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EDITORIAL

Colorado State University Libraries
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521 U.S.A.

July 1971

Dear CFO Member:

Greetings. Instead of a message "From the President" in the Colorado Field Ornithologist, I send you a post-annual meeting letter. It is also a follow-up reminder to any member who hasn't yet sent in his dues for 1971. Because all members could not attend the Manitou Experimental Forest Station meeting, I write you on an important matter - a necessary financial message. As of June 14, 1971, CFO's available funds were \$214.42. Dues anticipated from memberships not yet renewed for 1971 might total \$90.00. Our financial condition is critical.

CFO's financial plight is caused by -

- 1) Increased cost (\$450 - \$500 yearly) of publishing the Colorado Field Ornithologist.
- 2) Printing costs for the Colorado Field Ornithologist's Newsletter.
- 3) Relatively small membership.
- 4) Too little income from a dues schedule that has been unchanged since 1963.
- 5) Inequitable fees schedule for individual and library subscribers.
- 6) Rising mailing costs for the journal and the newsletter.

At the annual meeting of the CFO's Board of Directors held May 22, 1971, three important decisions regarding the future of the CFO were reached-

- 1) Raise the annual dues to \$5.00 for both individual members and library subscriptions beginning 1972.
- 2) Discontinue publication of a separate Colorado Field Ornithologist's Newsletter with issue Number 4, May 1971. Information of the nature contained in the Newsletter will continue to be compiled by Dr. William A. Davis of Grand Junction and included in each issue of the Colorado Field Ornithologist.
- 3) Attempts will be made to publish the Colorado Field Ornithologist on a quarterly schedule. In order to financially meet this recommendation, printing of the CFO will be by a quick-copy method on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper, rather than an offset printing publication. The quality of the articles included in the CFO will not be affected by this change.

At present there are 750 to 800 non-member birders and ornithologists in Colorado. We need all of them to continue publishing. Your association needs, right now -

- 1) Your 1971 membership of \$3.00 if you haven't renewed already.
- 2) Membership of your college, institution, agency, or library.
- 3) Purchase of back-issues of the Colorado Field Ornithologist for libraries of yourself, and purchase of William A. Davis's Birds in Western Colorado, 1961.

Thank you for your attention and help.

David W. Lupton, Editor, CFO

Application for membership. Please make checks to CFO.

CFO: Sadie Morrison, Treasurer; 1283 Elizabeth Street, Denver, Colorado 80206

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount Enclosed _____

OPEN LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

748 Eastdale Drive
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

June 9, 1971

Mr. Ed Rowland, State Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Room 14023, Federal Building
1961 Stout Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. Rowland:

Thank you for your letter of March 3, 1971, regarding the ownership status of land under and surrounding Riverside Reservoir. Since most of the land is in the custody of the Bureau of Land Management, we of the Colorado Field Ornithologists request that something be done to protect the nesting colonies of White Pelicans, California Gulls, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, and Snowy Egrets on islands in Riverside Reservoir.

This year only the first four species are nesting and mainly due to high water, they seem to be restricted to the large island in the south end of the reservoir. I have personally followed the fate of these colonial birds using the reservoir since 1962 and have numerous notes regarding disturbances that we in the CFO feel seriously threatened the safety of the colonies. Through the years these have included low-flying aircraft, boaters, water-skiers and fishermen. Tuesday, June 8, 1971, for example, an amphibious plane, No. N6656L from Emery Aviation Incorporated, Greeley, was practicing landings and takeoffs in the northern part of the reservoir and repeatedly landed on what we call Gull Island. This year no gulls nested there as in past years. Whether this was due to the area being used as a practice landing strip or due to high water flooding the island early in the nesting season is not known.

Please realize that the pelican colony is one of the few still persisting in the United States, the only one in Colorado, and that other colonies such as the one in Yellowstone National Park have suffered much in the past mainly due to human disturbance early in the nesting season.

The Riverside Reservoir and Land Company (C.J. Osborne, Superintendent, and Carl W. Maag, caretaker), have been most cooperative in restricting access to the reservoir, but we feel your agency can assist also. Therefore, we request that

your agency make a vigorous effort to protect these colonies by restricting access through your properties, by posting the islands, and, if possible, by outlawing low-flying aircraft and amphibious aircraft landings on the Reservoir.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald A. Ryder, Ph.D.
President, Colorado
Field Ornithologists

BIRDS IN WESTERN COLORADO

Annotated field list and travel guides for finding
the best birding spots. \$1.75.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND INSTITUTE OF WESTERN COLORADO
4th and Ute; Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

10 YEARS OF BIRDING AND 7 YEARS OF BANDING
at 161 DEL MAR CIRCLE, AURORA, COLORADO

Mildred O. Snyder
161 Del Mar Circle
Aurora, Colorado 80010

When my husband and I moved into this house in January 1960, it was the only house in the area (a model house). We did have a paved street, driveway, and sidewalk, but the rest was mud! We could still see Pike's Peak, 75 miles to the south, from our kitchen window. Along the Highline Canal, 1/4 mile south of us, were fields and a few willows. One of our pleasures was seeing a dozen pheasants and several meadowlarks sunning themselves in the early morning sun in the willows. Now a junior high-school occupies the area. We no longer hear or see the pheasants.

We started banding in the fall of 1963, but our bandings during the migrations were at stations outside of Aurora, so, of course, this list of banded birds for the yard doesn't show what might have been banded, had we "stayed at home". We banded 41 species during the seven years, 1963 through 1969, with a total of 2,992 individuals. Likewise, the birds seen in the yard are not full coverage as we traveled a great deal. The last year, 1969, with 53 species, reflects the fact that I was home more and I also had nets up more during the fall migration.

The 93 species seen is for the 10 year period. These are birds seen either in the yard or seen from the yard, flying over, or near enough that I could identify them with binoculars. Thirteen species were seen in all 10 years: Franklin's Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Western Kingbird, Black-billed Magpie, Robin, Starling, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, and House Finch.

BIRDS OBSERVED	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
1. White Pelican								X		
2. Great Blue Heron								X		
3. Black-crowned Night Heron								X		
4. Canada Goose	X				X			X		X
5. Mallard	X				X	X				
6. Turkey Vulture		X		X		X				
7. Sharp-shinned Hawk					X		X			X
8. Cooper's Hawk					X				X	X
9. Red-tailed Hawk	X	X								X
10. Swainson's Hawk	X					X			X	
11. Rough-legged Hawk	X									
12. Ferruginous Hawk			X							X
13. Marsh Hawk	X	X								
14. Prairie Falcon		X								
15. Sparrow Hawk	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
16. Ring-necked Pheasant	X	X								
17. Sandhill Crane										X
18. Sora						X				
19. Killdeer	X	X		X						
20. Franklin's Gull	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
21. Rock Dove	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
22. Mourning Dove	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
23. Great Horned Owl										X
24. Long-eared Owl					X					
25. Common Nighthawk	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
26. Broad-tailed Hummingbird	X	X		X					X	
27. Yellow-shafted Flicker					X					
28. Red-shafted Flicker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
29. Red-headed Woodpecker	X									
30. Lewis' Woodpecker	X									
31. Eastern Kingbird									X	
32. Western Kingbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
33. Traill's Flycatcher						X				X
34. Western Flycatcher										X
35. Western Wood Pewee				X		X				X
36. Horned Lark	X			X				X	X	
37. Barn Swallow	X	X			X					
38. Blue Jay								X	X	X
39. Black-billed Magpie	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
40. Black-capped Chickadee						X				X
41. Red-breasted Nuthatch						X				X
42. House Wren		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
43. Rock Wren	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
44. Mockingbird	X		X		X		X			
45. Sage Thrasher									X	
46. Robin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
47. Hermit Thrush					X	X		X		
48. Swainson's Thrush								X	X	
49. Townsend's Solitaire			X	X	X		X		X	X
50. Ruby-crowned Kinglet				X				X		
51. Bohemian Waxwing	X	X	X		X			X	X	X
52. Cedar Waxwing							X		X	
53. Northern Shrike								X	X	

