”

⁴ Location abbreviations follow those in the main body of this paper, with the addition of JR=Jackson Res., *Morgan*; SL=Standley Lake, *Jefferson*, and WR=Windsor Res., *Weld*.

⁵ One individual of three jaegers present was collected and resides at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (#33798).



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*.

**NEWS FROM THE FIELD:
FALL 2002 REPORT (AUGUST - NOVEMBER)**

Peter R. Gent
55 South 35th Street
Boulder, Colorado 80305
gent@ucar.edu

The fall of 2002 will long be remembered for the large number of very rare birds seen in Colorado. They came from both north and south, and several stayed long enough that many Colorado birdwatchers got to see them. The fun started with a Zone-tailed Hawk seen in Boulder in early August by Chris Wood and Bill Schmoker. There is one accepted record of this species in Colorado, plus a sighting in Pueblo earlier in 2002. Then a Black Vulture showed up at John Martin Reservoir dam for two days in mid-August, photographed by Duane Nelson and others. These photographs, and those of other species mentioned here, can be found on the CFO website. On August 23rd, Duane got a brief, but good, look at a Cave Swallow in the northwest corner of John Martin Reservoir. There are no records of this species in Colorado, but it is expanding its range northwards, and we should expect to see it more often in the state in the future. Colorado's second record of Purple Gallinule was positively identified by Cyndi Mosch in her Loveland backyard near the end of August. It was extremely cooperative and posed for frame-filling photographs. There was an earlier report from Lake Loveland, so this bird probably stayed for more than a month. The first record of this species was near Durango in August 1978. Next, two Smith's Longspurs were seen by Tony Leukering at Barr Lake in September. This species was removed from the state list about 20 years ago, but almost certainly occurs in Colorado on more than an accidental basis. Scott Seltman from Kansas has heard them in Baca County, but obtaining a well documented, or multi-observer sight record is proving to be a challenge.

The rarities continued when Duane Nelson found a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at Adobe Creek Reservoir in mid-September. It stayed for two days, and was well seen and photographed by several Colorado birders. There are no previous records of this species in Colorado. In early October, Stan Oswald found the second record of Ruff in Colorado at Lake Meredith, which was a juvenile male. The first was seen near Prospect Reservoir in Weld County at the end of May 1977. Then there was a break of about a month before Steve Bouricius was summoned to check out a late hummingbird at the home of Bob

Myers in Clifton on November 13th. It turned out to be a female Broad-billed Hummingbird, never documented before in Colorado. More amazing, however, was the fact that it was already banded, having been captured in early January 2002 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Bob says that it had been at his home since early July, and it survived the increasing cold through the end of November and beyond. The following Sunday, Hugh Kingery and Glenn Walbek combined to find, and tentatively identify, an Arctic Loon near Franktown. Input from several experts in the United States and Europe would indicate that this is very likely an adult Arctic Loon. It stayed for a few days, before briefly being seen farther north at Cherry Creek Reservoir. It is probably the first, well documented inland sighting of this species, which I personally find a little surprising given that there is a very small breeding population in northwest Alaska. Several species from this region are regularly seen in fall in Colorado, so I think it surprising that it hadn't been documented before. BB Hahn saw both these new state records on the same day, which can't have been done many times before, if ever. Quite a fall for rarities!

The main weather story during the season was the continuing drought in Colorado. Every month in the previous year had below normal precipitation in Denver, and this continued for the four months of the 2002 Fall. The Denver monthly precipitation totals were 0.78, 0.58, 0.49 and 0.24 inches, making a total of 2.09 inches. This is about 43% of the normal precipitation in fall in Denver, which is 4.93 inches. The western valleys and other parts of the West Slope also continue to be very dry. The only bright news was that most of the Colorado mountain ranges received good snows in October and November from storms coming from the west. Many eastern reservoirs remained very low because of the drought, but there was enough water to entice several unusual waterbirds to Colorado. In Denver, the monthly mean temperatures were near their normal values for August (71.5° F), September (63.6° F) and November (37.6° F). However, the monthly mean temperature in Denver for October was 43.9° F, which is 7.1 degrees colder than the average of 51.0° F. It was the third coldest October recorded in Denver, due to a prolonged cold spell over the last ten days. Three record low maximum temperatures were recorded: 30° F on the 23rd, 18° F on the 30th, and 19° F on the 31st. The 31st low temperature handily beat the previous low maximum of 28° F, which was set in 1874. The only other temperature record set in Denver during the fall was a new record high of 100° F on August 16th, which beat the old mark of 98° F set in 1892.

