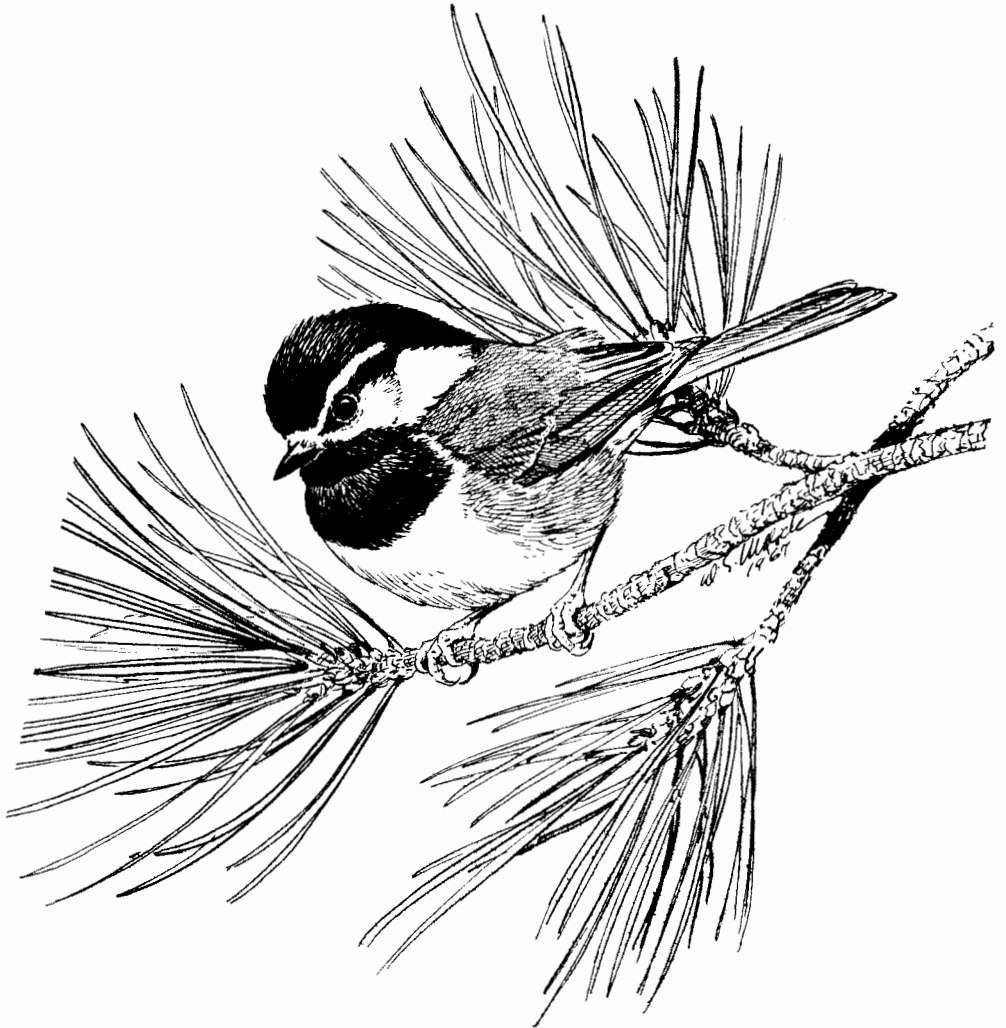


NO. 4

SUMMER 1968

the

Colorado Field Ornithologist





Cal Sandford, 10, with Peep, evidently a female broad-tail. Cal's ability with wildlife comes naturally--his Dad is Director of Research for Colorado Game, Fish and Parks.

EVER HAVE A HUMMER HOVER IN THE HOUSE?

Cal Sandford, Fort Collins

I got my bird three years ago last June, when I went to Grand Junction to visit my Grandparents. There are lots of trees and bushes around their house. My Grandmother hangs out hummingbird feeders each summer, so they have hummingbirds around their house all summer.