BIRDS OBSERVED	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
54. Loggerhead Shrike	X									
55. Starling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
56. Red-eyed Vireo							X			X
57. Orange-crowned Warbler					X	X		X		X
58. Virginia's Warbler				X	X	X	X	X		
59. Yellow Warbler				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
60. Audubon's Warbler					X				X	
61. Blackpoll Warbler										X
62. MacGillivray's Warbler							X	X		X
63. Wilson's Warbler				X	X	X	X			X
64. American Redstart					X					
65. House Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
66. Western Meadowlark	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
67. Yellow-headed Blackbird	X				X					
68. Red-winged Blackbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
69. Bullock's Oriole	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
70. Brewer's Blackbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
71. Common Grackle	X				X	X		X	X	X
72. Western Tanager									X	X
73. Black-headed Grosbeak					X					
74. Lazuli Bunting		X								X
75. Evening Grosbeak			X		X					
76. Cassin's Finch		X	X		X					X
77. House Finch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
78. Common Redpoll						X				
79. Pine Siskin		X			X	X	X			X
80. American Goldfinch	X			X		X		X	X	X
81. Lesser Goldfinch									X	
82. Green-tailed Towhee		X			X		X	X	X	X
83. Rufous-sided Towhee								X	X	X
84. Lark Sparrow	X					X				
85. White-winged Junco									X	
86. Slate-colored Junco						X	X	X	X	X
87. Oregon Junco		X			X	X	X		X	X
88. Gray-headed Junco	X			X			X			X
89. Chipping Sparrow	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
90. Clay-colored Sparrow				X	X	X		X	X	X
91. Brewer's Sparrow	X	X				X	X	X		X
92. White-crowned Sparrow		X				X	X	X	X	X
93. Lincoln's Sparrow		X		X		X	X	X	X	
Total Number Species Each Year	40	36	23	32	43	44	35	42	44	52

BIRDS BANDED	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	Total No. Banded of Each Species
1. Common Nighthawk			1				1	2
2. Red-shafted Flicker			1					1
3. Traill's Flycatcher			1					1
4. Western Flycatcher							1	1
5. Blue Jay							1	1
6. Red-breasted Nuthatch							2	2
7. Robin		5	10	4	1	2	10	32
8. Hermit Thrush			1					1
9. Townsend's Solitaire				1				1
10. Cedar Waxwing				1				1
11. Starling			1				2	3
12. Red-eyed Vireo							1	1
13. Orange-crowned Warbler		3	2				3	8
14. Virginia's Warbler	1		1		1			3
15. Yellow Warbler		2	3				2	7
16. Blackpoll Warbler							1	1
17. MacGillivray's Warbler				1	1		1	3
18. Wilson's Warbler			6	2			2	10
19. House Sparrow	46	292	142	38	2	22	45	591
20. Red-winged Blackbird	1	2					1	4
21. Bullock's Oriole		1	1	1				3
22. Common Grackle							2	2
23. Western Tanager							1	1
24. Black-headed Grosbeak		1						1
25. Lazuli Bunting							2	2
26. Evening Grosbeak		19						19
27. Cassin's Finch		37						37
28. House Finch	320	825	509	313	27	59	101	2154
29. Common Redpoll			1					1
30. Pine Siskin		1		2				3
31. American Goldfinch	1	2	2					5
32. Green-tailed Towhee					1			1
33. Lark Sparrow			1					1
34. Slate-colored Junco							1	1
35. Oregon Junco		2	2	2			7	13
36. Gray-headed Junco							1	1
37. Chipping Sparrow		14	6	10			13	43
38. Clay-colored Sparrow		2	1					3
39. Brewer's Sparrow			2	1	1			4
40. White-crowned Sparrow			6	5	8	1	6	26
41. Lincoln's Sparrow						1		1
Total No. Species Each Year	5	15	21	13	8	5	23	
Total No. Individuals Each Year	369	1208	700	381	42	85	207	

BREEDING BIRDS OF THE LYONS AREA ALONG THE ST. VRAIN CREEK
AND ADJACENT LOWLANDS, 1966-1970

Margaret A. Whitney
P.O. Box 257
Lyons, Colorado 80540

This bird survey covers the area along the St. Vrain Creek lowlands from the junction of Routes 36 and 66 east of Lyons to the Longmont Power Plant on the North St. Vrain, and to the junction of the Old South Road and Highway 36 two miles south of Lyons, Colorado. It has been undertaken in June of each year in order that attention might be drawn to the large variety and numbers of songbirds which nest near streams in the transitional zone between foothills and plains. This transitional zone, which offers much diversity of geological formations, as well as plant and animal life, is also attractive to people. The point has been reached where the population pressure of man is causing changes in or destruction of the natural surroundings to the detriment of wildlife. Many threats to the breeding success of songbirds are man-caused. During the five years of observations covered in this report, the following threats have been seen on the lowlands covered by this survey: habitat destruction, use of pesticides and weed killers, bulldozer operations following floods, overgrazing which removes undergrowth, and molestation of birds and nests with stones and guns.

The birds which show a continued increase are those which have been able to adapt to the alterations made by man: the Starling, Common Grackle, House Finch, House Sparrow, and Broad-tailed Hummingbird. The birds whose decline is occurring or imminent are those requiring undergrowth or marshland for breeding, those which feed primarily on insects, and those needing a large, wild territory -- especially the raptors. Please note the sudden decline of the colonial White-throated Swift to at most two individuals in 1970. The swifts are thought to nest in the higher cliffs bordering Meadow Park. The Western Wood Pewees are also showing a marked decline. It is difficult to pinpoint any specific reason for bird population fluctuations because one must consider that there are natural cycles in bird populations, however, pesticides are known to have been used by the town in the park for several years.

Many species of birds on the list are casual visitors not appearing every year. Others are late migrants which breed at higher elevations or wanderers which breed elsewhere or at a different time, such as the Red Crossbill. I have asterisked and underlined the species for which breeding evidence was found. The remaining birds on the list may be regular breeders here, but as yet I have seen no evidence for breeding. Breeding evidence was indicated if nests were found in use, if adult birds were carrying nesting material or food to a particular place, or if young birds were seen. Defense of territory was not used for nesting evidence.

In 1970, a year after the survey area was flooded, a big increase of Spotted Sandpipers was counted. Perhaps the denuded gravel provided good nesting sites for them.

Black-headed Grosbeaks also showed a sharp rise in numbers in 1970. I have observed an immature grosbeak thoroughly covering the limbs of our Chinese Elm tree eating elm leaf beetles. Perhaps the abundant beetles explain partially the success of the grosbeaks.

I wish to express appreciation to those who have helped to bring to my attention birds they have seen in the vicinity, to Mrs. Allegra Collister for her observations and banding records, and to my husband Gil, who helped me both at home and in the field.

	<u>TOTAL SPECIES OBSERVED</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
1. Mallard		4	0	1	1	2
2. Turkey Vulture		1	1	0	0	0
3. Sharp-shinned Hawk		0	0	1	0	0
4. Golden Eagle		0	2	0	2	1
5. Prairie Falcon		0	0	0	1	0
* 6. Sparrow Hawk		1	3	1	1	1
* 7. Ring-necked Pheasant		5	0	0	0	0
8. Killdeer		4	6	13	4	6
* 9. Spotted Sandpiper		3	8	6	4	9
* 10. Rock Dove		3	22	15	35	26
* 11. Mourning Dove		15	29	10	22	13
* 12. Screech Owl		0	0	3	0	0
* 13. Great Horned Owl		0	0	3	0	0
14. Common Nighthawk		2	7	3	5	4
* 15. White-throated Swift		31	20	36	13	2
* 16. Broad-tailed Hummingbird		5	8	6	9	12
* 17. Belted Kingfisher		5	7	2	3	2
18. Yellow-shafted Flicker		0	1	0	0	0
* 19. Red-shafted Flicker		21	36	13	25	14
20. Red-headed Woodpecker		1	0	0	0	0
* 21. Lewis' Woodpecker		4	14	6	11	7
* 22. Downy Woodpecker		10	15	5	9	5
23. Eastern Kingbird		11	9	2	4	3
24. Say's Phoebe		0	0	0	0	1
25. Western Flycatcher		0	1	1	3	2
26. Eastern Wood Pewee		0	0	0	0	1
* 27. Western Wood Pewee		44	49	44	25	25
28. Olive-sided Flycatcher		0	0	1	0	0
* 29. Violet-green Swallow		23	48	24	24	17
30. Rough-winged Swallow		0	3	2	0	2