Another interesting phenomenon this fall season was the eastward dispersal of several jay species across the Eastern Plains of Colorado. Western Scrub-Jays wandered the farthest and in the largest numbers. Small flocks of this species were seen regularly all along the Arkansas River valley out to Lamar

and even below the dam at Two Buttes. They were also seen along the South Platte River valley from north of Greeley east to Sterling. Many Steller's Jays seemed to venture a little way out onto the Plains from their usual Ponderosa Pine haunts, and Dave Leatherman saw a flock of eight Pinyon Jays in Lamar on October 20th. Even more surprising was a Clark's Nutcracker seen in Nunn by Gary Lefko, and a Gray Jay seen in Longmont by Scott Severs. Jack Merchant noted Gray Jays all season in Eagle, at much lower elevations than normal. Was this due to the drought in Colorado, or possibly due to the extensive summer wildfires? Over 500,000 acres burned this summer, which is about seven times the average area in Colorado. Dave Leatherman muses that, "The next few years should be a good time to be a Woodpecker or Olive-sided Flycatcher in Colorado. Bark beetles, predisposed to attack by the drought and/or mild winter conditions, are killing millions of all mountain tree species statewide." This should be a bumper feast for those species that eat these bark beetles and wood-boring beetles.

Thanks to everyone who sent me their sightings, and to Brandon Percival, who collected the postings off COBIRDS and elsewhere. The reader of this report should be aware that many of the sightings used in this report were taken from postings to the COBIRDS electronic bulletin board. Not all of the rare and unusual species have been supported by documentation sent to the Colorado Bird Records Committee. Underlined species are those for which the committee desires written documentation. If you need an electronic version of the documentation form, it can be retrieved from the website at www.cfo-link.org. If you need a hard copy, use the one on the inside of this journal's mailer. Documentation should be sent to the chairperson, Tony Leukering (address on form).

Arctic Loon: Colorado's first record of this species was at a pond in Franktown, *Douglas*, between 17 and 20 Nov (H&UK, GW, m.ob.), and was re-found at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, between 21 and 23 Nov (BBr, RO).

Pacific Loon: 20 birds were reported this season, with a high count of six at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, on 9 and 10 Nov (AS). All reports were from the Front Range, except one at Ridgway Res., *Ouray*, on 16 Nov (TL, NG).

Yellow-billed Loon: A juvenile was seen at Boyd L. in Loveland, *Larimer*, between 3 and 13 Nov (NK), and a different juvenile was at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, between 17 and 23 Nov (IS, TE), and possibly the same bird was seen at Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*, on 24 Nov (BGo).

Horned Grebe: First observed at Standley L., *Jefferson*, on 3 Oct and last noted on 20 Nov (LS).

Red-necked Grebe: Two were seen at Spinney Mountain Res., *Park*, on 20 Oct (AS, CC), one was at Trinidad L., *Las Animas*, 21 Oct (VAT), one was at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, on 25 Oct (AS), and one was seen at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, between 11 and 15 Nov (BKP).

Western Grebe: The high count reported this fall was 1705 at Standley L., *Jefferson*, on 27 Oct (LS).

American White Pelican: A late lingering bird in northern Colorado was one at Woods L., *Weld*, on 30 Nov (RO, TL, JB). A total of 157 was counted at Boyd Lake SP, *Larimer*, on the late date of 9 Nov (LS, TL).

Brown Pelican: An immature bird was seen at Lathrop SP, *Huerfano*, between 7 Aug and 7 Sep (JKy, RM, m.ob.).

Little Blue Heron: A juvenile was seen northwest of Rocky Ford, *Crowley/Otero*, on 24 Aug (BKP, AS).

Tricolored Heron: A juvenile was seen at Lake Cheraw, *Otero*, on 13 Aug (RM), and probably the same bird was northwest of Rocky Ford, *Crowley/Otero*, between 16 and 31 Aug (SO, LS ph., m.ob.).

Reddish Egret: A dark-morph juvenile was seen at Prewitt Res., *Washington*, on 1 Sep (JKr, AS).

Great Egret: A total of 23 Great Egrets were observed on 23 Aug in *Weld*, including four at Union Res., four at Foster Res., six at Lower Latham Res., and seven at Sandhill Res. (LS). The largest one location count for the fall was nine at Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, on 25 Aug (LS).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: A juvenile was seen in Rock Canyon in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 27 and 28 Aug (BKP, m.ob.).

Glossy Ibis: One was photographed at Holbrook Res., *Otero*, on 8 Aug (BS ph., JS). This is possibly the first documented fall record for Colorado.

Black Vulture: This first state record was seen and photographed at Hasty Campground, *Bent*, on 13 and 14 Aug (DN, m.ob.).

Greater White-fronted Goose: A total of 30 birds were reported this fall, with a very early individual at Long Pond in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 23 Aug (RH). The high counts were seven at the Haxtun sewage ponds, *Phillips*, on 3 Nov (RL), and at Tunnel Drive in Canon City, *Fremont*, on 25 Nov (SMo).