One day when I was out in the front yard I saw a hummingbird sitting on a bush. I walked over to look at it and when it didn't try to fly I picked it up and took it in the house to show my Grandparents. They thought it was

a baby bird and that was why it didn't fly. I made a little cage to keep it in their utility room over night, and I fed it from one of the hummingbird feeders. The next morning Grandpa and I put it on a wire right outside the house. The bird sat there for a long time before it finally flew away. About an hour later it flew back and landed on the apricot tree outside the kitchen door. It stayed there until I brought it in the house, fed it, and put it in its cage for the night. That night we named it Peep.

We let it out each morning and brought it in each night for several days. We would watch it fly away, and when I wanted it back I would call "Peep" and it would come to me. Lots of times when I was outside Peep would ride around on my finger or my shoulder.

One day we were looking for the bird and we couldn't find it. Then we heard a peeping noise and followed it until we found Peep in a tall tree. All of a sudden another hummingbird flew out of another tree and attacked Peep. I thought I had lost him and started calling "Peep." He flew down from a tree and lit on my shoulder.

The next day my Grandpa, Peep, and I drove to Fort Collins in my Grandpa's pickup. My Dad built a big cage for Peep to live in. We kept the cage in the house. We let Peep fly around our house. We fed her boiled sugar-water with red food coloring in it, and she ate the fruit flies that came in through the screen.

Peep liked to tease the cat by flying just high enough so the cat couldn't catch her. When anyone would make an unusual noise, Peep would fly over to see what the noise was. She would hang in the air watching, and not even move up or down. Sometimes this curiosity was dangerous, like when Mom wanted to check potatoes boiling on the stove.

Her favorite place was the light fixture above the front door. When she was tired she would fly there to rest. When we left the house, Peep would have to go in her cage and stay there. She soon learned to tell when we were leaving, and wouldn't come when I called. Then we would have to chase her all over the house to get her in the cage.

When we decided to take our vacation, we thought we should let Peep go so she would get used to living outside and would migrate with the other birds. She had been my pet for almost a month. We turned her loose and hung her feeder on the clothes line in the backyard. The neighbors said she stayed around the house for three or four days. I never saw Peep again.



Fig. 1.--This pond is "home" for a brood of blue-winged teal, the most abundant nester in the area.

FENCING STOCKPONDS BENEFITS WATERFOWL

*Keith E. Evans
Rapid City, South Dakota*

The northern Great Plains are dotted with small ponds, 90,000 in South Dakota alone. Although these ponds were constructed to provide livestock with drinking water, they have transformed the northern Great Plains habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds.

Past drainage of wetlands in the United States and Canada has reduced available habitat suitable for "water bird" production. Stockponds are substituting for some of this lost habitat. Blue-winged teal (Fig. 1), mallard, gadwall, pintail, American widgeon, killdeer, long-billed curlew, upland plover, and Wilson's phalarope commonly nest near stockponds in this area (Evans and Kerbs 1967).



Fig. 2.--Gadwalls relax near lush vegetation that developed along shorelines protected from livestock grazing and trampling. A pipe through the pond dam provides fresh, clear water in tanks for livestock.

The Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station has initiated a study to determine the magnitude of bird use on stockponds, and to compare fenced and unfenced stockponds for providing wildlife habitat (Fig. 2). On 12 stockponds located southeast of Wall, Jackson County, South Dakota, 39 species of waterfowl and shorebirds totaling 4,610 individuals were observed during the ice-free periods in 1966 and 1967. These ponds supported an average of 7 birds per pond for 214 days in 1966, and 13 birds per pond for 229 days during 1967. This adds up to bird watcher's prairie paradise.

LITERATURE CITED

Evans, Keith E., and Roger R. Kerbs. 1967. Waterfowl and shorebird use on selected stockponds in Jackson County: 1966. S. Dak. Bird Notes 19(2):28-30.

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BIRD BANDING

AT

LYKIN'S GULCH

Allegra Collister

Longmont

Attaching U.S.F. & W.S. band.