	<u>TOTAL SPECIES</u>	<u>OBSERVED</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
* 31.	<u>Barn Swallow</u>		6	30	4	16	14
* 32.	<u>Cliff Swallow</u>		500	300	570	378	380
* 33.	<u>Bluejay</u>		0	0	0	1	2
34.	<u>Scrub Jay</u>		0	0	0	0	1
* 35.	<u>Black-billed Magpie</u>		8	16	13	9	10
36.	<u>Common Raven</u>		0	1	0	0	0
37.	<u>Common Crow</u>		1	0	0	0	0
38.	<u>Pinon Jay</u>		20	0	0	0	0
39.	<u>Clark's Nutcracker</u>		0	0	0	0	1
* 40.	<u>Black-capped Chickadee</u>		18	11	16	13	16
41.	<u>White-breasted Nuthatch</u>		0	0	1	0	0
* 42.	<u>American Dipper</u>		1	3	4	1	3
* 43.	<u>House Wren</u>		12	32	21	20	39
44.	<u>Carolina Wren</u>		1	1	1	0	0
45.	<u>Canyon Wren</u>		3	3	4	1	8
46.	<u>Catbird</u>		10	16	7	10	6
47.	<u>Brown Thrasher</u>		0	1	1	0	0
* 48.	<u>Robin</u>		78	111	76	87	112
49.	<u>Wood Thrush</u>		1	0	0	0	0
50.	<u>Swainson's Thrush</u>		1	1	0	0	0
* 51.	<u>Veery</u>		4	7	4	2	1
* 52.	<u>Cedar Waxwing</u>		0	1	6	4	1
* 53.	<u>Starling</u>		8	50	28	29	76
54.	<u>Solitary Vireo</u>		0	0	1	4	3
55.	<u>Red-eyed Vireo</u>		3	7	4	1	2
56.	<u>Warbling Vireo</u>		4	11	9	9	16
57.	<u>Virginia's Warbler</u>		0	0	1	4	3
* 58.	<u>Yellow Warbler</u>		105	183	105	136	164
59.	<u>Chestnut-sided Warbler</u>		0	3	0	0	0
60.	<u>Yellowthroat</u>		10	22	12	11	5
61.	<u>Yellow-breasted Chat</u>		22	27	20	24	18
62.	<u>Hooded Warbler</u>		1	0	0	0	0
* 63.	<u>American Redstart</u>		7	32	20	24	18
* 64.	<u>House Sparrow</u>		10	26	29	14	38
65.	<u>Bobolink</u>		0	1	4	0	0
66.	<u>Western Meadowlark</u>		8	21	6	16	11
* 67.	<u>Red-winged Blackbird</u>		14	14	19	17	5
* 68.	<u>Bullock's Oriole</u>		20	36	18	16	22
69.	<u>Brewer's Blackbird</u>		37	19	0	7	7
* 70.	<u>Common Grackle</u>		81	134	105	94	99
71.	<u>Brown-headed Cowbird</u>		6	17	14	9	19
72.	<u>Western Tanager</u>		0	0	0	0	8
73.	<u>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</u>		1	0	0	0	0
* 74.	<u>Black-headed Grosbeak</u>		6	2	2	2	10
* 75.	<u>Indigo Bunting</u>		0	1	1	0	0
* 76.	<u>Lazuli Bunting</u>		20	45	29	13	18
77.	<u>Indigo/Lazuli Bunting hybrid</u>		2	1	0	1	0
78.	<u>Evening Grosbeak</u>		6	2	0	0	0
* 79.	<u>House Finch</u>		14	25	23	30	41
80.	<u>Pine Siskin</u>		0	6	0	0	6

	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
81. American Goldfinch	30	9	1	15	9
* 82. <u>Lesser Goldfinch</u>	82	104	70	78	70
83. Red Crossbill	0	6	0	0	5
* 84. <u>Rufous-sided Towhee</u>	10	21	15	14	15
* 85. <u>Lark Sparrow</u>	2	1	0	1	2
86. Chipping Sparrow	0	0	0	0	3
87. White-crowned Sparrow	1	0	0	1	0
88. Song Sparrow	0	7	4	6	1

Nesting evidence found for underlined species.

Editor's Note: This study extends through 1970 coverage of the same area reported in the Colorado Field Ornithologist No. 1, Winter 1967, p. 12-16.

BANDING STUDIES OF WHITE PELICANS NESTING IN COLORADO

Ronald A. Ryder
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Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Since 1962, 636 White Pelicans (Pelecanus erythrorhynchos) have been banded at a nesting colony on Riverside Reservoir in Weld County, Colorado by Allegra Collister and the author, assisted by students from Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado as well as personnel from the Colorado Division of Game, Fish and Parks. The number of young pelicans banded has varied from 27 in 1964 to 154 in 1970. As of 23 April 1971, 21 recoveries of these bandings have been reported: six from Mexico, six from Colorado, two from South Dakota, and one each from Alberta, Arizona, Idaho, North Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. Apparently, most of the pelicans nesting in Colorado winter along the Gulf of Mexico. Subadults seem to wander widely and some, at least, eventually nest in colonies to the north and west of Colorado. The pelican colony at Riverside Reservoir has increased in size rather continuously since 1962 and, in spite of various pesticides detected in fat samples collected from flightless young, has experienced better than average nesting success.

Editor's Note: Abstract of a paper presented at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Science held in Pueblo, Colorado,

April 30, 1971. These studies made possible by the cooperation of the Riverside Reservoir and Land Company which has provided protection to this interesting bird colony and permitted our annual visit.

See also Dr. Ryder's "Open Letter From the President to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management" concerning this area.

SNOWY EGRET, BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON & WHITE-FACED
IBIS BANDING IN COLORADO

Gary G.W. Robinson
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Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

and

Ronald A. Ryder
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Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

The first known banding of Snowy Egrets (Leucophoyx thula), Black-crowned Night Herons (Nycticorax nycticorax) and White-faced Ibis (Plegadis chihi) in Colorado was by Clyde Matteson in 1949. To date, 1,437 Snowy Egrets, 948 Black-crowned Night Herons and 61 White-faced Ibis have been banded. All birds were banded as flightless young, usually just before they could fly. Except for 239 Snowy Egrets banded at Riverside Reservoir and five Snowy Egrets and two ibis at Latham Reservoir in northern Colorado, all birds were banded in the San Luis Valley in south-central Colorado.

There have been relatively few recoveries. The 22 Snowy Egret recoveries show the birds to be wintering in Mexico on both coasts and throughout the central plateau area. Four of the seven Black-crowned Night Heron recoveries were in Colorado, two in Mexico, and one in Texas. These were not enough recoveries to show where they winter, but indicate they move to Mexico. To date there has been only one White-faced Ibis recovery and it was in Texas.

Editor's Note: Abstract of a paper presented at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Science held in Pueblo, Colorado, April 30, 1971.

See also Dr. Ryder's "Open Letter From the President to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management" concerning this area.

SECOND STATE RECORD FOR THE LOUISIANA HERON

Michael P. Schultz
4353 N. Chestnut Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

A Louisiana Heron (Hydranassa tricolor) was present 23 April through 2 May 1970 on a small lake ten miles southeast of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado (T15S R65W Sec. 23). I observed the bird four times during this period, at distances as close as fifty feet, using a 20X spotting scope. It was seen flying, feeding, perched in trees, and at rest on the shore. The following field marks were observed: white underparts contrasting with blue neck and back, white throat stripe, white head plumes, white wing linings, and yellow-green legs. The cinnamon plumes of the neck and back were present, but not well developed. These field marks, plus the bird's sleek appearance, distinguish it from the similar Little Blue Heron (Florida coerulea). The only previous Colorado record was 13 May 1963 at Barr Lake (Bailey and Niedrach, Birds of Colorado, 1965). Other persons observing the bird were Lois J. Schultz and Sam Gadd.

PAIRED WOOD DUCKS IN NORTH-CENTRAL COLORADO

John Carpenter
502 Gordon Street
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

On June 13, 1969, David Scott of Dallas, Texas, and I observed a pair of Wood Ducks (Aix sponsa) on a quarter-acre pond narrowly separated from the Cache la Poudre River, approximately 45 miles west-northwest of Fort Collins, Colorado. The time was 9:30 - 8:45 A.M., during fairly cool spring weather and under a partly overcast sky. The observation distance was about 100 feet from a window of a dwelling house, Section 32, T 73 W, R 9 N, Larimer County.

The pond on which the ducks were resting is about 50 by 100 feet in size, and is used for fee fishing by the resort owner. Depth does not exceed six feet, and the birds were in about two feet of water. The pond was surrounded at the time by aquatic and wet-soil grasses, some of which extended into the water area.

It would appear that the Wood Ducks were a mated pair. We have no record of a more westward extension of the species in Colorado during the early breeding season.

EUROPEAN WIDGEON IN WESTERN COLORADO

Dave Griffiths
17 Solar Drive
Pueblo, Colorado 81005

An adult male European Widgeon (Mareca penelope) was seen by Dave Griffiths on May 4, 1971, on Sweitzer Lake near Delta, Delta County, Colorado. The bird was observed for some time at about fifty feet, using a scope, as it fed with several Canvasbacks. Identification was based on the rusty red head and grey sides. This is the first record for western Colorado.

Editor's Note: Bailey and Niedrach, Pictorial Checklist of Colorado Birds, 1967, list the only Colorado records as the sighting for April 18th and 19th, 1964, in Park County on the South Platte River and on Antero Reservoir, respectively. Observed by Robert and Nancy Gustafson.