Snow Goose: Four probable summering birds were present at Lake Cheraw, *Otero*, on 25 Aug (LS, TL)

Ross's Goose: 336 at Barr L., *Adams*, on 3 Nov (TL, NG) was a very high count for the Front Range, and a West Slope sighting was a juvenile at Confluence Park, *Delta*, on 16 Nov (TL, NG). Associating with the Snow Geese above, a single Ross's Goose was also present at Lake Cheraw, *Otero*, on 25 Aug (LS, TL).

Brant: A Black Brant was reported at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, on 30 Oct (AS).

Tundra Swan: Two adults and a juvenile were seen at Lathrop SP, *Huerfano*, between 2 and 11 Nov (JKy, JBy, RM), another juvenile was at Valco Ponds in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, between 17 and 28 Nov (RM, BKP, CS), and two adults and three juveniles were at Standley L., *Jefferson*, on 25 Nov (JBn), and two adults were also there on 28 Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon: An adult male was easily seen at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, between 12 Oct and 30 Nov (MY, LB, CS, m.ob.).

American Black Duck: A female was seen at Lower Latham Res., *Weld*, on 30 Nov (TL, RO, JBs).

Greater Scaup: There were 34 birds of this species reported this season. All were from the Front Range, except for five female-plumaged birds at Confluence Park, *Delta Co.*, on 16 Nov (TL, NG).

Surf Scoter: This was a banner season for this species in Colorado, with many more reports than usual. Female/immature-plumaged birds were seen at Eleven Mile Res., *Park*, between 13 Oct and 10 Nov, with a maximum of six on 10 Nov, including two adult males (RO, JKr, NEI), and at Spinney Mountain Res., *Park*, between 20 Oct and 10 Nov, with a maximum of 14 reported on 24 Oct (TJ, DU). Other reports of female/immature-plumaged birds were one at Brush Hollow Res., *Fremont*, on 20 Oct (RM), two at Lathrop SP, *Huerfano*, on 21 Oct (RM), one at Lake Beckwith in Colorado City, *Pueblo*, between 25 Oct and 11 Nov (DSi), two at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, on 25 and 26 Oct (BBr.), two at

Baseline Res., *Boulder*, on 26 Oct (BS), and three at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, between 27 and 30 Oct (RO, JKr). There was also one female/immature-plumaged bird at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 31 Oct and 1 Nov (BBa, RM), one at Lafayette Holding Pond, *Boulder*, on 2 Nov, (CLW, BS, MB), one at Platte Canyon Res., *Jefferson*, on 7 Nov (JKr), one at Parker Regional Park, *Douglas*, between 8 and 10 Nov (GW, RO), and one at Union Res., *Weld*, on 9 Nov (PGe, JV, TL, m.ob.).

White-winged Scoter: It was also a very good season for this species. A female/immature-plumaged bird was seen at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, on 30 Oct (AS), one was at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 31 Oct (BKP), two were at Lake Beckwith in Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 3 Nov (DSi), one was at Horseshoe Res., *Larimer*, on 3 and 4 Nov (NK, m.ob.), and one was at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, on 9 Nov (AS). Three female/immature-plumaged birds were at Spinney Mountain Res., *Park*, on 10 Nov (JKr, NEI), and a male was there on 12 Nov (RL), a male and female were at Eleven Mile Res., *Park*, on 10 Nov (JKr, NEI), and two female/immatures were at Aurora Res., *Arapahoe*, on 24 Nov (RL).

Black Scoter: This species was also seen in above average numbers this fall. A female/immature-plumaged bird was at Spinney Mountain Res., *Park*, on 20 Oct (AS, CC), two were seen at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 31 Oct (BKP), two were also at Standley L., *Jefferson*, on 25 Nov (JBn), and one was at Hagler Res., *Larimer*, on 30 Nov (NK, DB).

Long-tailed Duck: A maximum of seven were easily seen at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, between 4 and 23 Nov (BBr, GW, m.ob.), a male was at Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*, between 17 and 19 Nov (MPe, m.ob.), an immature was at Warren L., *Weld*, on 18 Nov (NK), another immature was seen at Milton Res., *Weld*, on 30 Nov (JBs, TL, RO), and a female was seen at 88th Ave along the South Platte R., *Adams*, on 30 Nov (LW).

Barrow's Goldeneye: There were a few birds reported scattered along the Front Range, but a good flock was eight at Horsetooth Res., *Larimer*, between 25 and 30 Nov (NK, DB), and farther east a male was at John Martin Res., *Bent*, on 27 Nov (DN).

Bufflehead: Early arrivals were the two females present at Luna Res., *Weld*, on 1 Sep (LS).