Lykin's Gulch, a small ravine west of Longmont, Colorado, has proved over a period of several years to be a productive bird banding area. Named for an unsavory character of pioneer days, "the gulch" as it is locally known, originates in the foothills and follows an easterly course for about a mile. From there on to the northeast it widens and flattens into a series of cattail marshes, and eventually drains into McCaslin Lake, part of the St. Vrain-South Platte watershed.

This brushy ravine, extending out from foothills to plains, forms a natural resting and feeding place for migrating birds as they head southward in the fall. Also, mountain species follow this natural route down towards the plains as temperatures fall and weather deteriorates at higher elevations.

A spring-fed rivulet and farther down a small irrigation ditch attract birds at any season. In favorable years, native fruit (hawthorn, chokecherry, elderberry, currant) provides food for many species. In addition to the usual abundant supply of weed seeds along the gulch, grain in adjacent fields (corn, oats, wheat) is a source of food.

So it is quite understandable that Lykin's Gulch should have an excellent concentration of birds of a variety of species, and offer opportunity for rewarding banding, especially during the fall months.

Up to 10 nets are placed in openings through the dense cover, most of them in a north-south position. A few are set up parallel to the ravine, usually on the north side. They may be shifted slightly from time to time, depending on wind direction, but for the most part are left in position from late August to early November.

Nets are usually in operation from sunrise to near noon, though hours vary somewhat with weather conditions and "take" of birds. A decline in activity and in numbers netted can often be correlated with the approach of weather fronts which pass through at more or less regular intervals in the fall, usually 3 to 5 days apart. On the first day after passage of a front (and to a lesser extent on the second day) there is a flurry of activity with a noticeable increase in birds per net-hour. Thereafter, numbers gradually diminish with the approach of a new front.

One bird per net per hour (or "net-hour") is considered a fair average. Regardless of whether or not this average is realistic in Colorado, the net-hour measurement is a useful tool in determining fluctuations in numbers from day to day and year to year. I know of no more accurate means of detecting variations in numbers of migrant song birds over a period of years.

The per net-hour average at Lykin's Gulch for September-October over the past six years is of special interest. It will be noted in the following table that during the first five years of the study period an above normal average was maintained. Then came the sharp decline of 1967.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Birds/net-hour</u>
1962	2.01
1963	1.27
1964	1.13
1965	1.17
1966	1.31
1967	.62

While some annual variation due to diversity of weather conditions and food supply is to be expected, a decline of over 50 per cent is outside the normal range and a logical explanation must be sought.



A pair of Pinyon Jays in the author's hand, apparently unruffled by the experience of being mist-netted and banded.

Sometimes a sharp decline in abundance of a single species will radically affect total results for the two-month period. This happened in 1967 when numbers of Chipping Sparrows dropped alarmingly.

During 57 days in September-October, 1967, only 47 Chipping Sparrows were banded, compared with 856 banded during 47 days in the same two-month period of 1966. Since this species nests in the nearby mountains (as well as on the plains), it seems possible that a very severe hailstorm on 18 August, covering an extensive area in mountains and foothills, may have wiped out a large part of this local population.

During 6 years of banding, fringillids were far more numerous than any other group with 32 species banded. Most common in order of abundance were White-crowned Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Oregon Junco, and Tree Sparrow.