The following unpublished report has been received from Dr. Ronald A. Ryder: On April 8, 1967, while on an ornithology field trip at 8:00 A.M., two male European Widgeons were sighted with a scope by David Heffernan on Nelson Reservoir six miles southeast of Fort Collins, Larimer County. The males were in the company of American Widgeons, Mallards, Lesser Scaup, Canvasbacks, Redheads, Green-winged Teal, and Blue-winged Teal. At the same location, in the afternoon of April 10, 1967, one male was observed at 200 yards with a 20X scope by Ronald A. Ryder and Stan Wellso. This male was in the company of many male and female American Widgeons.

On October 24, 1970, a European Widgeon was collected at Walsenburg, Huerfano County, as reported by Van Truan in American Birds, Vol. 25, No. 1, February, 1971.

COMMON SCOTER IN WESTERN COLORADO

Nyla Kladder
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A weekend spent at a sewage lagoon is almost as ideal a place for a birder to spend a weekend as Aspen is for a skier. What better place to spend a day unless it would be the county dump, local swamp, cemetery or mosquito infested pine swamp.

We are very fortunate in having two excellent oxidation ponds (sewage lagoons to us) at Clifton, Colorado, five miles east of Grand Junction where something unusual can always be seen. One pond is wading deep - mucky to maybe three inches deep - and the other may be as much as three feet deep and full of the most beautiful algae a duck could wish for.

To the north of the ponds are fields and unburned drainage ditches, on the east tall cottonwood trees and a swampy area being used for a county dump, on the south is a brushy strip between the ponds and the Colorado River, and to the west are more cottonwoods and fields. Many ducks and wading birds stop here during the spring and fall migrations including plovers, yellowlegs, kingfishers, ducks, herons, egrets, sandpipers, Dunlin (a rarity), Water Pipits, Western, Eared and Pied-billed Grebes, American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, hawks, swallows, dowitcher, Avocet, phalaropes, gulls, doves, nighthawks, woodpeckers, chickadees, Bewick's Wren, bluebirds, House Finch, Pine Siskin, goldfinches, Chipping, Vesper, Song and White-crowned Sparrows, Oregon Juncos, and most recently a Common Scoter.

On Monday morning, October 27, 1969, at 7:00 A.M., Lorna Gustafson called me with the exciting news that Shirley and Cliff Sawtelle had seen a Common Scoter (*Oidemia nigra*) on the Clifton sewage ponds the day before (Sunday, the 26th). After picking up Shirley and Lucy Ela, we rushed to the ponds. At first sight of the ponds and even without binoculars, we could see a large black "coot" with what appeared to be an orange-red bill sitting in the middle of the nearest pond. Upon arriving at our favorite vantage point, we found Sue and Merritt Dismant of Palisade already there with their scope. The other scopes were soon set up, and with a chorus of "ohs and ahs" any doubt was soon dispelled as to the identity of the bird. For more than an hour, the poor bird was subjected to the closest scrutiny at a distance of 150 to 175 feet, and the scoter, in turn, never took his eyes off of us.

As the Common Scoter is the only all-black duck in North America, there could be little doubt of what he was, particularly with the prominent reddish-orange protuberance on the black bill. How fortunate for us that it was a male and easily identified.

Later the next day (the 28th) Cliff Sawtelle and Shirley returned to the ponds and obtained an excellent color slide of the bird which is on file in the Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology in Fort Collins.

We can definitely say the scoter was there for at least three days, and possibly remained a week.

Although named "Common", this is the rarest of the three scoters in the United States, and Bailey and Niedrach, Pictorial Checklist of Colorado Birds, 1967 show the following for Colorado: One shot in Adams County about 10/2/09; female killed in Boulder County 10/18/25; one taken in Weld County 10/30/17 and an immature found dead 11/24/60 on Watson Lake, Larimer County.

The American Scoter, as it is also known, breeds in the Far North and winters along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of North America. It is mainly a maritime duck and is seldom reported on inland ponds.

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HUGH KINGERY APPOINTED REGIONAL EDITOR FOR AMERICAN BIRDS

Many of you are familiar with the National Audubon Society publication, Audubon Field Notes, now renamed American Birds. It reports, on a seasonal basis, bird populations and bird news. As part of its program, it sponsors the Christmas Bird Counts and the Breeding Bird and Winter Population Censuses. The other half of its program is devoted to seasonal reports, narrating interesting observations and population trends.

American Birds divides the country into various regions: Colorado is divided down the middle, along the line where the plains meet the foothills. Hugh Kingery was recently appointed the Regional Editor for the Great Basin, Central Rocky Mountain Region which includes mountain (and foothills) eastern Colorado. Hugh invites you to send him your observations for the various seasons. Currently the Nesting Season Report, covering the months of June and July, is due; if you have any information or observations on birds in mountain Colorado (or elsewhere in the Region) I urge you to send them to Mr. Kingery. American Birds is interested in:

- a. Records of unusual breeders, and their success
- b. Records of usual breeders, and their success
- c. Population trends; comparisons with previous years
- d. Numbers of birds and specific dates
- e. Data on late or early migrants, vagrants, non-breeding visitors, and post-breeding wanderers

Send observations to: Hugh E. Kingery; 10 Emerson; Denver, Colorado 80213

GYRFALCON TRAPPED IN COLORADO

Gerald R. Craig
Box 130
Laporte, Colorado 80535

Occurance of the Gyrfalcon (Falco rusticolus) in Colorado was definitely established when John L. Linthicum, a falconer from Golden, Colorado, trapped a female of this species on December 11, 1969, at 3:30 P.M. at Horse Creek Reservoir, Adams County, approximately five to seven miles north and east of Barr Lake, Colorado. It was an immature bird in dark gray-brown phase and weighed approximately 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ounces. From all indications it was a wild bird and was subsequently tamed for falconry. See cover photo.

John threw out a harnessed pigeon as bait for a Prairie Falcon when a Rough-legged Hawk bumped the Prairie Falcon and was trapped. Then the Gyrfalcon came down out of a flock of Canada Geese and landed beside the Rough-legged Hawk. The Gyrfalcon then flew off, and about an hour later John spotted her sitting on a fence post and was able to catch it using a harnessed pigeon as bait.

The day before the Gyrfalcon was trapped the weather was warm (almost a chinook). This was followed the next day with bitter cold weather. The Gyrfalcon was lost the first day it was flown free for falconry purposes, about three weeks after the date of capture.

Editor's Note: Sight records of the Gyrfalcon in Colorado have been reported as follows: Palmer Lake, El Paso County, in 1956, (Bailey & Niedrach, Pictorial Checklist of Colorado Birds, 1967; Barr Lake, Adams County, in November 1956 (Holt, Harold R., Status and Migration Data of Birds of the Denver Area, 3rd rev., 1969; Dan Lake, Adams County, in 1958 (Bailey & Niedrach, Ibid.); Weldona, Morgan County, March 9, 1961 (Bailey & Niedrach, Ibid.); Colorado National Monument, Mesa County, December 28, 1967 (Davis, William A. Birds in Western Colorado, 1969); Grand Junction, Mesa County, December 7 & 12, 1968 (Davis, William A., Ibid.); Pawnee National Grasslands, Weld County, January 11, 1969 (Monthly Report of Field Observations of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Vol. 4, No. 5, February 1969); Guanella Pass, Clear Creek County, March 16, 1969 (Ibid., Vol. 4, No. 7, April 1969); Cripple Creek, Teller County, December 14, 1969 (Ibid., Vol. 5, No. 4, January 1970).

A SECOND VIRGINIA RAIL NESTING FOR EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO

Robert M. Stabler and Nancy J. Kitzmiller

Department of Biology

Colorado College

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

The Virginia rail (Rallus limicola limicola Vieillot) is a fairly common nester in Colorado (Bailey and Niedrach. 1965. Birds of Colorado. 395 pp.). Aiken and Warren (The Birds of El Paso County, Colorado. I. Colo. College Pub., Gen Ser. 74. 1914.) wrote that Aiken "obtained a male with its nest and seven eggs near Fountain, June 4, 1872." This latter is the first and only record of the nesting of this species in El Paso County.

We wish to record a second Virginia rail nesting for El Paso County, discovered in the spring of 1968 nearly 100 years (96) after the first observations were made. The nest was in a dense cattail (Typha latifolia) growth that bordered the west and north edges of the shallow pond which lies parallel to the Rio Grande railroad, just southeast of the Sinton Dairy Company, Colorado Springs. The pond is some 120 yards long by 75 yards wide and is used extensively by red-winged blackbirds (Agelaius phoeniceus) as a breeding ground. In fact, it was during our current blackbird banding operations that the discovery was made.

The nest was located on 15 June 1968 some 25 yards from the western shore and about midway of the length of the pond. It was about 12 inches above the water, which was some 16 inches deep at that point. The flushing of the rail from the eggs revealed the nest site. The nest was made of dried, woven cattail leaves and was securely anchored to growing plants. Nine eggs were present, eight being normal, freshly laid eggs, the ninth being a tiny yolkless 'pullet' egg such as is not uncommonly laid by young birds. A rail was flushed from the eggs frequently during our banding operations in the marsh, the bird often remaining until an observer was within four to five feet of the nest.

