

NO.7

WINTER 1970

the

Colorado Field Ornithologist

SPECIAL ISSUE

JOINT MEETING

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

8th Annual Meeting

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

41st Annual Meeting

WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

51st Annual Meeting

FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

June 18 - 21, 1970

IN THIS ISSUE:

	Page
ORNITHOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY IN COLORADO	
George R. Shier	1
SUMMER BIRD-FINDING IN COLORADO	
Donald M. Thatcher	5
BIRD CLUBS IN COLORADO	
David W. Lupton	11
THE FOUNDERS OF COLORADO ORNITHOLOGY	
Thompson G. Marsh	16
COLORADO TYPE BIRD LOCALITIES	
Harold R. Holt	18
SURVEY OF COLLECTIONS OF BIRDS IN COLORADO	
Donald W. Janes	23
RESEARCH THROUGH BIRD BANDING IN COLORADO	
Allegra Collister	26

The Colorado Field Ornithologist is a semiannual journal devoted to the field study of birds in Colorado. Articles and notes of scientific or general interest, and reports of unusual observations are solicited. Send manuscripts, with photos and drawings, to D. W. Lupton, Editor, Serials Section, Colorado State University Libraries, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521. Membership and subscription fees: Full member \$3.00; Library subscription fees \$1.50. Submit payments to Robbie Elliott, Executive Secretary, The Colorado Field Ornithologist, 220-31st Street, Boulder, Colorado 80303. Request for exchange or for back numbers should be addressed to the Editor. All exchange publications should likewise be sent to the Editor's address.

ORNITHOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY IN COLORADO

George R. Shier
Golden, Colorado

Colorado is divided into many climatic and geographic provinces. In this brief article only a few representative locations can be mentioned.

The northeast holds the rich irrigated South Platte Valley. Many reservoirs attract migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, including many species of ducks and shorebirds of the inland flyways. Nesting species include California Gull, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Snowy Egret, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Avocet, Forster's Tern and others. Riverside, Jackson and Barr Lake Reservoirs are of interest, between Denver and Fort Morgan. The dry plains of the Pawnee National Grassland and the Central Plains Experimental Range at Nunn north of the South Platte River are nesting areas for Mountain Plover, McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs.

On the High Plains, the Corps of Engineers and the State Game, Fish and Parks Division have developed a remarkable ornithological area above and below Bonny Reservoir, north of Burlington. More than 130 species of birds have been observed here on a single May day, including many eastern species of small birds. Bell's Vireo, Cassin's Sparrow, Carolina Wren, Orchard Oriole and Green Heron are of note. To the south across the plains are Lark Bunting, Burrowing Owl, numerous hawks and some White-necked Ravens.

Southeastern Colorado intergrades into the northern edge of the Chihuahuan Desert. Martin Dam, especially the small ponds immediately northwest of the dam and the lakes along Highway 287 to the northeast of the dam, all in the vicinity of Lamar, are of interest in the Arkansas Valley. To the south of Lamar, Two Buttes Reservoir is a major winter resort for Canada Geese. The Cimarron River drains parts of Baca and Las Animas Counties and here in the

Comanche National Grassland and adjacent areas can be found a sparse population of such species as Roadrunner, Brown Towhee, Scaled Quail, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Common Bush-tit, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and other Oklahoma-New Mexico species.

Immediately west of the plains are the foothills. This is a long, often narrow (except in the Black Forest around Castle Rock) belt of rough, upthrust sandstone, deep canyon mouths and shrubby vegetation that stretches north and south below the pine belt of the Rocky Mountains. The foothills are accessible along the many roads that enter the mountains and especially so at Lathrop State Park, two miles west of Walsenburg (ponds and pinyon-juniper), the Garden of the Gods north of Colorado Springs, Red Rocks Park west of Denver, the hogbacks around Lyons and Loveland and the Fort Collins vicinity. Lazuli Bunting, Scrub Jay, Virginia's Warbler, White-throated Swift, Golden Eagle (a state-wide species), Canyon Wren, Say's Phoebe and many other species nest in the foothills. In the south, Band-tailed Pigeon and wild Turkey occur in the foothills.

West of the foothills are the massive ranges, basins ("parks") and mesas of western Colorado. Of the larger basins, two are especially noteworthy for nesting waterfowl including most of the ducks of the United States outside Alaska. The San Luis Valley at around 7500 feet elevation has nesting ponds visible along Highway 285 south of Saguache and again along dirt roads in the San Luis Lakes area southeast of Hooper. Snowy Plover, White-faced Ibis and Eared Grebe are reported along with many ducks. Great Sand Dunes National Monument to the east of the San Luis Lakes on the west slope of the Sangre De Cristo Mountains provides an accessible area for such species as Black-chinned Hummingbird, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Sage Sparrow and the slate-headed race (P.i. schistacea) of the Fox Sparrow. North Park in the vicinity west of Walden also has lakes that attract the nesting ducks and adjoining areas of sagebrush contain some Sage Grouse. A small colony of nesting Sandhill Cranes has been reported immediately

west of North Park, across the Continental Divide in the Elk River Basin.

All of Colorado west of the Continental Divide is part of the Colorado River System. Each of the major streams has a valley and a highway. Each valley usually holds a sparse population of numerous species, plus a few species such as Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds in large colonies. In the extreme southwest at Mesa Verde National Park and along the San Juan River system, some Sonoran species occasionally appear such as Lucy's and Grace's Warblers and very rarely, hummingbirds such as Calliope, Rivoli's and possibly, Anna's and White-eared.

Of more interest are the forests above 9000 feet elevation to timberline. These are reached on all the mountain passes and on the higher mesas and on numerous U. S. Forest Service roads (see U. S. Forest Service maps). These forests contain many interesting species, often spread thinly and only in very favorable situations will the populations be diverse and numerous. For the first time visitor, Rocky Mountain National Park makes a good starting point and has a good information center. Another very satisfactory place is located on North Rock Creek on the east slope of the Gore Range. It is reached from State Highway 9, at a point about nine miles north of Dillon. Turn west opposite the Blue River Campground immediately north of the bridge over Rock Creek, on a marked U. S. Forest Service road, generally passable for most autos. After about four miles, cross the marked Gore Range hiking trail. Below to the left are meadows and beaver ponds which can be entered directly above an unused white cabin. In this meadow and the adjoining forest over 70 species have been recorded, almost all of the species to be seen in Colorado at the 9,000-10,000 feet elevation. Other areas of similar elevation of interest are Grand Mesa, east of Grand Junction, and Rabbit Ears Pass, east of Steamboat Springs, which also have some Sharp-tailed Grouse (hard to find). Echo Lake, on the Mt. Evans road, south of Idaho Springs, is also a favorable area.