Cont. p 12

SUMMARY OF COLORADO'S 1968 SPRING COUNT

Species	BoDm	Bldr	CFO	CoRv	Dnvr	Drge	FtCo	Lgmt	PkCo
Common Loon								1	
Horned Grebe		1						14	
Eared Grebe	47		4		7	20	11	12	43
Western Grebe	10	90			61		265	372	37
Pied-billed Grebe		6			15		2	7	4
White Pelican							150		
Double-crested Cormorant					6		5	12	
Great Blue Heron		64	1		31	1	70	104	
Green Heron	3								
Snowy Egret					1		1		1
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	22	1		8		7	5	
American Bittern									1
White-faced Ibis					14		7		7
Canada Goose	2	98			31		232	132	
Blue Goose		1							
Mallard	60	102	20	4	312	8	611	268	50
Gadwall	6	14	4		817		181	18	83
Pintail	2	1			200	2	18	13	7
Green-winged Teal	2		4		21		13	25	22
Blue-winged Teal	65	39		2	73		266	111	19
Cinnamon Teal		19	3		23	2	35	26	8
American Widgeon	1	7			22		3	41	2
Shoveler	8	9			568	24	220	114	14
Redhead		15			14		19	66	20
Ring-necked Duck		4	2						11
Canvasback	1								2
Lesser Scaup	9	41			168	3	35	89	30
Common Goldeneye	2				1			4	
Bufflehead	12	5			2		18	9	8
Ruddy Duck	3	3	1		70		8	111	15
Common Merganser				2			3	13	
Red-breasted Merganser							2		
Turkey Vulture	3	4	3	15		5	2		
Goshawk				1					
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1			1	1		
Cooper's Hawk	1			1	1			2	
Red-tailed Hawk	2	1	1	3	4	3	4	2	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	2								
Swainson's Hawk	6	1			10	1	29	1	1
Rough-legged Hawk		2			1			2	
Ferruginous Hawk	1						2		
Golden Eagle		2	2	6		3	5	2	1
Marsh Hawk	8	2	1	1	7		11	1	
Prairie Falcon		2					2		
Peregrine Falcon					1				
Pigeon Hawk					1				
Sparrow Hawk	4	13	5	9	11	18	41	51	10
White-tailed Ptarmigan							4		
Bobwhite	7						1		
Gambel's Quail			5						
Ring-necked Pheasant	32	3	2		9		24	16	
Chukar		5	3						
Virginia Rail							2	1	
Sora					3		4		
American Coot	14	50	3		342	78	140	225	106
Semi-palmated Plover	2								
Kildeer	6	35	2		22	6	52	60	5
Mountain Plover							12		1
Black-bellied Plover		3					3	15	
Common Snipe		4			2		3	3	4
Whimbrel							1		
Spotted Sandpiper	4	4			13	39	92	38	4
Solitary Sandpiper	1				1		8	1	
Willet					3		38		
Greater Yellowlegs	3				1			4	
Lesser Yellowlegs	3				13		9	7	
Pectoral Sandpiper							2		
Baird's Sandpiper		6			2		9	3	
Least Sandpiper	4				3		26	22	
Long-billed Dowitcher		22			69		111	19	