Blaine Marshman, Sam Gadd, and Dr. Richard Beidleman with his class of NSF high school students variously saw and photographed the nest and eggs. Incubation proceeded normally and the eggs were still present on the 21st of June. By 24 June the chicks had hatched and left. Rail noises could be heard from various points in the marsh for several weeks afterwards but the birds were not seen.

The authors do not mean to imply that no Virginia rails have nested in El Paso County for nearly 100 years. The implication is clear that more poking around in these and other habitats is needed to establish the true incidence of these less common nesters in our county.

A RUFF IN COLORADO

Harold R. Holt
499 S. Xavier Street
Denver, Colorado 80219

It was September 13, 1964, a Sunday, when a number of birders went to Cherry Creek Reservoir ten miles southeast of downtown Denver. We had gone out to look for a Cattle Egret which had been seen on the previous Friday evening.

Many shorebirds were scattered around the mud flats. One in particular drew my attention as it was different from anything I'd previously seen. It was about the size and shape of a Pectoral Sandpiper, but was very buffy, with a few streaks in the flanks, and the back having a scaly appearance.

I photographed the bird well and for all these years tried to find someone to identify it, showing the color slide to many individuals with no definite success. This summer I obtained a copy of Peterson's Field Guide to Birds of Britain, and there illustrated very clearly was my bird. It was a female Ruff (Philomachus pugnax) sometimes called a Reeve. Since then the photo has been identified by other authorities, including Mr. Alan Baldrige who was Regional Editor for Audubon Field Notes for the Northern Pacific Coast Region. He was very familiar with the species while living many years in England.

This is a first record for the state.

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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY TO MEET IN DENVER

On May 23, 1971 the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society announced a new policy for the future of holding national conventions every other year, with Denver as the 1973 host for the spring convention. During 1972, the NAS will hold a series of regional conferences throughout the country.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE IN COLORADO

Jack W. Reddall
4450 S. Alton Street
Englewood, Colorado 80110

The immature Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) first observed on January 1, 1970 at Cherry Creek Reservoir and again on January 2nd in this observer's opinion represents the state's second authenticated record for this species. Bailey and Niedrach in their Birds of Colorado, 1965, make reference to a specimen supposedly killed in Boulder County in December prior to 1874. Also referred to is a Denver taxidermist's claim that he received one or two specimens during his Denver residence. Both of the foregoing should be open to conjecture. The immature male collected by Robert L. Landberg at Eastlake, western Adams County on November 13, 1932, obviously should stand as the state's initial authentic record.

In the Monthly Report of Field Observations of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Volume 3, No. 8, May 1968, reference was made to the observation of an adult Black-legged Kittiwake observed at Marston Lake on April 20, 21 and 22, 1968. Harold Holt, editor, included the following information on the sighting: "The Black-legged Kittiwake is included in this list of field observations based on the following report from Sadie Morrison, and the fact that Tim Gates is a very thorough and reliable observer. He was sitting on the opposite side of the car from Sadie, who wrote: 'Tim saw a Kittiwake, two times. First it flew overhead when we were all in the cars. I got a brief glimpse of it, but not enough to identify it. It flew toward Marston Lake and disappeared behind the trees. We turned and followed in that direction. While we were stopped at the stop sign at Wadsworth and Quincey, Tim saw it again. Traffic was too heavy for us to get out there. When we finally could stop again and get out, the bird had disappeared. On the first sighting, Tim saw the yellow bill and solid black wing-tips. In the second sighting he saw the black legs.' Another good, reliable observer, Bob Andrews, saw the same bird the next two days at Marston Lake. There is only one other record for this species for the Denver area, one collected at Eastlake on November 13, 1932."

John Bull, in his Birds of the New York Area, 1964, has this to say regarding the Black-legged Kittiwake: "This species is one of the very few birds in which the immature is more readily identifiable in the field than the adult."

Ludlow Griscom commented as follows in his erudite Birds of the New York City Region, 1923: "The adult should be identified with great caution." This comment is equally applicable today. John Bull continues: "At a distance it (the Kittiwake) may be confused with the adult Ring-billed Gull, which is but slightly larger."

Bailey and Niedrach are quick to point out that: "These maritime birds occasionally wander inland, but they so resemble other gulls they would be difficult to identify except under exceptional circumstances. Many species undoubtedly travel off the beaten path regularly, and are detected only when specimens are taken."

The April 1963 observation at Marston Lake is open to question in this writer's opinion. Indeed, the Black-legged Kittiwake may well have been in the Marston area, but the fact still remains that an adult bird was seen by one observer under conditions that certainly cannot be construed as exceptional or even ideal. I would suggest, therefore, that this record be most questionable and removed from reference on page 8 in the Status and Migration Data of Birds of the Denver Area (3rd) revised April 1969 by Harold Holt. The subsequent sighting by Bob Andrews was again made by only one individual and not substantiated by another qualified observer which should be the case before accepting such a rare species for record purposes. No written report was ever submitted on Andrews' sighting.

The gull at Cherry Creek Reservoir on New Year's Day, 1970, most certainly was an immature Black-legged Kittiwake. Harold Hold and I observed this bird at our leisure for well over an hour as close as 300 feet with a 30X to 40X scope. Harold first called my attention to a "smaller gull" in among four Ring-billed Gulls, some 40 Mallards, several Gadwalls, and Coots that were resting in and about a small open water hole some 500 yards from shore. Even at that distance, an ear spot was quite discernable through the scopes. Initially, we felt possibly that we had a Bonaparte's Gull or possibly a Sabine's Gull. We ventured out on the ice and approached to within about 300 feet. The bird at this point began bathing in the water hole. While bathing, it displayed the black ear spot and dark nape band most prominently. Also evident was the solid black bill. Occasionally it showed us the black terminal band on the tail. It finally climbed out on the ice where we could see the black legs. Although we did not see the bird fly, Harold, returning later in the day with other observers, (John Cooper and Merle Barbour), managed to observe it on the wing.

BOREAL OWL IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Allegra Collister
706 Hover Road
Longmont, Colorado 80501

About 1 April 1970 a small owl was found lying dead on a snow bank, three and one-half miles south of Estes Park, Larimer County, Colorado. Some weeks later it was taken to Rocky Mountain National Park headquarters, where I identified it as a Boreal Owl (Aegolius funereus).

According to Bailey and Niedrach (Birds of Colorado, 1965), the species is a rare straggler in Colorado. The four previous records include a male collected at Crested Butte, Gunnison County, on 14 October 1896, by H.C. Myer, and a male collected by Carl Ohman on 11 November 1929 from Frazer, Grand County, both preserved in the Denver Museum of Natural History; a female from Pitkin County secured in November 1903, now in the University of Northern Colorado Museum at Greeley; a juvenal collected by James R. Koplin on 14 August 1963, one mile south of Deadman Lookout, Larimer County, and preserved at Colorado State University, Fort Collins. Dr. Alfred M. Bailey, Director-Emeritus of the Denver Museum of Natural History, confirmed identification of this fifth specimen, a male, and had it preserved as a mounted specimen in the Museum (D.M.N.H. No. 36064).

Bailey and Niedrach (op.cit.) describe the range as follows: the species breeds in the northern parts of the Old World, and this race breeds from northern Alaska and north-eastern Canada to British Columbia, and eastward across Canada to Nova Scotia. It winters south to southern Canada and casually to the northern states.

Regarding the 1963 juvenal specimen they quote Dr. Paul Baldwin, Colorado State University, in part as follows: "It seems inescapable that this bird was hatched locally, probably very close to where it was collected....Therefore, we may conclude that a breeding population of Boreal Owls exists in the southern Rocky Mountains in north-central Colorado."

Efforts during several summers to locate this possible breeding population of Boreal Owls have to date proven futile.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD IN COLORADO

Theodora E. Colborn
Box 39, R.D. #1, Powell Mesa and Oppie Reames
Hotchkiss, Colorado 81419 Durango, Colorado 81301

The following report was received from Mrs. Colborn: "Mrs. Blide first noted the Anna's Hummingbird (Calypste anna) on August 28, 1966, when it came to her sugarwater feeders in her yard on Powell Mesa, Hotchkiss, Colorado. The bird had a red forehead and red throat and green back and tail. We sat many hours at various times of the day watching the bird. It would perch on an electric wire that is strung across her yard, just above our lawn chairs. It spent much time flying in and out of an old apple tree that is covered with wood bine (Virginia creeper). Most of the time we were too close to the bird to use binoculars."