Alpine areas, above timberline, are the home of Brown-capped Rosy Finch, White-tailed Ptarmigan and Water Pipit. These are reached by good roads in Rocky Mountain National Park, on Mount Evans and Pike's Peak and on Loveland, Hoosier and Independence Passes.

In western and southern Colorado, extensive areas of pinyon-juniper have a thin population of Gray Vireo, Gray Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, and Virginia's and Black-throated Gray Warblers. Larger populations of Plain Titmouse, Pinyon Jay and Common Bushtit occur there, plus Gambel's Quail along brushy ravines and bottoms. Colorado National Monument, west of Grand Junction, the Rifle Gap Reservoir area north of Rifle, Mesa Verde National Park, Black Canyon of the Gunnison and Great Sand Dunes National Monument are accessible places to walk about in the pinyon-juniper.

Big Sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata) occurs in western Colorado along the Utah border in extensive flats. This contains extensive summer populations of Brewer's, Sage and Black-throated Sparrows, Sage Thrasher, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Say's Phoebe along with Sage Grouse in some areas. Highways and roads along and off U. S. Highway 40 and in Dinosaur National Monument west of Craig reach into much sagebrush, where extensive areas are open to the public, and many other good locations exist to the south along the Utah border, including a good small one around Fruita Reservoir at the Fruita entrance to Colorado National Monument.

There are many areas of Colorado for which published reports are not available. However, much additional information is contained in the publications listed below:

Birds of Colorado by Alfred M. Bailey and Robert J. Neidrach, published by the Denver Museum of Natural History in 1965.

Birds in Western Colorado by William A. Davis,
published by the Colorado Field Ornithologists in 1969.

A Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi by
Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Oxford University Press, 1953.

SUMMER BIRD-FINDING IN COLORADO

Donald M. Thatcher
Denver, Colorado

Colorado, whose more than 11,000 feet of relief include five life zones and many habitat types, is fourth of the states in the number of its known species of birds, 450. Only Texas, California and Arizona, with their sea-shore and/or Mexican affinities, have more. New Mexico, however, has a few more breeding species than Colorado's 235. Approximately 85 of the 450 species have been recorded no more than ten times, and about 55 of those only once or twice--many based only on reliable sight records. Because of Colorado's large area of Central Plains, although the state is truly Western, most Eastern species occur here at least as migrants or stragglers. Thus, of the 33 wood warblers generally considered strictly Eastern species, all but four are included in the state list, as are 62 percent of other Eastern land birds and 94 percent of Eastern waders and shorebirds. Likewise, of 13 Western wood warblers, all but four, all of whose ranges are chiefly Mexican, occur in Colorado.

For brevity, this account is confined mainly to those Eastern and Western species which visitors from the West Coast or the East might expect to find here in the summer, and to those Central Plains species of interest to both Easterners and Westerners.

Colorado can be divided, east to west, into four major topographic categories: the eastern plains (approximately 40% of the state's area), the Rocky Mountains of the central and southwest parts of the state (33%), the four large open valleys or "parks" within the mountains (5%), and the western plateaus and canyons (22%). All of these four major divisions vary considerably between north and south. The mountains form the Continental Divide, which runs irregularly north-south from Wyoming to New Mexico. The areas on either side of the Divide are known as the Eastern and Western Slopes. At corresponding elevations the plant associations and their assemblages of bird species are essentially similar for both the Eastern Slope foothills and the Western Slope canyons and mesas. The mesas are all lower than approximately 8,500 feet, with the exception of the large, central Grand Mesa, which reaches 10,500 feet.

The plains, which lie between 3,385 feet (Colorado's lowest elevation and (mostly) 6,000 feet, are mainly semi-desert grassland, with wooded stream bottoms, many ponds, marshes and reservoirs, and occasional canyons and bluffs. A small part, at the divide between the South Platte and the Arkansas River drainages, the "Black Forest" area, reaches 7,500 feet and is forested much like the mountain foothills. Birds to be looked for in the grasslands include: Ferruginous and Swainson's Hawks, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Mountain Plover, Upland Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Burrowing Owl, White-necked Raven (south), Western Meadowlark, Lark Bunting and Lark Sparrow and, in brushy places, Cassin's and Brewer's Sparrows. McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs nest near the Wyoming line, their territories sometimes overlapping, and the Dickcissel occurs locally and very irregularly near the foothills. The Greater Prairie Chicken north-east, the Lesser southeast, and the Sharp-tailed Grouse in the central-western, higher part might be found in small numbers.

The many species attracted by the stream-bottoms, generally wooded with cottonwoods and with willows or box-elder and other undergrowth, include: Bobwhite, Red-shafted Flicker, Yellow-shafted Flicker (occasional, east), frequent "intergrade" (or hybrid) flickers, Red-headed Woodpecker, Lewis' Woodpecker (western edge), Eastern and Western Kingbirds, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Bell's Vireo (east) American Redstart (near foothills), Orchard (northeast) and Bullock's Orioles, Black-headed and Blue Grosbeaks, and Lazuli Bunting. Among the many species attracted to the marshes and ponds are the Western and Eared Grebes (north), Cinnamon Teal, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. The White Pelican and the California Gull might be looked for at some of the northern reservoirs. Several species frequent towns and the vicinity of farms and ranch buildings on the plains, including: Chimney Swift (at Boulder, Fort Collins and Denver), Eastern and Western Kingbirds, Say's Phoebe, Western Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Red-eyed Vireo, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, and House Finch. The Franklin's Gull appears in flocks in early July as a fall migrant, feeding in cultivated fields and in the air throughout the plains.

The four large, open valleys within the mountains, previously mentioned, are known, north to south, as the North, Middle and South Parks and the San Luis Valley. All are much higher than the eastern grasslands and at different average elevations, and so differ both from the plains and from each other. The "Valley" largest of the four, is lowest (7,500 to 8,000 feet), but is 1,500 to 2,000 feet higher than the plains grasslands, while South Park is the highest (8,500 to 10,000 feet). The three "Parks" and the upper part of the "Valley" are wetter than the plains, thus having more meadow, while the lower part of the "Valley" is drier and alkaline. Nesting birds are much the same as those of the eastern grasslands, but practically no eastern migrants occur there. The meadows attract such birds as Bobolink (rarely) and Savannah Sparrow. Numerous lakes and ponds provide homes for the Cinnamon Teal and many other ducks, Wilson's Phalarope,

Avocet (especially the alkaline lakes of the "Valley") and the Yellow-headed Blackbird. The White-faced Ibis breeds in Colorado only in the San Luis Valley; the Mountain Plover in the "Valley" and North and South Parks; and the Sandhill Crane has been reported breeding in North Park. The Brewer's Blackbird and the Black-billed Magpie are abundant.