Cooper's Hawk: One juvenile present in *Crowley* on 25 Aug (LS). It is unknown if the bird fledged from that area or was already in migration.

Golden Eagle: One bird was present on the plains in *Lincoln* on 25 Aug (LS).

Zone-tailed Hawk: An adult was seen at Doudy Draw in Boulder, *Boulder*, on 6 Aug (CLW, BS), which was a great find as there is only one previously accepted record of this species in Colorado and a sighting from earlier this year.

Purple Gallinule: An adult was seen and identified by Cyndi Mosch in the backyard of her home in Loveland, *Larimer*, on 26 Aug, and stayed until 3 Sep. It was seen, photographed, and videoed by many birders who were all welcomed by Cyndi. This is the second record of this species in Colorado.

American Golden Plover: A good season for this species in Colorado. One was seen at Adobe Creek Res., *Bent*, on 7 Sep (BKP, LE), one was at Prewitt Res., *Washington*, on 15 Sep (JKr, AS), three were at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 20 Sep (JKr, NEL, GW), two were at the same location on 7 Oct (DAL), one was seen at Milton Res., *Weld*, between 19 and 29 Oct (RO), and one was at Meredith Res., *Crowley*, between 6 and 8 Oct (LS, TL, CLW).

Piping Plover: A bird seen well away from this species' usual haunts was one at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 25 Aug (SMe).

Ruddy Turnstone: An adult was seen at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 7 Aug (CLW, RH).

Red Knot: One in basic plumage was seen at Adobe Creek Res., *Bent*, on 7 Sep (BKP, LE), and another was at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 20 Sep (JKr, NEL, GW).

Dunlin: An unusual record of this species on the West Slope was two in basic plumage at Totten Res., *Montezuma*, on 16 Aug (JBy, PD).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: There were only two reports this season, with one seen at Milton Res., *Weld*, on 6 Sep (RO), and a juvenile at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 20 Sep (JKr, NEL, GW).

Ruff: A juvenile male was found and identified by SO at Lake Meredith, *Crowley*, on 5 Oct. This is the second documented occurrence of Ruff in Colorado. It stayed until 8 Oct and was seen by a good number of Colorado birders.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Two juveniles were seen at Loloff Res., *Weld* County, between 2 and 4 Sep (TL, JBn), two more juveniles were at Adobe Creek Res., *Bent*, on 7 Sep (BKP, LE), and another juvenile was at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 20 Sep (JKr, NEL, GW).

Red Phalarope: This was a very good season for this species with five birds reported. A molting adult male was seen at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, between 11 and 18 Aug (DF, TL, JBn), one was at Milton Res., *Weld*, on 25 Aug (RO), an adult in basic plumage was at Barr Lake, *Adams*, on 10 Sep (TL), another was at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, on 17 Sep (JKr, JBH), and a juvenile was seen at Big Johnson Res, *El Paso*, on 5 Oct (TL, NG, SY).

Black-necked Stilt: Quite unusual were the two birds observed at Standley L., *Jefferson*, on 1 Sep (TL, LS).

Little Gull: It was also a very good season for this species, with four birds reported. An immature was seen at Poudre Res. No 3, *Larimer*, on 9 Sep (RH), a juvenile was at Standley L., *Jefferson*, 11-12 Sep (DF, LS, m.ob.), and two juveniles were seen at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, on 17 and 18 Sep (TL, RO, m.ob.).

Mew Gull: An adult in basic plumage was seen at Seeley L., *Weld*, on 1 and 2 Nov (NK, TL, NG, NP), and another was at Union Res., *Weld*, on 30 Nov (TL, JB, RO).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: There were more than 15 reports of this species over the Fall. All were from along the Front Range, except for a juvenile seen at the State Fishing Pond, north of Ordway, *Crowley*, on 11 Nov (DSi).

Glaucous-winged Gull: A juvenile was seen at Horsetooth Res., *Larimer*, on 30 Nov (NK, DB).

Glaucous Gull: Two adults in basic plumage were seen at Union Res., *Weld*, on 30 Nov (BS, CLW).

Sabine's Gull: There were only six reports of this species this Fall. Two adults were seen at Chatfield Res., *Douglas/Jefferson*, between 31 Aug and 9 Sep (JKr, AS, m.ob.), a juvenile was at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, between 11 and 22 Sep (BB, m.ob.), another juvenile was at Standley L., *Jefferson*, between 15 Sep and 1 Oct (LS), an adult was at San Luis L., *Alamosa*, between 21 and 26 Sep (RL, DR), and a juvenile was at L. Meredith, *Crowley*, on 1 Oct (TL, NG, LS).

Black-legged Kittiwake: An adult in basic plumage was seen at Lonetree Res., *Larimer*, on 30 Nov (NK, DB).