SUMMARY OF COLORADO'S 1968 SPRING COUNT

Species	BoDm	Eldr.	GFO	CoRv	Dnvr	Drgo	FrCo	Lemt	PkCo
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	12					8	12	25	
Western Sandpiper	6				6		14		
Marbled Godwit							2		
Sanderling	14						10		
American Avocet	1	31			32		270	82	6
Wilson's Phalarope	165	51	4		510	2	804	87	439
Northern Phalarope		1				100	129		
California Gull						8	199	3	1
Ring-billed Gull	3	19			8		78	227	3
Franklin's Gull	12						120	140	3
Bonaparte's Gull	2					1	3	1	
Forster's Tern	1	2			18		26	19	1
Black Tern	300					100	10	40	
Band-tailed Pigeon						4			
Mourning Dove	85	94	50	70	57	69	272	322	5
Barn Owl	$\frac{1}{2}$	1					2		
Screech Owl		1							
Great Horned Owl	1	3			3		5	4	
Burrowing Owl	2				3		8	1	
Long-eared Owl		7		2				1	
Short-eared Owl	1	1							
Common Nighthawk	1	1						1	
Chimney Swift							5		
White-throated Swift			10		3	3	36	12	7
Black-chinned Hummingbird			3						
Broad-tailed Hummingbird		12	2	1	6	36	1	6	
Belted Kingfisher	2	4	1		3	3	8	9	6
Yellow-shafted Flicker	$\frac{18}{2}$								
Red-shafted Flicker	2	42	10	23	20	7	86	109	7
Red-bellied Woodpecker	$\frac{1}{2}$								
Red-headed Woodpecker	28	1			1		2	4	
Lewis' Woodpecker						18	21	22	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker						1			5
Williamson's Sapsucker					2				
Hairy Woodpecker	2	2				1		3	1
Downy Woodpecker	4	2			3	2	1	8	
Northern 3-toed Woodpecker							1		
Eastern Kingbird	18				1		27	4	
Western Kingbird	27	1	20		25	6	87	31	1
Cassin's Kingbird						1			
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	$\frac{1}{2}$								
Great Crested Flycatcher	$\frac{1}{2}$								
Ash-throated Flycatcher			3			2			
Eastern Phoebe							2		
Say's Phoebe	1	1	2	2	4	1	6	8	3
Traill's Flycatcher	1	2					1	1	
Hammond's Flycatcher								1	
Dusky Flycatcher				5					
Gray Flycatcher			3						
Western Flycatcher	1				2	2	4		
Western Wood Peewee	1	2	1		1		1	4	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1				1				
Horned Lark	35	7	5		8		181	29	69
Violet-green Swallow			30	50	45	975	57	1353	
Tree Swallow			2	200	37	5	243	161	52
Bank Swallow	8				2	25	57	2	
Rough-winged Swallow	32	12	10		5	140	62	7	
Barn Swallow	21	28	20	2	47	64	141	247	5
Cliff Swallow	24	50	20				732	1143	9
Gray Jay							3		
Blue Jay	40						9	5	
Steller's Jay		53		3	2		3	9	6
Scrub Jay			4	3	5	48			
Black-billed Magpie	16	111	5	23	115	55	122	280	26
Common Raven		7	3			2	8	3	3
Common Crow	8	7				11	39	29	6
Pinon Jay			50	19		4			
Clark's Nutcracker				19		4	4		1
Black-capped Chickadee	16	2			18	3	13	22	
Mountain Chickadee		15	1	2	3	1	10	7	2

SUMMARY OF COLORADO'S 1968 SPRING COUNT

Species	BoDm	Bldr	CFO	CoRv	Dmvr	Drgo	FtCo	Lgmt	PkCo
Plain Titmouse			2						
White-breasted Nuthatch		3	1		2		1	1	
Pygmy Nuthatch		4			5			6	2
Dipper		1		4	2	1	1	7	
House Wren	108	25	1	2	31	51	16	12	
Carolina Wren								$\frac{1}{2}$	
Long-billed Marsh Wren	1					1			1
Short-billed Marsh Wren	$\frac{1}{2}$							$\frac{1}{2}$	
Canon Wren		10	1		3		3	4	
Rock Wren		3	3	8	1	1	6	3	
Mockingbird	3							1	
Catbird	2				1	3	5		
Brown Thrasher	22	1			6		5	2	
Sage Thrasher			1			1			
Robin	4	162	20	80	47	47	151	369	99
Hermit Thrush	1			1	2			1	
Swainson's Thrush	12	1	1		3		98	1	
Gray-cheeked Thrush							1		
Veery	1						3		
Eastern Bluebird	2								
Western Bluebird			1		5	5		2	2
Mountain Bluebird		17	30	14		10	11	26	94
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			2		1	11		$\frac{1}{2}$	
Townsend's Solitaire		1			4	19	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet							1		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	2		4	1	8	3	2	7
Water Pipit		3					8		
Cedar Waxwing	18	30				1		15	
Loggerhead Shrike		1	1		8		22	5	20
Starling	70	189	10	8	125	48	246	686	6
Bell's Vireo							$\frac{1}{2}$		
Gray Vireo			3						
Solitary Vireo			1			8	3		2
Red-eyed Vireo	2								
Warbling Vireo	4		1			9	3	1	
Worm-eating Warbler	$\frac{6}{1}$								
Tennessee Warbler	$\frac{1}{2}$								
Orange-crowned Warbler	8	5		2	14	39	2	1	
Nashville Warbler							$\frac{1}{9}$		
Virginia's Warbler	6	21	1	3	13	10		5	
Parula Warbler	1				2				
Yellow Warbler	8	10	1	1	8	94	42	25	
Magnolia Warbler									$\frac{2}{6}$
Myrtle Warbler	26	16	2	1	44	52	23	18	
Audubon's Warbler	7	27	1	7	46	160	151	33	16
Black-throated Gray Warbler			2						
Townsend's Warbler							1	1	
Grace's Warbler						3			
Chestnut-sided Warbler	$\frac{1}{2}$								
Bay-breasted Warbler	$\frac{1}{2}$								
Blackpoll Warbler							7		
Ovenbird							3		
Northern Waterthrush						1	2	1	
Louisiana Waterthrush	3								
MacGillivray's Warbler	1*								
Yellowthroat	1	13	1		1	13	1		
Yellow-breasted Chat	16	5	1		14	2	24	11	
Wilson's Warbler		1	1	1	3	13	6	3	
Canada Warbler						9	14	1	3
American Redstart	2	1			1		4	3	
House Sparrow	12	51	10		29	29	320	711	5
Western Meadowlark	100	145	50	3	144	19	209	436	22
Yellow-headed Blackbird	83	27			87		18	184	45
Red-winged Blackbird	200	283	100	20	585	153	441	1533	111
Orchard Oriole	$\frac{2}{4}$								
Baltimore Oriole	$\frac{4}{2}$								
Bullock's Oriole		7	2		32	11	55	21	
Brewer's Blackbird		103	20	60	21	184	49	297	196
Common Grackle	60	74			27		185	448	
Brown-headed Cowbird	22	13	2		32	4	31	29	20