Between the plains grasslands of the northern half of the state and the pine forest of the mountain foothills, and extending into both, is a band of scrub or chaparral, mostly scrub-oak south of Denver and other shrubby species such as thornapple, sumacs and mountain mahogany northward. In the drier scrub can be found Cassin's Kingbird (uncommon), Scrub Jay (mainly in oak), Black-billed Magpie, Virginia's Warbler, Lazuli Bunting and the western, "Spotted" subspecies of the Rufous-sided Towhee. The less dry areas, as along streams, attract the Black-capped Chickadee, Catbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lesser Goldfinch and Green-tailed Towhee and, in extensions into the mountains, MacGillivray's Warbler and occasionally the Veery.

Generally at elevations from approximately 5,500 to 7,000 feet, between the grasslands and the foothills pines throughout the southern half of the mountains and all the Western Slope canyonlands, the deciduous chaparral or scrub is largely replaced by the pinyon-juniper "pygmy" forest. This association rims the San Luis Valley at approximately 7,800 to 8,000 feet, but does not occur in the three higher "parks". Several bird species are quite partial to the pinyon-juniper: Scaled Quail, Gambel's Quail (west), Black-chinned Hummingbird (south), Ash-throated and Gray Flycatchers, Pinyon Jay, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (also in scrub oak and sage-brush), Gray Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Brown Towhee (south). Less partial species to be found here include: Poor-will, Cassin's Kingbird, Say's Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee, Western Bluebird, Western Tanager and Chipping Sparrow. The juniper is more widely distributed northward, in sparse stands on

dry slopes, than its pinyon pine associate, but lacks most of the birds of the mixed association, except the Poor-will and the Scrub Jay.

Next above the pinyon-juniper and the deciduous scrub is the ponderosa pine belt of the foothills and the mesas, lying generally between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. In its lower parts the ponderosa mixes with the adjoining pinyon-juniper, scrub oak, or other scrub, and in stream bottoms with blue spruce. Above about 8,000 feet it mixes with Douglas fir or lodgepole pine (the latter generally in pure stands). The ponderosa pine, too, has its complement of birds partial to it, especially Williamson's Sapsucker, Pygmy Nuthatch (the most numerous species), Solitary Vireo, Ovenbird (rare, along eastern edge, with oak), and several less restricted species, as Blue Grouse, Band-tailed Pigeon (especially in lodgepole pine), Flammulated Owl (rare), Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Dusky and Western Flycatchers, Western Wood Pewee, Violet-green Swallow, Tree Swallow (in wetter places), Brown Creeper, Western Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Audubon's Warbler, Western Tanager, Cassin's Finch, Green-tailed Towhee, Gray-headed Junco and Chipping Sparrow.

At elevations of 8,000 to nearly 11,000 feet is the "montane" forest, mostly of Engelmann spruce, usually with alpine fir or corkbark fir in mixture, and limber pine or bristlecone pine near timberline. Several bird species prefer this habitat: Pygmy Owl, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker (especially Western Slope), Hammond's and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, and Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes. The less confined Blue Grouse, Mountain Chickadee, Townsend's Solitaire, Audubon's Warbler and Gray-headed Junco are common here. The Pine Grosbeak nests near timberline at 11,000 to 11,500 feet.

Throughout the coniferous forest, mostly above the foothills pine and extending nearly to timberline, are many stands of trembling aspen, whose light green or brilliant autumn yellow contrast strikingly with the dark

green of the evergreens. The (Red-naped) Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and the Warbling Vireo are partial to the aspen habitat, and the Black-capped Chickadee and Western Wood Pewee are frequent here.

Marshes with patches of shrubby willows are numerous throughout some sections of the mountains, as openings around lakes and beaver ponds and in most valleys. Here can be found, especially near timberline, the Spotted Sandpiper, Wilson's and (rarely) Orange-crowned Warblers, and Lincoln's and White-crowned Sparrows. Lower down, willow-grown streamsides and beaver ponds are habitat for Yellow Warbler, Song and Fox (rare) Sparrows and Dusky and Traill's Flycatchers.

Above timberline, three species are confined to the alpine tundra, which on 54 peaks reaches altitudes above 14,000 feet: White-tailed Ptarmigan, Water Pipit and, generally in steep, rocky places, the Brown-capped Rosy Finch. The Horned Lark, where grass is shortest, and the Common Raven, around cliffs or soaring overhead are frequent here.

Mostly in the western mesa-canyon country and in the larger valleys of the northern half of the mountains, between 6,000 and 8,000 feet, are many patches or stands of sage-brush or black sage. The sage occurs in large, open areas or in the pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine forests. Here are found, especially in the larger, open sagebrush flats, Sage Grouse, Sage Thrasher, and Sage Sparrow, and the less confined Burrowing Owl, Say's Phoebe and Lark and Black-throated Sparrows.

A few birds require special habitats with little or no regard to vegetation or, in some cases, to elevation. Steep canyons below 9,000 feet provide homes yearlong for the Canyon Wren. The Black Swift nests, generally at higher elevations, under or close to small waterfalls in several such canyons. The White-throated Swift and the less restricted Violet-green Swallow use cliff cavities for nest sites and the Dipper nests close

to swift-running water, all three from the lower foothills nearly to timberline. The Rock Wren lives in steep, rocky situations anywhere from well out on the plains to somewhat above timberline. The Golden Eagle might be found not only on the plains but also almost anywhere in the higher country.

A few other species of interest here occur at the limits of their ranges in Colorado but might better be sought in adjacent states. These include: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting (interbreeds with Lazuli Bunting) east; Ladder-backed Woodpecker and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, south-east; and Grace's Warbler and Rivoli's Hummingbird, southwest.

BIRD CLUBS IN COLORADO

David W. Lupton
Fort Collins, Colorado

As far as I can ascertain, the first bird club in Colorado was the Audubon Society of Colorado Springs, organized in March 1896 by Mrs. Franc Ogilvy-Hood. At that time the club numbered nearly one hundred members! Unfortunately, the date this society ceased to function has not been found. (Cited in Aikorns, Vol. 8, No. 3; February 1967; p. 5-6).