Arctic Tern: A juvenile was seen at Standley L., *Jefferson*, on 10 and 11 Sep (TL, LS, NG).

Least Tern: A bird seen well away from its usual locations farther east was seen at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 20 Aug (BKP).

Caspian Tern: A total of three birds were seen at Standley L., *Jefferson*, during the season with one present on 13 Aug and an adult and juvenile together, 6-9 Sep (LS).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: The expansion westwards proceeds, with two at Salida, *Chaffee*, on 27 Aug (BT), and three at Dove Creek, *Dolores*, on 28 Nov (JP).

White-winged Dove: One was at Standley L., *Jefferson*, on 8 Sep (LS).

Inca Dove: One was at the usual location in Rocky Ford, *Otero*, between 25 Aug and 25 Oct (LS, TL, RL, SO), and one was at Las Animas, *Bent*, between 7 and 9 Nov (DN).

Greater Roadrunner: One at a very unusual location in Colorado was in Salida, *Chaffee*, on 20 Oct (SY).

Broad-billed Hummingbird: An adult female came to the feeders in Bob Myers' yard in Clifton, *Mesa*, between 12 and 30 Nov. It was captured and identified by Steve Bouricius. This is the first record for Colorado, and Bob says it had been present since July. Remarkably, the bird had already been banded in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in January 2002!

Acorn Woodpecker: Birds were observed at the state's only known nesting site near Durango, *La Plata*, on 11 Oct (RO, JKr).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: There were several reports of birds well west of their usual range along the Colorado/Kansas border. A male was at Lake Henry, *Crowley*, on 6 Oct (JKr, DSc, NEI), one was at Fort Lyon, *Bent*, 23 Oct-21 Nov (DN, SO), one was seen along the Arkansas River in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 26 Oct (BMa, MPe) and at Pueblo City Park on 3 Nov (BKP, LE, MB), and one was at Boulder Creek and 75th St, *Boulder*, on 2 Nov (CLW, BS).

Williamson's Sapsucker: A bird well out on the Eastern Plains was a female at Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, on 2 Sep (SO, CLW, BKP).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A juvenile male was seen at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, on 2 Nov (MPe, BKP, PH).

Alder Flycatcher: A very interesting fall record was one at Box Springs Pond, north of Ordway, *Crowley*, on 25 Aug (TL, LS ph.).

Gray Flycatcher: Birds seen along the northern Front Range were one at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson*, on 30 Aug (JKr), one at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 1 Sep (JKr, m.ob.), one at Barr L., *Adams*, in early Sep (TL, DF), one at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, on 8 and 9 Sep (DAL), and one at Fort Lyon, *Bent*, on 19 Sep (JKr, AS, DSc).

Black Phoebe: One on the Eastern Slope was seen on Burnt Mill Road at the Waterbarrel Road bridge, *Pueblo*, on 2 Aug (RM).

Eastern Phoebe: Birds seen along the Front Range were two on Burnt Mill Road, *Pueblo*, on 24 Aug (BT), one at Chatfield Res, *Douglas*, on 28 Sep (SSt, JKr), one at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, on 29 Sep (MPe) and on 26 Oct (TF), an immature banded at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 1 Oct (NG), and one near Horseshoe L., Loveland, *Larimer*, on 27 Oct (NK).

Vermilion Flycatcher: A female was seen at the Higbee Cemetery, *Otero*, on 14 Sep (RL), and an adult male was at Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo*, on 25 Sep (NG, RG).

Ash-throated Flycatcher: Birds seen in the northeast of the state were one at Briggsdale, *Weld*, on 15 Aug (DAL), and one at Milton Res., *Weld*, on 23 Aug (RO).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Birds seen well away from the far eastern part of the state were one at Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 4 Sep (RM), one at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, between 8 and 11 Sep (JW, KP, m.ob.), and one seen along the Poudre River in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 13 Sep (DAL).

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher: The first state record for this species was found by Duane Nelson at Adobe Creek Res., *Bent*, on 18 Sep. It was also seen and photographed by several Colorado birders the next day on 19 Sep.

Western Kingbird: One late bird was observed and photographed in the town of Ordway, *Crowley*, on 6 Oct (LS, TL).

Eastern Kingbird: Apparently a first park record, one bird was present at Standley L., *Jefferson*, on 2 Sep (LS).

Loggerhead Shrike: Another first park record was the bird observed at Standley L., *Jefferson*, on 2 Sep (LS).

White-eyed Vireo: One was seen in Rye, *Pueblo*, for much of the summer, and was present in the fall season until 14 Sep (DSi, m.ob.), and one was seen at Lamar, *Prowers*, on 17 Sep (JT).