SUMMARY OF COLORADO'S 1968 SPRING COUNT

Species	BoDm	Bldr	CFD	CoRv	Dnvr	Drgo	FtCo	Lgmt	PkCo
Western Tanager	1		2			28	8	3	
Summer Tanager	<u>1</u>								
Rose-breasted Grosbeak					1		1	1	
Black-headed Grosbeak		4	2		3	129	6		
Blue Grosbeak			1			3			
Lazali Bunting	4	4	2		5	1	39	13	
Dickcissel	1	<u>2</u>							
Evening Grosbeak		105				131	16	5	
Cassin's Finch	1	4				4			5
House Finch		48	20		5	12	49	106	
Pine Grosbeak							2		
Pine Siskin		84	1		40	224	11	11	20
American Goldfinch	12	143			24	130	50	590	
Lesser Goldfinch							5		
Red Crossbill		2			1				2
Green-tailed Towhee		7		11	8	25	2	2	2
Rufous-sided Towhee	2	48			8	12	29	27	
Lark Bunting	200				150		2595	21	2
Savannah Sparrow	3	2			2		30	3	9
Grasshopper Sparrow							<u>2</u>		
Baird's Sparrow							<u>1</u>		
Vesper Sparrow	16	1	2	7	4	12	<u>24</u>	5	2
Lark Sparrow	24	8	4		25	9	49	225	
Black-throated Sparrow			3						
Slate-colored Junco								6	
Gray-headed Junco		28				7	3	3	16
Chipping Sparrow	30	124	5	2	78	62	254	285	5
Clay-colored Sparrow	46				11		1	45	
Brewer's Sparrow	3	17	10		25		101	15	1
Field Sparrow	<u>1</u>								
Harris' Sparrow							<u>1</u>		
White-crowned Sparrow	13	23	1	15	36	237	<u>26</u>	80	8
White-throated Sparrow									<u>1</u>
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1		1	8	1	2	3	
Song Sparrow	3	6	3	12	23	13	6	11	2
McCown's Longspur							16		
Chestnut-collared Longspur							3		

BoDm - Bonny Dam (Denver Field Ornithologists); 6 observers

Bldr - Boulder, 29 observers

CFD - CFD Annual Convention Field Trip (Grand Junction and Colorado National Monument); 50 observers