Early in 1903 a state Audubon Society was established in Colorado with Mrs. Martha A. Shute, Denver, the Secretary of the organization. (Cited in Bird-Lore; Vol. 5, No. 2; March-April 1903; p. 70).

On March 8, 1913, at a meeting at the Public Library in Denver, the Colorado Audubon Society was organized with Mr. Edward R. Warren of Colorado Springs elected President. At this time the Society numbered 51 members.

In the spring of 1914 the Colorado Audubon Society published its first (and only?) leaflet--Leaflet No. 1--titled "Birds of Prey". The Society held monthly meetings and flourished at least through the year 1919, but the date it disbanded is not known. (Cited in "Annual Report of the National Association of Audubon Societies for 1913-1919"; Bird-Lore; Vol. 15, No. 6 - Vol. 21, No. 6; Nov./Dec. 1913 - Nov./Dec. 1919).

In 1916 the Cheyenne Bird Club was organized in Ivywild, south of Colorado Springs, under the leadership of Mr. Lloyd L. Shaw. It is reported that a similar organization was formed in Estes Park, however, further information about either club is not known to me. (Cited in "Annual Report of the National Association of Audubon Societies for 1916"; Bird-Lore; Vol. 18, No. 6; Nov./Dec. 1916).

At the present time the bird clubs in Colorado are represented by one state organization--The Colorado Field Ornithologists--and nine local organizations. Six of these organizations publish a newsletter or bulletin as a means of communication among their members. One club, the Denver Audubon Society, is a chapter of the National Audubon Society and three clubs--Aiken Ornithological Society, Denver Field Ornithologists, and Pueblo Audubon Club--are affiliates of the National Audubon Society.

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Founded: 1st Annual Convention held May 25 and 26, 1963 in Denver.

Members: Approximately 77

Publications: Colorado Field Ornithologist. No. 1 - Winter 1967 -
Colorado Field Ornithologists Monograph Series. (No. 1) (unnumbered) - 1969 -

Officers: Lynn Willcockson, President

For further information contact:

Mrs. Robbie Elliott, Executive Secretary
220 - 31st Street
Boulder, Colorado 80303

AIKEN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
(Colorado Springs)

Founded: March 1950
Members: Approximately 100
Publication: Aikorns. Vol. 1, No. 1 - April 1960 -
Officers: Donald W. Galvin, President
For further information contact:
Helen B. Thurlow, Editor
1113 Wood Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

BOULDER BIRD CLUB

Founded: January 1948
Members: Approximately 62
Officers: Mrs. Robbie Elliott, President
For further information contact:
Miss Louise Hering, Trip Chairman
568 Marine Street
Boulder, Colorado 80302

DENVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Founded: October 1968
Members: Approximately 420
Publication: Denver Audubon Society Newsletter.
Vol. 1, No. 1 - Jan./Feb. 1969 -

Officers: Rodman L. Tidrick, President
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park, Denver, Colorado 80205

BIRD CLUBS--Lupton

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Founded: February 1964 as the Denver Field Ornithologists. Formerly called the Colorado Bird Club from 1935 to February 1964.

Members: Approximately 160

Publication: Monthly Report of Field Observations of the Denver Field Ornithologists.
Vol. 1, No. 1 - September 1965 -
Formerly published Colorado Bird Notes;
Vol. 1, No. 1 - Vol. 13, No. 4;
October 1953 - May 1967, and the
Colorado Bird Club [Yearbook], 1939 -
1952/53.

Officers: Mrs. Patty Echelmeyer, President
For further information contact:
George R. Shier, Treasurer
Route #1, Box 821
Golden, Colorado 80401

DURANGO BIRD CLUB

Founded: February 1968

Members: Approximately 13

Officers: Thomas Frizell, President
For further information contact:
Mrs. Oppie Reames
101 West 31 Street
Durango, Colorado 81301

FORT COLLINS BIRD CLUB

Founded: December 1962

Members: Approximately 35

Publication: Ptarmigan. Vol. 1, No. 1 - January 1970 -

Officers: Phillip D. Creighton, President
For further information contact:
Dr. Ronald A. Ryder, Vice President
Dept. of Fishery and Wildlife Biology
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

LONGMONT BIRD CLUB

Founded: September 1958
Members: Approximately 28
Officers: Gilbert Whitney, President
For further information contact:
Mrs. Allegra Collister
706 Hover Street
Longmont, Colorado 80501

OTERO ORNITHOLOGY CLUB

Founded: Fall 1968
Members: Approximately 50
Officers: Prof. William C. Andersen
Ornithology Research Center
Otero Junior College
LaJunta, Colorado 81050

PUEBLO AUDUBON CLUB

Founded: June 1968
Members: Approximately 37
Publication: Pueblo Audubon Club Newsletter.
Vol. 1, No. 1 - June 1968 -
Officers: Dr. Jack A. Seilheimer, President
For further information contact:
Dave Griffiths
17 Solar Drive
Pueblo, Colorado 81005

THE FOUNDERS OF COLORADO ORNITHOLOGY

Thompson G. Marsh
Denver, Colorado

One need not be an historian to write about the founders of Colorado ornithology. They are in their office at the Denver Museum of Natural History: Alfred M. Bailey and Robert J. Neidrach. Their magnificent two volume work, "Birds of Colorado" (1965) includes Colorado records beginning with the Blue Grouse that Dominguez and Escalante ate in the San Juans on August 26, 1776. Their own observations cover more than a quarter of that span of two centuries, and they have published during that period more than 60 papers on Colorado birds.

The Denver Museum of Natural History, under the direction of Dr. Bailey from 1936 to 1970 has made available to students its fine scientific collection of bird skins, and has by its remarkable dioramas brought the principles of ecology to the attention of literally millions of visitors to the museum.

Robert Niedrach came to the museum in 1913. Thirty-one years ago he and Robert Rockwell published "The Birds of Denver and Mountain Parks." It was the first Colorado bird book to be extensively illustrated, and many of its excellent photographs have never been surpassed. In 1935 Niedrach organized the Colorado Bird Club, now known as the Denver Field Ornithologists, which has done more than any other organization to promote amateur bird study in the state.

While Bailey and Niedrach are the founders of Colorado ornithology in the sense that it is they who have established the science, there have of course been many other writers and collectors. Of all the other writers, the most prolific was Dr. William Henry Bergtold of Denver, who between 1904 and 1935 produced some 80 publications, including an annotated list of the birds of Denver and a "Guide to the Birds of Colorado" (1928).