Blue-headed Vireo: One was seen at Las Animas, *Bent*, on 10 Sep (DN), one was at Castlewood Canyon, *Douglas*, between 14 and 16 Sep (KM, HK), and a very interesting West Slope record was one seen at Durango, *La Plata*, on 25 Oct (BR).

Philadelphia Vireo: One was seen at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, on 26 Sep (DAL), and another interesting West Slope record was one seen at Naturita, *Montrose*, on 29 Sep (CD, BW).

Red-eyed Vireo: A good congregation of this species was five seen on a Denver Field Ornithologists' fieldtrip at Prewitt Res., *Washington*, on 1 Sep (JKr).

Steller's Jay: Many were seen well out onto the Plains this fall, with the farthest east report of one at the Paulsen's farm, north of Lamar, *Prowers*, on 1 Nov (LP).

Pinyon Jay: This species also wandered far and wide this season. Unusual sightings were one seen on the Indian Peaks Fall Count in Eldora, *Boulder*, on 21 Sep, (B&EB), and eight seen in Lamar, *Prowers*, on 20 Oct (DAL).

Cave Swallow: Duane Nelson reports briefly seeing an adult near John Martin Res., *Bent*, on 23 Aug. This species should be looked for in the southeast of the state, especially when dispersing in the early fall.

Carolina Wren: One was at Lamar, *Prowers*, on 27 Nov (JT).

Winter Wren: One was banded at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 19 Oct (NG, SY, RG), and one was at Beaver Creek SWA, *Fremont*, on 25 Oct (BKP, KH).

Eastern Bluebird: Birds farther west than usual along the Front Range were one at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, on 6 Nov (BGu), and two males and a female at Walden Ponds, *Boulder*, on 28 Nov (PGe).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: This species is very rare in fall. One was seen at Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 31 Oct (DSi).

Wood Thrush: There were three reports of this rare species this fall. One was at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, on 27 and 28 Sep (RO, SMe), an immature was banded at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 4 Oct (NG), and one was seen at Fort Lyon, *Bent*, on 26 Oct (BKP, KH).

Varied Thrush: A female was seen at Fort Lyon, *Bent*, between 23 and 26 Oct (DN, m.ob.).

Brown Thrasher: This species is unusual along the Front Range, but one was seen in Boulder, *Boulder*, on 13 Nov (BMi), and one was at a feeder in Lyons, *Boulder*, on 22 Nov (WG).

Curve-billed Thrasher: One seen well north of its usual range was in a yard near Windsor, *Weld*, between 15 Aug and 30 Sep (M&RM).

Sprague's Pipit: There was only one report of this rare, but probably regular, migrant, which was at Lake Meredith, *Crowley*, on 8 Oct (CLW).

Blue-winged Warbler: A male was seen at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, between 23 Oct and 1 Nov, and was found dead on 3 Nov (BKP, KH, m.ob.), and an immature was at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, on 28 Oct (CLW, m.ob.).

Tennessee Warbler: One was seen at Lamar, *Prowers*, on 21 Aug (JT), an immature was at Chatfield Res., *Douglas*, on 23 Aug (GW), and one was seen at Barr L., *Adams*, on 24 Aug (RO).

Nashville Warbler: There were eight reports this fall in Colorado. An immature was banded at Barr L., *Adams*, on 18 Aug (JBn, TL), one was at Norma Erickson's house in Greeley, *Weld*, on 23 Aug (RO, NEn), a female was at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, on 25 Aug (DAL), and a female was at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, on 13 Sep (JKr, RO). One was seen at Poudre River Trail in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 27 Sep (DAL), one was at Barr L., *Adams*, on 2 Oct (JBn), one was at Fort Lyon, *Bent*, on 26 Oct (BKP, KH), one was at Littleton, *Jefferson*, on 27 Oct (JKr), and one was at Eagle, *Eagle*, on 17 Sep (JMe).

Northern Parula: An immature male was seen at the Poudre River Trail in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 29 Aug (RH), a male was at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson*, between 31 Aug and 2 Sep (JKr, AS), and one was at Fort Lyon, *Bent*, on 26 Oct (BKP, KH).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Two were seen at Fort Lyon, *Bent*, on 10 Sep (DN), an immature was at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, on 18 Sep (RL), and one was at Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 31 Oct (DSi).