"We noted it two days after the arrival of the Rufous Hummingbirds. It left on September 9, 1966, the same day as the Rufous Hummingbirds left, staying a total of thirteen days. We make a note in 1966 that there were definitely more than the usual numbers of hummingbirds in the orchards around Mrs. Blide's house during late August and early September and that there were more Rufous Hummingbirds than normal."

Oppie Reames reports as follows: "One male Anna's Hummingbird was observed June 21, 1970, at the feeder in my yard, and again on June 22nd. The last date seen was at the feeder on June 25th at 7:05 P.M. An unidentified hummingbird (this male?) had been visiting the feeder regularly (June 14, 15, 18 and 20) and would usually be seen very early or very late in the day, about 6:00-6:15 A.M. and again at 8:45-9:00 P.M."

"It was not until June 21st that I was able to see the rich rose-red on the forehead. The sun was obscured by clouds until about 5:00 P.M. when I heard the distinctive voice while adjusting a new feeder -- a very fast hissing, rattling with a chick or chuck interspersed -- and the wing noise. I turned my head slowly to find the bird poised beside the feeder on my right. After a few seconds he fet at the feeder which was less than 2 1/2 feet from me. I was not able to see any rose-red on the throat and chin area -- it looked black, as the light came from the bird's back. I believe the lilac bush over the feeders to be the bird's perch for the night, for I could hear him there as I walked out around 9:00 P.M."

"Every place I have visited in the area has had swarms of Rufous, Broad-tailed, Black-chinned and a sprinkling of Calliope Hummingbirds."

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD IN COLORADO

Winston William Brockner
Route 4, Box 140
Evergreen, Colorado 80439

On the morning of September 7, 1970, at approximately 10 A.M. Mountain Daylight Saving Time, I returned from a short walk near my home in Evergreen, Colorado. The sky was cloudless, with the temperature at about 70 degrees. As I entered the yard I glanced at the hummingbird feeders at the corner of the house. I abruptly stopped in my tracks at the sight of a very large hummingbird with a "slow" wing-beat. The different blur of the wing-beat caught my eye instantly, as much as the size.

I was using Leitz Trinovid 6x24 binoculars. As I studied the hummingbird, I recalled immediately the female Rivoli's Hummingbird (Eugenes fulgens) I had seen on June 23, 1970, at Pinecliff, Colorado. However, this bird was not quite the same. Through the binoculars, I noticed a blackish line through the eye, with a white line above and below. At this point the bird perched on the wire attached to the feeder and continued to feed. The aforementioned description marks showed up very well.

The throat, chin, breast and belly were a uniform grayish white. No lines of dots were noted on the throat. The tail gave the impression of being long for a hummingbird. White showed above and beneath at the corners of the tail. This is the largest hummingbird I have ever seen. The individual, from prior experience I have had with other hummingbirds, appeared to be a female or immature.

From my study of the Rivoli's Hummingbird nine weeks earlier, I am of the opinion that this individual was not the same species. I am currently of the opinion that this bird was probably a Blue-throated Hummingbird (Lampornis clemenciae).

The American Ornithologists' Union's Check List of North American Birds, Fifth Edition, 1957 gives the range of the Blue-throated Hummingbird as the "mountains of southern Arizona, southwestern Texas, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas south to Oaxaca."

Two or three years ago, while discussing the birds found around Evergreen with Mrs. Merle C. Barbour, of Denver, she mentioned a possible sighting of a Blue-throated Hummingbird about two miles from my house up Little Cub Creek Valley. Her observation was made just off Highway 73, a short distance from downtown Evergreen. She recalled that she was with a garden club, and just commencing an interest in birds. The hummingbird she and others saw must have been a male, as it had a blue throat. Others with her commented on the bright blue throat.

On May 28, 1970 a neighbor across the valley telephoned us advising that he had a large hummingbird with a blue throat coming to his feeders. We rushed over, but were unable to spot the bird. Since that time, during the summer of 1970, Sylvia Brockner observed a large hummingbird at our feeders a couple of times. She was unable to view it with binoculars, however. Additional scattered reports have come to me from other people in this area reporting a large hummingbird with a blue throat.

As commented on before, the writer feels that records exist for hypothetical occurrence of the Blue-throated Hummingbird in the Evergreen area of Colorado.

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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST EXCHANGES CONTINUE TO GROW

The Colorado State University Libraries is serving as the depository and exchange institution with ornithological societies throughout the world for the purpose of receiving ornithology journals on exchange for the Colorado Field Ornithologist. Under the direction of David W. Lupton, Editor of the Colorado Field Ornithologist and Head of the Serials Section of Colorado State University Libraries, the exchange program currently includes 90 participants. Approximately 105 journals are being received on exchange with ornithology societies in 38 states and 12 foreign countries. A complete listing of the exchange participants will appear in the next issue of the Colorado Field Ornithologist.

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD AT GOLDEN, JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO

George R. Shier
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On August 7, 1970 at approximately 3:30 P.M., Mrs. Shier and I were standing at our picture window (east side of house) looking out when a large hummingbird came and hovered at some yellow daisies (Anthemis) and red phlox in our window box just outside. At once we were conscious of its large bright yellow bill and its dull buffy underparts and brownish tail. It had a greenish back but we did not notice the throat. We watched it moving from one flower to another for about 30 seconds and then it left. The yellow bill was most predominant as it looked like a golden needle. Upon the bird's leaving, we checked the field guides and the Buff-bellied Hummingbird (Amazilia yucatanensis) has the bill and colors we saw.

This is a first record for Colorado and according to the A.O.U. Checklist, it is found only in the Brownsville, Texas area.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER NESTING IN COLORADO

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On June 9, 1970, while doing field work on the Comanche National Grassland about 14 miles southwest of Timpas (sw of La Junta), Otero County, Colorado (E 1/2 Sec. 25, T27S, R59W, 6th Principal Meridian), I saw what I thought was a Curve-billed Thrasher (Toxostoma curvirostre) fly into a Rocky Mountain juniper tree about 100 yards from where I was working. When I later examined the tree, the bird flushed and I discovered a nest, built of Russian thistle, juniper twigs and grass, located 5 1/2 feet above the ground. I photographed the nest which contained five greenish, spotted eggs. Using a pickup truck as a blind and a 30x Balscope, I was able to observe the bird for about 15 minutes at a distance of about 75 feet. To my surprise the bird had a straight bill and yellow eye, was grayish brown above and had a faintly spotted breast. These markings and the lack of distinct wing bars, white-tipped outer tail feathers, and orange eye convinced me that the bird was not a Curve-billed Thrasher but a Bendire's Thrasher (Toxostoma bendirei), which I had not seen since 1967 in Arizona. An identical, current year's nest was found about 75 feet south of this nest. It was empty and showed no sign of disturbance or use.

Bailey and Niedrach, Pictorial Checklist of Colorado Birds, 1967 list only one previous record (female collected in El Paso County on May 3, 1932), this being the second state record and the first nesting record for Colorado.

AN UNUSUAL TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE NEST

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A nest of the Townsend's Solitaire (Myadestes townsendi) found on August 9, 1970, had several interesting features which make it worth recording. The location was in Larimer County, Colorado at an elevation of 8,900 feet and about one half mile west of the site of the one time thriving gold mining town of Manhattan. It is reported that when mining at Manhattan was at its peak before 1900, there were more than 300 mines in the immediate vicinity. The solitaire's nest in question was found in a vertical mine shaft approximately eight feet down from the level of the surrounding land surface. The mine shaft had a diameter of approximately six feet, and it extended vertically downward some six or eight feet below the nest.

The ledge on which the nest was located was small and sloped sharply downward, so that it provided a very insecure foundation for the platform nest of Ponderosa pine twigs and needles which occupied an area of approximately nine inches in diameter. The nest contained three fledglings approximately half-grown, with tails still very short, possibly one inch long. When I visited the site August 15th the nest had fallen and there were no signs of the young.

Circumstances preceding the finding of the nest were interesting. As we approached on a trail about 100 yards away we heard the loud rather musical alarm notes of the solitaire, and I moved cautiously in that direction to determine the reason for the calls. From a spot on the ground which later proved to be very close to the site of the solitaire's nest I flushed an adult Red-tailed Hawk, which flew southward over the valley of Seven Mile Creek and began soaring. With the departure of the hawk, the solitaire immediately ceased its alarm calls, so that I did not see the bird at that time. About an hour later in the company of Professor Bruno Klinger of the Botany Department of Colorado State University I observed the nest, with the three small young, round and fluffy and about the size of golf balls, huddled closely against the wall of the mine shaft at the rear of the nest.

Only one adult was seen and heard in the vicinity of the nest. She (?) was very solicitous, remaining within sight in the nearby Ponderosa pine trees, and uttering the same alarm call which we had heard earlier when the hawk was nearby, but in our presence the calls were not nearly as loud as those uttered when the hawk was near.