The most important of the early writers was William L. Sclater, who in 1912, while Director of the Colorado College Museum, published a 576 page book entitled "A History of the Birds of Colorado." It was the first Colorado book to contain descriptions of the birds, and the keys of the orders, families, genera and species. Although it was based upon a study of museum specimens, they are often valuable aids to field identification. The Colorado specimens which he used were those which had been collected by Charles E. H. Aiken over a period of 35 years and which had been presented to the museum of Colorado College by General William J. Palmer, Sclater's brother-in-law. With the thoroughness of a true scholar Sclater, M. A. (Oxn.) presented for each of his 392 species and sub-species a complete list of all published records of Colorado birds, a precedent which was followed with the same thoroughness in Bailey and Niedrach's "Birds of Colorado" (1965). This material is dull reading but it does provide invaluable leads for the serious researcher.

In his introduction Sclater says that "the only complete work on Colorado birds is that of Cooke, which ...is now out of print and very difficult to obtain." Wells Woodbridge Cooke was on the faculty of what is now Colorado State University, and was the author of a variety of articles and notes in the Auk and the Condor. His book, "The Birds of Colorado," 144 pages, was published in 1897. Thereafter Cooke, while with the United States Biological Survey, became one of the recognized authorities on bird migration.

Early writing on Colorado ornithology was based upon museum specimens and much of the essential work of collecting specimens was done by men who did little writing. It has already been mentioned that Sclater's book was based largely upon a study of Aiken's specimens. Of him it is said by Bailey and Niedrach that "He supplied information to Allen and Ridgway, but published comparatively little, although his dates extended over a longer period than those of any other Colorado ornithologist--from 1872 to the last paper, printed posthumously, in 1941."

Another important collector was Edwin Carter, who published nothing, but the specimens which he secured in South Park and Middle Park from 1874 to 1896 and mounted for display in his log cabin museum at Breckenridge were the nucleus of the collection of the Denver Museum of Natural History, which also contains many of the birds collected by Horace G. Smith near Denver and on the plains from 1884 to 1910.

A complete list of those who have contributed to Colorado ornithology would require a minute study of those dull records which have been published by Sclater and Bailey and Niedrach. Among them would be found the names of Thomas Say, Spencer F. Baird, Charles E. Bendire, Arthur Cleveland Bent, T. M. Brewer, William Bewster, Elliott Coues, Henry W. Henshaw, Frederick C. Lincoln, Robert Ridgway, Harry C. Oberholser, and Alexander Wetmore. With such observers it is small wonder that Colorado has the fourth largest state list of species.

COLORADO TYPE BIRD LOCALITIES;

species and subspecies first named and described as new to science and taken within the state of Colorado

Harold R. Holt
Denver, Colorado

A total of 24 new forms (10 full species, 14 subspecies) have the state of Colorado as their type localities. Listed in A.O.U. Check-list order they are as follows:

BLUE GROUSE (297) - Dendragapus obscurus obscurus (Say) - 1823.

This species was the first bird to be recorded from Colorado, observed August 26, 1776 by Francisco Antanasio Dominguez and Sylvestre Valez de Escalante, two Franciscan friars, who with their companions, were trying to

discover a route from Santa Fe to the new colonies in California. When in the area between the San Miguel and Uncompahgre Rivers in southwestern Colorado, they noted this bird in their journal. It was first described for science by Thomas Say, a trained zoologist and who was a member of the Long expedition of 1818-1820 traveling up the South Platte River and along the foothills to the site of present-day Denver. The type specimen was collected near Defile Creek about 20 miles north of Colorado Springs.

WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN (304c) - Lagopus leucurus altipetens Osgood - 1901.

The type specimen was taken by C. E. Aiken September 3, 1874 on Mt. Sneffels in Ouray County in southwestern Colorado. Slightly larger than L. l. leucurus and in the fall transitional plumage is a more pronounced brown.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE (308e) - Pedioecetes phasianellus jamesi Lincoln - 1917.

This subspecies (named for Denver Museum Trustee Harry C. James) has its type locality listed as three miles west of Castle Rock. Larger and more brown than P. p. columbianus.

BOBWHITE (289d) - Colinus virginianus taylori Lincoln - 1915.

This subspecies has its type locality listed as Laird, Yuma County, in northeastern Colorado. It is paler than C. v. virginianus.

GAMBEL'S QUAIL (295a) - Lophortyx gambelii sanus Mearns - 1914.

The type specimen was collected at Olathe, Montrose County in west-central Colorado on December 20, 1912. Upper parts more gray, and breast more buffy than L. g. gambelii.

WILLET (258a) - Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus (Brewster) - 1887.

On May 5, 1885 a type female and male were collected in Larimer County, north-central Colorado. Somewhat larger and paler than C. s. semipalmatus.

TYPE BIRD LOCALITIES--Holt

BAND-TAILED PIGEON (312) - Columba fasciata fasciata
Say - 1823.

Type specimen taken by Major Long's expedition July 9, 1820 along Plum Creek near Castle Rock, Douglas County, central Colorado, 25 miles south of Denver.

SCREECH OWL (373g) - Otus asio aikeni (Brewster) - 1891.

Type specimen, a female, was secured by C. E. Aiken in El Paso County, Colorado Springs, May 29, 1872. Similar to O. a. naevius but much grayer, and with the upper and under parts bearing more black markings. In Colorado more southern in distribution.

SCREECH OWL (373e) - Otus asio maxwelliae (Ridgway) - 1877.

This race was named for Mrs. M. A. Maxwell, pioneer collector of Colorado birds. Its type locality is listed as Boulder County. Similar to O. a. naevius, but pale grayish above with pale brownish cast, and paler below. This owl is the lightest colored of the genus. In Colorado more northerly in distribution.

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (425a) - Aeronautes saxatalis sclateri Rogers - 1939.

Type locality, Loveland, Larimer County, north-central Colorado. This subspecies was described on the basis of being slightly larger than A. s. saxatalis, especially in wing length.

HAIRY WOODPECKER (393e) - Dendrocopos villosus monticola (Anthony) - 1898.

Type locality listed as Boulder County. Similar to D. v. villosus, but with the wing coverts lacking the white markings.

WESTERN KINGBIRD (447) - Tyrannus verticalis Say - 1823.

Type specimen taken July 20, 1820 near La Junta, Otero County, southeastern Colorado by Edwin James and Thomas Say, members of Major Long's expedition.

SAY'S PHOEBE (457) - Sayornis saya saya (Bonaparte) - 1825.