Magnolia Warbler: There were six reports this fall. An immature was banded at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 22 Sep (NG), an immature female was on the Pawnee National Grasslands, *Weld*, on 22 Sep (JKr), one was at Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 28 Sep (DSi), one was at Brush Hollow Res., *Fremont*, on 8 Oct (RM), one was at Franz Lake in Salida, *Chaffee*, on 10 Oct (RM), and one was seen at Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 6 Nov (DSi).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: There were also six reports of this species this fall. An immature female was banded at Barr L., *Adams*, on 16 Aug (MJ, TL), a male was at Lake Estes, *Larimer*, on 30 Sep and 1 Oct (SRo, m.ob.), a female was at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, on 3 Oct (DAL), an immature female was banded at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 7 Oct (NG, PGo, SY), a male was at Lake Meredith, *Crowley*, on 8 Oct (CLW), and another immature female was banded at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 18 Oct (NG, SY)

Black-throated Green Warbler: A female was seen at Rock Canyon in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 27 Aug (BKP), another female was at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson*, on 5 Oct (JKr), an immature was at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, between 1 and 3 Nov (BKP, m.ob.), and a female or immature was seen at Lamar, *Prowers*, on 6 Nov (JT).

Blackburnian Warbler: One was seen along the Poudre River in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 20 Sep (JBn, RS), and a female was at Dixon Res. in Fort Collins, *Weld* on 29 Sep (NK).

Pine Warbler: A good season with four sightings. A male was seen at Rock Canyon in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 27 Aug (BKP), an adult male was at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, on 8 Sep (AS), another male was at Valco Ponds in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 17 Sep (MY), and a male was seen at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, on 28 Oct (CLW).

Prairie Warbler: An immature was seen at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*,

on 3 Sep (JF, BKP, RH, DAL, JHi), and one was at Franz L., *Chaffee*, on 10 and 11 Oct (RM).

Palm Warbler: One was seen at Rock Canyon in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, between 27 Aug and 2 Sep (BKP, MA), one was at Lake Estes, *Larimer*, between 10 and 16 Sep (GM, SRo), and one was at Lake Estes, *Larimer*, on 21 Oct (GM, SRo).

Bay-breasted Warbler: The only sighting was one along the Poudre River in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 25 Sep (JMa).

Blackpoll Warbler: One was seen in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 28 Aug (DCE, JMa), one was at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 14 Sep (NG, TL), and an immature was seen in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 4 Oct (DAL).

Black-and-white Warbler: A female was seen in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, on 28 Aug (DCE, JMa), two in Fort Lyon area groves, *Bent*, on 10 Sep (DN), one at Runyon L. in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 13 Sep (MY), one at Barr L., *Adams*, on 20 Sep (BBr), and a female in Lamar, *Powers*, on 22 Sep (DAL).

Prothonotary Warbler: A female was seen along the Poudre River in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, between 14 and 21 Sep (DAL, JBn).

Hooded Warbler: A female was seen at Waterton Canyon, *Douglas* on 22 Aug (JKr), a male was at Rock Canyon in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 26 and 27 Aug (BKP), and an immature female was seen at Roads JJ and 16, east of Fort Lyon, *Bent*, on 10 Sep (DN).

Canada Warbler: The only sighting was one at Milton Res., *Weld*, on 6 and 7 Sep (RO).

Hepatic Tanager: An adult male well out of its usual Colorado range was seen at Golden, *Jefferson*, on 9 Sep (BBu).

Summer Tanager: Also well away from its usual range was one seen in the northwest corner of Colorado at Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge, *Moffat*, on 6 Oct (SH).

Scarlet Tanager: A fall adult male was seen at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, on 29 Sep (MPe).

Eastern Towhee: A male was seen at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, on 4 and 5 Oct (KP, NS, BGo).

Field Sparrow: One seen was seen at Lake Estes, *Larimer*, on 26 Oct (SRo).

Fox Sparrow: A bird of the red eastern subspecies was seen at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, on 14 Oct (DAL).

Swamp Sparrow: Two were seen at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 22 Oct (NG), three were at Walden Ponds, *Boulder*, on 23 Oct (JBn, CLW), one was at Lake Estes, *Larimer*, on 15 Nov (GM, SRo), and one was at Mount Ouray State Wildlife Area, *Chaffee*, on 17 Nov (TL).

White-throated Sparrow: Birds seen on the West Slope were an immature in Ouray, *Ouray*, on 16 Nov (TL, NG), and one seen at a feeder in Eagle, *Eagle*, on 15 Nov (JMe).

Harris's Sparrow: An immature was seen in Colorado City, *Pueblo*, on 14 and 15 Nov (DEm), another immature was at Estes Park, *Larimer*, on 16 Nov (SRo), and an immature was also at a feeder in Eagle, *Eagle*, on 15 Nov (JMe).

Golden-crowned Sparrow: A first-year bird was seen at Lewis, *Montezuma*, between 29 Oct and 1 Nov (M&DH, BPr).

Smith's Longspur: Two immatures were seen at Barr L., *Adams*, on 11 Sep by TL. Other birders were close by, but unfortunately only saw or heard birds flying over. This species is not on the Colorado state list.