Birds of Colorado by Bailey and Niedrach 1965 and Life Histories of North American Thrushes... by Arthur Cleveland Bent, 1949 both describe a variety of locations on or near the ground or on cliffs for the nesting of the solitaire, but they contain no mention of this particular type of nest location. The nesting dates for Colorado given by these authors are also considerably earlier.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER SIGHTINGS IN COLORADO

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On May 9, 1970, in conjunction with a spring bird census for the Denver Field Ornithologists, I sighted a Blue-winged Warbler (Vermivora pinus) in low-growing willows on the bank of the South Platte River south of Denver near Waterton. The range recorded in the field guides showed it to be an eastern species.

Later that same day, in the company of Willis C. Royall, Jr., Denver Wildlife Research Center, we verified the bird as indeed a Blue-winged Warbler.

In checking histories of bird sightings in Colorado, Bailey and Niedrach's Birds of Colorado, 1965, listed one unverified sighting in the Golden area on May 23, 1961. Harold Holt's Status and Migration Data of Birds in the Denver Area, 3rd revision, April 1969, listed the species as accidental in Colorado with one fall observation, September 18, 1965, at Barr Lake east of Denver. Other references list this species as casual west to California and accidental in Arizona (Checklist of North American Birds, 5th ed., 1957, and Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds, 1961).

Editor's Note: Additional sightings are as follows: One adult in Denver, May 10, 1970, sighted by Hugh Kingery. (Monthly Report of Field Observations of the Denver Field Ornithologists. Vol. 5, No. 9, June 1970).

On June 19, 1970, while attending the joint Cooper-Wilson-CFO ornithological societies meetings in Fort Collins, Mr. & Mrs. Chandler S. Robbins and others observed and heard singing an adult in Spring Canyon, sw Fort Collins, Larimer County. (Ptarmigan, Vol. 1, No. 7, July 1970)

Two observed at Bonny Reservoir, Yuma County on April 24, 1971, by Jack Welch. (Monthly Report of Field Observations of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Vol. 6, No. 8, May 1971).

OLIVE WARBLER AT MCCOY, EAGLE COUNTY, COLORADO

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On May 23, 1970, an Olive Warbler (Peucedramus taeniatus) was observed by Mrs. Kenneth Ewing and her son, Clark, near their ranch at McCoy, Eagle County, Colorado. The bird was in the cottonwoods and willows along a mountain valley stream. They observed it for 15 minutes, as close as 30 feet, using binoculars. The unusual buffy-orange head and wide white wing bars were the first distinctive markings noted. As it moved about in a narrowleaf cottonwood tree, in a busy but unhurried manner, the dark gray back, white belly and ear patch could be seen. The little bird apparently was finding insects on the loosely hanging catkins. Had the bird been a female, identification would have been difficult.

This is the first recorded sighting of this species in Colorado.

TWO 19TH CENTURY CERULEAN WARBLER SPECIMENS FROM COLORADO

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The Cerulean Warbler (Dendroica cerulea) is a rare migrant in Colorado and is represented by only one specimen, a female collected 20 September 1936 at Parker, Douglas County (Bailey and Niedrach, Birds of Colorado, Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, 1965: 689). Therefore, the discovery in the Indiana University vertebrate collection of a male and female Cerulean Warbler labeled as collected at Silverton, Colorado, is noteworthy. According to the labels, the collector was Frank M. Drew. The dates and localities appearing on the labels raise questions, and these matters are discussed below.

The male specimen is in adult plumage and appears to have the original handwritten label. One side are Drew's name; Silverton, Colorado; and 1832. The other side includes the scientific name, sex, and numerals 12/15-740-.

The female specimen apparently does not have its original label; on the label are Drew's name; 1882; Silverton, Colorado; and the sex.

In an attempt to estimate the time of year during which the warblers were collected, I examined specimens of other species labeled as having been collected by Drew at Silverton in 1882. The ambiguities that I found in the data on the labels of other specimens collected in Colorado by Drew suggest that the information on the labels of the Cerulean Warblers may be unreliable. However, the possibility that the specimens are mislabeled and are not actually from Colorado is diminished by Drew's (Auk, 2: 11-18, 1885) inclusion of the Cerulean Warbler in a compilation dealing with the altitudinal distribution of Colorado birds. Drew (ibid.) reports that the species occurs in the spring at altitudes ranging to 5,000 feet, and he remarks that his observations are based upon five years of field work in Colorado. In an earlier paper, Drew (Bull. Nuttall Ornithol. Club, 6: 85-91, 138-143, 1881) does not mention the occurrence of Cerulean Warblers in San Juan County, the county in which Silverton is located.

On the basis of the evidence summarized above, I believe that the male, and very likely the female, Cerulean Warbler specimens were collected by Drew in San Juan County, Colorado, some time between the years 1881 and 1885, inclusive, in the spring.

I thank Val Nolan, Jr., for critically reading the manuscript.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK, COLORADO

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An adult male Blackburnian Warbler (Dendroica fusca) was observed in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, 17 June 1970. The species has not been recorded previously in the park (Collister, Birds of Rocky Mountain National Park, Denver, Denver Museum of Natural History, 1970). This is the western-most, the highest, and the latest-spring record in Colorado (Bailey and Niedrach, Birds of Colorado, Denver, Denver Museum of Natural History, 1965).

When discovered at 8:30 A.M. Mountain Daylight Time, the bird was foraging at 8070 feet elevation in a canopy of Populus sp. at the west end of the Moraine Park area (40° 21' N, 105° 36' W) 0.3 mile south of the beginning of the Cub Lake trail. We observed the bird at close range with binoculars for about five minutes. It was in bright breeding plumage and sang frequently.

FIRST NESTING OF THE CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER IN COLORADO

Alice van Sickle
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Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906

and

Helen B. Thurlow
1113 Wood Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

The Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) is an uncommon migrant in eastern counties of Colorado, (Bailey & Niedrach, Birds of Colorado, 1965). The first state observation of this warbler was made near Barr Lake by H.G. Smith and a few days later, May 16, 1933, the male was collected by Niedrach. Since that time, from May 31, 1935 to August 25, 1964, fifteen individual observations of this bird have been recorded in various parts of Colorado (Birds of Colorado p. 692). Most were identified as males.

We wish to report a first nesting in Colorado of a pair of Chestnut-sided Warblers on 11 June 1968, in Bear Creek Canyon, Colorado Springs, El Paso County, at approximately 6,580 feet altitude. The nest was discovered by Alice van Sickle in a Rocky Mountain thimbleberry bush (*Rubus deliciosus*), one in a row of about six or eight such shrubs growing thickly along the edge of Bear Creek. At this point the creek runs within fifteen feet of a road which is to the nest. A foot-path roughly parallels the stream on the east within twenty-five feet. The nest site is about thirty yards south of a large green water tank toward the intersection of Bear Creek and Gold Camp Roads.

The nest was placed within four feet of the ground near the end of a studdy branch, one-fourth inch in diameter, and supported on the sides by four smaller branches to which it was bound by means of light colored grasses. It was loosely woven of grasses and bark and lined with fine grasses, fine brownish root fibers, a little horse hair, and plant down. Small sticks providing the foundation of the nest could be seen through the bottom of the nest. The nest was three and one-half inches overall with a two and one-half inch inside diameter and one inch deep.

When first discovered on 8 June 1968, the nest was in the process of construction. Three days later, 11 June 1968, the female was sitting closely on the nest. The nest was observed almost daily for the next month and the female was most often on the nest and was not disturbed.

On 13 June 1968, color photographs were taken with a telephotolens and the song of the male was recorded.* Successive photographs taken during the entire period show the female on the nest; the male feeding the female on the nest; the young birds with the female in the nest, as well as individual photographs of each of the

three fledged birds. During this time the blossoms on the thimbleberry bush developed from buds to full flower.

On 28 June 1968, the female was not on the nest at the time of observation. In the nest were three warbler eggs, one large Brown-headed Cowbird (Molothrus ater) egg which had been pipped, and one just-hatched, naked cowbird. The newly hatched cowbird and the pipped egg were removed with tweezers. Shortly thereafter the female returned to the nest and continued her brooding.

On the first of July, it was believed the warbler eggs had hatched and in the following days the male and female alternated in bringing food to the nest. Later photographs showed three young birds in the nest. In a narrow-leaf cottonwood tree (Populus angustifolia) within fifteen feet of the warbler's nest was a nesting Warbling Vireo (Vireo gilvus) which competed rather successfully with the warbler in recording its song on tape.

On 12 July 1968, the birds were fledged and making short fluttering flights in the vicinity of the nest. For several days they remained in the area, being fed by the parent birds. By July 17th they were heard in the area but farther afield, and up the mountainside, and then not seen again.

Others who saw the Chestnut-sided Warblers were Martha Bildstein, Dee Williams, and Betty Field.