Type specimen collected and described by C. L. Bonaparte along the Arkansas River about 15 miles east of Pueblo, Colorado prior to 1825.

ROCK WREN (715) - Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus (Say) - 1823.

Described by Thomas Say of Major Long's expedition with its type locality in Douglas County near the junction of Plum Creek and the South Platte River, 10 miles south of Denver.

VEERY (756a) - Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola Ridgway - 1882.

Type specimen taken at Fort Garland, Costilla County, south-central Colorado on May 26, 1872 by Robert Ridgway. Similar to H. f. fuscescens, but with the upper parts decidedly olivaceous.

WATER PIPIT (697b) - Anthus spinoletta alticola Todd - 1935.

This Rocky Mountain subspecies has as its type locality Estes Park, Larimer County, north-central Colorado. Differs from A. s. rubescens in being lighter above and richer colored below with the streaking of the underparts reduced to a minimum, often being almost immaculate buff.

AUDUBON'S WARBLER (656a) - Dendroica auduboni memorabilis Oberholser - 1921.

Type locality listed as Ward, Boulder County, central Colorado. Similar to D. a. auduboni, but larger and darker.

LAZULI BUNTING (599) - Passerina amoena (Say) - 1823.

Type specimen collected, and later described by Thomas Say on July 18, 1820 along the Arkansas River near Canyon City, Fremont County, south-central Colorado.

HOUSE FINCH (519) - Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis (Say) - 1823.

Collected by Thomas Say near Colorado Springs, El Paso County, July 12, 1820. Although this bird was not new to science, having been described from Mexico as early as 1776, this is the first description for this form in North America.

BLACK ROSY FINCH (525) - Leucosticte atrata Ridgway - 1874.

Type specimen collected by Charles E. Aiken at Canyon City in Fremont County, April 18, 1874, and described by Ridgway in the same year.

TYPE BIRD LOCALITIES--Holt

BROWN-CAPPED ROSY FINCH (526) - Leucosticte australis
Ridgway - 1873.

Described from a specimen taken near Climax on Mt.
Lincoln, Park County, central Colorado in 1873.

LESSER GOLDFINCH (530) - Spinus psaltria psaltria
(Say) - 1823.

First recorded, and later described, by Thomas Say
on July 12, 1820 near Colorado Springs, El Paso County.

BROWN TOWHEE (591i) - Pipilo fuscus mesatus
Oberholser - 1937.

This subspecies was described from its type locality
in the northwestern corner of Baca County in southeastern
Colorado. Restricted in range to southeastern Colorado,
northeastern New Mexico and extreme northwestern Oklahoma.

WHITE-WINGED JUNCO (566) - Junco aikenii Ridgway - 1873.

First described for science from a specimen taken by
C. E. Aiken, a veteran Colorado collector, December 11,
1871 from near Fountain, El Paso County, Colorado.

SURVEY OF COLLECTIONS OF BIRDS IN COLORADO

Donald W. Janes
Assistant Dean
Southern Colorado State College
Pueblo, Colorado

There appears to be no previously published survey of collections of birds in Colorado. There are only a few published references to collections, and these have no information about the collection. This paper summarizes basic information about 12 collections of birds, eggs and nests in Colorado.

Data for this report were obtained from information provided on survey forms sent to state and federal agencies, schools, colleges, and individuals in Colorado. The survey forms were developed by the American Ornithologists' Union and were kindly provided by Mr. Richard C. Banks, who is a member of an AOU committee which is conducting a North American Survey of Bird Collections. The survey forms have 15 questions, many of them with several parts. The survey form divides respondents into three categories, depending on the number of specimens in their collections. The discussion which follows is based on collections in three size categories.

Of 42 survey forms mailed out, 37 (or 88%) were returned. Of these, 25 respondents reported that they had either no collection, or had fewer than 25 (all local) specimens. These 25 respondents represented one metropolitan museum, one prep school, four junior colleges, five colleges, one national wildlife refuge, one national monument, one national park, the state game, fish, and parks division, and 10 national forest headquarters. It is likely that most of these institutions and agencies have a few specimens which are used for instruction or reference only.

Seven respondents reported that they had between 26 and 200 specimens, primarily local species. The University of Denver regarded their collection as "completely useless." Rocky Mountain National Park reported their collection was used for reference primarily and was supplemented by about 150 photographs used by ranger-naturalists for interpreta-

tive talks. Southern Colorado State College and Fort Lewis College use their collections for teaching purposes. The Canon City Municipal Museum use their collection primarily for exhibition purposes. Two persons reported private collections. Mr. Dave Griffiths, 17 Solar Drive, Pueblo, has a fine collection of mounted birds (primarily water fowl and birds of prey) supported by excellent records of his collection and all species; his collection is used for teaching and reference. Mr. William C. Andersen, 105 W. 22nd, La Junta, has a collection of nests and eggs and maintains superb nesting records for all species. Mr. Andersen's collection is used primarily for teaching.

Five institutions reported having 200 or more specimens. The institutions, and person now in charge of the collections are (1) Dr. Veryl F. Keen, Coordinator of Biology, Adams State College, Alamosa, 81101; (2) Dr. Ronald A. Ryder, Professor of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, 80521; (3) Dr. Paul H. Baldwin, Professor of Zoology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, 80521; (4) Dr. Richard J. Niedrach, Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, 80205; (5) Dr. William H. Burt, University of Colorado Museum, Boulder, 80302. Data for these five collections are summarized in Table I.

Summary

Of 37 respondents in a mailed survey of collections of birds in Colorado, 25 reported having no collections, or fewer than 25 specimens. Seven respondents reported having between 26 and 200 specimens, and five reported having over 200 specimens. Data on the five larger collections are summarized in tabular form.