CoRv - Colorado River (Alkali Creek, Derby Junction, Derby Mesa); 2 observers

Dnvr - Denver area (Barr and Mile High Lakes, Johnson Park, Bear Creek and nearby lakes to Morrison and Willow Springs Ranch, Red Rocks Park to Genesee Mtn); 15 observers

Drgo - Durango (Pastoris Reservoir, Florida Mesa); 13 observers

FtCo - Fort Collins (Larimer Co., Riverside Reservoir, Rocky Mountain National Park); 31 observers

Lgmt - Longmont (Lyons, S. St. Vrain to Riverside, N. St. Vrain to Longmont Dam, Lower Big Thompson Canyon, S. part of Buckhorn, Rattlesnake Dam, Carter Lake, Loveland, Berthoud, Longmont, and St. Vrain Wildlife Refuge); 20 observers

PkCo - Park County (South Park area from Jefferson, Como, to Antero Reservoir); 4 observers

Seventeen species of warblers were banded, with Wilson's, Orange-crowned, and Audubon's most common.

The netting of rarities is an exciting feature of any banding project, and Lykin's Gulch has its share of unusual bird visitors. Of the 101 species banded over a 6-year period, 18 may be considered rare, very rare, casual or accidental in this area (Harold Holt, 1967, *Status and Migration Data of Birds of the Denver Area*). A list of these species follows, with status and date or dates of banding:

- Calliope Hummingbird - casual fall migrant (9/3/66)
- Winter Wren - rare winter visitor (10/14/63)
- Bewick's Wren - casual winter visitor (10/24/67)
- Wood Thrush - casual fall migrant (10/1/66)
- Philadelphia Vireo - accidental (9/2/67)
- Black-and-white Warbler - rare migrant (10/25/66)
- Magnolia Warbler - rare spring migrant (9/16/67)
- Black-throated Blue Warbler - very rare migrant
(10/15/66)
- Chestnut-sided Warbler - very rare migrant (9/27/66)
- Palm Warbler - casual migrant (10/12/65)
- Ovenbird - rare summer resident (9/1/62)
- Black-throated Green Warbler - accidental (10/24/67)
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak - very rare summer resident
(9/1 to 10/26/66, 9/27/67)
- Indigo Bunting - rare summer resident (10/6/67)
- Field Sparrow - casual migrant (10/27/65)
- White-throated Sparrow - rare winter visitor
(10/24/62, 10/5/64, 10/7 to 10/20/67)

Fox Sparrow - very rare summer resident (10/11/65)

Swamp Sparrow - rare winter visitor (9/11/67,
10/29/67)

Lykin's Gulch is remarkable not only for its variety of bird life, but also for its freedom from vandalism. If hunters or others are curious, they can read the tag on each net: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird Banding Net - Permit 6549, followed by my name and address.

Sun and wind cause gradual deterioration of nets, and various predators damage them at times. Strung out at intervals over a half to three-fourths mile stretch of brushy ravine, nets cannot be watched at all times. They are checked every 30 minutes or oftener, but accipiters, Marsh Hawks, Shrikes, and--worst of all--ferral cats, can easily take an occasional bird. Sharp-shins and Cooper's become careless and end up as prey for the bird bander. They are banded and released at a distance of several miles. They are welcome to a few sparrows, but unfortunately nets may be torn. Cats are another matter. They not only take birds from lower shelves but sometimes climb nets, leaving holes as they go, to get a bird near the top. Their wild attempts to catch them are usually futile.

The Denver Wildlife Research Center has good strong "varmint" traps that we used when cats took Starlings from walk-in traps at a local feedlot. With the cooperation of the dogcatcher of the Longmont Police Department we were able to dispose of a number of these nuisance predators before the feedlot owner stopped us. He regarded the cats as his rat and mouse patrol. Perhaps similar traps would be effective in a banding area.