Acknowledgement:

Attention is called to the report "Chestnut-sided Warbler Breeds in Colorado" in the Auk, Vol. 86, No. 3, July 1969, pp. 552-3, by Sam Gadd, regarding the fledging of Chestnut-sided Warblers in Bear Creek Canyon, Colorado Springs, in June 1968.

Since this occurrence is apparently known to only a very few Colorado birders, and other factors which were apparently not known or not reported by Sam Gadd are presented here which contributed to the successful fledging of the three young, the above independent report of this same nesting is presented.

*All photographs and recordings and most observations were made by Alice van Sickle.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE IN GUNNISON, COLORADO

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On May 16, 1970, a Boat-tailed Grackle (Cassidix mexicanus) was observed in Gunnison, Gunnison County, Colorado by Professor A.S. Hyde. The sighting was confirmed by Dr. Donald Radovich and Dr. Richard E. Marquardt, and the bird stayed until about the middle of August. It was a male, identified by its enormous tail and raucous scraping notes uttered as the big bird swelled up. It was seen with and compared to Common Grackles and Brewer's Blackbirds at close range.

This is the first recorded sighting of this species in Colorado.

SECOND STATE RECORD FOR THE SHARP-TAILED SPARROW

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Professor Hyde reports one Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Ammodramus caudacuta) seen in a swampy meadow near Gunnison, November 24, 1970. The first record was an immature male collected in the same region October 23, 1952 by Professor Hyde (Condor, Vol. 60, No. 1, Jan.-Feb. 1958: 68).

UNUSUAL OBSERVATIONS

compiled by

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Cattle Egret -- One seen by Sam Gadd, Mike Schultz and Lois Schultz on May 9, 1970, at Johnson Reservoir, southeast of Colorado Springs in El Paso County. This is apparently the first report of this species from the Pikes Peak region.

Snow Goose -- One immature observed in Delta County, May 3-8, 1971, by Dave Griffiths of Pueblo. Late record for western Colorado. Dave spent a month in Delta County and made many observations, several of which are unusual for western Colorado.

Canvasback -- One on May 8, 1971, observed in Delta County by Dave Griffiths. Late record for western Colorado.

Red-breasted Merganser -- Five on April 20, 1971, in Delta County by Dave Griffiths. Late record for western Colorado.

Mississippi Kite -- William C. Andersen, Otero Junior College, LaJunta, reports that Mississippi Kites are summer residents in the LaJunta area from May 27 to September 2. This species is particularly easily observed the last week in August over LaJunta. Interested persons may contact Dr. Andersen for further information. A detailed study will appear in the next CFO issue. Few published records for Colorado.

Snowy Plover -- Seven seen by Sam Gadd and Blaine Marshman on May 23, 1971, at Antero Reservoir, Park County. (Does this mean they are breeding there?)

Pectoral Sandpiper -- Two on April 26, 1971, observed by Dave Griffiths in Delta County. First spring record for western Colorado.

Semipalmated Sandpiper -- Several on April 26, 1971, observed by Dave Griffiths in Delta County. Rare migrant in western Colorado.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper -- One seen by Van Truan on April 27, 1971, at the CF & I Lakes, Pueblo County. The bird was in short grass, with a Killdeer. It was identified by size as compared to the Killdeer; buffy color down to the tail coverts; faint eye ring; light legs; contrast between buffy body and underwings when in flight; the trill call, and snipe-like jerky flight. Rare straggler in Colorado.

Marbled Godwit -- Fifteen were observed on April 20 and 25, 1971, in Delta County by Dave Griffiths. These are large numbers for western Colorado.

Sanderling -- Three were observed on Blue Mesa Reservoir, Delta County, by Dave Griffiths on April 25, 1971. Unusual sighting for western Colorado.

California Gull -- One was observed by Dave Griffiths in April 27, 1971, in Delta County. Rare visitor in western Colorado.

Flammulated Owl -- Seen on July 15, 1969 by Arnold Small of Los Angeles, California, while on a horseback ride about 15 miles north of Lake George in the Tarrall Mountains, Teller County, Colorado. The owl was observed in a woodpecker hole about seven feet up in a quaking aspen. Upon dismounting, Mr. Small watched from a distance of about twenty feet for several minutes. Its head and breast were exposed in the hole. As other riders approached it ducked into the hole. Uncommon resident in Colorado.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker -- A female was seen by Sam Gadd on March 3, 1970, at Johnson Reservoir. He published a note (Condor, 43:201, 1941) on six occurrences of these woodpeckers in El Paso County between 1912 and 1941, and saw another on August 2, 1942. This recent record is the first of which he has knowledge in nearly 30 years. Mr. Gadd would like to hear from anyone who has recorded the Ladder-backed woodpecker anywhere in Colorado. He can be contacted at 927 S. Skyway Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher -- One observed by Clifford A. Hurd, Ida B. Hurd, and Mrs. Harold Strong at Hahn's Peak Village, Routt County, on August 19, 1970. Seen sitting on a power line at about 5:00 P.M. First record for western Colorado.

Hammond's Flycatcher -- Very small adult (?) male caught in Colorado Springs by Sam Gadd's cat on October 18, 1969. Identification by Alan R. Phillips, Instituto de Biologia, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico -- a leading student of Empidonax. The previous late date for Colorado was, apparently, September 30, 1968 in the Denver area per Harold Holt's Status and Migration Data of Birds of the Denver Area, 3rd revision, 1969.

Long-billed Marsh Wren -- One observed on April 28 and May 8, 1971, by Dave Griffiths in Delta County. Few recent records in western Colorado.

Yellow-throated Vireo -- One seen by Hugh Kingery on April 24, and again with Richard Bottorf on April 25, 1971, in the cottonwoods along the Republican River below Bonny Dam in Yuma County, about one-half mile from the Kansas state line. Identified by yellow spectacles with stripe from eye to bill, wing bars, and yellow breast contrasting with a white belly. The bird was in the company of two Black-capped Chickadees and a Western Kingbird. Uncommon straggler in Colorado.

Worm-eating Warbler -- One bird has been seen by John W. Colvin during spring migration for two consecutive years in Dixon Canyon, Fort Collins, Larimer County. Observed in low, shrubby underbrush in the same small area on the following dates: May 10, 11, 12, 1970; May 5 and 8, 1971. Rare straggler in Colorado, especially in the Fort Collins area.

Tennessee Warbler -- Seen by Sam Gadd on May 1, 1971, in the top of a cottonwood in Bear Creek Canyon near Colorado Springs in El Paso County. Early record for the state.

Myrtle Warbler -- Two seen on May 8, 1971, by Dave Griffiths in Delta County. Few records for western Colorado.

Mourning Warbler -- An adult male was captured in a mist net, examined, banded and released at Muir Springs, northwest of Fort Morgan, Morgan County on May 26, 1971, by Allegra Collister. The bird did not have any vestige of an eye-ring. It was netted along a rather narrow path through a thick growth of willow, cottonwood, boxelder, and Russian olive. There are few conclusive records of this species for Colorado.

Wilson's Warbler -- One was observed on May 8, 1971, in Delta County by Dave Griffiths. Early record for western Colorado.

Bobolink -- A female was seen by Sam Gadd on May 22, 1971, at Manitou Lake while at the CFO annual meeting at Woodland Park, Teller County.

Common Grackle -- On July 3, 1969, Mildred O. Snyder observed two Common Grackles feeding on small minnows in some shallow backwaters of West Plum Creek, about 40 miles south of Denver. The pool of water was about one inch deep judging from the depth of the water up the bird's legs. The minnows, about one inch long, were flipped out onto the ground and immediately gulped whole. Unusual feeding record.

Brown-headed Cowbird -- Two were seen on April 23, 1971, by Dave Griffiths in Delta County. Early record for western Colorado.

Dickcissel -- Male in basic plumage, lacking breast-V, was observed by Sam Gadd at a feeder in Colorado Springs for one and one half hours on October 29, 1969. It was again seen and confirmed by Mike and Lois Schultz, all day, on November 1st in a snowstorm. This is a very late date, possibly exceeded only by the one banded in December, 1957, at Boulder (Bailey and Niedrach, Pictorial Checklist of Colorado Birds, 1967).

Lark-Bunting -- One full plumaged male seen by Sam Gadd on March 27, 1971, on Highway 24 near Falcon in El Paso County. Very early spring record.

Chestnut-collared Longspur -- One seen by Hugh Kingery on April 10, 1971, by a hayfield near Green Mountain Reservoir, Summit County. It was a male, in nearly full summer plumage. The report is unusual because of the location in the mountains.

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.

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COVER PHOTO: Immature female Gyrfalcon in dark gray-brown phase captured for falconry December 11, 1969 at Horse Creek Reservoir, Colorado by John L. Linthicum. Photo by James K. Cleaver, December 1969.