TABLE I
SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO COLORADO SURVEY OF BIRD COLLECTIONS
INSTITUTIONS WITH MORE THAN 200 SPECIMENS

	Adams State College	Colorado State Univ. (FWB*)	Colorado State Univ. (Zoology)	Denver Museum of Nat. History	Univ. of Colorado Museum
Number of specimens					
Study Skins	288	450	2,700	35,000	5,300
Mounted Birds	28	25	570	2,000	200
Skeletons	2	10	100	0	50
Egg Sets	603	30	200	2,000	250
Nests	10	0	10	0	75
Preserved in Fluid	4	0	200	0	0
Geographic areas best represented in collection (in addition to Colorado)	New Mexico Florida	Rocky Mts.		Alaska	
Systematic groups best represented in collection	Passerines	Anseriformes Galliformes Columbiformes	Passerines	Seabirds, Water Fowl	Passerines
Number of known-age specimens	0	50	200	0	0
Original field notes preserved with specimens	Some	Some	Some	Journals of A.M. Bailey	Some
Organization of card files maintained	Systematic	Systematic	Systematic, accession	Geographic	
Collection includes previous private collections (name of collector)	D. Ivey, J.H. Brandt		Osterhout, Longwell		Aiken
Collection supported by:					
Organized nest records scheme	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Banding program	No	Yes	No	No	No
Original photographs	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Recordings	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Use of collection					
Teaching		X	X		
Reference	X		X		X
Exhibition			X	X	X
Research	X	X	X	X	X

*Dept. of Fishery and Wildlife Biology

RESEARCH THROUGH BIRD BANDING IN COLORADO

Allegra Collister
Longmont, Colorado

Use of bird banding as a research tool has come of age in Colorado. A survey of the State's 35 licensed banders reveals a host of fascinating projects--completed, underway, or planned for the future.

As might be expected, work done under government auspices is of wide scope, and projects such as waterfowl banding have received a fair amount of publicity. Colorado's Division of Game, Fish and Parks and the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife have made substantial use of banding.

Research personnel of the Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Division under Game Research Chief Jack R. Grieb, have extensively utilized banding to study the biology of several species of birds.

Canada Geese have been trapped and banded to investigate age ratios, migration routes, mortality rates, and hunting pressure. In addition to the migrant flocks of geese in the Arkansas Valley near Lamar and near Fort Collins, the state has two sizeable populations of breeding Canada Geese. One is on the Yampa, Green, and Little Snake Rivers of northwestern Colorado; the other is in the north-central part of the state in Larimer, Boulder, and Weld Counties.

Intensive banding of ducks in Colorado has resulted in improved management of this resource through: (1) movement of the Pacific Flyway boundary eastward to the Continental Divide, and (2) granting of special seasons and regulations in certain areas.

In addition to waterfowl, Colorado Game, Fish and Parks has promoted studies of several species of upland game birds, including Turkey, White-tailed Ptarmigan, and

Sage Grouse. Cooperative studies with Colorado State University have resulted in over 1,000 White-tailed Ptarmigan and over 400 Sage Grouse being banded since 1965. Information accumulated through these banding efforts concerned breeding densities, nesting success and production, seasonal movements, habitat requirements, and harvest rates.

Cooperative studies between the Colorado Division of Game, Fish and Parks and the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife have resulted in over 5,000 Mourning Doves and 1,600 Band-tailed Pigeons being banded in recent years. Doves were banded to gain information on migration, wintering and nesting areas, mortality and longevity, and to investigate the method of determining age of young-of-the-year by primary feather molt. Primary objectives of the Band-tailed Pigeon study are to investigate the distribution, abundance, mortality rates, and breeding phenology of this species in Colorado.

Major efforts of the U. S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife Research Center at Denver since 1962 have been toward control studies of depredating populations of Starlings and several species of blackbirds. Impressive numbers of these birds have been banded, with totals in Colorado through 1969 as follows: 25,050 Starlings; 35,331 Red-winged Blackbirds; 1,274 Yellow-headed Blackbirds; 860 Common Grackles; 495 Brown-headed Cowbirds; and 97 Brewer's Blackbirds. From banding and marking with colored leg streamers, valuable data have been acquired on local movements and migration. Analysis is expected to provide answers to damage control problems.

In addition, a new banding project was initiated in June 1969: nestling blackbird banding on the Western Slope. From this effort it is hoped to learn something about migration paths and wintering areas of blackbirds which are raised west of the Continental Divide.

Personnel of Colorado's three national wildlife refuges have cooperated in the banding programs of the Colorado Division of Game, Fish and Parks and of the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, with highly

successful results. Manager C. Carrol Donner of Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge (Walden) assisted with duck banding and with the nestling blackbird banding project. At Brown's Park National Wildlife Refuge (Greystone) Robert L. Pearson plans to continue his Canada Goose banding program.

Veteran manager Charles R. (Pete) Bryant, Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge (Monte Vista) reports that recoveries of banded ducks have been widespread. Mallards have been recovered in Mexico, Canada, and from 23 states. Banded Pintails have been taken in Russia, Mexico, Canada, and in 16 states. Banded teal have been found in Panama and Costa Rica.

Formal and informal studies by Colorado's individual banders have contributed much information of value, and present some interesting surprises. Somewhat arbitrarily, these banders have been divided into two groups: those who make use of banding in their profession, or in studies toward a degree; and those who band for love of avian wildlife, and the opportunity to learn more by capturing and examining birds in hand. Even those who regard banding as a hobby are often able to make significant contributions to ornithological knowledge.

Under the supervision of William C. Andersen of Otero Junior College (La Junta) that area's "most qualified amateur ornithologist", high school junior Babette Cranson, is attempting to determine through banding the breeding territory of the White-necked Raven in Colorado. In addition, this study will try to identify the factors that restrict this species to its territory, and will endeavor to document migration routes and destinations of birds from the La Junta area. Additional studies involving banding at Otero Junior College concern the effect on raptors of possible development in that region of a primary landing site for jumbo jets and projected SST's. Foreseeing a population shift of hawks and owls, Mr. Andersen and his students have initiated nestling banding and statistical studies of several species.

One of Colorado's better known ornithologists, Dr. Paul H. Baldwin, Professor of Zoology, Colorado State University (Fort Collins) is working with Graduate Student Phillip D. Creighton on bird banding at Central Plains Experimental Range on the Pawnee National Grasslands of northern Colorado. This is part of a project in the International Biological Program investigating the grasslands of North America. Dr. Baldwin states "The particular objective is to determine the foods eaten by such seed and insect eating birds as the Lark Bunting and associated passerine birds. This will reveal the role of these birds in passing along energy and materials through the many connections in the food web of our high plains grassland ecosystem."

Dr. James Enderson, Colorado College (Colorado Springs) has been studying the effects of pesticides DDT and dieldrin on Prairie Falcons in Colorado and Wyoming, and has banded over 100 of these raptors. This investigation has indicated that Prairie Falcons are suffering from the same difficulties that Peregrines are succumbing to, i.e., thin-shelled eggs and lowered production of young.