Snow Bunting: One was seen near Canon City, *Fremont*, on 20 Nov (JJ), and another was seen at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, on 24 Nov (BS, JS). This distribution seems strange to me; why were birds not seen farther north on the plains of Colorado?

Northern Cardinal: A bird farther west than usual was at Walden Ponds, *Boulder*, on 23 Oct (CLW, JBn), and a male was at a more usual location in Lamar, *Prowers*, on 10 Nov (JT).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: An immature was at a feeder in Boulder, *Boulder*, on the unusually late date of 4 Nov (BMi).

Painted Bunting: This species is very rare in fall in Colorado, but this season there were two sightings. An immature female was seen at Lathrop State Park, *Huerfano*, on 8 Sep (BKP, LE), and an adult female was at Valco Ponds, *Pueblo*, on 10 Sep (RM).

Rusty Blackbird: One was seen at Valco Ponds, *Pueblo*, on 24 Oct (RM), one was at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, on 25 Oct (SMe), one was along the South Platte River at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson*, on 3 Nov (HK), and one was seen south of Marston Res., *Denver*, on 9 Nov (AS).

Common Grackle: A late West Slope record was a male seen at Ouray, *Ouray*, on 16 Nov (TL, NG).

Black Rosy-Finch: At least four were seen at Estes Park, *Larimer*, between the early dates of 28 Oct and 2 Nov (SRA, m.ob.).

Purple Finch: A female was seen at Lamar, *Prowers*, between 2 and 8 Nov (JT), and another female was in a yard east of Boulder, *Boulder*, on 4 Nov (MPI).

White-winged Crossbill: Three individuals of this very elusive species were seen on the Indian Peaks Fall Count, *Boulder*, on 21 Sep. One was at King L. and two were seen at Woodland L. (DH).

Lesser Goldfinch: Unusual was one in La Junta, *Otero*, on 25 Aug (LS).

Evening Grosbeak: Unusual sightings on the Eastern Plains were a flock of 25 at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*, on 27 Sep (NG), and one at Fort Lyon, *Bent*, on 26 Oct (BKP, KH).

Contributing Observers

Mymm Ackley, Bill Baker (BBa), Jason Beason (JBn), Jim Beatty (JBy), Joe Bens (JBs), Barbara and Earl Bolton (B&EB), Maggie Boswell, Steve Bouricius, David Bray, Leon Bright, Bob Brown (BBr), Brenda Burrell (BBu), Carolyn Cooley, Peter Derven, Coen Dexter, Lisa Edwards, Tammy Ellsworth, Donna Emmons (DEm), David Ely (DCE), Norma Erickson (NEn), Norm Erthal (NEL), Doug Faulkner, Ted Floyd, Joe Fontaine, Peter Gent (PGe), Nancy Gobris, Ren Gobris, Pat Gould (PGo), Bob Goycoolea (BGo), Wanda Griest, Beverlee Guild (BGu), Dave Hallock, Suzanne Halvorson, J.B. Hayes (JBH), Mona & Dean Hill (M&DH), Joe Himmel (JHi), Ken Hollinga, Rachel Hopper, Paul Hurtado, Michelle Johnson, Jeff Jones, Tina Jones, Joey Kellner (JKr), Jonathan Kelly (JKy), Nick Komar, Hugh & Urling Kingery (H&UK), David Leatherman (DAL), Gary Lefko, Tony Leukering, Roger Linfield, Marcia & Ron Maeda (M&RM), Joe Mammoser (JMa), Gary Matthews, Bill Maynard (BMa), Jack Merchant (JMe), Steve Messick (SMe), Karen Metz, Bill Miller (BMi), Rich Miller, Cyndi Mosch, SeEtta Moss (SMo), Duane Nelson, Ric Olson, Stan

Oswald, Ken Pals, Linda Paulsen, Brandon Percival (BKP), Mark Peterson (MPe), Nathan Pieplow, Myron Plooster (MPI), Bill Prather (BPr), John Prather, Scott Rashid (SRa), Bob Righter, David Rintoul, Scott Roederer (SRo), Ira Sanders, Bill Schmoker, Jim Schmoker, Dick Schottler (DSc), Larry Semo, Scott Severs, Dave Silverman (DSi), Clif Smith, Nancy Smith, Rob Sparks, Andrew Spencer, Steve Stachowiak (SSt), Janeal Thompson, Van Truan (VAT), Bill Tweit, Dave Utterback, John Vanderpoel, Glenn Walbek, Jeff Webster, Larry Wilson, Chris Wood (CLW), Brenda Wright, Mark Yaeger, Sherrie York

Corrigenda (Vol. 37:1):

The site of the immature Brown Pelican, Big Meadows Campground, is in *Mineral*, not *Rio Grande*.

A Broad-winged Hawk was seen over Wetmore, *Custer*, on 19 July (BKP, CLW).