To relieve the fears of the uninitiated, nets are open only when the operator is in attendance. At other times they are pushed up and either tied or looped over and over, so no birds are caught in the operator's absence. The only exception is when nets are left open over night. In that case they are raised at the bottom (to avoid damage by animals) and are checked after dark. They are checked again soon after daylight, often with good results.

As has been indicated, morning hours with their heightened activity are most productive. But later after-

noon or early evening can also provide good netting. Shortly before dusk, birds fly in seeking cover for the night, and nets can fill up in short order.

Records of banded birds sent to the banding office at Patuxent, Maryland, include 11 items of information on each individual: the band number, (up to 9 numerals), common name, A.O.U. number, status, age, sex, flyway, state or province, coordinates of latitude and longitude, location from nearest post office, and date of banding. Additionally, during the fall banding project, wing measurements are taken and as many birds as possible are aged by skull ossification. At the Lykin's Gulch station I have not attempted to weigh birds because of the difficulty involved in accurate weighing under other than laboratory conditions. A careful record of hours and number of nets in use (usually 8 to 10) is kept to determine birds per net-hour.

Bird banding is fascinating and rewarding work. Besides a certain amount of knowledge and skill, the bander needs much patience and even more determination. Given these qualifications, he will find that banding adds much to his enjoyment of bird life.

(Footnote, Nov. 14, 1968)

Banding records for 43 days in September-October, 1968 indicate a marked increase in numbers of migrants passing through the Lykin's Gulch area. An average of 1.43 birds per net hour for the two-month period exceeds the average for any year since 1962. Unusual numbers of Robins and Pine Siskins account for most of the increase.



FIELD NOTES

On September 15, 1968, five miles west of New Raymer, Colorado, I observed an estimated 100-150 Swainson's Hawks (Buteo swainsoni) of all color phases. They were resting on a green winter wheat field. As I stopped to observe, several began to fly, circling until they would catch a convection current. Riding it upward (photo above), they gradually moved off to the southwest.

--Dale L. Wills, Range Conservationist
Roosevelt National Forest
Fort Collins, Colorado

Prothonotary Warbler (Protonotaria citrea)--The bird was found dead of a broken neck suffered when it flew into a window of a residence in Fort Collins on October 18, 1968. This is the first record of the species in Larimer County and the eighth record for the state. It is only the second specimen collected in Colorado.

--Patrick J. Caldwell

COLOR-MARKED BIRDS REPORTED IN COLORADO

R. A. Ryder, Fort Collins

In recent months, several species of color-marked birds have been reported in Colorado. Following are some of the studies involved and places where observations concerning these birds should be reported.

Dr. Kenneth L. Diem, Professor of Zoology, University of Wyoming, Laramie, 82070, has since 1958 been conducting studies on two California Gull breeding colonies near Laramie. Over 4,000 juveniles have been banded in the Bamforth Lake and Twin Buttes Lake Colonies. Since the summer of 1966, Dr. Diem and his students have been trapping adults and juveniles, banding and marking them with individually-numbered plastic wing tags of various colors. These colored tags also have a large number centered on the tag as well as other symbols. So far Colorado sightings have been reported from North and Middle Parks as well as the Denver area. Most of the sightings have been in Wyoming and on the West Coast. Please report the location, time and date of such sightings to Dr. Diem as well as color of the patagial marker, whether on the right or left wing, and, where possible, the number and symbol on the tag. Any other comments concerning the condition of the bird and marker as well as activity of the bird would be appreciated.

Dr. Ronald A. Ryder, Professor of Wildlife Biology at Colorado State University, is not dyeing California and Ring-billed Gulls but did dye 16 Snowy Egrets and 2 Franklin's Gulls yellow in recent months. The 16 egrets were marked as fledglings at Riverside Reservoir in Weld County on July 27 while the Franklin's Gulls were dyed near Fort Collins September 29, 1968. So far two reports of one to 3 yellow-colored egrets have been reported in Weld County.

SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

May 3,4 1969

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