Banding and marking studies under the direction of Dr. Ronald A. Ryder, Colorado State University, have contributed greatly to knowledge of birds in Colorado. Dr. Clait E. Braun's intensive study of the White-tailed Ptarmigan was done under his supervision. Currently, several students are utilizing banding in their graduate studies. One of these, Carl Marti, has concentrated on banding the four species of owls (Great-Horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, Barn Owl, and Burrowing Owl) on which he is doing feeding ecology studies. Other students are studying raptors, Loggerhead Shrikes and Horned Larks on the Central Plains Experimental Range under the auspices of the International Biological Program. One of Dr. Ryder's students, Gary Robinson banded 344 Snowy Egret and 287 Black-crowned Night Heron nestlings in one season (1969) in the productive San Luis Valley. Banding

information and coincidental observations were used by Robinson to co-author a revised checklist of birds of Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge with Miss Christine Enright.

Dr. Ryder is one of the state's leading individual bird banders and is currently President of the Western Bird Banding Association. Since 1950, Dr. Ryder has banded thousands of birds of 173 species, including such rarities and unusual numbers as 377 White Pelicans, 517 Snowy Egrets, 28 White-faced Ibis, 28 Golden Eagles, 119 hummingbirds of four species, 373 Bohemian Waxwings, one Bell's Vireo and two Brown Towhees.

Though raptors are the first love of Dr. Robert M. Stabler of Colorado College (Colorado Springs), he has banded many small passerines in addition to an impressive number of Prairie Falcons and Sparrow Hawks. Of interest is a Scrub Jay, banded 24 January 1962 by Dr. Stabler, that returned on 15 September 1966 and was back at the trap on 5 December 1969, "still going strong." Dr. Stabler and students have contributed significantly to knowledge of the blood protozoa of Colorado birds.

Sylvia Brockner (Evergreen) has begun a study of Dippers near her mountain home. This study has indicated that loss of young through flooding may be serious in some years. While banding of this species has not been productive, Mrs. Brockner plans to continue her study.

Lawrence D. Crowley of Boulder has been banding raptors for many years and has banded two Golden Eagles, 75 Prairie Falcons, and 50 Sparrow Hawks. Inactive at present, Mr. Crowley may renew his banding efforts in order to help increase knowledge on raptor populations.

Dr. Dale Hein's current banding activity at Colorado State University is generally restricted to Mourning Doves. Since the project is less than a year old, he has no return data as yet. He is hopeful that such data indicating survival rates can be correlated with conditions relative to

nesting development. He believes that season, time in the nest, feeding regime, and other factors may affect subsequent survival.

A comparative study of peck order in Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees was the first undertaking of John and Eleanor Hough (Boulder). This 1946 project, and a later attempt to trace altitudinal movements of Gray-headed Juncos, involved what may have been the first use of color bands in the state. Color banding of Steller's Jays, in a nesting dispersal study, was phased out due to fading of bands, making positive identification impossible.

Residence in an exciting birding area has given Mary Pepper Loudner (Hesperus) the incentive to step up her banding activities. Banding of 150 Black-headed Grosbeaks in one year (1969) would encourage any bander to make intensive studies of this interesting species.

Curiosity as to what species of birds passed through his small home site prompted Johnson Neff (Englewood) to start his personal banding program. Neff has banded approximately 4,000 House Finches during the 1961-1969 period and has assembled a mass of yet unanalyzed recovery data. The first finch he banded in 1961 must have set some kind of record, as it has returned once or more each season for eight years.

Banding efforts of Timothy and Eunice Ross (La Jara) have been concentrated on Barn Swallows, as reported in Western Bird Bander (Vol. 44, No. 4; Sept. 1969; p. 43), a study they plan to continue. They have also banded a good variety of other passerines, among them Blue Grosbeaks and Cassin's Sparrows.

Apparent removal of bands by House Finches influenced Mildred Snyder (Aurora) to begin color marking her birds. Results of this project should prove informative. With former banders Berene Sullivan (Boulder) and Robert Wright (Denver Museum of Natural History), Mrs. Snyder and I participated in Operation Recovery in the Rocky Mountain region. Over a 12-year period this intensive

fall banding study involved many thousands of birds and yielded much information on influence of weather on migration, composition of migrating flocks, and variations in numbers from year to year, as well as pertinent data on individual birds.

Continuing projects of Thelma Stevenson (Fort Collins) are (1) a study of summer behavior of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the Hahn's Peak area (8,000 ft. altitude), and (2) nesting habits of four species in a limited area: Tree Swallow, Mountain Chickadee, House Wren, and Mountain Bluebird.

The Lyons, Colorado foothills region where North and South St. Vrain Rivers converge, has for many years been a favorite nesting and wintering area for Dippers. However, disastrous spring floods followed by dredging of the rivers appears to have wiped out the local population. In connection with their study of this species in the Lyons area, Gilbert and Margaret (Peg) Whitney banded 11 Dippers prior to the floods, of which only one or two have been seen since. They hope to continue banding as part of their Dipper study.

Another bander, Dr. Howard A. Winkler (Durango) has confined his activities to a minimal amount of mist netting and trapping, largely around his home. With the approach of the spring migration, he hopes to get involved in more challenging projects.

Literally, a live bird in the hand is worth two or more in the bush. Valuable information is gained through close examination of the bird as well as through recovery at some other time and place. Add to this the undeniable pleasure of contact with a wild creature, the opportunity to admire at close range the exquisite pattern and sheen of its plumage, the color and brightness of its eye, and to hear the soft song an occasional bird will sing in the hand. There are many rewards that more than compensate for the hours of work required.

It has been said that time and energy are the price you pay for fruitful banding. Not one Colorado bander indicated that he felt the price was too high.

Editor's Note: Another outstanding bander in Colorado and undoubtedly the dean of bird banders in the Rocky Mountain area is Allegra Collister of Longmont. Mrs. Collister has banded many thousands of birds averaging over 3,000 per year for the last 11 years, a record which would be difficult to exceed. Some of her bandings provided the first state and local captures of elusive species. In addition, Mrs. Collister has participated in Operation Recovery in Colorado and is presently Secretary of the Western Bird Banding Association.

CURRENT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Lynn Willcockson, Denver
President-Elect	Ronald Ryder, Fort Collins
Executive Secretary	Robbie Elliott, Boulder
Treasurer	Sadie Morrison, Denver
Editor.	David Lupton, Fort Collins
Directors	Allegra Collister, Longmont
	Meredith Morris, Fort Collins
	William Davis, Grand Junction
	Helen Thurlow, Colorado Springs

Return to:

Executive Secretary

Colorado Field Ornithologists

220 - 31st Street

Boulder, Colorado 80303